

U R G E N T

SECOND NIGHT LEAD KENNEDY BOOK (A48)

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NEW YORK, DEC. 17 (AP)-AN ATTORNEY FOR MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY LOOKED AT THE MANUSCRIPT OF THE BOOK, "DEATH OF A PRESIDENT," FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY. HE SAID HE TOOK MRS. KENNEDY ALONG WITH HIM, BUT SHE DID NOT READ IT BECAUSE SHE FELT IT WOULD BE TOO PAINFUL.

SIMON H. RIFKIND, WHO FILED A SUIT IN MANHATTAN SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY ON BEHALF OF MRS. KENNEDY TO BLOCK PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK, SAID HE VIEWED THE MANUSCRIPT AT THE WALL STREET OFFICE OF DAVID PECK, AN ATTORNEY FOR COWLES COMMUNICATIONS, ONE OF THE DEFENDANTS.

"I ASKED HIM (PECK) TO EXPOSE TO MY VIEW THE MANUSCRIPT OF THE STORY WHICH I HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE," SAID RIFKIND. "HE WAS GLAD TO EXHIBIT IT TO ME.

"I WANTED TO HAVE MRS. KENNEDY ALONG TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT COME UP. SHE DID NOT WANT TO READ IT BECAUSE IT WOULD BE TOO PAINFUL. FROM TIME TO TIME, SHE ANSWERED QUESTIONS."

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RIFKIND SAID HE SPENT "MANY HOURS" LOOKING AT THE MANUSCRIPT, AND THAT MRS. KENNEDY WAS WITH HIM A GOOD PORTION OF THE TIME. SHE LEFT, HOWEVER, BEFORE HE DID.

PHOTOGRAPHERS SNAPPED A PICTURE OF MRS. KENNEDY LEAVING A BUILDING IN THE AREA.

RIFKIND SAID THAT IN ASKING MRS. KENNEDY SOME QUESTIONS HE MAY HAVE OCCASIONALLY READ HER A FEW PASSAGES.

"IN THAT SENSE SHE HEARD SOME OF THE PASSAGES," HE SAID.

THE NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT MRS. KENNEDY LEFT THE MEETING IN TEARS, VISIBLY UPSET.

RIFKIND SAID THAT HE DID NOT SEE HER IN TEARS.

MRS. KENNEDY, RIFKIND AND RICHARD GOODWIN, WHO WAS AN ASSISTANT TO THE LATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTER 1 P.M. AT PECK'S OFFICE. MRS. KENNEDY LEFT THE OFFICE WITH GOODWIN ABOUT TWO HOURS LATER. RIFKIND STAYED ON.

MRS. KENNEDY DECLINED TO TALK TO NEWSMEN.

RIFKIND SAID LATER HE EXPECTED TO READ AS MUCH OF THE MATERIAL AS POSSIBLE AND THAT HE IS STUDYING IT.

"THERE WERE NO SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS," HE SAID. "IT WAS JUST AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE MATERIAL."

RIFKIND DECLINED TO COMMENT ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE BOOK.

"I DON'T PROFESS TO BE A LITERARY CRITIC," HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, AN ATTORNEY FOR ANOTHER DEFENDANT IN THE CASE SAID "THERE'S NEVER BEEN A CASE LIKE THIS BEFORE."

THE LAWYER, EDWARD S. GREENBAUM, REPRESENTING HARPER & ROW, SAID TODAY HE WOULD FILE AN ANSWER TO MRS. KENNEDY'S SUIT NEXT WEEK, PROBABLY ON THURSDAY.

"YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TACT^K OUR DEFENSE WILL TAKE WHEN YOU SEE OUR ANSWER," SAID GREENBAUM, HARPER'S COUNSEL FOR 40 YEARS. HE WAS AN ARMY BRIGADIER GENERAL IN WORLD WAR II AND IS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS.

GREENBAUM, WHO IS 76, WAS SPENDING THE WEEKEND AT HIS PRINCETON, N.J., HOME RELAXING AND READING THE COURT DOCUMENTS FILED BY THE FORMER FIRST LADY.

MRS. KENNEDY ASKED THE MANHATTAN SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY TO BAR PUBLICATION BY HARPER & ROW AND LOOK MAGAZINE OF WILLIAM MANCHESTER'S ACCOUNT OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND THE EVENTS SURROUNDING IT.

MRS. KENNEDY CHARGES BREACH OF CONTRACT, INVASION OF PRIVACY AND INFRINGEMENT OF HER COPYRIGHT BY UNAUTHORIZED USE OF HER NAME IN ADVERTISEMENTS AND PROMOTION. SHE NAMES HARPER & ROW, COWLES COMMUNICATIONS INC AND MANCHESTER AS DEFENDANTS.

IN A 10-PAGE AFFIDAVIT, SHE SAID PUBLICATION WOULD CAUSE HER "GREAT AND IRREPARABLE INJURY" AND "RESULT IN PRECISELY THE SENSATIONALISM AND COMMERCIALIZATION WHICH WE--ROBERT F. KENNEDY AND I--HAVE SOUGHT SO STRENUOUSLY TO AVOID."

SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, D-N.Y., THE LATE PRESIDENT'S BROTHER, SENT IN A FIVE-PAGE DOCUMENT WITH THE COURT PAPERS.

JUSTICE SAUL S. STREIT, RANKING JUSTICE OF THE MANHATTAN COURT, SAID HE WOULD "DECIDE THE MATTER SHORTLY" AFTER A DEC. 27 HEARING.

THE CASE ITSELF READS LIKE A PLOT FROM A BOOK. BESIDES TWO PRESTIGIOUS PUBLISHING FIRMS AND A CAST OF DISTINGUISHED LAWYERS, IT INVOLVES THE WIDOW OF AN ASSASSINATED PRESIDENT AND HIS BROTHER, A U.S. SENATOR REGARDED AS A FUTURE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, AND A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PROPERTY, THE BOOK ITSELF.

INDIRECTLY, IT ALSO INVOLVES PRESIDENT JOHNSON, SINCE IT IS WIDELY REPORTED THAT THE BOOK PRESENTS HIM IN AN UNFAVORABLE LIGHT.

ASKED IF LOOK HAD EVER BEEN INVOLVED IN ANYTHING SIMILAR, A SPOKESMAN SAID:

"TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE NOBODY IN THE WHOLE WORLD HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN ANYTHING LIKE THIS."

THE MANCHESTER BOOK WAS, IN EFFECT, COMMISSIONED BY MRS. KENNEDY BECAUSE SHE WANTED AN ACCOUNT ASSURED OF "ACCURACY, GOOD TASTE AND DIGNITY."

IN RETURN FOR COOPERATION OF THE KENNEDYS AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE ASSASSINATION, MANCHESTER SIGNED AN AGREEMENT GIVING MRS. KENNEDY AND SEN. KENNEDY THE RIGHT TO APPROVE THE WORK BEFORE PUBLICATION, WHICH WAS NOT TO COME BEFORE NOV. 22, 1968.

MRS. KENNEDY GAVE MANCHESTER TEN HOURS OF TAPE-RECORDED INTERVIEWS DURING WHICH, FRIENDS SAY, SHE MADE NO ATTEMPT AT SELF-CENSORSHIP OF HER DEEPEST THOUGHTS.

A HIGHLY PLACED OFFICIAL IN PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ADMINISTRATION HAS SAID, "IT'S CLEAR THAT MANCHESTER TOOK STUFF FROM THE TAPE RECORDER WHEN MRS. KENNEDY WAS NOT IN CONTROL OF HER EMOTION."

THE SOURCE SAID THE BOOK ALSO "PRESENTS A RATHER UNFORTUNATE PICTURE OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON."

IN HER COURT AFFIDAVIT, MRS. KENNEDY SAID: "I AM SHOCKED THAT MR. MANCHESTER WOULD EXPLOIT THE EMOTIONAL STATE IN WHICH I RECOUNTED MY RECOLLECTIONS TO HIM EARLY IN 1964."

ONE SOURCE CLOSE TO THE CASE SAID HE EXPECTED THERE WOULD BE TELEPHONE CALLS BETWEEN THE OPPOSING LAWYERS. ASKED IF THAT MEANT A COMPROMISE, OR OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT, HE REPLIED: "WELL, THAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THE PHONE CALLS."

IF MRS. KENNEDY IS UPHELD BY THE COURT, AND APPEALS FAIL, THE EFFECT WOULD BE FELT IMMEDIATELY BY LOOK WHICH PAID \$665,000 FOR SERIAL RIGHTS TO THE BOOK. IT HAS SCHEDULED A FOUR-PART SERIES OF 80,000 WORDS TAKEN FROM THE 300,000-WORD BOOK BEGINNING WITH THE JAN. 24 ISSUE DUE OUT JAN. 10.

SPOKESMEN FOR THE MAGAZINE, OWNED BY COWLES COMMUNICATIONS INC., SAID THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THE ISSUE WOULD BE CANCELLED ENTIRELY IN THAT EVENT. PARTS OF THE ISSUE HAVE ALREADY BEEN PRINTED AND THERE WOULD NOT BE TIME TO PREPARE A SUBSTITUTE, THEY SAID.

THE LOSS IN ADVERTISING AND CIRCULATION REVENUE WOULD BE A "STUNNER," SAID A SPOKESMAN. THE MAGAZINE AVERAGES \$3 MILLION AN ISSUE IN ADVERTISING REVENUE.

SINCE THE CONTROVERSY BEGAN THE AUTHOR, MANCHESTER, HAS BEEN IN SECLUSION. HIS WIFE, REACHED BY TELEPHONE AT THEIR HOME IN MANCHESTER, CONN., WAS ASKED ABOUT A REPORT THAT HE HAD LEFT THE COUNTRY.

"NO, HE'S STILL HERE," SHE SAID, "BUT THAT'S AN IDEA."

LEGAL SOURCES WERE WIDELY QUOTED AS SAYING MRS. KENNEDY HAS A STRONG CASE.

ONE FACTOR CITED IN HER FAVOR IS A TELEGRAM SEN. KENNEDY SENT TO HARPER & ROW LAST AUG. 5 REMINDING THE PUBLISHERS THAT THEY MUST OBTAIN HIS AND MRS. KENNEDY'S PERMISSION BEFORE PUBLICATION AND "THAT HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN."

ANOTHER, ACCORDING TO THE LEGAL SOURCES, IS MRS. KENNEDY'S CHARGE THAT HER RIGHTS UNDER THE NEW YORK STATE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT ARE BEING VIOLATED BY USE OF HER NAME BY LOOK IN ADVERTISEMENTS AND PROMOTIONAL CIRCULARS.

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