

Jackie's Fight on 4 Pages

But Publisher Will Go Ahead

NEW YORK — (UPI) — Cass Canfield, publisher of "Death of a President," declared today he intends to bring out the book "in the interest of historical accuracy and of the people's right to know" in spite of Mrs. John F. Kennedy's court battle to suppress it.

By United Press International
and Associated Press

NEW YORK — Embattled Mrs. John F. Kennedy, trying to stop publication of the book, "Death of a President," which she commissioned, may be satisfied with the revision of only about four pages, it was learned today.

With eight days left before a court hearing on a suit to block publication of the book, a spokesman for the publishing firm of Harper & Row reported "continuing efforts to patch things up."

Mrs. Kennedy's brother-in-law, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, declared: "It's what she feels that's important here. It's very, very, very distressing to her. She is a very sensitive woman."

OBJECTIONS

A source close to the controversy said Mrs. Kennedy's major objections boil down to several passages totaling about four pages.

Sen. Edward F. Kennedy (D-Mass.), said that these were disclosures she made to author William Manchester which she feels are "private thoughts and feelings . . . not necessary to the construction of the historical record."

Altogether, Mrs. Kennedy would like to see about 10,000 words of the 130,000 word book deleted or toned down. She considers these "sensational" and feels that proof of this is that these 10,000 words are almost all included in the 80,000-word serialization planned by Look.

MADE PUBLIC

Bit by bit, in leaks by people who have read Manchester's 300,000-word manuscript — or an 80,000-word Look magazine abstract —

—Turn to Page 6, Col. 2 the disputed passages were being made public.

One tells of Mrs. Kennedy wrestling with a nurse who tried to bar her from a Dallas hospital room where her husband was taken after the assassination on Nov. 22, 1963.

The reader who reported this quoted the book:

"Jackie keeps saying she wants to keep her blood-spattered clothes on so 'they can see what they've done.'"

A former official in the Kennedy administration cited another portion of the book which Mrs. Kennedy found objectionable:

"There was a letter Mrs. Kennedy wrote to the President while she was in Greece. It was highly personal. She described her feelings about her husband. Manchester used several quotes from the letter and I do know that Mrs. Kennedy objected to this."

Another disputed passage described in Mrs. Kennedy's own words the last night she spent with her husband before going to Dallas.

ANOTHER PORTION

One who read the manuscript said "there was too much blood and guts" in its description of the actual shooting of the President.

Another described as "heartbreaking" an intimate account of how the assassination and the President's funeral were explained to Kennedy's children, Caroline and John F. Jr.

The New York Times, New York Post and Nashville Tennessean reported that other controversial matter in the book included:

- An allegation of incompetence and laxity by Secret Service men, FBI agents and Dallas police responsible for the President's safety on the day of the slaying.

- Friction between Robert Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson over how soon Johnson should deliver his first message as President to a joint session of Congress.

- A Kennedy family disagreement over whether the slain President should be buried in Massachusetts or in Arlington National cemetery. The book says Mrs. Kennedy insisted on Arlington, despite the Kennedy family's preference for Massachusetts.

Mrs. Kennedy's lawyer, Simon H. Rifkind, said he did not rule out the possibility that the Kennedy family's suit might be settled short of a trial.

The hearing on Dec. 27 before a Manhattan judge of the New York supreme court will be on a petition by Mrs. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy for an injunction to bar publication.

The injunction hearing will be based on affidavits filed by Mrs. Kennedy and the senator. If Manchester and the defendant publishers decide to resist an injunction, the case would go to trial. Mrs. Kennedy then would face the ordeal of a witness stand appearance.

AGREEMENT CLAIMED

Meanwhile Manchester denied in a statement that publication of the book would be a breach of an understanding with Mrs. Kennedy and the senator.

The Kennedys insist that the book was written under an agreement giving Mrs. Kennedy and the senator veto rights over its content and publication time. Manchester says the senator gave him a go-ahead in a telegram last July. The senator denies this.

In a telephone interview with the New York Post, Sen. Kennedy said today from Sun Valley, Idaho, where he is vacationing:

"I agree that there is a legitimate argument over whether the agreement ever should have been entered into. That's legitimate. But it should have been brought up then, not now."

"If Manchester had said then that he would be the final judge, that it was his own taste, his own judgment that would be the final, deciding factor, well, that would be different. But he didn't say that."

Manchester, in a statement issued yesterday, insisted that "in the summer of 1966, authorization was given by the family for publication of the book in early 1967, to be preceded by serialization in Look magazine."

When Manchester decided he was free to proceed with publication of the book, his agent sent copies to Life, Look, the Saturday Evening Post, Ladies' Home Journal, McCall's and Good Housekeeping for bids on serialization rights.

Look won out with a bid of \$665,000.

A number of persons who have read the Manchester manuscript say that in addition to the intimate personal references which upset Mrs. Kennedy, the book is generally uncomplimentary to President Johnson. It thus might prove politically embarrassing to Robert Kennedy.

One publishing executive who saw the manuscript told the New York Post it relates a feeling among the Kennedys after the assassination that "this was Johnson's state — Texas. That it happened in his state."

"They didn't think he had anything to do with it, but he had brought them there."

IN SHOCK

"They remembered that it was in Dallas that Adlai Stevenson had been spat upon. And they, the Kennedys, felt that Johnson was part of this thing, this conservatism, and there wasn't anything he could have done that would have changed their minds."

The executive added that Mrs. Kennedy "was in a state of shock, clearly. She was resentful of the fact that Johnson and his entourage were assuming the Presidency."

The Nashville Tennessean, in a story telling of confusion among Secret Service men on the day of the assassination, said:

"One of the most moving incidents, according to one of

the manuscript readers, concerns the Kennedy daughter, Caroline.

"The source said the book described it this way:

"When the assassination became known, the child was driving with a nurse and a Secret Service man near the White House. The secret service man did not know if the assassination was part of a conspiracy.

CAR FOLLOWED

"The nurse wanted to take Caroline to her own home. But the secret service man suggested they return to the White House.

"On the way back to the White House, the Secret Service man noticed a car was following them. After a few turns, as the car continued to follow, the Secret Service man was seriously considering getting out and shooting the driver if he did not shake the second car.

"However, the agent managed to evade the second car. Manchester, in the book, is said to consider that the second car was driven by a Secret Service man, trying to protect Caroline."