

Jackie's Clash With Publisher

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New York

Jacqueline Kennedy clashed last night with one of her oldest friends in the publishing world over the forthcoming controversial book about her husband's assassination.

In a statement issued by her spokesman here, the President's widow maintained that the dispute over "The Death of a President" centers on her right and that of her children to live in "privacy and dignity free of the publication of intimate details of their lives at a time of great sorrow."

"No amount of rhetoric about historical accuracy or the public's 'right to know' can alter the nature of this controversy," Mrs. Kennedy's statement continued.

She thus replied to an assertion earlier in the day by the book's publisher, Harper & Row, that it still intends to bring out William Manchester's book in the interest of "historical accuracy and of the people's right to know."

The Harper statement was issued by Cass Canfield, the father-in-law of Mrs. Kennedy's younger sister, Princess Lee Radziwill, during her first marriage to his son, Michael.

Canfield said his experience with the book, initially commissioned by the Kennedy family and due to be serialized by Look magazine in January, was "the most trying and distressing one" within the scope of his 40-year publishing career.

While joining Manchester "in defending the book's right to live," Canfield, chairman of Harper's executive committee, stressed "how badly I feel that Mrs. Kennedy is upset."

'SINCERE'

"The principals involved in this dispute are all people for whom I have such deep regard and admiration," he said. He said that the book "is a moving, sincere and outstanding piece of writing."

Harper & Row, Canfield said, "was not motivated by

profit" when it undertook to publish "The Death of a President."

"On the contrary," he said, "all Harper profits will go to the Kennedy Library except for a small return to Harper's on our first printing."

Manchester, Canfield said, "is also making substantial contributions to the library from his earnings on the book."

Harper & Row's advance to Manchester, he said, was \$40,000 "and not the \$675,000 erroneously reported by the press."

AGREEMENT

But from Mrs. Kennedy's side the issue was stated as "whether Mr. Manchester and the publishers broke the written agreement from which brach enormous profits will apparently flow."

The statement added that the details that Mrs. Kennedy is seeking to suppress through court action "bear no conceivable relation to history."

For his part, Canfield noted that members of the Kennedy family were "understandably" unwilling to read the Manchester draft. "Had they read it themselves," he added, "the present situation might have been avoided."

Mrs. Kennedy's statement, however, asserted that both Manchester, the 44-year-old author, and the publisher "knew that Mrs. Kennedy was well aware of the personal passages to which she objected."

MEETING

The statement further said that the widow had spoken directly to Manchester during an emotion-tinged meeting at her summer home in Hyannis Port, Mass., last Au-

gust to outline her objections to those parts of the manuscript that she felt "unnecessarily invaded her privacy and that of her children."

"The question is not the book's 'right to live' — no one has denied that right — the question is the right of Mrs. Kennedy and her children to live with a minimum of privacy and dignity, free from the publication of intimate details of their lives at a time of great sorrow — details which bare no conceivable relation to history," Mrs. Kennedy's statement said. It ended this way:

"Although neither Senator (Robert) Kennedy nor Mrs. John F. Kennedy has read the Manchester manuscript in its entirety — authorized representatives having done so — both Manchester and the publishers knew that Mrs. Kennedy was well aware of the personal passages to which she objected."

HEARING

The exchange of statements reflected the lawyers' inability to settle the dispute. A hearing in New York State Supreme Court on Mrs. Kennedy's plea for an injunction against the publishers is scheduled for December 27.

A source close to Mrs. Kennedy expressed pessimism over prospects for an accord before further court action. While the contacts among the attorneys involved continued, the source said that these exchanges could not be termed "negotiations."

Mrs. Kennedy, according to the informant, is still pressing for the deletion of some 5000 words from the 80,000-word Manchester text scheduled to be published by Look. These outright cuts were held to be Mrs. Kennedy's "minimum terms."

The uit is based on the contention that Manchester violated his contract with Senator Robert Kennedy. The contract said that "The Death of a President" could not be published before Nov. 22, 1968, and that it must be approved by Mrs. Kennedy and Senator Kennedy.

In return, the Kennedys promised that they would cooperate with no other au-

thors on any account of the assassination.

Mrs. Kennedy said she had filed the suit because Manchester had abused her confidence by using her personal recollections "without regard to accepted standards of propriety and good faith."