

MANCH

21 DEC 1961

EA159

(500)

LONDON, DEC. 21 (AP)-THE WORLD OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES IS WATCHING WITH INTEREST THE ATTEMPTS TO HALT PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK ON THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION. GENERALLY NEWSPAPERS HAVE SHIED AWAY FROM TAKING SIDES EDITORIALY IN THE CONTROVERSY.

THE EFFORTS OF MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY TO HALT PUBLICATION OF THE WILLIAM MANCHESTER BOOK, "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT" HAVE BEEN GIVEN EXTENSIVE PLAY IN NEWSPAPERS, RADIO AND TELEVISION. ABOVE ALL IS AN OVERTONE OF SADNESS THAT THE TRAGEDY AT DALLAS THREE YEARS AGO STILL CAUSES SO MUCH HEART-TEARING. SOME CYNICAL VOICES CAN BE HEARD.

ONE OF THE FEW DIRECT EDITORIAL COMMENTS CAME FROM THE LONDON EVENING NEWS. IT CALLED ON MRS. KENNEDY TO ABANDON HER EFFORTS TO STOP PUBLICATION, SAYING:

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"BUT BITTER THOUGH IT MAY BE, TRUTH ABOUT PUBLIC LIFE CAN BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE FEELING OF THOSE WHO TAKE PART IN IT. AND SO MUCH HAS ALREADY LEAKED OUT ABOUT THE BOOK THAT TO SUPPRESS IT NOW WOULD BE TO SEND RUMOR SOARING AND MAKE MATTERS MUCH WORSE.

"SO SECURE STANDS MRS. KENNEDY IN WORLD AFFECTION AND RESPECT THAT NOTHING CAN HARM HER REPUTATION."

HENRY LOWRIE OF THE DAILY EXPRESS OF LONDON, WRITING FROM NEW YORK, COMMENTED:

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"WE ARE NOT NOW DEALING WITH THE WHISPERING, BABY-VOICED MINCING ^{SHY} WIFE DEVOTING HERSELF TO CULTURE BUT TO A STEEL-MINDED WOMAN WILLING TO RISK EXPOSING HERSELF TO A FABULOUS COURT BATTLE IN ORDER TO PRESERVE HER DOMESTIC SECRETS."

THE ARTICLE ON THE EDITORIAL PAGE OF THE EXPRESS STARTED BY SAYING:

"THE PEDESTAL ON WHICH JACKIE KENNEDY HAS PERCHED SO MAGNIFICENTLY IS TOTTERING AND ANY MINUTE NOW IT COULD COLLAPSE COMPLETELY."

OTHER PAPERS HAVE BEEN MORE SYMPATHETIC.

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THE DAILY MAIL'S JEFFREY BLYTH FROM NEW YORK WROTE: "WHEN A WOMAN LIKE JACQUELINE KENNEDY ALLOWS HERSELF TO BE SEEN CRYING IN THE STREET, THEN THE HURT MUST INDEED BE GREAT."

ALISTAIR COOKE IN THE GUARDIAN REPORTED FROM NEW YORK THAT MRS. KENNEDY "IS ALREADY SUFFERING THE GRIEF SHE SOUGHT TO WARD OFF."

IN PARIS, FIGARO'S LEO SAUVAGE IN A STORY FROM NEW YORK SAID "L'AFFAIRE MANCHESTER" WILL BE USED AGAINST ROBERT F. KENNEDY IN ANY FUTURE ELECTION. THE WRITER ADDED THAT THE LATE PRESIDENT'S BROTHER IS LUCKY BECAUSE THE ELECTIONS ARE FAR ENOUGH AWAY SO THE AFFAIR WILL NOT AFFECT HIS CHANCES.

LE MONDE'S ALAIN CLEMENT FROM WASHINGTON COMMENTED: "THE KENNEDY FAMILY RISKS TO HAVE GRAVELY COMPROMISED THE PRESTIGE IT WARRANTED UNTIL NOW BY THE DIGNITY OF ITS SILENCE."

THE LARGEST SPANISH DAILY, THE MONARCHIST ABC, SAID IN A WASHINGTON DISPATCH THAT EVEN BEFORE ITS PUBLICATION THE MANCHESTER BOOK "IS ROCKING THIS COUNTRY AND THE WHOLE WORLD."

EA162

DEVELOPMENTS ARE RECEIVING EXTENSIVE REPORTING DAILY IN THE ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMENT EDITORIALY. THE SITUATION IS THE SAME IN NORWAY, SWEDEN AND DENMARK.

THE POLISH PRESS HAS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON THE CONTROVERSY, WITH ACCOUNTS EVIDENTLY SLANTED TOWARD MANCHESTER.

IN MOSCOW THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF THE BOOK. THE WEST GERMAN PAPERS HAVE GIVEN IT INSIDE PLAY.

IN SOUTH AFRICA, THE MAIN INTEREST SEEMS TO CENTER ON THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY. HIS POLITICAL FUTURE IS BEING WATCHED CLOSELY THERE SINCE HIS SOUTH AFRICAN VISIT EARLIER THIS YEAR.

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