

Size of Kennedy Book Hampers Negotiations

NEW YORK — (AP) — Negotiators met yesterday for a third effort to reach an out of court settlement of Mrs.

John F. Kennedy's suit to block publication of "The Death of a President." It became increasingly

clear the major obstacle to settlement is the sheer volume of William Manchester's manuscript.

The book, which relates the events surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy, is 300,000 words long

and the manuscript runs to more than a thousand pages.

"The difficulty is that it's just a big job physically to

cite each disputed passage, discuss it and come to some resolution about it," said a source close to the negotiations.

The means to a settlement apparently is for Harper & Row, the publishers, and Manchester to agree to removal or revision of pas-

sages which Mrs. Kennedy considers too personal for public airing.

Representatives of the three parties are working against a Tuesday deadline when a court hearing is scheduled on the damage suit.

Representatives of Mrs.

Kennedy reached an agreement Wednesday with Cowles Communications Inc., publishers of Look Magazine, which plans to publish a 60,000-word four-part serialization of the book beginning with the issue out Jan. 10.