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FIRST LEAD WITH KENNEDY BOOK

MIDDLETOWN, CONN., [REDACTED] (AP)-AUTHOR WILLIAM MANCHESTER, IN THE HOSPITAL WITH AN ATTACK OF PNEUMONIA, WAS OFF THE CRITICAL LIST TODAY. HE HAD RECEIVED GET-WELL TELEGRAMS FROM MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY AND SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

BOTH WISHED A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO THE 44-YEAR-OLD AUTHOR OF "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT," THE BOOK THEY CHARGED IN A LAW SUIT REPRESENTED A BREACH OF CONTRACT AND AN INVASION OF THE FORMER FIRST LADY'S PRIVACY.

MANCHESTER'S PHYSICIAN, DR. F. ERWIN TRACY, SAID HIS PATIENT WAS IN GOOD SPIRITS AFTER A COMFORTABLE NIGHT. HE SAID MANCHESTER WILL BE HOSPITALIZED ABOUT A WEEK.

THE DOCTOR SAID MANCHESTER WAS SUFFERING THE MOST DISCOMFORT FROM A SCRATCH ON HIS RIGHT EYE HE RECEIVED WHILE DECORATING THE FAMILY CHRISTMAN TREE. OTHERWISE, THE AUTHOR WAS "MORE LIKE HIMSELF AGAIN," TRACY SAID.

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WITH KENNEDY BOOK (A17)  
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIDDLETOWN, CONN., DEC. 27 (AP)—AUTHOR WILLIAM MANCHESTER WAS REPORTED "MUCH IMPROVED AND DOING VERY WELL" TODAY AFTER HIS ATTACK OF PNEUMONIA. HE HAD RECEIVED GET-WELL TELEGRAMS FROM MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY AND SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

BOTH WISHED A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO THE 44-YEAR OLD AUTHOR OF "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT", THE BOOK THEY CHARGED IN A LAW SUIT REPRESENTED A BREACH OF CONTRACT AND AN INVASION OF THE FORMER FIRST LADY'S PRIVACY.

MANCHESTER'S PHYSICIAN, DR. F. ERWIN TRACY SAID HIS PATIENT WAS IMPROVING AND WOULD GO OFF INTRAVENOUS FEEDING TODAY AND ONTO A REGULAR DIET. HIS CONDITION WAS STILL LISTED AS CRITICAL, HOWEVER.

MANCHESTER BEGAN TO FEEL SICK SATURDAY AND CAME DOWN WITH CHILLS AND FEVER SUNDAY NIGHT. TRACY SAID. THE WRITER WAS ORDERED TAKEN TO MIDDLESEX MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN AN AMBULANCE WHEN TRACY FOUND HE WAS RUNNING A FEVER OF 104.

MANCHESTER'S TEMPERATURE WAS BACK TO NORMAL AT NOON YESTERDAY, THE DOCTOR REPORTED. TRACY DESCRIBED THE ILLNESS AS "A SLIGHT TOUCH OF PNEUMONIA IN THE LOWER LEFT LOBE" OF MANCHESTER'S LUNGS.

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MANCHESTER SUFFERED SIMILAR SYMPTOMS SEVERAL WEEKS AGO IN LONDON, WHERE HE WAS WORKING ON A NEW BOOK, THE DOCTOR SAID. THE AUTHOR WAS TREATED IN LONDON AND APPEARED TO HAVE RECOVERED.

TRACY SAID MANCHESTER HAD BEEN WORKING VERY HARD AND WAS UNDER GREAT STRESS AS A RESULT OF THE FUROR OVER HIS BOOK ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

"THE PRESSURE LOWERS HIS RESISTANCE SO HE CATCHES THINGS MORE EASILY," THE DOCTOR SAID. "HE HAS BEEN TERRIBLY DEPRESSED."

MANCHESTER HAD BEEN HOSPITALIZED FOR ABOUT A MONTH LAST YEAR AFTER WORKING HIMSELF INTO A STATE OF EXHAUSTION, ACCORDING TO HIS FRIEND JOHN PAYTON, SECRETARY OF WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, IN MIDDLETOWN.

LEGAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN MRS. KENNEDY REPRESENTATIVES AND HARPER & ROW, PUBLISHERS OF "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT," ARE CONTINUING. MRS. KENNEDY LEFT NEW YORK CITY YESTERDAY FOR A WEEK'S VACATION IN ANTIGUA WITH HER CHILDREN.

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