

PMS BUDGET (800)

KENNEDY BOOK

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NEW YORK, DEC. 28 (AP)—THE KENNEDY BOOK DISPUTE COULD END QUIETLY NOW FOLLOWING MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY'S DECISION TO TEMPORARILY WITHHOLD HER SUIT TO STOP ITS PUBLICATION, A FAMILY SPOKESMAN INDICATED TODAY.

"I'M NOT GOING TO GUARANTEE IT," HE SAID, "BUT MUCH POINTS TO A RESOLUTION. THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS AND I THINK THINGS COULD WELL BE RESOLVED NOISELESSLY AND SOON."

ATTORNEYS FOR MRS. KENNEDY AND HARPER & ROW, PUBLISHERS OF WILLIAM MANCHESTER'S "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT," AN ACCOUNT OF THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, AGREED YESTERDAY TO PUT OFF HEARINGS ON HER REQUEST FOR AN INJUNCTION AGAINST THE BOOK UNTIL MID-JANUARY IN EXPECTATION OF A REASONABLY QUICK SETTLEMENT.

THE PARTIES, ORDERED TO APPEAR AT A STATE SUPREME COURT SHOW CAUSE HEARING, SAID THE ARRANGEMENT WOULD GIVE THEM SUFFICIENT TIME FOR MORE DISCUSSION ON PASSAGES TO BE TRIMMED FROM THE 300,000-WORD TEXT. BOTH SIDES CHARACTERIZED PROGRESS AS "STEADY."

"THAT'S GREAT'." SAID MANCHESTER'S WIFE, JULIA, LEARNING OF THE DECISION. MANCHESTER, RECOVERING IN A HOSPITAL FROM A MILD CASE OF PNEUMONIA, WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT.

MRS. KENNEDY AND HARPER & ROW SAID IN A STATEMENT THAT MANCHESTER'S HOSPITALIZATION MONDAY MADE IT NECESSARY TO CONTINUE TALKS "OVER A LONGER PERIOD THAN WAS ANTICIPATED."

"WE'RE PROBABLY AT A STAGE NOW WHERE THINGS DEPEND MORE ON THE DOCTORS THAN THE LAWYERS," THE KENNEDY SPOKESMAN SAID. "WE JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE AUTHOR, ALTHOUGH WE'LL BE TALKING ABOUT OTHER THINGS FOR NEXT WEEK OR SO."

HARPER & ROW CALLED THE SITUATION "HOPEFUL" AND INDICATED THAT AN AMICABLE SETTLEMENT WAS THOUGHT POSSIBLE SOON.

THE PUBLISHER ALSO AGREED IN HIS STATEMENT NOT TO BRING OUT THE BOOK UNTIL APRIL 1. LOOK MAGAZINE, WHICH REACHED A SETTLEMENT WITH MRS. KENNEDY ON DELETIONS IN ITS 60,000-WORD EXTRACT OF THE TEXT, THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF WHICH REACHES NEWSSTANDS JAN. 10.

THE BOOK AND MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS WORKED ON REMOVING PASSAGES MRS. KENNEDY CONSIDERS OF PERSONAL RATHER THAN HISTORICAL INTEREST SINCE SHE MOVED TO BLOCK PUBLICATION DEC. 16. MANCHESTER, SHE CHARGED IN HER SUIT, HAD INVADED HER PRIVACY AND BROKEN A CONTRACT STIPULATING HE MUST SUBMIT THE MANUSCRIPT FOR HER APPROVAL BEFORE TURNING IT OVER THE HARPER & ROW.

MRS. KENNEDY, VACATIONING WITH HER CHILDREN ON THE BRITISH WEST INDIAN ISLAND OF ANTIGUA, COULD NOT BE REACHED FOR COMMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENTS.

A VACATION WAS RECOMMENDED FOR MANCHESTER, TOO, YESTERDAY BY HIS PHYSICIAN. DR. F. ERWIN TRACY SAID THE 44-YEAR-OLD WRITER WAS RESPONDING WELL TO TREATMENT AT MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL IN MIDDLETOWN, CONN. AND AS NO LONGER IN CRITICAL CONDITION.

IN ADDITION TO ANTIBIOTICS, MANCHESTER WAS TAKING ANTIDEPRESSANTS AND TRANQUILIZING DRUGS PRESCRIBED BY A PSYCHIATRIST WHO TREATED HIM LAST YEAR WHILE HE RECUPERATED FROM MENTAL FATIGUE AT A PRIVATE PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTION.

DR. ASHER L. BAKER SAID HE DID NOT WANT HIS PATIENT TO LAPSE INTO A DEPRESSION, CONSIDERED COMMON AFTER A SEVERE VIRUS ATTACK.

THE STATEMENT BY MRS. KENNEDY AND THE BOOK PUBLISHER CAME AFTER A SURPRISING LEGAL TURN THREATENED FOR A WHILE TO CONFUSE NEGOTIATIONS YESTERDAY.

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HARPER & ROW COUNSEL EDWARD S. GREENBAUM, EXPECTED TO GO ALONG WITH A POSTPONEMENT ON THE SHOW CAUSE ORDER, SUDDENLY ASKED AND WAS GRANTED A REQUEST FOR A HEARING ON IT TOMORROW.

BUT THE MOVE WAS QUICKLY SUPERSEDED BY THE JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT.

QUESTIONED ON THE MEANING OF GREENBAUM'S MANUEVER, KENNEDY ATTORNEY SIMON H. RIFKIND SNAPPED: "IT'S BEYOND MY COMPREHENSION.

GREENBAUM TODAY DISMISSED SPECULATION THAT HE WANTED TO PROD THE KENNEDY GROUP INTO NEGOTIATING FASTER AND SAID, "ALL WE WANTED WAS THAT THIS MATTER BE DISPOSED OF. WE WERE READY YESTERDAY TO ARGUE THE CASE, JUST AS WE HAD BEEN THE WEEK BEFORE."

HERE IS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT ISSUED YESTERDAY BT MRS. KENNEDY AND HARPER & ROW:

"A REPRESENTATIVE OF HARPER & ROW AND MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY HAVE BEEN MEETING FOR THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. THEY HAVE BEEN MAKING STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD AN AMICABLE SETTLEMENT. THE UNFORTUNATE ILLNESS OF THE AUTHOR, WILLIAM MANCHESTER, HAS MADE IT NECESSARY TO CONTINUE THESE DISCUSSIONS OVER A LONGER PERIOD THAN WAS ANTICIPATED.

"BOTH PARTIES HAVE AGREED TO CONTINUE CONSULTATIONS WITH MR. MANCHESTER AND HIS REPRESENTATIVES, AS WELL AS NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THEMSELVES, FOR THE ADJUSTMENT OF OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES.

"DESPITE THE AUTHOR'S ILLNESS, SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE SO THAT MRS. KENNEDY HAS DECIDED NOT TO PRESS HER MOTION FOR A TEMPORARY INJUNCTION; AND, ALTHOUGH HARPER & ROW INTENDS TO PUBLISH THE BOOK, IT HAS VOLUNTARILY AGREED NOT TO DO SO BEFORE APRIL 1 EVEN THOUGH THERE IS NO COURT ORDER FORBIDDING PRIOR PUBLICATION.

"BOTH PARTIES HAVE AGREED TO REQUEST A TRIAL DATE FOR MID--JANUARY IN THE EVENT THAT NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED.

"THE SOLE OBJECT OF THIS ARRANGEMENT IS TO GIVE ALL PARTIES INCLUDING THE AUTHOR SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THOROUGH DISCUSSIONS."

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