

EA81

NIGHT LEAD KENNEDY BOOK (ROUNDUP) (600)

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NEW YORK, DEC. 28 (AP)-HISTORIAN ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER JR. SAID TODAY THE EFFORT TO PUBLISH MATERIAL FROM 10 HOURS OF SOUL-BARING TAPE-RECORDINGS MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY GAVE TO AUTHOR WILLIAM R. MANCHESTER WAS "A BREACH OF TASTE AND CONFIDENCE."

PUBLICATION OF MANCHESTER'S BOOK, "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT," IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM WOULD SERIOUSLY HAMPER THE WORK OF HISTORIANS SINCE NO ONE WOULD EVER AGAIN SUBMIT TO SUCH INTERVIEWS, HE SAID.

SCHLESINGER TOLD NEWSMEN AFTER A MEETING OF THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY THAT HE HAD HAD SIMILAR INTERVIEWS WITH MRS. KENNEDY BEFORE WRITING HIS OWN BOOK, "A THOUSAND DAYS."

BUT HE SAID, "IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT THE TAPES AND TRANSCRIPTS RESULTING FROM MY INTERVIEWS WERE MINE TO BE USED AT MY DISCRETION."

HE SAID HE HAD ADVISED MRS. KENNEDY TO MAKE THE RECORDINGS FOR MANCHESTER, WHOM SHE HAD COMMISSIONED TO WRITE THE STORY OF HER HUSBAND'S ASSASSINATION. BUT, SAID SCHLESINGER, HE HAD ASSURED HER THAT SHE WAS "MAKING A DEPOSITION FOR THE HISTORIAN OF THE 21ST CENTURY."

ASKED IN AN INTERVIEW WHAT TIME PERIOD HE FELT SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE WRITING OF THE KENNEDY PERSONAL LIFE, SCHLESINGER SAID:

"I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT NOTHING IN HER TAPED INTERVIEWS BE DISCLOSED UNTIL EVERY ONE MENTIONED IS DEAD."

EA82

OPPONENTS IN THE LITERARY BATTLE MADE PRELIMINARY APPEARANCES TODAY IN STATE SUPREME COURT.

JUSTICE SAUL S. STREIT CONFERRED WITH ATTORNEYS FOR MRS. KENNEDY, MANCHESTER, AND PUBLISHERS HARPER & ROW AND DECIDED THAT A COURT HEARING SHOULD BE HELD JAN. 5 TO MAKE A "FORMAL DISPOSITION" ON MRS. KENNEDY'S APPEAL FOR A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION TO BAR PUBLICATION.

MRS. KENNEDY AND HARPER & ROW ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT THAT SHE HAD AGREED NOT TO PRESS FOR THE INJUNCTION.

LAST WEEK DELETIONS WERE MADE IN A SERIALIZED VERSION OF THE BOOK TO APPEAR IN LOOK MAGAZINE AND MRS. KENNEDY WITHDREW

OBJECTIONS TO THAT PUBLICATION.

FORMER FEDERAL JUDGE SIMON H. RIFKIND, ATTORNEY FOR THE PRESIDENT'S WIDOW, SAID THAT DURING THE INTERVAL "WE WILL NEGOTIATE AND IF NO SETTLEMENT IS REACHED, THE JUDGE WILL DIRECT AN EARLY TRIAL."

HARPER & ROW SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO COURT BAN AGAINST EARLIER PUBLICATION, THEY WILL HOLD OFF THE BOOK AT LEAST UNTIL APRIL 1.

SCHLESINGER TOLD THE HISTORIANS:

"IF THE LOOK (MAGAZINE)-HARPER & ROW CONTENTION WERE UPHELD, IF THE PROPOSITION WERE ESTABLISHED THAT A PERSON CONFIDING HIS ORAL HISTORICAL RECOLLECTIONS TO THE ELECTRONIC TAPE LOSES TO THE INTERVIEWER ALL FUTURE RIGHTS OVER THE INTERVIEW, THE ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM WHICH PROMISES SO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN OF THE FUTURE WOULD BE DEAD."

SCHLESINGER, ONCE AN AIDE TO PRESIDENT KENNEDY, AND NOW A PROFESSOR AT THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, SAID MANCHESTER WAS BOUND NOT ONLY BY THE "RESTRAINTS" INHERENT IN SUCH INTERVIEWS, BUT BY "THE EXPLICIT RESTRAINTS OF A WRITTEN CONTRACT."

EA83

MRS. KENNEDY HAS SUED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE CONTRACT WITH MANCHESTER GAVE HER THE RIGHT OF FINAL APPROVAL TO CONTENTS OF THE BOOK AND ALSO TO THE DATE OF ITS PUBLICATION.

MANCHESTER, MEANWHILE, WAS REPORTED IMPROVED AT A HOSPITAL IN MIDDLETOWN, CONN., WHERE HE WAS ADMITTED SUFFERING WITH PNEUMONIA.

THERE WERE MEDICAL REPORTS THAT HE WOULD NEED A LONG VACATION TO RECUPERATE FROM THE STRAINS OF THE DISPUTE OVER HIS BOOK.

MRS. KENNEDY WAS VACATIONING IN ANTIGUA, BRITISH WEST INDIES, FAR FROM THE CONVEROVERSY.

POLICE WARNED OF REPERCUSSIONS IF HER PRIVACY WERE DISTURBED.

SCHLESINGER DEFENDED THE RIGHT OF HISTORIANS TO WRITE ABOUT "THE PUBLIC LIVES OF PUBLIC MEN," BUT SAID "THE RELATIONSHIP OF A WIFE TO HER HUSBAND, EVEN IF HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT, AND TO THEIR CHILDREN, IS A PRIVATE MATTER, OF CONCERN TO THE ULTIMATE HISTORIAN, BUT IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO THE HISTORIAN WRITING IN HER LIFETIME."

HE ADDED:

"I DON'T THINK MR. MANCHESTER MEANS TO ACT IN A BAD WAY, BUT I DO THINK THE INSISTENCE OF HIS PUBLISHERS IN REVEALING MATTERS OF A PRIVATE CONCERN TO MRS. KENNEDY IS A BREACH OF TASTE AND CONFIDENCE."

HE SAID HE "REGRETS THE OUTCOME" OF THE ADVICE HE GAVE MRS. KENNEDY TO TALK TO MANCHESTER.

IN CHICAGO, THE DAILY NEWS REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS ON FILE SEVERAL LETTERS FROM MRS. KENNEDY CONTRADICTING REPORTED SECTIONS OF MANCHESTER'S BOOK CALLING HIS BEHAVIOR THOUGHTLESS AND BOORISH ON THE FLIGHT FROM DALLAS TO WASHINGTON AFTER THE ASSASSINATION. THEY REPORTEDLY EXPRESS HER GRATITUDE FOR JOHNSON'S KINDNESSES.

MRS. KENNEDY WAS QUOTED BY LIFE MAGAZINE ON DEC. 4, 1963, AS SAYING "THE JOHNSON'S ARE WONDERFUL, THEY'VE BEEN WONDERFUL TO ME..."

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