

KENNEDY BOOK TALKS PUT OFF TO TUESDAY

Negotiations were halted yesterday in the legal battle over William Manchester's book about the assassination of President Kennedy, "The Death of a President."

"There were a few brief telephone conversations between lawyers yesterday," said Richard N. Goodwin, an adviser to Mrs. John F. Kennedy. "But talks are at a slowdown because of the holiday weekend and due to the illness of Mr. Manchester."

He said negotiations would be resumed Tuesday.

Simon H. Rifkind, counsel for Mrs. Kennedy, said the last meeting of representatives for Mrs. Kennedy and Harper & Row, publishers, Inc., publishers of the book, were held Thursday.

Mr. Manchester was reported "very comfortable" at Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, Conn., where he is recovering from pneumonia.

A hospital official said Mr. Manchester was "walking about" and was expected to be released after the weekend.