

The Kennedy Book

Printing Plant Under Guard

Chicago

R. R. Donnelley & Sons Co., which prints millions of words, is uttering very few of them these days.

The company, which calls itself the largest commercial printer in the United States, has been printing magazines and catalogues, day and night, seven days a week, for years.

But people uninterested in such mechanics paid little attention until it came out recently that Donnelley was printing "The Death of a President" for one of its many customers, Look magazine. That, of course, is the installment form of a forthcoming book that has caused a dispute between the Kennedys and those who are publishing the volume.

Uniformed guards are on duty at entrances to production buildings in the Donnelley cluster near the lakefront on the near south side. And a guard watches from a squat glass tower in the parking lot.

A reporter and photographer walked into the corporate headquarters building. A pleasant, efficient receptionist took their coats and hats — and the camera, too — and put them in a

closet. She informed "communications," by telephone, of the names and connections of the newsmen; then told them to take an elevator to the third floor.

They were met there by Tek Osborne, a six footer whose youthful, ruddy good looks were set off by a blue, button-down shirt and a wide-striped tie.

"We do not provide tours," Osborne said. "We have to provide security for all our customers."

He explained that only "authorized personnel," such as employees and representatives of the customers, are admitted.

He explained, too, that any information about anything Donnelley is printing for a customer must come from the customer.

The reporter asked if the security force had been beefed up and if any outsiders had slipped in.

"No comment at this time," Osborne said.

He was asked about a columnist's report of wandering through the corridors at night.

If you read the copy carefully, Osborne suggested, you would get the feeling that the columnist had not nec-

essarily done the wandering himself.

So the reporter asked if any employees had been bribed or had smuggled out any of the controversial Kennedy copy.

"If they have," he replied, "I'm certainly not aware of it."

Osborne rode down to the street level in the self-service elevator with the reporter and photographer.

Possibly he wanted to make sure they left the building.

He didn't say.

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