

KENNEDY BOOK (350)

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK, JAN. 6 (AP)-TRIAL OF MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY'S SUIT AGAINST HARPER & ROW TO BLOCK PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK, "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT," HAS BEEN SET FOR JAN. 18. OBSERVERS CLOSE TO THE DISPUTE STILL EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT IT WILL BE SETTLED OUT OF COURT.

STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SAUL S. STREIT SET THE DATE YESTERDAY AFTER AUTHOR WILLIAM MANCHESTER AND PUBLISHER HARPER & ROW FILED SEPARATE BUT SIMILAR ANSWERS TO MRS. KENNEDY'S SUIT. STREIT HAD SAID LAST WEEK HE WOULD HEAR THE CASE AGAINST MANCHESTER ON JAN. 16.

AFTER CONFERRING WITH THEIR ATTORNEYS, STREIT ANNOUNCED, "THE STORY IS BRIEF. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED."

HE SAID DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT REACHING A SETTLEMENT WERE CONTINUING, THEN ADDED: "IN THE EVENT NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT COMPLETED, THE PARTIES WILL GO TO TRIAL."

MRS. KENNEDY SEEKS A PERMANENT INJUNCTION AGAINST THE PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK UNLESS THE AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER AGREE TO DELETE SOME MATERIAL SHE DEEMS TOO PERSONAL.

HARPER & ROW PLANS TO PUBLISH MANCHESTER'S 300,000-WORD BOOK ON THE 1963 ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY IN APRIL.

LOOK MAGAZINE, WHICH HAS SERIAL RIGHTS TO THE BOOK, AGREED TO CERTAIN DELETIONS IN AN OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT AND BEGINS A FOUR-PART 60,000-WORD SERIES IN ITS ISSUE GOING ON SALE NEXT WEEK.

EA104.

MRS. KENNEDY'S SUIT IS BASED ON AN ALLEGED BREACH OF CONTRACT BETWEEN MANCHESTER AND SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, D-N.Y., HER BROTHER-IN-LAW. THE KENNEDYS SAY THE CONTRACT STIPULATED THE TEXT BE APPROVED BY THEM PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

IN THEIR ANSWERS, BOTH AUTHOR AND PUBLISHER OFFERED BROAD DENIALS OF VIRTUALLY ALL OF MRS. KENNEDY'S CHARGES.

MANCHESTER SAID MRS. KENNEDY HAD "CONSENTED TO AND-OR APPROVED THE PUBLICATION..." HARPER & ROW SAID SHE HAD "CONSENTED TO AND-OR APPROVED THE MODE, TIME AND TEXT OF PUBLICATION...."

ATTORNEY CARLETON ELDRIDGE, REPRESENTING MANCHESTER, CONTENDED THAT MRS. KENNEDY "HAS, BY HER COURSE OF CONDUCT AND HER APPROVAL OF, AND ACQUIESCENCE IN THE COURSE OF CONDUCT OF OTHERS, WAIVED ANY ALLEGED PERSONAL RIGHT OR CONSENT AND APPROVAL OVER THE PUBLICATION OF WILLIAM MANCHESTER'S BOOK."