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NEW YORK, JAN. 22 (AP)-HERE IS THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY RICHARD GOODWIN, ADVISER TO MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY ABOUT THE BOOK "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT," COMMENTING ON AN INTERVIEW AUTHOR WILLIAM MANCHESTER GAVE NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE:

"MR. MANCHESTER'S ACCOUNT BEARS NO RELATIONSHIP TO THE ACTUAL COURSE OF DISCUSSION AND CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING HIS BOOK. READING IT, ONE IS STRUCK BY THE ENORMOUS DIFFICULTY OF ANSWERING STATEMENTS MADE IN COMPLETE DISREGARD OF THE TRUTH.

"THE TRUTH IS THAT FROM JULY TO DECEMBER, MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY ASKED THAT CERTAIN CHANGES RELATING SOLELY TO HER PERSONAL LIFE AND THE LIVES OF HER CHILDREN BE DELETED. SHE HAD PERSONALLY READ THESE PASSAGES. SHE TOLD MR. MANCHESTER THE CHANGES REPRESENTED HER PERSONAL JUDGMENT AND WISHES.

"DESPITE HIS CONTINUAL ASSURANCES AND PROMISES THESE CHANGES IN A SMALL PORTION OF AN ENORMOUS NARRATION WERE NEVER MADE. THESE CHANGES WERE SUCH THAT THEY COULD NOT CONCEIVABLY AFFECT THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF ANYONE.

"MR. MANCHESTER'S STATEMENT, HOWEVER, MAKES IT NECESSARY TO MENTION OTHER ASPECTS OF HIS MANUSCRIPT.

"WHEN HE DELIVERED IT IN MARCH, 1965, THE PUBLISHERS WROTE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KENNEDY FAMILY THAT THE BOOK IS "IN PART TASTELESS AND GRATUITOUSLY INSULTING TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND, FOR THAT MATTER, TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY."

"MR. MANCHESTER, THE PUBLISHERS WROTE, HAD TURNED "THE TRAGEDY INTO A MAGIC FAIRY TALE."

"IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE THE BOOK BOTH ACCURATE AND FAIR, TO REMOVE THE SOMETIMES HORRIFYING AND UNJUST IMPLICATIONS ABOUT SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS, THE PUBLISHERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KENNEDY FAMILY RECOMMENDED MANY CHANGES. AS A RESULT, ALMOST ONE THIRD OF THE BOOK WAS MODIFIED.

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"ALMOST ALL THE FIRST CHAPTER WAS DISCARDED OR REWRITTEN.

"HOWEVER, MANY SUBSTANTIAL RECOMMENDED CHANGES WERE NEVER MADE

AND OTHERS THAT WERE AGREED UPON WERE LATER RESTORED BY THE AUTHOR WITHOUT INFORMING EITHER THE PUBLISHERS OR THE KENNEDY REPRESENTATIVES.

"IT IS TRUE THAT WE DID NOT OPPOSE SERIALIZATION; NOR DID WE OPPOSE ULTIMATE PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK, BUT PUBLICATION WAS TO BE OF APPROVED MANUSCRIPT AND, IN FACT, NO MANUSCRIPT WAS EVER APPROVED; ALTHOUGH WE WERE CONSTANTLY ASSURED, BOTH ORALLY AND IN WRITING, THAT THE REQUESTED CHANGES WOULD BE MADE, NOT ONLY WERE THEY NOT MADE, BUT MATERIAL WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DELETED WAS RESTORED.

"EVEN AFTER MR. MANCHESTER REFUSED TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE INTEREST OF ACCURACY, HE CONTINUALLY PROMISED TO MAKE CHANGES REQUESTED BY MRS. KENNEDY.

"AT ONE POINT THE PUBLISHERS SAID THEY WOULD NOT PUBLISH THE BOOK UNLESS THESE CHANGES WERE MADE.

"IT WAS THE FAILURE TO MAKE THESE CHANGES, AND FOR THAT REASON ONLY, THAT LEGAL ACTION WAS FINALLY BROUGHT.

"ALMOST EVERY INCIDENT AS DESCRIBED BY MR. MANCHESTER IN HIS NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW IS AS FICTIONAL AS SOME OF THE MOST OBJECTIONABLE PASSAGES IN HIS ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT."

(END EST)

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