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23 JAN 1967

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804 ACS

EA54.

PMS BUDGET (780)

KENNEDY BOOK

BY GEORGE ESPER

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK, JAN. 23 (AP)-THE FIRST CHAPTER OF THE BOOK, "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT," WAS TOSSED OUT AT THE INSISTENCE OF ADVISERS TO THE KENNEDY FAMILY BECAUSE IT PICTURE^d PRESIDENT JOHNSON AS "A MAN OF VIOLENCE," A SOURCE CLOSE TO THE FAMILY SAID TODAY.

THE SOURCE MADE THE STATEMENT AS THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE BOOK ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY FLARED ANEW AFTER AUTHOR WILLIAM MANCHESTER CHARGED THAT SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY WANTED TO "SHRED AND EMASCULATE" THE BOOK SIMPLY FOR POLITICAL REASONS.

MANCHESTER WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT ON THE COUNTERCHARGE MADE BY THE SOURCE CLOSE TO THE KENNEDY FAMILY. THE AUTHOR WAS REPORTED ON AN EXTENDED VACATION AT AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.

THE KENNEDY SOURCE SAID:

"THE WHOLE FIRST CHAPTER WAS A DEER HUNTING SCENE IN TEXAS. IT SHOWED JOHNSON AS A MAN OF VIOLENCE WHO LOVED TO KILL DEER AND WOULD FORCE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME.

"IT SEEMED TO SET SYMBOLIC OVERTONES WHICH WERE UNJUST AND INACCURATE. IT SEEMED AN ATTEMPT TO MAKE THIS (THE CHAPTER) THE SYMBOLIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE WHOLE BOOK, WHICH WAS UNJUST AND DISASTROUS.

"IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION SINCE IT OCCURRED THREE YEARS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION, RIGHT AFTER THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. IT PICTURED PRESIDENT KENNEDY AS A MAN RELUCTANT TO DO THIS (KILL DEER), A MUCH MORE GENTLE FIGURE."

EA55

PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND JOHNSON WENT HUNTING ON THE LBJ RANCH ON NOV. 17, 1960, THE PERIOD AFTER THE ELECTION AND PRIOR TO THE INAUGURATION. IT WAS KENNEDY'S FIRST DEER HUNT AND HE SHOT TWO BUCKS. THE TWO HAD MET AT THE LBJ RANCH FOR A POST ELECTION DISCUSSION OF VARIOUS PROBLEMS FACING THEIR ADMINISTRATION.

"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."

GOODWIN SAID THAT WHEN MANCHESTER DELIVERED HIS MANUSCRIPT 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.'"

GOODWIN'S STATEMENT CONTINUED:

"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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(EDS: AN ADD WILL MOVE ON SOME WIRES)

PL521AES

EB42

(950)

NEW YORK--FIRST ADD KENNEDY BOOK BJT (A54-56) XXX BOOK WAS MODIFIED."

MANCHESTER SAID 3,600 WORDS WERE DELETED FROM THE 360,000 WORD BOOK--ONE PER CENT. HE SAID HE HAD A LETTER FROM MRS. KENNEDY ASKING FOR 27 DELETIONS OF MATERIAL SHE CONSIDERED TOO PERSONAL.

"THE FIRST SIX IN ENCOUNTERED IN THE GALLEYS," MANCHESTER SAID, "INVOLVED LBJ AND HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH HER OR HER CHILDREN. MY RECOLLECTION IS THAT 17 OF THE 27 CHANGES SHE ASKED FOR WERE MADE."

MRS. KENNEDY FILED SUIT LAST DECEMBER TO BLOCK BOTH THE SERIALIZATION OF THE BOOK IN LOOK MAGAZINE AND PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK NEXT APRIL ON GROUNDS THAT MANCHESTER HAD INVADED HER PRIVACY IN HIS USE OF HER PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS WHICH SHE GAVE HIM IN 10 HOURS OF TAPED INTERVIEWS.

SHE EVENTUALLY WITHDREW THE SUIT AFTER REACHING AGREEMENTS WITH LOOK AND HARPER & ROW ON MODIFICATION OF PASSAGES SHE CONSIDERED TOO PERSONAL.

MANCHESTER SAID MRS. KENNEDY DID NOT READ THE BOOK UNTIL AFTER SHE FILED THE SUIT.

IN DENYING THE BOOK WAS ANTI-JOHNSON, THE AUTHOR SAID:

"I THINK HE BEHAVED WELL. WE WERE ALL SLOBS THAT AFTERNOON. HE WAS TRYING. HE WAS STRONG, EFFECTIVE. I AM DISTRESSED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY ANTI-JOHNSON STORIES ATTRIBUTED TO THE BOOK. THEY ARE NOT TRUE AND NOT IN THE BOOK AT ALL."

THE SECOND INSTALLMENT OF LOOK MAGAZINE'S SERIALIZATION OF THE BOOK IS DUE TOMORROW ON NEWS STANDS.

MANCHESTER SAID THAT THE EAGERNESS OF THE KENNEDY ADVISERS TO PLEASE SEN. KENNEDY CLOUDED THEIR JUDGEMENTS. HE SAID SEN. KENNEDY DEMANDED THAT HE "SHRED AND EMASCULATE" THE MANUSCRIPT AT A MEETING IN WASHINGTON.

EB43

THE NEW YORK TIMES' ACCOUNT QUOTED MANCHESTER AS SAYING THAT KENNEDY'S ADVISERS SAT ON FACING COUCHES, AND THAT HE SAT ON A CHAIR.

THE SENATOR, MANCHESTER SAID, PACED BACK AND FORTH DESPITE ENTREATIES FROM HIS ADVISERS THAT HE SIT DOWN.

"BOBBY LOST HIS TEMPER," MANCHESTER SAID. "AT ONE POINT HE

ACCUSED ME OF SHOUTING AT HIM WHEN I HADN'T RAISED MY VOICE. THIS IS AN OLD COURTROOM LAWYER'S TRICK.

"THEN, HE DEMANDED THAT I 'SHRED AND EMASCULATE' THE MANUSCRIPT. HE EVEN ASKED IF I WOULD HOIN IN A SUIT AGAINST LOOK."

IN THE NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW, MANCHESTER RECALLED THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD IN HIS FIRST MEETING WITH SEN. KENNEDY, "I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO MAKE A KILLING OUT OF MY BROTHER'S DEATH."

HE SAID HE OWN RESPONSE TO THIS HAD BEEN, "YOU DICTATE THE TERMS."

MANCHESTER SAID THAT ACCORDING TO CURRENT ESTIMATES THE KENNEDY LIBRARY STANDS TO MAKE \$5 MILLION FROM THE BOOK.

HE SAID THE ESTIMATED \$500,000 HE MIGHT MAKE HIMSELF WAS "A LOT OF MONEY." BUT, HE ADDED, IT WAS NOT EXCESSIVE "IN LIGHT OF MY THREE YEARS' AGONY."

ASKED IF THE MONEY HAD BEEN THE REAL REASON FOR THE KENNEDYS' ADISTRESS, MANCHESTER SAID:

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ASKED IF THE MONEY HAD BEEN THE REAL REASON FOR THE KENNEDYS' ADISTRESS, MANCHESTER SAID: "IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN THEIR MOTIVES." HE SAID THE FAMILY WAS "ALL FOR THE BOOK--BUT NO MAGAZINE SERIALIZATION."

MANCHESTER SAID GOODWIN "TRIED TO EMASCULATE THE LOOK GALLEYS."

"AT ONE POINT," MANCHESTER CONTINUED, "NEARLY 50 PER CENT OF THE THIRD INSTALLMENT WAS EDITED. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNPRINTABLE. HE WAS EDITING LARGELY FOR POLITICAL REASONS--MATERIAL ABOUT BOBBY AND JOHNSON."

MANCHESTER SAID HE TOLD THE STORY OF KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION EXACTLY AS IT HAPPENED.

"TO DO LESS," HE SAID, "WOULD HAVE VIOLATED MY INTEGRITY AS A REPORTER."

GOODWIN ADDED IN HIS STATEMENT:

"THE TRUTH IS THAT FROM JULY TO DECEMBER, MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY ASKED THAT CERTAIN CHANGES RELATING SOLELY TO HER PERSONAL LIFE AND 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."

THE TIMES SAID THAT MANCHESTER WROTE TO MRS. KENNEDY THAT HE HAD TRIED TO PURGE HIMSELF OF POLITICAL AND PERSONAL PREJUDICES WHILE HE WROTE THE BOOK.

"THOUGH I TRIED DESPERATELY TO SUPPRESS MY BIAS AGAINST A CERTAIN EMINENT STATESMAN WHO ALWAYS REMINDED ME OF SOMEONE IN A GRADE D MOVIE OF THE LATE SHOW," HE WROTE, "THE PREJUDICE SHOWED THROUGH. THIS WAS CHEAP OF ME, BUT I SUPPOSE THERE IS A LITTLE MEANNESS IN ALL OF US."

HE DID NOT NAME THE STATESMAN TO WHOM HE REFERRED EITHER IN THE LETTER OR THE INTERVIEW WITH THE TIME.

MANCHESTER TOLD THE TIMES THAT HE ENTERED A HOSPITAL ON NOV. 26, 1965, SUFFERING FROM EXHAUSTION, AND THAT HE STAYED IN BED 12 DAYS. ON THE 13TH DAY, HE SAID, HE ARRANGED TO HAVE A DOCTOR'S VACANT OFFICE PUT AT HIS DISPOSAL AND SPENT THE NEXT EIGHT WEEKS THERE WORKING ON THE BOOK.

HE SAID HE STAYED IN THE HOSPITAL TO AVOID PHONE CALLS AND DISTRACTIONS. BEFORE THEN, HE SAID, HE HAD W

HE SAID HE STAYED IN THE HOSPITAL TO AVOID PHONE CALLS AND DISTRACTIONS. BEFORE THEN, HE SAID, HE HAD WORKED VIRTUALLY EVERY DAY FOR TWO YEARS, USUALLY AS MANY AS 15 HOURS A DAY.

MANCHESTER SAID HIS EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS WERE CONSIDERABLE. HE RECALLED AN EVENING IN THE PREVIOUS SPRING, SITTING AT HOME, WHEN HIS SON ASKED HIM WHAT THE DATE WAS.

"I TOLD HIM IT WAS NOV. 22," HE SAID. "I SAT THERE, READING A PAPER FOR A FULL TWO MINUTES, AND THEN I REALIZED WHAT I HAD SAID. I LOOKED AT MY SON, AND HE WAS STRICKEN, BUT FOR ME TIME HAD STOPPED ON NOV. 22, THE DAY KENNEDY WAS SHOT."

ON THE NIGHT OF NOV. 22, 1965, TWO YEARS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, HE WROTE THAT "LEE OSWALD WAS KILLED IN THE PRESENCE OF MORE THAN 70 UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS."

HE SAID THAT AFTER THAT HE SAT AND STARED AT HIS TYPEWRITER.

"OSWALD," HE SAID. "THIS WAS THE THEATER OF THE ABSURD. THIS WAS CAMUS. I WAS OVERWHELMED. A FEW DAYS LATER, I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL."