

MANCHESTER.

29 JAN 1967  
(28 JAN.)  
1030 AES

EA197.

(ADVANCE FOR AMS SUNDAY, JAN. 29)

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KENNEDY BOOK; THE FULL STORY (3,250)  
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EDITOR'S NOTE--IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN PUBLISHING, THERE'S BEEN NOTHING QUITE LIKE IT. WELL BEFORE ANY PORTIONS OF THE BOOK REACHED ITS READERS, WILLIAM MANCHESTER'S "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT" STIRRED UP A CONTROVERSY INVOLVING THE KENNEDY CLAN, PUBLISHERS, AND AUTHOR IN A PROLONGED QUARREL. AND BEYOND THE LEGAL SETTLEMENT LOOM POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS NOT FULLY GAUGED YET. HERE'S THE FULL STORY OF THE DISPUTE AND HOW IT HAPPENED.

BY RELMAN MORIN

ASSOCIATED PRESS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, JAN. 28 (AP) -- ON MARCH 23, 1964, PIERRE SALINGER, THEN WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY, TELEPHONED EVAN THOMAS, CHIEF EDITOR IN A NEW YORK PUBLISHING HOUSE, AND ADVISED HIM THAT PLANS WERE BEING FORMULATED FOR AN AUTHORIZED HISTORY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY.

THIS WAS THE FIRST STEP IN A SEQUENCE, LONG AND PAINFUL, THAT LED TO A MONUMENTAL CONTROVERSY, ONE OF THE GREATEST IN THE ANNALS OF LITERATURE.

IT BEGAN EVEN BEFORE WILLIAM MANCHESTER COMPLETED THE BOOK, "THE DEATH OF A PRESIDENT."

IT CAUSED MEN WHO HAD BEEN FRIENDS, AND HAD WORKED TOGETHER ON OTHER WRITING PROJECTS, TO SHOUT AT EACH OTHER IN PRIVATE AND TO EXCHANGE HARSH RECRIMINATIONS IN PUBLIC.

IT IMPELLED SCHOLARS, CRITICS AND COMMENTATORS TO JOIN THE FRAY IN WRITTEN DEFENSES OF THE CHIEF PROTAGONISTS, MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY AND SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY ON THE ONE SIDE AND MANCHESTER AND THE PUBLISHERS ON THE OTHER.

AND IT MAY FLARE ANEW WHEN THE FULL TEXT OF THE BOOK APPEARS.

THIS IS THE STORY BEHIND THE GREAT DISPUTE.

IT IS CONSTRUCTED FROM INTERVIEWS WITH THE PRINCIPALS AND AN EXAMINATION OF A MASS OF WRITTEN MATERIAL. SOME OF THE KEY FIGURES OPENED THEIR FILES AND DISCLOSED RECORDS OF LETTERS EXCHANGED, MEMORANDA THEY DICTATED IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONFERENCES, DATES AND SUMMARIES OF LONG TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS.

THE ONE BETWEEN SALINGER AND THOMAS BEGINS THE STORY.

EVAN THOMAS, CHIEF EDITOR IN THE PUBLISHING HOUSE OF HARPER & ROW, IS A THOUGHTFUL, QUIET-SPOKEN MAN, A NAVY VETERAN AND A LICENSED AIRPLANE PILOT. HE KEEPS AN AMPHORA, A 2000-YEAR-OLD GREEK VASE, BESIDE HIS DESK.

HE EDITED JOHN KENNEDY'S "PROFILES IN COURAGE" AND WORKED WITH ROBERT KENNEDY ON "THE ENEMY WITHIN."

FROM THE FIRST, IT APPEARS, HE HAD MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE PROJECTED BOOK ON THE ASSASSINATION. HE TOLD SALINGER HE WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN "COMMERCIALIZING THE ASSASSINATION."

NONETHELESS, AFTER A SECOND TELEPHONE CALL FROM ROBERT KENNEDY'S OFFICE, AND BECAUSE OF HIS PREVIOUS ASSOCIATIONS, THOMAS WENT TO WASHINGTON TO TALK ABOUT THE BOOK.

IN THE OFFICE OF THE THEN ATTORNEY-GENERAL, THOMAS WAS INTRODUCED TO MANCHESTER. KENNEDY ASSURED HIM THAT "THIS IS NOT GOING TO BE AN ORDINARY COMMERCIAL VENTURE." HE AND MANCHESTER ALREADY HAD DRAWN UP THE "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING" -- A KEY DOCUMENT THAT WAS TO EXPLODE SOME TWO YEARS LATER.

IT CONTAINED 11 CLAUSES, THE THIRD OF WHICH READ:

"THE COMPLETED MANUSCRIPT SHALL BE REVIEWED BY MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY AND ROBERT KENNEDY AND THE TEXT SHALL NOT BE PUBLISHED UNLESS AND UNTIL APPROVED BY THEM."

BACK IN NEW YORK, THOMAS DICTATED A FILE MEMORANDUM OF THE CONFERENCE.

MANCHESTER IS A FORMER REPORTER ON THE BALTIMORE SUN. HE JOINED THE MARINES IN 1942, WAS WOUNDED ON OKINAWA, AND WAS DISCHARGED AS A SERGEANT IN 1945. HE HAD TAKEN HIS DEGREES IN LITERATURE AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF MASSACHUSETTS AND MISSOURI. HE HAD WRITTEN

THE UNIVERSITIES OF MASSACHUSETTS AND MISSOURI. HE HAD WRITTEN A BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN KENNEDY, "PORTRAIT OF A PRESIDENT," AND WAS WORKING ON A BOOK ABOUT THE KRUPPS, THE GERMAN INDUSTRIAL FAMILY, AND THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR WHEN HE WAS APPROACHED WITH RESPECT TO THE BOOK ABOUT THE TRAGEDY IN DALLAS.

EA200

THIS WAS IN FEBRUARY, 1964, SOME 10 WEEKS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION.

ALREADY, HOWEVER, KENNEDY INTIMATES SAY THE FAMILY WAS BEING "DELUGED" WITH REQUESTS FROM WRITERS FOR COOPERATION ON BOOKS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH THAT THEY WERE PLANNING. THE FAMILY DECIDED TO HAVE A SINGLE, AUTHORIZED AND ACCURATE VERSION.

SALINGER RECOMMENDED MANCHESTER. THE KENNEDYS, WHO HAD LIKED "PORTRAIT OF A PRESIDENT," AGREED.

MANCHESTER HAS DESCRIBED HOW INTENSIVELY HE WORKED ... SOME 60 OR 70 VIEWINGS OF THE FILM TAKEN BY AN AMATEUR CAMERAMAN WHEN THE ASSASSINATION TOOK PLACE... HOURS OF TAPED INTERVIEWS... RETRACING THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP THROUGH TEXAS AND GOING OVER THE LAST FATAL ROUTE THROUGH DALLAS ... A RIDE WITH WILLIAM WHALEY, THE TAXI DRIVER WHO TOLD THE WARREN COMMISSION HE PICKED UP LEE HARVEY OSWALD SHORTLY AFTER THE SHOOTING.

PRINCIPALS ON BOTH SIDES IN THE FIGHT THAT WAS TO DEVELOP AGREE THAT MANCHESTER DID A SUPER-THOROUGH JOB OF GATHERING DETAILS AND INFORMATION. BUT, AS WILL BE SHOWN, THE KENNEDY AIDES QUESTIONED HIS JUDGMENT IN SOME OF THE MATERIAL HE PUT IN EARLY VERSIONS OF HIS BOOK.

THOMAS DID NOT SEE MANCHESTER AGAIN UNTIL THE SUMMER OF 1965. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN A BLEAK ROOM IN A HOUSE ON THE HOUSATONIC RIVER IN CONNECTICUT. IT CONTAINED ONLY THREE OBJECTS, A WRITING DESK, A CHAIR, AND A PHOTOGRAPH OF JOHN F. KENNEDY.

MANCHESTER WAS WRITING IN LONG HAND. EVIDENTLY, HE HAD BEEN WORKING LONG AND INTENSIVELY. THERE WAS BLOOD ON THE FINGERS OF HIS WRITING HAND.

BY THIS TIME, IT APPEARS, HE HAD BECOME DEEPLY IMMERSSED IN HIS STORY. INFORMANTS SAY HE SOMETIMES CALLED HIS WIFE, "JACKIE." AND ON ONE OCCASION, THEY SAY, WHEN SOMEONE ASKED HIM THE DATE, HE REPLIED, "NOVEMBER 22." KENNEDY WAS KILLED ON THAT DATE IN 1963.

ON FEBRUARY 15, 1963, MANCHESTER DELIVERED HIS 1,200-PAGE MANUSCRIPT TO THOMAS.

ABOUT A MONTH LATER, ROBERT KENNEDY TELEPHONED TWO OF HIS FORMER ASSISTANTS IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, JOHN SEIGENTHALER, NOW EDITOR OF THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN, AND EDWIN D. GUTHMAN, NATIONAL EDITOR ON THE LOS ANGELES TIMES. KENNEDY ASKED THEM TO READ THE MANUSCRIPT.

EA201

THEY DID AND THESE WERE SOME OF THEIR ORIGINAL REACTIONS:

"VERY PAINFUL READING; IF IT'S THIS WAY FOR ME THINK HOW IT'S GOING TO BE FOR JACKIE AND BOB ... SOME BEAUTIFUL WRITING ... SOME SERIOUS AND DISTURBING INACCURACIES, PERSONAL AND POLITICAL, OF FACT AND JUDGEMENT ... GREATLY OVER-WRITTEN AND NEEDS MUCH WORK ..."

OTHERS READ THE BOOK.

HISTORIAN ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER JR. CALLED IT "A REMARKABLE AND POTENTIALLY A GREAT BOOK." HOWEVER, AN INFORMANT "IN THE PUBLISHING WORLD SAID SCHLESINGER "OBJECTED TO THE PORTRAYAL OF NEW ENGLAND GRACE CONTRASTING WITH TEXAS VULGARITY."

SOME OF THOSE WHO READ THE MANUSCRIPT THEN FOUND "AN UNDERTONE OF DISRESPECT FOR PRESIDENT JOHNSON." SALINGER OBTAINED A COPY, BUT NOT FROM THE KENNEDY FAMILY, AND SAID, "IT PAINTS A PRETTY UNFORTUNATE PICTURE OF THE PRESIDENT."

THE RECORD INDICATES THAT ANGELA NOVELLO, SECRETARY TO ROBERT KENNEDY, SENT A COPY OF THE BOOK TO JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH, ECONOMIST, WRITER AND FORMER AMBASSADOR. GALBRAITH LATER WROTE AN ARTICLE FOR THE MAGAZINE, SATURDAY REVIEW, ENTITLED "IN DEFENSE OF MRS. KENNEDY."

A 134 NEW YORK-FIRST ADD "KENNEDY BOOK: THE FULL STORY," (MOVED AS A197, A199-201 FRIDAY NIGHT REPORT AS ADVANCE FOR SUNDAY AMS, JAN. 29) X X X DEFENSE OF MRS. KENNEDY."

BY MID-MAY, THOMAS WROTE THAT HE WAS "DEEPLY DISTURBED" BY SOME PASSAGES IN THE BOOK.

ON MAY 16, HE WROTE A LETTER TO SEIGENTHALER AND GUTHMAN, ASKING THEIR ADVICE. HE OFFERED TO PAY EACH OF THEM \$500 BECAUSE HE SAID HE REALIZED HE WAS ASKING THEM TO BE "MORE THAN 'JUST' BOB KENNEDY'S PROXIES."

*Neither man accepted the payment offer.*

THE LETTER SAID THE BOOK "IS, IN PART, GRATUITOUSLY AND TASTE-LES

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Y INSULTING TO JOHNSON, AND FOR THAT MATTER OF THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY . . ." HE SAID HE WANTED TO DO EVERYTHING "HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO MAKE THIS THE GREAT BOOK WHICH IT CAN BE."

THE LETTER CONTINUED, "IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH MANCHESTER HAD BECOME SO DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THIS TRAGIC NARRATIVE THAT HE COULD NOT RESIST TURNING IT INTO A MAGIC FAIRY TALE."

RICHARD GOODWIN, FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICER, AND ONE OF THE KENNEDY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOOK, RELEASED PORTIONS OF THOMAS' MAY 16 LETTER LAST SUNDAY.

IN RESPONSE, THOMAS WROTE A STATEMENT WHICH SAID IN PART:

"THE FUNCTION OF AN EDITOR IS TO EDIT AND THAT'S WHAT MY JOB WAS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MANCHESTER BOOK.

"EVERY EDITOR MAKES CRITICAL COMMENTS IN THE COURSE OF EDITING A WORK -- THEY ARE PROPERLY SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION BETWEEN AUTHOR AND EDITOR OR EDITORS. THE MANCHESTER BOOK WAS REVISED IN RESPONSE TO MANY OF THE EDITORIAL COMMENTS MADE BY THE KENNEDY READERS AND MYSELF. HARPER REGARDS THE FINAL VERSION AS A FINE WORK."

CHANGES WERE SUGGESTED. REVISIONS WERE MADE AND REVISIONS OF REVISIONS. THERE WERE INNUMERABLE DISCUSSIONS OF THEM BETWEEN THOMAS, GUTHMAN, SEIGENTHALER AND LATER GOODWIN. "WE WERE TALKING ABOUT 140 TO 150 DIFFERENT CHANGES," A KENNEDY AIDE SAID.

SA135

A FILE NOTE SAYS OF ONE SUCH CONFERENCE THAT THE "UNDERSTANDING" WAS THAT THOMAS WOULD SHOW MANCHESTER THE SUGGESTED CHANGES AND "SEND COPIES EMBODYING THE CHANGES."

MANCHESTER, THE PRINCIPALS ON BOTH SIDES SAY, BEGAN TO BE DEEPLY PERTURBED. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING HE WONDERED IF HIS BOOK EVER WOULD BE PUBLISHED.

HOWEVER, ON JULY 29, HE WROTE MRS. KENNEDY A NOTE ABOUT THE SERIALIZATION OF THE BOOK -- WHICH BY THEN HAD BEEN CONTRACTED FOR -- WHICH READ IN PART:

"YET, I DO WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT NOTHING WAS SPARED TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE BOOK WAS AS GOOD AS IT COULD BE. FIVE GIFTED KENNEDY MEN -- JOHN SEIGENTHALER, EDWIN GUTHMAN, ARTHUR SCHLESINGER, RICHARD GOODWIN AND EVAN THOMAS -- HAVE READ EVERY LINE AND SOME READ IT THREE TIMES. THEIR SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED IN THE MANUSCRIPT AND THEY ARE GOOD SUGGESTIONS."

BUT THIS WAS THE RUB, KENNEDY AIDES SAY. A CRYPTIC NOTE IN ONE PRIVATE FILE, DATED JUNE 30, SAYS, "PHOTO COPIES BEING MAILED. SOME CHANGES NOT MADE."

IN JULY, ROBERT KENNEDY SENT MANCHESTER AND THE PUBLISHERS A COMMUNICATION WHICH SAID, "MEMBERS OF THE KENNEDY FAMILY WILL PLACE NO OBSTACLE IN THE WAY OF PUBLICATION OF HIS (MANCHESTER'S) BOOK."

KENNEDY THEN DISCOVERED THAT THE PUBLISHERS CONSIDERED THIS TO CONSTITUTE APPROVAL OF THE MANUSCRIPT AS IT THEN STOOD. HE SENT A SECOND NOTE ADVISING THEM THAT "NO APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN."

THE NEXT DEVELOPMENT CAME WHEN MANCHESTER AND HIS REPRESENTATIVES CONCLUDED THE AGREEMENT WITH LOOK MAGAZINE TO SERIALIZE HIS WORK.

MRS. KENNEDY, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM HAWAII, WAS DESCRIBED AS "HORRIFIED" WHEN SHE HEARD THE AMOUNT OF MONEY TO BE PAID THE AUTHOR -- \$650,000. THIS WAS MUCH LARGER THAN HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED. IN FACT, IT WAS FOUR TIMES GREATER THAN A PUBLISHER'S AIDE HAD ESTIMATED EARLIER.

NOW THE QUESTION OF "COMMERCIALIZING THE ASSASSINATION" RE-APPEARED IN THE RAPIDLY ACCELERATING DISAGREEMENTS.

EA136

MOREOVER, A KENNEDY AIDE SAID, IT WAS NOT UNTIL LATE AUGUST THAT MRS. KENNEDY SAW A COPY OF THE CONTRACT WITH LOOK. IT PROVIDED, HE SAID, THAT MANCHESTER HAD NO RIGHT TO CHANGE THE TEXT OF THE MANUSCRIPT HE HAD SOLD. "IN FACT," THE INFORMANT SAID, "LOOK LATER WROTE HIM TO THIS EFFECT WITH A COPY TO GOODWIN."

A KENNEDY REPRESENTATIVE SAID, "DESPITE SEVERAL REQUESTS, NEITHER MRS. KENNEDY NOR HER REPRESENTATIVES WERE ALLOWED TO SEE EITHER THE MANUSCRIPT WHICH HAD BEEN SOLD TO LOOK, NOR THE LOOK INSTALLMENTS THEMSELVES. THERE WAS NEVER A FLAT REFUSAL, BUT THE GALLEYS JUST DIDN'T APPEAR."

IN HIS LETTER OF JULY 19 TO MRS. KENNEDY, PREVIOUSLY CITED, MANCHESTER ALSO WROTE, REGARDING THE SERIALIZATION:

"THE SAFEGUARDS HAVE NOT ENDED. I HAVE TIED THE TIGHTEST STRINGS IN PUBLISHING HISTORY TO SERIAL USE OF THE TEXT."

NONETHELESS, MRS. KENNEDY'S AIDES PICTURED HER AS "DISTRAUGHT" AND THAT SHE CONSIDERED "THERE WERE RELATIVELY FEW CONTROLS" OVER WHAT LOOK MIGHT PUBLISH.

THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND DISAGREEMENTS ALL CAME TO A HEAD IN A FURIOUS SCENE IN ROBERT KENNEDY'S WASHINGTON OFFICE IN EARLY AUGUST. PRESENT WERE KENNEDY, SEIGENTHALER, MANCHESTER AND THOMAS.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONFERENCE ENDED, A LENGTHY MEMORANDUM WAS DICTATED AND LATER SENT TO LAWYERS FOR ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS. THE MEMO RECONSTRUCTS THE DISCUSSION ATTRIBUTING THESE STATEMENTS TO THE FOUR MEN:

"MANCHESTER: "I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD FACE EACH OTHER WITH DUELING PISTOLS."

KENNEDY: "WHY CAN'T WE STOP THIS LOOK THING?"

MANCHESTER: "I HAVE A CONTRACT WITH THEM."

KENNEDY (HOLDING A COPY OF THEIR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING):  
"YOU HAVE A CONTRACT WITH ME, TOO."

MANCHESTER: "I TOLD YOU I DON'T WANT TO GET RICH OUT OF IT AND HARPER DOESN'T WANT TO GET RICH OUT OF IT."

THOMAS: "ADDITIONAL STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY HARPER & ROW TO SEE TO THAT."

THE MEMO THEN QUOTES MANCHESTER AS SAYING THAT HE HAD BEEN THROUGH "A GREAT DEAL." HE SAID HE HAD HAD A WRITING JOB WHEN HE WAS ASKED TO UNDERTAKE THE KENNEDY BOOK, THAT HE WAS HAPPY AND WAS ENJOYING A HAPPY FAMILY LIFE. "AND I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS SUFFERED," HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "I MET LAST NIGHT WITH THE EDITORS OF LOOK AND EVAN THOMAS IN A NEW YORK HOTEL ROOM, AND ONE OF THEM IS SICK NOW AND IN THE CARE OF A DOCTOR."

EA137

KENNEDY: "I'M FULLY AWARE THAT YOU WEREN'T LOOKING FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT. I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN THROUGH A GREAT DEAL. MRS. KENNEDY HAS BEEN THROUGH A GREAT DEAL, TOO. AND SO HAVE I. I JUST WANT TO REVIEW THE FACTS TO SEE IF WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING AS TO WHAT THE FACTS ARE."

KENNEDY TICKED OFF HIS POINTS ON HIS FINGERS.

KENNEDY: "FIRST, YOU AGREED THAT NOTHING WOULD APPEAR IN LOOK UNLESS ED (GUTHMAN) AND JOHN (SEIGENTHALER) APPROVED. SECOND, EVAN THOMAS ASSURED ME THAT HARPER & ROW WOULD PUBLISH NOTHING UNLESS THERE WAS APPROVAL."

THOMAS (BREAKING IN): "YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT, SENATOR. WE DIDN'T WANT TO PUBLISH THIS BOOK IN THE FIRST PLACE."

KENNEDY: "YOU AND I AND EVAN TALKED ABOUT THIS AT THE OUTSET AND AGREED THAT NO ONE WANTED TO MAKE THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY A COMMERCIAL PROJECT. AND NOW I JUST WANT TO KNOW IF YOU ARE GOING TO LIVE UP TO THIS."

ONE OF THOSE PRESENT SAYS "VOICES WERE RAISED" AT THIS POINT. MANCHESTER LATER CHARACTERIZED KENNEDY'S BEHAVIOR AS "IRRATIONAL." SEIGENTHALER SAID, HOWEVER, "BOB WAS CERTAINLY NOT THE ONE IN THAT MEETING WHO WAS IRRATIONAL." THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THOMAS WAS THE CALMEST FIGURE IN THE ROOM.

CONTINUING, THE MEMO SAYS SEIGENTHALER SAID HE HAD HEARD LOOK'S PROPOSED SEVEN INSTALLMENTS WOULD RUN FROM OCTOBER TO JANUARY -- WHICH WOULD MEAN AN INSTALLMENT WOULD BE ON THE NEWS STANDS ON

THE MEMO SHOWS NO FURTHER POINTS OF SIGNIFICANCE.

A SOURCE CLOSE TO MRS. KENNEDY SAYS SHE TRIED TO GET THE LOOK GALLEYS IN LATE AUGUST.

"MANCHESTER AND GOODWIN FLEW TO HYANNIS PORT," THE SOURCE SAID. "EVERYTHING WAS AMICABLE. MOST OF US WENT SWIMMING AND JACKIE WATER SKIIED. THEN SHE SAT DOWN WITH MANCHESTER AND GOODWIN TO TALK BUSINESS."

MRS. KENNEDY SAID, "I'VE TALKED TO DICK ABOUT THE CHANGES I THINK SHOULD BE MADE, AND HE CAN SHOW YOU."

MANCHESTER AND GOODWIN BOTH LIVE IN MIDDLETOWN, CONN., AND THE INFORMANT SAID, "WE THOUGHT THEY WOULD JUST WALK ACROSS THE STREET, OR SIT ON A PARK BENCH, AND WORK IT OUT."

EA139

THE KENNEDY INFORMANT SAID MANCHESTER THEREUPON TELEPHONED HIS AGENT AND TOLD HIM TO HAVE THE GALLEYS FLOWN TO HYANNIS PORT, ADDRESSED TO GOODWIN. HE SAID THE PACKAGE ARRIVED AT THE AIRPORT BUT THEN, SOMEHOW, IT WAS RETURNED TO NEW YORK. GOODWIN DID NOT SEE IT.

A PUBLISHER'S REPRESENTATIVE SNORTED, "THAT PACKAGE WAS HELD IN SENATOR KENNEDY'S OFFICE FOR WEEKS."

THE PUBLISHERS ALSO SAY THEY ASKED PAMELA TURNURE, SECRETARY TO MRS. KENNEDY, TO GET HER TO WRITE MANCHESTER DIRECTLY. "A 'BILL DEAR' LETTER WOULD HAVE HELPED A LOT," THE SOURCE SAID.

THE STRUGGLE OVER REVISIONS CONTINUED UNABATED. WHEN GOODWIN AND MISS TURNURE BEGAN READING THE BOOK, SEIGENTHALER WROTE GOODWIN:

"DEAR DICK: SINCE YOU ARE NOW THE 'READER', I THINK I SHOULD ALERT YOU TO THE DIFFICULTIES I HAD IN DEALING WITH BILL MANCHESTER. HE IS A GREAT WRITER, BUT IN MY OPINION HE HAS VERY BAD JUDGMENT AND IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE WHEN FACED WITH THE PROSPECT OF EDITING HIS WORK.

"ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO, I FOUND THAT ALMOST NONE OF THE SEVERAL EDITING CHANGES ED GUTHMAN AND I THOUGHT SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE HAD, IN FACT, BEEN MADE."

NOT LONG AFTERWARD, CASS LANFIELD, CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF HARPER & ROW, AND THOMAS FLEW TO LONDON TO SEE MANCHESTER. THEY DISCUSSED REVISIONS. THEY FOUND THE WRITER IN BED AT THE CONNAUGHT HOTEL WITH A TEMPERATURE OF 104 THE NEXT DAY. A SOURCE SAID MANCHESTER "DID NOT RECEIVE THE CHANGES HAPPILY. YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM. THE POOR GUY HAD BEEN THROUGH HELL."



BUT THE CHANGES AGREED TO AT THAT POINT, THE LAST REVISIONS CANFIELD AND THOMAS SAID THEY WOULD ASK OF MANCHESTER, WERE NOT ALL THE ONES THE KENNEDYS WERE DEMANDING.

IN OCTOBER, A LARGE KENNEDY MEETING CONVENED IN THE SENATOR'S NEW YORK APARTMENT, DESIGNED TO WORK OUT COMPROMISES. IT LASTED FIVE HOURS. PRESENT WERE SCHLESINGER, SALINGER, SEIGENTHALER, GOODWIN, BURKE MARSHALL, FORMERLY OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, JAMES GREENFIELD, FORMERLY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND JOHN DOUGLAS, SON OF FORMER U.S. SEN. PAUL DOUGLAS OF ILLINOIS.

SA140

"THE QUESTION OF A LAWSUIT WAS PUT DOWN AS A LAST RESORT," AN INFORMANT SAID. "IT WAS BARELY MENTIONED."

HOWEVER, WHEN THE EXPECTED COMPROMISES WERE NOT REACHED, MRS. KENNEDY ANNOUNCED IN MID-DECEMBER THAT SHE WOULD BRING A SUIT TO STOP PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK. SHE CALLED IT "TASTELESS AND DISTORTED."

AN OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT, EFFECTED RECENTLY, SAID THE DELETIONS SHE HAD DEMANDED HAD BEEN MADE.

AND SO, FOR THE MOMENT, THE GREAT LITERARY BATTLE HAS ENDED. BUT IT IS NOT LIKELY TO REMAIN SO.

MANCHESTER IS SCHEDULED TO GO ON A NATIONWIDE TELEVISION PROGRAM, "MEET THE PRESS", FEB. 12. LAST WEEK, HE FIRED BLASTS AT ROBERT KENNEDY, CHARGING THAT THE REVISIONS DEMANDED BY THE KENNEDYS WERE LARGELY FOR POLITICAL REASONS -- MATERIAL ABOUT BOBBY AND JOHNSON. DICK (GOODWIN) TRIED TO EMASUCLATE THE LOOK GALLEYS . . ."

SEIGENTHALER DENIED ANY "POLITICAL EDITING." HE SAID, "IT WAS A CASE OF ERRORS IN JUDGMENT AND WHAT I WOULD CALL A NEED FOR COMMON SENSE REPORTING. I READ IT AS I WOULD READ ANY STORY THAT CAME OUT OF MY NEWSROOM."

ROBERT KENNEDY SAID THE ISSUE WAS SIMPLE: "HE (MANCHESTER) VIOLATED AN AGREEMENT."

COLUMNISTS AND COMMENTATORS HAVE WRITTEN A SPATE OF SPECULATIVE ARTICLES ABOUT THE EFFECT ON KENNEDY'S POLITICAL FUTURE AND ON MRS. KENNEDY'S PUBLIC IMAGE. WHEN THE FULL TEXT OF MANCHESTER'S BOOK APPEARS, IN ALL PROBABILITY THE DISPUTES WILL BREAK OUT ANEW.

MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE NATION, BOOK SELLERS REPORT AN UNUSUALLY HEAVY ADVANCE SALE. MANCHESTER HAS QUOTED HIS AGENT AS SAYING THE AUTHOR'S SHARE OF THE PROCEEDS -- THE LOOK SERIALIZATION, HARD COVERS, SOFT COVERS, BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB AND FOREIGN RIGHTS -- MAY REACH \$1.5 MILLION. HARPER & ROW ANNOUNCED IT WILL KEEP ONLY SIX PER CENT OF THE NET RECEIPTS ON SALES OF THE FIRST 100,000 COPIES.

(END ADVANCE FOR AMS SUNDAY, JAN. 29.)

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