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SALINGER-MANCHESTER 200

LOS ANGELES, MARCH 4 (AP)--ONETIME PRESIDENTIAL PRESS AIDE PIERRE SALINGER SAID TODAY THAT AUTHOR WILLIAM MANCHESTER AGREED SEVERAL TIMES TO REVIEW BY THE KENNEDY FAMILY OF HIS CONTROVERSIAL BOOK, "DEATH OF A PRESIDENT."

SALINGER TOLD OF HIS PART IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH MANCHESTER IN AN ARTICLE IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES' WEST MAGAZINE, DISTRIBUTED WITH THE PAPER'S SUNDAY EDITIONS.

SALINGER, NOW A VICE PRESIDENT OF CONTINENTAL AIRLINES, WITH OFFICES IN LOS ANGELES, SAID HE CONTACTED MANCHESTER EARLY IN 1964 AND NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THE BOOK--TO BE BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY--COMMENCED.

"HE TOLD ME THAT MRS. KENNEDY WAS ENTITLED TO PROTECTION, THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT HE WOULD DO NOTHING THAT WOULD OFFEND HER SENSIBILITIES, BUT THAT SHE AND ROBERT KENNEDY (THE LATE PRESIDENT'S BROTHER, THEN ATTORNEY GENERAL AND NOW U.S. SENATOR) WOULD AND CERTAINLY SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT OF REVIEW," SALINGER SAID.

SALINGER QUOTED FROM A LETTER HE SAID MANCHESTER WROTE TO ROBERT KENNEDY: "I AGREE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT MRS. KENNEDY AND YOU SHOULD REVIEW THE MANUSCRIPT. IF YOU HAD NOT SUGGESTED THIS, I WOULD HAVE."

SALINGER SAID HIS ARTICLE WAS NOT INTENDED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT MATTER OF MANCHESTER'S BOOK. "HISTORY WILL MAKE ITS OWN ASSESSMENT," HE SAID, ADDING:

"PERHAPS HISTORY WILL ALSO SAY THAT IT WAS ERROR FOR THE KENNEDYS TO CONFIDE THEIR STORY TO ONE WRITER, TO MAKE THE DECISION THEY DID SO SOON AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT."

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