

Manchester and Harper Donate \$750,000 to the Kennedy Library

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By HENRY RAYMONT

William Manchester, the author who feuded bitterly with the Kennedy family over certain passages of "The Death of a President," and the book's publisher, Harper & Row, have contributed \$750,000 from the book's profits to the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library at Harvard University.

Friends of the Kennedy family disclosed yesterday that the payment was made several days before the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy on June 5. In acknowledging the contribution, Mrs. John F. Kennedy said:

"I think it is so beautiful what Mr. Manchester did. I am glad that Senator Kennedy knew about it before he died. All the pain of the book and now this noble gesture, of such

generosity, makes the circle come around and close with healing."

Mrs. Kennedy's remarks and private comments from several close friends of the Kennedys made it plain that the contribution was interpreted as a final gesture of reconciliation with Mr. Manchester, who had been chosen by the Kennedy family to write the book.

The controversy, which erupted in the summer of 1966 and culminated with a suit by Mrs. Kennedy against Look magazine for serializing the book, stemmed from her objections to certain passages that she considered too personal. The suit was settled out of court in January, 1967, but

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the dispute left tempers short and old friendships torn.

Statement 'Moving'

In an interview from his home in Middletown, Conn., Mr. Manchester called Mrs. Kennedy's statement "very moving." He said he had never felt any animosity toward anyone in the dispute, and recalled that last April he had publicly endorsed Senator Kennedy's campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

Mr. Manchester, a mild-spoken man, said the contribution to the Kennedy Library represented part of his royalties and part of Harper & Row's publishing profits. The \$750,000 was only the first installment, he said, adding that "ultimately our contribution will be in the vicinity of \$5-million."

The author said that immediately after the payment had been made late last month he had received an acknowledgment from Senator Edward M. Kennedy, vice president of the library. Senator Robert Kennedy was the president.

After the latter's death, Mr. Manchester was invited to the funeral services, but said he was too ill to attend.

"Like a great many people I am still numb over what happened in Los Angeles," he said.

"A great many people misunderstood the nature of our controversy, and understandably so. The fact is that the subject was still too painful for the Senator and for Mrs. John F. Kennedy. But I know they understood."

Surprised by Response

Mr. Manchester said he had been surprised by the warm response of the Kennedys to the library contribution since the payments were envisioned in the original publishing arrangements.

"I am a little embarrassed that there should be so much attention given to this," he added. "But I do share their hopes for the library as a memorial to the Kennedy brothers and as an inspiration to future generations."

In her comment on the contribution, Mrs. Kennedy characterized the library as a memorial to President Kennedy "which will keep alive all his hopes and inspiration."

"I would also like to consider Mr. Manchester's gift as a memorial to Senator Robert Kennedy," she added, "because Mr. Manchester believed in Robert Kennedy, too. His gift is in the spirit of Robert Kennedy 'to make gentle the life of the world.' I thank Mr. Manchester for them both with all my heart."

The phrase "to make gentle the life of the world" was a favorite quotation of the late Senator. It is taken from Edith Hamilton, the late classics scholar.

The John F. Kennedy Memorial Library was planned as a center for research and writing for people in governmental and academic fields. It has been patterned after Harvard's Nieman program, which offers fellowships to journalists.

Plans for the library and the Kennedy Institute for Advanced Political Studies have been designed by I. M. Pei, the New York architect. But the construction has been delayed because the site of the complex, facing Eliot House and Kirkland House on the bank of the Charles River in Cambridge, Mass., is still being used as a subway-train yard by the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority.