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## NORTON WILL ISSUE **CUBAN-CRISIS BOOK**

\$250,000 Paid for Rights to **Robert Kennedy Memoir** 

## By ALDEN WHITMAN

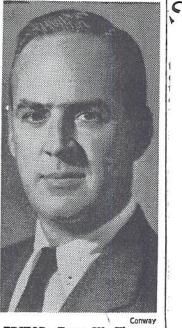
By ALDEN WHITMAN Book rights to the late Sena-tor Robert F. Kennedy's 25,000-word account of the Cuban missile crisis have been ac-quired by W. W. Norton & Co., a small privately owned pub-lishing house, for a sum in ex-cess of \$250,000. The sale, which became known yesterday, was from the McCall Corporation, which pur-chased the manuscript last month from the Senator's es-

known yesterday, was from the McCall Corporation, which pur-chased the manuscript last month from the Senator's es-tate for \$1-million. The manu-script will appear as a maga-zine article in the November issue of McCall's. The book will be published January 20. Norton's acquisition of the book rights was negotiated over the last six weeks by George P. Brockway, president of the company, and Evan W. Thomas 2d, an editor nd victe president of the concern. Ironically, Mr. Thomas, who will edit the book with Mr. Brockway, was editor, when he was at Harper & Row, of Wil-liam Manchester's "Death of a President," a task that culmi-nated in serious differences be-tween Mr. Thomas and the Kennedy family. Earlier in his 22-year career at Harper's Mr. Thomas had edited John F. Kennedy's "Pro-files in Courage" and three books by the late Senator. His relations with the Kennedys had been amicable until the Manchester episode. **Center of Controversy** The Manchester chronicle of

## Center of Controversy

The Manchester chronicle of the assassination of President Kennedy was published in 1967 when Mr. Thomas was vice president of Harper & Row. At the time he was a center of controversy over changes in the book that were demanded by the Kennedy family and re-sisted by the author. One of the spokesmen for the family was the late Senator. Mr. Thomas resigned from Harper & Row last spring to join Nor-ton.

ton. The sale to that company, af-The sale to that company, af-ter spirited bidding by a num-ber of publishers, was ap-proved by Theodore W. Soren-sen, attorney for the Kennedy estate's executors — Mrs. Rob-ert F. Kennedy, the Senator's widow; Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, his brother, and Mrs. Patricia Ken-nedy, his sister.



EDITOR: Evan W. Thomas 2d will help edit the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy's account of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, to be pub-lished by W. W. Norton.

The slain Senator was Pres-ident Kennedy's Attorney Gen-eral and confidant during the Cuban crisis in October, 1962.

Cuban crisis in October, 1962. Mr. Thomas said that Mr. So-rensen "must have received permission from the Kennedy family" to offer the book to Norton, and added: "I personally can rejoice that Mr. Sorensen felt it could be shown to Norton despite earli-er misunderstandings between the Kennedy family and me, differences that we hope are largely settled." "Great Public Servants'

## 'Great Public Servants'

Mr. Thomas went on to em-phasize that "I never viewed Robert Kennedy or John Ken-nedy other than as great pub-lic servants." Mr. Sorensen Mr. Thomas

lic servants." Mr. Sorensen, Mr. Thomassaid, will write explanatory notes for the book "subject to the Kennedy family's approv-al." "We feel very fortunate to get Mr. Sorensen to do these notes," Mr. Thomas continued, "because he was a member of the inner White House circle during the missile crisis and the inner white House circle during the missile crisis and knew both brothers under ex-traordinary circumstances." Mr. Sorensen served as spe-cial counsel to the President in the Kennedy Administration.

in the Kennedy Administration. The book's publication Jan. 20 will mark the eighth an-niversary of President Kenne-dy's inauguration. Its title, sug-gested by Mr. Thomas, will be "Thirteen Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis."

In addition to the Sorensen notes, the 160-page book will contain introductions by Rob-ert S. McNamara, President Kennedy's Secretary of De-fense, and Harold Macmillan, the British Prime Minister dur-ing the crisis with the Soviet Union over its emplacement of missiles on Cuba. Neither these introductions nor the Sorensen notes will appear in McCall's.

appear in McCall's. "Thirteen Days"

will also include documents of the crisis, including President Kennedy's speech to the nation on it, maps, diagrams and photo-graphs. The book will be priced at \$4.95, and a first printing of 100,000 copies has been scheduled.

uled. According to Mr. Thomas, the Norton book has been sold to the Book-of-the-Month Club and will be its February se-lection. The paperback rights, he said, have been bought by the New American Library, which will publish its edition next summer. Mr. Thomas de-clined to disclose what his com-pany had received for these subsidiary rights.