

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

RFK aide asks probe re-opening Cites nation's sanity, questions

By KAY STEWART
Staff Writer

Frank Mankiewicz, a close political associate of the Kennedys in the 1960s, has endorsed reopening the investigation of John Kennedy's assassination.

"It's got to be reopened for the sake of the nation's sanity," Mankiewicz told journalism students at Southern Methodist University Monday. He was in Dallas to promote his recent book on the downfall of Richard Nixon.

"The nation is alive with questions about the whole thing and the answers haven't been provided. We can't let this thing eat away at the country," he said.

Mankiewicz, who was campaign manager for George McGovern during his run for President in 1972, predicted McGovern could defeat any of the announced Democratic candidates in primaries and speculated McGovern "might" enter the race.

"If a candidate he doesn't consider worth backing isn't running, then there is every reason to believe McGovern will become a candidate," Mankiewicz said.

He indicated, however, McGovern might back Arizona congressman Morris K. Udall, who has announced. "Udall would be strong," Mankiewicz said.

Mankiewicz downplayed the possibility of Texas Sen. Lloyd Bentsen becoming the Democratic nominee.

"He couldn't put it together in the primaries," he said. "Washington people have serious difficulty thinking Lloyd Bentsen is a serious candidate."

He added no real presidential candidate has yet emerged. "What I've seen so far is vice presidential material," he said.

Mankiewicz, a California lawyer before he turned to politics and journalism, takes strong issue with legal events in his new book, "The U.S. vs Nixon: The Final Crisis," which is critical of most of Nixon's legal forces.

"It is hard to be critical of a fellow attorney, but these men forgot their legal rules and unfortunately fell into the role of becoming public relations men for Nixon," he said.

He is particularly critical of James St. Clair, Nixon's prime legal counsel during Watergate and John Wilson, who represented H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman.

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