

Woman Says President Kennedy Used Her as a Conduit to Mobster

By The Associated Press

A California woman says John F. Kennedy had her arrange meetings between him and a Chicago mob boss, Sam Giancana, while she and Kennedy were having an affair in the time surrounding his election to the Presidency, according to a published report.

In an interview in the Feb. 29 issue of People magazine, published by Time Inc., Judith Campbell Exner says she witnessed at least one of 10 Kennedy-Giancana meetings in 1960-61, and repeatedly carried envelopes among Kennedy, Mr. Giancana and another mobster.

Ms. Exner in 1975 denied being a conduit between Kennedy and mobsters when she told of her affair with the

President. She said she lied then to protect herself, telling the Senate intelligence committee that Kennedy was unaware of her links to Mr. Giancana.

"If I'd told the truth, I'd have been killed," she said in the interview. "I kept my secret out of fear."

Victim of Terminal Cancer

Ms. Exner said she was disclosing the Kennedy-Giancana link because she suffers from terminal cancer and wants "to put my life in order so that I may die peacefully."

Kennedy "knew everything about my dealings with Sam Giancana and Johnny Roselli because I was seeing them for him," she said. Mr. Roselli worked for the Chicago mob in Las

Vegas. The magazine article said Ms. Exner produced plane tickets, hotel bills and her appointment books from 1960 to 1962 to support her contentions.

But G. Robert Blakey, a University of Notre Dame law professor who has argued that the Mafia participated in a plot to kill President Kennedy, said today he was skeptical of Ms. Exner's most recent assertions.

"The original story she told is true," he said, "but for her to suddenly elaborate on it after 13 years later suggests she's untrustworthy."

In the magazine article, Ms. Exner said the singer Frank Sinatra introduced her to Kennedy, then a Senator from Massachusetts and Presidential candidate, at a Las Vegas hotel on Feb.

7, 1960, and she and Kennedy began an affair about a month later. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Sinatra introduced her to Mr. Giancana in Miami Beach. The article contained no response from Mr. Sinatra, who has always denied having ties to mobsters.

Ms. Exner said Kennedy first suggested she act as his contact with Mr. Giancana at dinner in his Georgetown townhouse on April 6, 1960. She said he had been discussing the upcoming West Virginia primary with a lobbyist when he turned to her and said, "Could you quietly arrange a meeting with Sam for me?" Kennedy is said to have added, "I think I may need his help in the campaign."