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Tapping New Evidence On Marilyn and JFK

The grapevine at NBC is heavy with the ripe fruit of rumor — to wit, that a forthcoming documentary on the death of Marilyn Monroe will offer material from the MM book being written by Pulitzer Prize winner Seymour Hirsch. This will include a CIA document detailing a tapped telephone conversation between Dorothy Kilgallen and a friend of hers, decorator Howard Perry Rothberg. (The famous columnist often told Rothberg her innermost secrets. Kilgallen died of a rather mysterious "overdose," but Rothberg is still alive.)

The phone tap supposedly reveals that Marilyn was threatening to blow the whistle on her affairs with John and Robert Kennedy. It was said she might even publish a scalding diary of her romances with the men at the top.

Hmmm. Well, as we printed here recently, hairdresser Sydney

GOSSIP

Liz Smith

Guilaroff writes in his new book, "Crowning Glory," that he spoke to a distraught Marilyn on the night of her death. She told him Robert Kennedy had just left her house after threatening her.

Not only were Marilyn's phone records confiscated in the immediate aftermath of her death, but nobody has ever seen her famous "diary" either.

The circumstances surrounding MM's death remain a mystery, with a dozen proliferating theories — from drug overdose to outright murder by the Mafia, the CIA, the FBI, Russian spies, you name it. But I doubt she really kept a diary or planned to publish same. This was the circumspect early '60s, not the media madness that is the '90s.

— Los Angeles Times Syndicate