

Jacqueline Kennedy

A Study in Power

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**Game of Politics
Is Not for Jackie**

Herewith is the last of a series of articles, "Jacqueline Kennedy: A Study in Power," by Robin Douglas-Home, a nephew of former British Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home. Robin Douglas-Home, 35-year-old author and member of international society, was a confidant of Mrs. Kennedy and spent more than 50 hours talking alone with her. His study of Mrs. Kennedy first appeared in *The Queen*, a British monthly magazine.

By ROBIN DOUGLAS-HOME

SO WILLY-NILLY, probably without realizing the political implications, Mrs. Kennedy has lent her invaluable support of the Kennedys' campaign to recapture the White House.

Emotionally, she was, and is, in tune with the move. But, if she pauses a moment to think, I suspect that intellectually she is not.

I have emphasized how much she hates the political machine, all its corruptible power and trappings. And had she stopped to think, she would have realized, if Robert Kennedy ever does recapture the White House, it will be Ethel Kennedy (with whom she has little affinity) and not she who will be in the center of the stage. Ethel Kennedy will make quite sure of that.

Jacqueline Kennedy's support is needed to get Robert Kennedy there; once there, he must discard her.

He would have to be seen to be concentrating on the future, not cashing in on the past. He would have to establish himself as a President in his own right and not merely as a ghost of his "martyred" brother.

The political uselessness of Jacqueline Kennedy will then be obsolescent—perhaps even an embarrassment.

Editor's Note: Because of wide comment aroused by Robin Douglas-Home's study of Mrs. Kennedy, The Inquirer will publish in Friday's editions the view of Ruth Montgomery, nationally known Washington columnist.

Any appearance of relying upon Jacqueline Kennedy as an emotional magnet and prop would surely undermine his position.

A cruel, ruthless fact—but then big-time politics are both of these.

And Jacqueline Kennedy is not intellectually or emotionally equipped for them. Hers is the attitude of the disenchanting artist, of the skeptic, even of the anarchist...

Kennedy Machine Used Her

My conversations with her enable me, I think, to throw some light on her motives in first of all giving the Manchester interview on the record, and then subsequently retreating and making a legal issue of it, with the resultant sensationalism and commercialism that the authorization of the book and the giving of the interview were spe-

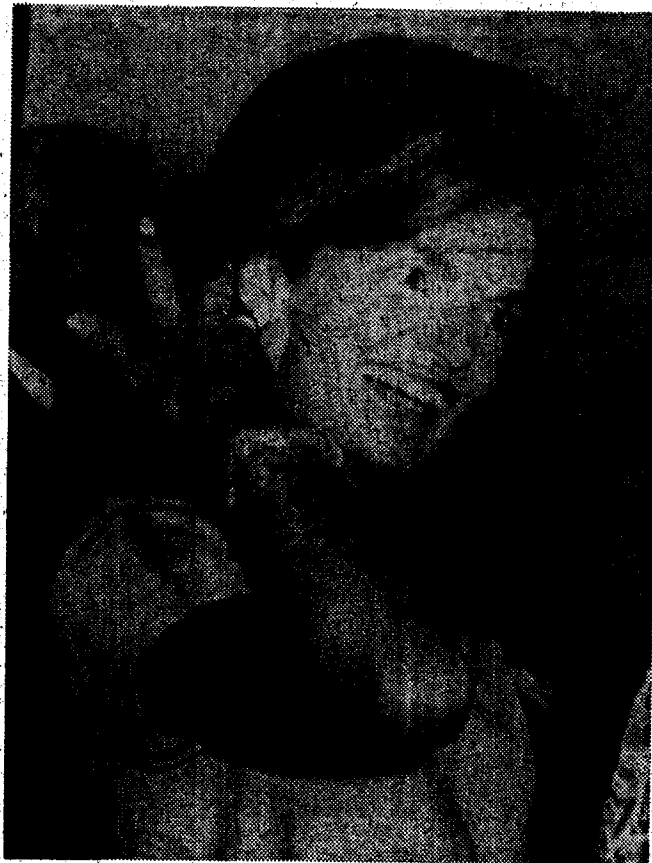
cifically meant to obviate.

Of course, I do not for a moment consider that the authorization of the book was intended by the Kennedy political machine to "prevent sensationalism and commercialism." Quite the opposite, in fact. I think that the Kennedy political machine—and that does not include Jacqueline Kennedy—authorized the Manchester book with the specific design of using the inevitable "commercialism and sensationalism" as a means to propagate the Kennedy "myth" for their own ends.

Jacqueline Kennedy, because she is so emotionally involved and thus can be forgiven for forsaking her cus-

Continued on Page 7, Column 3

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, THU



Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy brushes back her hair at reception that followed wedding of her half-sister, Janet Auchincloss, and Lewis P. Rutherford at St. Mary's Church in Newport, R. I., last July 31.

Jacqueline Kennedy

A Study in Power

Continued from First Page

tomary position of cool, clear logic, uninfluenced by brazen political motives, has been used as a weapon in this exercise. Because she—perhaps understandably—equates the

return of a Kennedy to the White House, not only as a sort of expiation for her own imagined shortcomings as a wife of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, but as destiny's recompense to her and to his family for his murder.

If ever Robert Kennedy were to become President, with or without the support of Jacqueline Kennedy, he might make a very effective one. Or equally he might make a disastrous one.

No one who knows him could deny his dedication to the job in hand to the exclusion of all other considerations (except his family), his incorruptibility, his refusal to be defeated by red tape, his sense of social justice, his anathema to crime, his ruthless clarity of approach to a problem.

But he lacks—spectacularly—most of those very qualities which made his late brother a great personality and a great President—self-mockery, sense of humor, wit, charm, readiness to use expediency and compromise, a detached and rather cynical viewpoint of himself and of the issues with which he was dealing, and of the power he had in his hands.

Like It or Not, She Has Power

For instance, what would have been the late President's reaction to his brother, reading, to applause and tears, the following passage from "Romeo and Juliet," at a Democratic Party convention after his assassination—"When he shall die, take him and cut him out in little stars. And he will make the face of heaven so fine that all the world will be in love with night. And pay no worship to the garish sun . . ."

"The idea of Robert Kennedy quoting Shakespeare is odd enough in itself but John Fitzgerald Kennedy would have laughed such an attempt at deifying him right out of court—because to himself he was no good and he had no illusions about his faults. Not so his brother Robert. That is the great difference—and the great danger.

Who can now judge whether Robert Kennedy, with all the money and loyalty and patronage at his power, might make an effective President?

I contend it would be quite wrong for him to springboard into the White House on the emotional backlash of his brother's assassination, martyrdom, myth, legend, or what-have-you.

Mass emotions, obviously, inevitably, play a large part in the politics of democracies. Jacqueline Kennedy commands a totally disproportionate amount of mass appeal: whether she likes it or not, she has that power, that appeal, that influence.

And, contrary to her natural inclinations, she now seems prepared to use it.

For her own sake, I hope she quits the power game. For she cannot, she is not built, to stand the political heat. She should get out of the political kitchen. And I think she will serve her rightly beloved late husband's memory better if she does. Politics are not for her: and she is not for politics.

Let the other Kennedys continue to scabble for the toys of power she so rightly despises. She must live her own life. Secretly, Jacqueline Kennedy knows this too.

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