

JACK ANDERSON

The Washington Merry-go-round

*File
3/17/80*

*Special prosecutor looking into
Ham Jordan's swinging night life*



WASHINGTON — There's abundant evidence that Jimmy Carter's chief of staff, Hamilton Jordan, and other swingers on the White House staff have attended wild parties that hardly fit the high moral standards set by the Baptist Sunday School teacher in the oval office.

Witnesses have placed the fun-loving Jordan at parties in such widespread places as New York City, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. and Orlando, Fla. He has been accused of pinching girls, spitting liqueur at them and soliciting their favors.

A special prosecutor, Arthur Christy, has also been assigned to determine whether Jordan partook of drugs at any of these parties. Christy has asked both Jordan and his accusers to submit to lie detector tests. The prosecutor wants the lie test administered before he starts presenting testimony to a grand jury later this month.

Christy is reportedly focusing his efforts almost entirely on charges that Jordan snorted cocaine at the Studio 54 discotheque in New York City on June 27, 1978. The charges originated with attorneys for Steve Rubell and Ian Schrager, co-owners of the night spot.

Testimony by Rubell and Schrager has been suspect from the start, inasmuch as the accusations against Jordan were made after they had been indicted on income tax evasion charges. They have since pleaded guilty and are serving prison terms.

Their story was supported in part by Barry M. Landau, a New York public relations man, who swore that Jordan asked him where he could get some cocaine at Studio 54 on the night in question.

Landau also turned over a cryptic personal memo referring to the incident. The note says "Ham. 54 ... C." He told the prosecutor that the "C" was shorthand for cocaine.

Christy and his staff have interrogated Landau on four separate occasions, totaling more than 20 hours. The grilling was often hostile. Christy had Landau draw a map of the Studio 54 premises and show where he and Jordan were standing at the time of the alleged conversation. Christy also took Landau to the discotheque to pinpoint the exact location.

The prosecutor reminded Landau several times that the penalty for per-

jury is a stiff prison term and fine, and then asked whether he wanted to change his story. Christy's tactics convinced Landau that he, not Jordan, is the target for investigation.

Sources close to the investigation have told my associate Gary Cohn that Landau, nevertheless, has stuck to his story.

Some sources say that Christy is not pursuing allegations that Jordan also used cocaine at a Beverly Hills party in October, 1977. The White House chief of staff has not been accused of specific drug use at the Washington and Orlando parties. He has vigorously denied using illegal drugs.

The White House is understandably alarmed at the potential for embarrassment from the grand jury investigation. In addition to Jordan, Carter's campaign director Tim Kraft and fundraiser Evan Dohelle are expected to be called before the grand jury to tell what they know about the Studio 54 party. They allegedly were present.

The prospect of Carter intimates being hauled before a grand jury is discomfiting enough in the middle of the re-election campaign. After all, it's not as if this were the first drug-related scandal in the Carter inner circle.

Dr. Peter Bourne was forced to resign as the president's drug adviser in July, 1978 — a month after the Studio 54 bash — for writing a phony prescription for a White House aide. I reported that he had snorted cocaine at a party thrown by NORML, the marijuana-legalization lobby. And when he resigned, Bourne stated that other White House aides used both marijuana and cocaine.

Footnote: Christy refused to discuss his investigation. Jordan failed to return our calls, and his lawyer refused comment.

KENNEDY PROBE — While its Abscam and Brilab scandals have been making headlines, the FBI is quietly digging into another explosive assignment — the assassination of President John Kennedy.

The House Assassination Committee turned over to the bureau its findings that Kennedy was probably killed as the result of a conspiracy, contrary to the conclusion of the Warren Commission 16 years ago.

FBI agents have been talking to former committee aides, seeking

guidance for use of the committee files in the National Archives. Agents have also asked the authors of some of the committee studies for the location of documents cited in footnotes.

And the bureau has consulted the Central Intelligence Agency on ways of retesting the controversial acoustical evidence suggesting that a fourth shot was fired at Kennedy that day in Dallas.

WATCH ON WASTE — Jimmy Carter's budget-cutting scissors prove strangely dull when they go after his old military service — nuclear submarines. He has asked Congress for \$2.6 million to fix up a berth at the Washington Navy Yard for the Nautilus, the nation's first nuclear sub — even though the city fathers of Groton, Conn., where the Nautilus was built, have offered the historic sub retirement quarters at no cost to the taxpayers.

Footnote: The bloated federal budget, according to most economists, is the biggest cause of inflation. Help control it by sending examples of government extravagance to Jack Anderson's Watch on Waste, P.O. Box 2300, Washington, D.C. 20013.

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