

Ms. Liz Smith
The Los Angeles Times Syndicate
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Dear Ms. Smith,

Your trust and that of millions of Americans were taken advantage of by Judith Campbell Exner and A & E TV. They both lied to you. I enclose the truth from official sources, disclosed to me under the Freedom of Information Act.

I also enclose copies of your column on this as it appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle January 3 and the Toledo Blade the next day. As the column states, you also included their lies to you in your article in the January Vanity Fair.

In quotes from these columns the lies you believed that are basic in the whole effort to rewrite our history are:

"The Kennedys[†] tapped the mob to assassinate Fidel Castro, promising to give back its Cuban casinos when the Communist leader was eliminated" and "The president, uncertain of the CIA, then used Campbell to take money to the mob, then to carry his own personal 'kill Castro' messages to Giancana."

Not a word of this is true. There is more of this Exner stuff that also is not true but because I attach the proof on this from the CIA I limit myself to this.

When the CIA was forced to record the truth, its own investigation of itself established that the effort it made to get the mafia to kill Castro was of the Wisenhower/Nixon administration, six months before JFK took office! (Please excuse my typing. I'm 83, in impaired health and it can be no better.) And rather than any alleged Kennedy money being used by the mafia, the CIA, long before JFK was president, set aside \$150,000 but "Rosselli and Giancana emphatically stated they wished no part of any payment."

As the man in charge for the CIA wrote in the account that went to the CIA's general counsel who then sent it to Robert Kennedy when he was attorney general, "Knowledge of the project during its life was kept to a total of six persons" all of whom were high CIA officials.

The first any Kennedy knew of this "project" was when it became public long after JFK was president, in May of 1962. Please note that with its customary guile the CIA captioned this memo "Arthur James Balletti et al - Unauthorized Publication or Use of Communications." Sheffield Edwards was incomplete in his representation of that aspect and the CIA withheld some of the little information on that he put on paper.

What really happened is that Sam Giancana, who was having an affair with Phyllis of the then famous McGuire sisters, suspected that she was having an affair with Dan Martin of the then famous team of entertainers. Giancana told Robert Maheu, the CIA's honcho on the deal, that he was doing all he was for the CIA, how about the CIA doing him a favor. The favor was to get the truth about his lady friends relations with Dan Martin. Maheu got a private detective agency to go to Vegas and bug Martin's bedroom. It sent Arthur James Balletti to do the job. He did it so poorly that the maid discovered it, reported it to the manager, and he phoned the sheriff. The two files of FBI records I have on this state that Balletti told the sheriff that if he went down he would not go down ~~alone~~ alone. That led the sheriff to involve the FBI. It also made the papers and that was the first knowledge of that amateur bungling any Kennedy ever had.

So, the whole thing was wiped out. Balletti went free.

(The FBI just loved this. If you'd like I can send you its memo on a high level ~~level~~ stating that in giving this dope to Lyndon Johnson Johnson ^{he} "felt that the CIA had something to do with" what is referred to as "a plot in connection with the assassination.")

All of this and more, ever so much more, was readily available to A & E and Exner's ghost and other people if any of them had cared about being truthful when they all saw the possibilities of the scandalous fabrications they could exploit and commercialize. It was all in the public reading rooms of the FBI and the CIA!

I have filed about a dozen lawsuits against them under the Freedom of Information Act. As a result I got about a third of a million pages of what had been withheld. But as soon as they are disclosed to me they are disclosed to all others who want to see it and all are then placed in those public reading rooms where any one can see them and get copies of them. As a matter of practice and belief, I have always given all those writing in the field of political assassinations free and unsupervised access to all these records.

The fact is, according to the CIA top assassin, Sheffield Edwards, that when Bobby Kennedy ^{learned} ~~learned~~ about that "project" through Balletti getting caught and Edwards had to go explain it all to him, Kennedy was forceful in telling Edwards there should be nothing like that again. My copy of that memo that the CIA did disclose to me was stolen by one of those to whom I gave access to my records. Stolen even though they all also have access to our copies.

It is, I think, unfortunate that so many millions of Americans were deceived and misled by those exploiting and commercializing our great national tragedy.

Sincerely,
Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg

P.S. I also enclose two pages from an FBI filing in one of my FOIA lawsuits against it. As it states, I had alleged, myself under oath so if I lied it would be the felony of perjury, that the FBI was filing perjury by its agents in that litigation. As you'll see toward the bottom of what is page 3 in that filing, rather than deny that it was filing perjurious statements in federal court to withhold the records I sought for myself and for all the people, it admitted the truth of what I'd stated. It actually then said that I could "make such claims ad infinitum since he (I) is perhaps more familiar with events surrounding the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination than anyone now working for the FBI."

There are rare credentials that I knew more about the assassination and its investigation than anyone in the FBI, but it is not a response to sworn proof that the FBI was perjuring itself— even though that court did accept it as exculpation!

I cannot attach the Sheffield Edwards memo to those above him in the CIA after Bobby Kennedy chewed him out because the CIA refuses to let me have any more records, law or no law, and I am no longer able to file suit to get them to live within the law. Not even with that record having been disclosed.

WU

LIZ
SMITH



TOLEDO BLADE 1/9/97

Giancana show worth a rerun

"SAM GIANCANA is buried in Chicago next to the father who used to tie him to a tree as a kid and beat him," goes a line in Giancana's "biography" on A&E.

This week's "Godfathers" series on the cable network offered up the history of the Chicago mob king. If and when A&E runs this one again, don't fail to watch. You'll never see a more perfect one-hour explanation of (1) the very squeaky narrow election of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, (2) the failure of the invading Cuban patriots at the Bay of Pigs, (3) the murder of the president in Dallas, (4) the assassination of brother Bobby Kennedy as he took the road to the White House, and (5) the germination of the whole tragedy when an arrogant, rich, boot-legger father set up his sons' fatal connection with the mob in the first place.

Do you perhaps think, as I do, that the famous Warren Commission findings on the JFK assassination were the blind leading the blind? You would if you saw the Giancana segment on *Biography*. It was all there — clear, if not exactly simple.

IN JANUARY'S issue of *Vanity Fair*, I wrote the saga of how JFK used his young lover, Judith Campbell, to carry money and messages to Giancana. Yet many naysayers still question Judith's veracity and scoff when she says that Kennedy felt she was a "safe" conduit to Sam. But A&E makes it all inescapably logical.

The Kennedys tapped the mob to assassinate Fidel Castro, promising to give back its Cuban casinos when the Communist leader was eliminated. Giancana did everything to get Jack Kennedy elected in Chicago. After he was, by a mere 9,000 votes, Giancana felt he had JFK in his pocket. The CIA (via Robert Maheu, who appeared on the *Biography* special) made the government's offer to Chicago's Giancana, Vegas' Johnny Rosselli, and the underworld kingpins of Louisiana and Florida.

The president, uncertain of the CIA, then used Campbell to take money to the mob, then to carry his own personal "kill Castro" messages to Giancana. The CIA helped Cuban exiles invade Cuba, promising them air cover. Thinking the CIA incompetent, feeling it had goofed, JFK called off the air support. The Cuban patriots died on Cuban beaches.

Bobby Kennedy, the attorney general, had hated the Mafia for years and despised union king Jimmy Hoffa, whose Teamster money had built the casinos of Vegas for the mob. When Bobby went after Hoffa and the Mafia, he stirred up an embittered Giancana. Having the president "in his pocket" had not paid off.

So the Mafia arranged for its New Orleans branch to set up the murder of the 35th president in Dallas. Members of the Marcellino crime family said openly that the president would be hit. One of them bragged they'd get "a nut" to do it for them. And Lee Harvey Oswald died saying he'd merely been a "patsy." Jack Ruby, who shot Oswald before he could talk, had connections to the Chicago mob and begged the Warren Commission to bring him to Washington so he could speak. It refused. He died, and some think his death from "cancer" was something else.

IN MY *Vanity Fair* story, what could not be proved or verified was Judith Campbell Exner's assertion that about a year before JFK's death, she found herself pregnant, with his child. She said that Giancana arranged for an abortion to be performed at Chicago's Grant Hospital. Exner has always thought and hoped that the release of Giancana's phone conversations and other tapes would prove this. But many still think she is just a sensation-seeker.

ABC-TV has already proved that Exner did indeed have a pregnancy terminated at Grant Hospital on the dates she says she did. And now I hear that the Church committee has known for years — but kept it secret — that she had JFK's baby aborted to save it, herself, and the president from total scandal back in 1962.

I expect to be able to prove that the committee sat on this information for years, refusing to let Exner's assertions and unpleasant truths be confirmed. But it may take a little more time.

Liz Smith writes for the *Los Angeles Times Syndicate*.

GOSSIP Liz Smith



A&E series supports Judith Campbell Exner's story

Kennedy-Mob

Ties Backed In A&E Series

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According to A&E, the Kennedys tapped the mob to assassinate Fidel Castro, promising to give the Mafia back its Cuban casinos when the Communist leader was eliminated. Giancana did everything to get Jack Kennedy elected by a mere 9,000 votes in Chicago. Then Giancana felt he had JFK in his pocket. The CIA made the government's offer to Chicago's Giancana, Vegas' Johnny Rosselli and the underworld crime bosses of Louisiana and Florida.

The president used Campbell to take money to the mob and to carry his own "kill Castro" messages to Giancana. The CIA helped Cuban exiles invade Cuba, promising them air cover. Thinking the CIA incompetent, JFK called off the air support. The Cuban patriots died on Cuban beaches.

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