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Jackie Knew About Book

By Maxine Cheshire

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis didn't get an advance peek at the entire manuscript of that unflattering new book by her former secretary, Mary B. Gallagher, but she knew the content before publication.

And rather than take legal action to prevent publication, the former First Lady merely happened to be out of the country when the first installment of the embarrassingly titillating biography first appeared in print.

Mrs. Onassis learned about the book from a lengthy memorandum which came into her possession shortly after she returned from her honeymoon in Greece.

The document, which amounts to a hurried outline, was written by Frances Spatz Leighton. She is the prodigious Washington author who collaborated as "editor" of *My Boss, Jacqueline Kennedy*, by Mary B. Gallagher.

The memo was dispatched hastily in November, 1968, by Mrs. Leighton to Oscar Collier, a New Yorker she describes as "literary agent" for the book.

A copy of the memo came into the possession of someone who, for reasons of their own, did not want to see a book of this type appear on the market.

The copy was subsequently relayed to a French newsman who is a close personal friend of both Mr. and Mrs. Onassis.

The original go-between hoped that the foreign

journalist would give the Onassises ample warning to take legal action before the book—at that time only under discussion—could become a reality.

From everything that is known, the Onassises read the memo together, discussed it with advisers and decided to ignore it.

Mrs. Leighton indicated last week that neither the Onassises or any representatives of theirs ever did anything to indicate they were even aware such a book was in preparation.

She referred all queries to Collier, who could not be reached.

Ironically, the memo is dated on Nov. 22, 1968, the anniversary of the assassination of JFK.

There are indications that Mrs. Gallagher may not have made up her mind to write a critical tell-it-all profile of the former Mrs. Kennedy until a period that fell between two very significant dates: Oct. 20, when she became Mrs. Aristotle Onassis, and Nov. 22.

Whatever Jacqueline Onassis's reactions may have been in advance of the book's publication, there is an interesting sidelight in the response of one of her in-laws last week after the first installment of the current Ladies Home Journal condensation had hit the front pages.

Ethel Kennedy, at her first official public appearance last week at the Southampton socialites' benefit for striking California grape-pickers, was kidded openly about the excerpts.

"I don't know if she was amused, really, or not," said one on-looker. "It was hard to tell from her eyes whether she was laughing or what, but she was exchanging banter back and forth with someone she was accusing of being the publisher—when she knew he wasn't."

Ethel Kennedy will have to wait with the rest of the world to read the entire book.

But there are some pretty broad hints of what is to come from Mrs. Leighton's revealing memo, which is published below just as Jacqueline Onassis herself first read it:

This is to confirm our conversation of yesterday. I am sitting on the hottest property currently in the U.S.A. and possibly the world. No, not the memoirs of LBJ. Unfortunately, what

See VIP, F3, Col. 1

VIP

VIP, From F1

the world wants is the escapist inside story of Jackie Kennedy.

By a stroke of fate and the fact that I had written the best seller about the White House—*My 30 Years Backstairs at the White House*—and because she likes that book and several of my other things, Jackie Kennedy's personal secretary—the one who was hidden away with her upstairs at the White House where no one else could go—sought me out.

That is only several days ago. I have not dallied. I have her under contract. I am almost in a state of shock. It is as if all my training, all my past books and experience in knowing what my 60 million readers want—that's my syndication total—have been leading up to this.

It should make more money than Manchester. It should be the cause celebre for the next few years. It will blow the lid off Washington—and wait till the press hears what Jackie said about the newsgals covering the social events. And what Jack said. The humor is marvelous.

And what the real in-law situation was and is about the Kennedys and Jackie. And what life was like at the White House. Especially upstairs in the family quarters.

The secretary has all her old notebooks. Everything is in rough first draft. It only takes re-writing into a book that grabs you and holds you and never lets go.

You find out the staff's nickname for Jackie. You find out how everyone, including the secretary, worshipped Jack. Still does.

You find out how the secretary was Jackie's emissary in dealing with Jack in tense moments. How Jack and she—the secretary—had a code about *The Black Book* which meant Jackie's buying. And the money problems. And other problems. Politics. What Jackie would and would not do. How he handled her. How she handled him. The gay times, the grim times. The humor.

It will answer the questions people—and history—are asking. Did she want her husband with her when she went suddenly to the hospital to have the baby that died soon after birth—Patrick? As they took Jackie away to go by helicopter to the hospital, Dr. Travell yelled after her, "Shall I call your husband? Do you want your husband to know?" Jackie called back loudly, "No, don't call him." She meant it.

But the doctor did anyway.

Did the secretary see Onassis at the White House? The answer is yes. After Kennedy died. She was startled to see him, had never seen him before. That anecdote will be in the first chapter.

I think the first chapter will update the whole story, establish Jackie past and Jackie present,

and explain why the secretary has finally decided to break her silence and tell all.

She's going to set the record straight on many points—points in Manchester's book. She's going to tell things left out by him and others because they didn't know. How could they? Actually, she is the only outsider who really, really knows the full story.

And they were always together. The only time the secretary would leave was when a reporter and photographer came to the Georgetown house to take pix and do story and Jackie didn't want it to seem she had help with her mail—pre-campaign. So the secretary hid in another room.

Which brings us to the points of tenure. She first worked for Jack Kennedy when he was on the Hill—and even before that in Boston and both Ken O'Donnell and Jack Kennedy wanted her. But she chose right. Eventually was bor-

rowed by Jackie. Jackie insisted she wanted her. Money problems even in the hilarious account of solving the problems of how to pay her.

Getting back to the book, it will be a very fat book. All human interest with insights into history. How did Jackie feel, what did she say about historic things—Bay of Pigs, other incidents. Friendships with royalty and world leaders.

What about the horse, Sardar? What about the trip to India? Just before that one, Jackie came out and spent the day with her secretary. The children all played together—Jackie's and the secretary's. Chaos.

Which brings us to Jackie's handling of children, her theories of child rearing. The inside story of the campaign when Pat Nixon's "good Republican cloth coat came up" and the charge was made that Jackie spent \$30,000 for clothes and retorted, "I would have to wear mink panties" to spend that much. Some quote like that—no time to look it up now. Anyway inside story on all points—what motivated Jackie, what distressed her. What made her stamp her foot. What Jack said about her trip to the Onassis yacht.

What is true. What is false. What about the Secret Service?

And oh yes, servant problems. Oh my. Just the other day Jackie's servant problems hit the front pages of newspapers across the country. Well, the secretary is used to Jackie's servant problems and there will be much about it. And also in that first chapter will be reference to the new servant problem and something of her own experiences along that line with promise of things to come.

After the first chapter which sets the stage, we do a chronological memoir, starting with a bit of the Jack Kennedy years, then switching

to Jackie Kennedy and life with her, and ure with all the Kennedys—she went everywhere. Like the day Jackie kept her mother-in-law waiting for hours while she sulked in her room, with the secretary as go-between.

The secretary thought long and seriously before deciding to publish her memoir. She has been working on her notes for four years and it is in excellent shape.

With a full-time secretary I think I can get it out in a couple months. We need a publisher who is able to stop the presses on other projects and get this thing out fast. As long as she is going to do it, she wants to take full advantage of the current insatiable desire of people to understand Jackie and the Kennedys and Jackie's remarriage.

I should mention that the secretary was with Jackie and Jack in Dallas on that fateful day. In Life Magazine, you can see her walking off the plane right behind Jackie. She and Evelyn Lincoln are both behind Jackie.

Oh yes, you will be interested to know this will include all the White House staff and what role they played in Jackie's life. And social Washington—who was in and who was out and why. And political Washington. And what about the art bit. Jackie's painting. And the art world. And the redoing of the White House—remember that?

Well the list goes on, but I meant to write you only a short memo confirming our conversation and telling you that you needn't waste your time with any publisher who doesn't see this as earning several millions when all rights are sold—for the authors, that is. He'll make more, naturally, I mean the publisher. He's got a winner. All the best.

P.S. Let me know advance offered soonest. She knows all about Manchester, and knows him. And thinks hers is worth much more. It should kick up just as much excitement.



United Press International

Mrs. Jacqueline Onassis has a big smile for her son, John F. Kennedy Jr., and her daughter, Caroline, at their arrival last week at the Athens, Greece, airport.