

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

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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 6 and the Tolledo 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 wisened 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 <sup>a</sup> 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 <sup>Robert</sup> 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 friend's 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 <sup>he</sup> "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 <sup>learned</sup> ~~heard~~ about that "project" through Balletti getting caught and Edwards had to go explain it all to him, Kennedy was forceful in telling <sup>and the CIA</sup> 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. Stop even though they all also have access to our copier.

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

Sincerely,  
Harold Weisberg

*Harold Weisberg*