

Other Books on
Jackie's "drop dead"
list

Very Interesting People

By Maxine Cheshire

The Kennedys Regret . . . The Pleasure of His Company

FORMER UNDER SECRETARY of the Navy Paul B. Fay's gossipy new book of JFK recollections, "The Pleasure of His Company," has reportedly caused the entire Kennedy family to inform



Mrs. Cheshire

the author that they can henceforth do without the pleasure of HIS company.

Washington insiders are whispering that Fay, once almost an adopted member of the Kennedy clan, because of his long and intimate friendship with the late President, is now being coolly ostracized.

Sources close to the family claim that Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, once a closely-associated pal with whom Fay fraternized happily through many "hours, evenings, weekends and entire vacations," has not spoken to him since last spring.

Jacqueline Kennedy is rumored by those close to her to have been so distressed and displeased after reading early drafts of what Fay planned to publish that she refused to allow him to be in the group of friends and relatives who assembled at Runnymede last year when the JFK monument was dedicated by the Queen.

Another family confidante says that President Kennedy's sister, Eunice, revealed recently that she is still trying to think of a ladylike word to describe her strong reaction to the contents of Fay's book.

SO FAR, the Kennedys have said nothing publicly to confirm or deny the reports that they

have dropped Fay.

The most Fay will say himself is that he sent special autographed copies to each member of the family in special delivery packets before publication. Thus far, not one relative has sent Fay any acknowledgement.

Privately, the Kennedys are supposed to be just as unhappy with Fay for what he intended to tell the world as they are for what ultimately got into print after 100,000 words were judiciously cut by a Harper & Row editor from the original text.

Some of the parts which in Fay's opinion could have helped make the book a runaway best-seller, are now eliminated. The publisher's reasons for the selected deletions are not known. But there are still passages to make some readers flinch and their names don't necessarily have to be Kennedy.

"It's in abominable bad taste," says one former member of the Kennedy New Frontier. "I don't want to know that the President used slangy words like bucks instead of saying dollars, or that he sometimes ate his dinner in hotel rooms sitting in his undershorts, or that the White House

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wasn't telling the truth when they announced that it was his back he sprained that time."

She added:

"It's trivia. It's like talking about the wart on Lincoln's nose!"

Other Kennedy admirers object to Fay's putting slang, repetitive banality and even profanity into the late President's mouth. Still others feel Fay violated a position of privileged confidence in tattling things he saw and heard which the people concerned never expected to be recorded for history.

Particularly needless betrayal of trust to some critics include highly personal vignettes like one in which an irate Joseph P. Kennedy assembles all the sons and daughters and sons-in-law and daughters-in-law to lecture them for spending too much money. One of "the girls" (not otherwise identified) broke into tears at being singled out as the worst spendthrift and fled the room, Fay discloses.

More than one famous personage is going to flinch when he sees himself quoted. Included is the former Marine Commandant, Gen. David M. Shoup. Even with blank spaces left in place of some of the more colorful barracks terminology, one off-color remark attributed to him about California Gov. Pat Brown can hardly be anything he expected anyone present to preserve for posterity in print.