

— Drew Pearson —

Kennedys Keep Reins On Books About JFK



PEARSON

Zeellette

Washington, Oct. 1—The Kennedy family is still exercising strict censorship over any book written about the late President. No book is permitted to go to a publisher without being read and edited by Jackie Kennedy and/or Bobby, or in some cases several independent censors.

The Kennedys try to enforce this by persuasion or, failing this, by drying up sources of information.

Jim Bishop, as previously reported in this column, got a stern letter from Mrs. Kennedy, who at first pleaded, then demanded that he not write a book about the assassination. Bishop also found that every source close to the late President had been instructed by Mrs. Kennedy not to talk.

On top of this, it's now revealed that Paul Fay, Jr., Mr. Kennedy's Under Secretary of the Navy, had his book "The Pleasure of His Company," examined by five Kennedys or their censors and that Sen. Bobby Kennedy, actually had a secret agreement with the publisher that he, Kennedy, would have the final authority as to what would be in the book.

Fay was one of President Kennedy's close personal friends, having served with him on the famous PT boat in the South Pacific. During the latter part of Fay's 21-year friendship with Mr. Kennedy, the late President himself suggested to Fay that he keep notes on their association and write a book.

Fay did so. And after the assassination, Bobby Kennedy helped him get a publisher, Harper and Row. But when the manuscript was finished—about 190,000 words—and it went to Mrs. Kennedy, she was "not totally eased."

She had it read by her old friend, Prof. Kenneth Galbraith at Harvard, who liked it; plus Reed, Ted Nash and Ed McDermott. Finally it was read by Bobby Kennedy, who objected to certain passages. It was at this point that he discovered Bobby had a side agreement with the publisher to have last word as to what would be in the book. This was revoked by Fay.

However, he bowed to Mrs. Kennedy's wishes and did chop out some parts of the book. She was interested, he told friends, in making sure "that history would not have an unkind view of her husband."

In all, about 90,000 words were cut, though author Fay claims that a lot of this was eliminated because the publisher felt the book was too long.

"Seventy-five percent of the things that were modified at Jackie's request, I agree with now," says Fay. But he didn't agree at the time.

THE SMALL BUSINESS Administration has been quietly obstructing antipoverty officials who are trying to encourage small business in the nation's Negro ghettos.

The Economic Opportunity Act set up local centers to promote business with the idea that would-be merchants, especially Negroes, could apply for loans up to \$15,000. The point of the program was to bring prosperity into the ghettos by building up small, Negro-owned businesses.

Yet the Small Business Administration has been spending less than half of its \$30 million allotment on ghetto business loans. It has loaned money to such supposedly small business as American Motors, but the truly small businessmen are being squeezed out—despite the fact that the SBA was created for the specific purpose of aiding the small businessmen who don't qualify for bank loans.

The Washington center, for example, used to have 40 percent success in helping applicants get SBA loans. Yet all 15 applications submitted over the past three weeks have been turned down.

DICK GREGORY, the Negro comedian appearing at the "hungry 1" nightclub in San Francisco, says Ronald Reagan will lose his battle to become governor of California.

"The folks who come into my nightclub are Republicans," says Gregory. "They've got money. And the biggest laughs I get are when I talk about Reagan."

"Reagan spelled backward, I tell them, is Nigger. It brings down the house."