

# Kennedy Emissary Riled Der Stern

By Drew Pearson

Bobby Kennedy would have got further in his battle to censor Der Stern magazine and the Manchester book in Hamburg if he had sent someone else as his emissary. The emissary was William Van Den Heuvel, who once worked for Bobby in the Justice Department and who is married to the lovely daughter of Jules Stein, powerful head of the Music Corporation of America. Van Den Heuvel was a popular figure with the Kennedy jet set in Washington, but in Germany he laid an egg.



Pearson

The Cowles Publications sent Look's top editor, William Attwood, to Germany to persuade Stern to censor the text. Attwood once served as American Ambassador to Guinea and later to Kenya where he scored remarkable diplomatic victories. He used the same technique in Germany.

Van Den Heuvel, however, poked a finger at Henri Nannen, top Stern editor.

"You insulted Robert Kennedy," he bellowed. "You ought to apologize." Nannen quietly closed his briefcase.

"Let's get out of here," he said. Then, turning to his foreign editor, Ebon-Vacek, he re-

marked in German, "What is 'Flegel' in English?"

"Flegel" is the German for someone who doesn't behave, but Vacek couldn't find the right translation and by this time Van Den Heuvel had quieted down. Later he apologized.

Stern's editors knew they were on solid ground, because the German copyright law is different from the American in that ownership of a piece of literature rests with the publisher the minute he starts to print. Once the presses start to roll, the author has nothing to say about copyright. The second edition of Stern had already started to come off the press when Mrs. Kennedy brought her suit.

Furthermore, German law requires that the suit be brought at the seat of the publishing house, which in the case of Der Stern is a small village, Itzehoe, 20 miles from Hamburg. Look magazine had overlooked this requirement.

## Jackie's Censorship

Later Van Den Heuvel, faced with these facts, stood up and

read to the German publisher, Dr. Gilbert Bucerius, and his staff a peremptory warning that they would have to censor that part of the book to which the Kennedys objected. He claimed that what he read was a message from Mrs. Kennedy on behalf of her children. However, it was contained in a little black notebook and didn't sound like Mrs. Kennedy.

"Let us see the message," said Vacek.

Van Den Heuvel refused.

After the German court had found unanimously for Der Stern against the Kennedy family, Van Den Heuvel indicated to the German press that Stern's editors had not treated him right. The press asked the editors about this treatment.

"We only gave him Mosel 1959, caviar, smoked salmon, Beef Stroganoff and Camembert cheese!" protested one of the editors.

In the end, editor Nannen bowed to Mrs. Kennedy's request and is censoring all that she wanted out of the Look magazine installments. He did not bow to Bobby Kennedy's request. At first the Kennedy

family wanted 7000 words chopped out of the Look installments.

What Der Stern is censoring is not too important.

She had asked that her statement to Mac Kilduff, assistant White House press secretary, be cut. She had told Kilduff after the presidential plane arrived at Andrews Field from Dallas: "Tell the press I sat with Jack, not with him"—referring to President Johnson.

She also asked that there be censored: "I saw him sprawled out on Jack's bed," again referring to President Johnson.

## Charmed Mississippian

It looks as if Byron de La Beckwith, the Mississippian charged with the murder of Medgar Evers but never convicted, leads a charmed life. After a long chain of fortuitous events, he's now mentioned as a candidate for lieutenant governor of Mississippi.

Beckwith was tried in January, 1964, by an all-white jury which voted 7-5 for acquittal. A second trial, April 17, 1964, resulted in a mistrial.

Later Beckwith received \$25,630 from the Federal Government when the General Services Administration selected his land for a post office. Beckwith's land had been up for purchase prior to the murder, though the purchase was not consummated until afterwards.