

# FDR's Son Lashes Out On 'Plot'

Lisbon

SEP 20 1973

Elliott Roosevelt demanded a public apology yesterday from Senator Henry M. Jackson for testimony given to a Senate subcommittee by a witness who accused Roosevelt of participating in an alleged assassination plot.

Roosevelt, a son of the late president, accused the Senate's Subcommittee on Permanent Investigations, which Jackson heads, of smearing him in the world press without trying to check on the testimony of a committee witness.

Roosevelt, who has an office in Lisbon and a ranch near the city, demanded the apology in a cable to Jackson, a Washington Democrat. Copies were given to newsmen in Lisbon.

The cable followed testimony in Washington on Tuesday from a convicted stock swindler, Louis P. Mastriana. He told Jackson's subcommittee that Roosevelt and a reputed gambler, Michael McLaney, offered him \$100,000 to assassinate Bahamian Prime Minister Lynden O. Pindling.

McLaney, speaking in Miami, denied Mastriana's charges.

Mastriana said the alleged plot was hatched because Pindling had failed to make good on a promise to grant McLaney a gambling li-

McLaney said he had giv-



UPI Telephoto

**MICHAEL McLANEY**  
**He denied the charge**

en Pindling between \$65,000 and \$80,000 for Pindling's campaign on the condition that McLaney would be granted gambling licences. But he said Pindling backed down, returned \$60,000, and that he was not angry about the developments and did not try to retaliate.

Speaking with newsmen, Roosevelt labeled Mastriana's testimony an "outright lie" and a "complete fabrication." He said Jackson had acted in an "un-American" way in allowing Mastriana's testimony in a public hearing without having checked the story.

Associated Press

## FDR's Sons in Furious Family Feud

By Jack Anderson

Until a few months ago, the sons of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt used to greet one another with an affectionate brotherly kiss on the cheek. Now they are engaged in a furious family feud.

It began with the publication of Elliott's book, "The Untold Story: the Roosevelts of Hyde Park," which opened the family closets too wide to suit his brothers.

Franklin Jr. contacted brothers James and John, quoted the Fourth Commandment ("Honor thy father and thy mother") to them, and persuaded them to join him in a public statement disassociating themselves from the book.

They felt Elliott had been driven by financial troubles to sell out the family for the book royalties. "I have bailed Elliott out of one business deal after another," an exasperated Franklin told us. "I've just written it all off."

James felt Franklin's biblical admonition was a bit pious but agreed about Elliott's motives. "Elliott has borrowed money," said James, "from every member of the family, including his own children, and has made little effort to pay it back."

Nevertheless, James sent Elliott a friendly note, explaining he had disassociated himself from the book's contents but did not question Elliott's right to publish whatever he wished.

Not long afterward, the word spread throughout the family that Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) was investigating allegations that Elliott was involved with a stock-swindling ring. The first report came from Franklin, a coincidence which led Elliott to believe Franklin had stimulated the investigation. (Actually, Jackson had called Franklin in an attempt to locate Elliott and question him privately about the charges.)

An angry Elliott told us his brother Franklin, speaking of the Senate investigation, had said: "I hope they bury him."

Franklin denied making the remark. "There's no question," he said, "that I didn't like the book Elliott wrote, but he is still my brother."

Then out of the blue, a flim-flam artist and convicted securities thief named Louis Mastriana told senators that Elliott Roosevelt and a Haitian casino operator had offered him money to assassinate Bahamian Prime Minister Lynden O. Pindling. "They offered me \$100,000 to whack him," testified Mastriana.

All the Roosevelt brothers agreed that Elliott, though perhaps gullible enough to associate with stock swindlers, is no murderer. But Elliott, still furious at Franklin, told us: "It was Franklin Jr., who sent Mastriana to see me in the first place." Dismayed, Franklin responded:

"I never heard of Mastriana before he testified."

James is now trying to patch things up between the famous brothers. He persuaded a friend, attorney William Nemeth, to help Elliott with his Senate troubles.

"Elliott had the best war record of any of us," James told us. "He may be gullible, but he is basically a decent guy."

# 'LIFE' TO FACE LIBEL CHARGE

5/11/69  
Casino Operator Suing  
for \$6 Million

(The Associated Press)  
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court soon will have to deal with a libel charge against Life magazine, which has raised questions about Justice Abe Fortas's conduct.

In the case, already docketed, Life is the defendant in a \$6-million suit brought by Michael J. McLaney, a casino operator who lives in Miami Beach.

The suit is based on McLaney's claim he was tied to "the mob" in a Feb. 3, 1967, article titled "The Scandal in the Bahamas."

The U.S. Circuit Court in New Orleans entered a judgment for Life's publisher, Time, Inc., last January but McLaney is appealing to the Supreme Court for reversal.

## TENDERED FEE

Life set new controversy swirling about the court last week with disclosure that Fortas was tendered a fee by the family of industrialist Louis E. Wolfson in 1966.

Fortas said he was given a fee to do some writing for the foundation but returned it after deciding he did not have time to do the work.

McLaney ran the gambling casino in Havana's Hotel Nacional during the Batista regime. The article related he had provided free airlifts for candidates of the Progressive Liberal Party in a Bahamas election.

## DELICATE ASPECT

The case deals with a delicate aspect of libel law—definition of a public figure.

Under Supreme Court decisions, public figures cannot collect libel damages unless they prove actual malice on the part of the publication.

The circuit court concluded McLaney fit the definition because "he had injected himself into an election campaign in a small foreign country. . .

Now the Supreme Court, in the wake of the Fortas disclosure, will have the final say.

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## PUBLISHER WINS IN LIBEL ACTION

Time Sued by Alleged  
Bahamas Gambler

The United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Friday ruled in favor of Time, Inc., publisher of Life Magazine, in a multi-million dollar libel suit brought by an alleged gambler who was linked to Bahamas politics in an article published in Life on Feb. 3, 1967.

The suit was brought by Mike McLaney who was prominently mentioned in the 15 page article entitled "The Scandal in the Bahamas," written by William Lambert and Richard Oulahan.

It is stated in the court's opinion that the article described McLaney as having been the manager of one of Havana's top gambling casino's during the regime of Cuban President Batista and that he went to the Bahamas after the fall of Batista.

The Fifth Circuit reversed a lower court ruling which denied a summary judgment in favor of Time, Inc.