

# The FBI Files On JFK's 'Jilted Fiancee'

## Washington

J. Edgar Hoover told the then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy in 1963 that the FBI had information that Kennedy had paid a \$500,000 settlement and had court records sealed in a lawsuit brought by a woman who claimed to have been engaged to marry his brother, President John F. Kennedy, in 1951.

The exchange between the director of the FBI and the President's brother is one entry in two thick volumes of Hoover's personal and confidential files spanning 18 years on John F. Kennedy and obtained by William Safire, columnist for the New York Times, through the Freedom of Information Act.

The file contains little that would titillate those interested in the late President's private life. It does contain an internal FBI memorandum that links organized crime figures to the Kennedy White House through Judith Camp-

bell Exner, who later claimed to have had a love affair with the President.

The bulk of the files relate to threats against the President, including "hate" letters and leaflets charging Kennedy with "treason" and "Commie-loving" and with being a "pawn of the Pope."

As much as anything, the file gives a picture of the way the late FBI director operated.

The alerting of Robert Kennedy to the material in the FBI files about the alleged settlement of a jilted woman's lawsuit could be viewed as either a friendly, loyal, ingratiating gesture or as veiled blackmail.

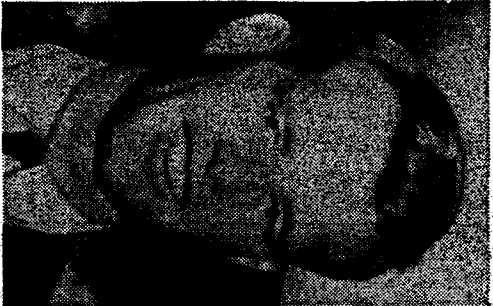
Most of the letter from Hoover to the attorney general has been deleted, but the readable portions say:

"In addition to the bill of particulars, letters were exhibited which mentioned John F. Kennedy

as an associate of this woman ... When this suit was filed in New York just prior to the President's assuming office, you went to New York and arranged a settlement of the case out of court for \$500,000. All papers relating to this matter, including the complaint, allegedly were immediately sealed by the court."

Then there is another deleted paragraph before Hoover ends his letter by saying:

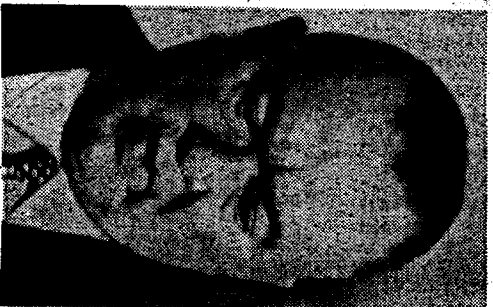
"In this connection ... A weekly magazine published in Turin, Italy ... alleged that Alicia Purdom, the wife of actor Edmund Purdom, claimed that several years ago she was engaged to be married to John F. Kennedy, but the latter's father vetoed the wedding because of Alicia's Polish-Jewish descent."



Robert Kennedy



John Kennedy



J. Edgar Hoover

# 'You . . . Arranged a \$500,000 Settlement'

The obvious connection is that it was Mrs. Purdom who was bringing suit against the President-elect and to whom \$500,000, was paid to drop the case in 1961.

According to sources familiar with the treatment of FBI documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, it is likely that Hoover was relating to Kennedy information given to the FBI by a source, not factual information in possession of the bureau.

Mrs. Purdom, according to the documents, had entered the United States as a "displaced person," and had lived with her mother in Boston. Her original name was Barbara Maria Kopezynsky, the files said, but was also known by the name Alicia Darr.

Alicia Darr, a professional painter, was married in 1957 to Edmund Purdom, the English actor, and they were divorced in August, 1961, in Juarez, Mexico.

On Sept. 16, 1961, she became the sixth wife of Singer Sewing Machine Co. heir Alfred Corning Clark, of Cooperstown, N.Y. He died 13 days after the wedding and she inherited his fortune. She could not be reached for comment yesterday.

A source close to Hoover said that Robert Kennedy did not respond to the director's letter advising him of the alleged court settlement, "so Mr. Hoover thought it was true."

But sources close to the late Robert Kennedy said that it was

"highly unlikely" that any such transaction occurred.

"First of all, Bobby would never do anything like that personally," the source said, "and secondly, if there had been such a lawsuit filed, the newspapers would have been all over it at the time. After all, Jack Kennedy was a U.S. senator throughout the 1950s and was either a presidential candidate or the president from 1960 on."

The linking of Judith Campbell Exner to the White House corroborates the story previously told by Mrs. Campbell and previously denied by President Kennedy's secretary, Evelyn Lincoln.

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