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PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Nightline

WBBM

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Chicago

DISCUSS C.I.A. & KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PLOT

MORT SAHL: "It's time to stop speculation and get some of the facts, so I'm glad I'm here, even if the audience may not be."

JOHN CALLAWAY: (PROGRAM HOST) "Eight minutes to go."

SAHL: "Democracy is not the answer in this respect, speculation doesn't pay off. We have to talk about the issue itself, I had a few problems or I would've been here a little earlier, but it's not always my choice., so I apologize."

CALLAWAY: "Yeah. What about the Kennedy affair and the -- the kind of -- at last -- the last time you were on this program, the first thing I wanted to ask you about was why two years ago, or eighteen months ago when you were here, when you were talking about this blacklisting then, on this program..."

SAHL: "Yes."

CALLAWAY: "What -- what happened that made you finally start naming names?"

SAHL: "Well, the noose has become very tight in the last six weeks, in other words, there were still some places I could work, but there's been a reapplication of pressure, and culminating in a television show which I had in Los Angeles for 58 weeks, I was on every Friday night there, in color, for two hours, complete with a cast of guests and a cast of four actors, SEcond City alumnae, doing sketches and news, and I was on the radio three hours a night, five days a week out there, for Metromedia. And I became involved one year ago in an investigation of the assassination, repeat, an investigation of the assassination, emphasized, underlined. For those of you who say you loved John Kennedy, a lot of you didn't love him enough to even want his name brought up. I found warnings all through Hollywood not to bring the issue up, and not to mention him, especially from the people who

claimed they loved him. Well I didn't say I loved him, I miss him. And I think he's more alive, uh, out of office than his successor in . Now I believe there's a legacy from that man -- it was to create hope in this country and optimism. And for those who penalize me, in his name, I never the audience - or the American Public in general - that he penalized me. He was a friend of mine, I don't think he would approve of what was done in his name and certainly without his franchise. At any rate, I pursued this, and in a journalistic way I bought the Warren Report and I researched it for 21 months, which was more than the ignorant people who chastized me did. I did my homework, in other words, I became an amateur scholar. I had Mark Lane on 5 times - Tim Jones, Sylvia Marr, Harold Wisberg, and eventually I got the first national interview with Jim Garrison. I played it and I was fired on both radio and television ."

CALLAWAY: "Why -- why ~~say that~~, for example, on this station, Mark Lane has been on Jerry Williams Program. He's been on Epstein..."

SAHL: "I want to put a question to you..."

CALLAWAY: "...this station. And I ask this, not in a hostile way..."

SAHL: "I know you don't I suspect what you're going to ask me."

CALLAWAY: "...I wonder why you got it, you know, 'weeded'..."

SAHL: "Mark Lane -- Mark Lane came on my program and said that I was being taken off the air - I played a 90 minute interview with Jim Garrison March 30th -- he said that I was being taken off the air because that was the only platform Jim Garrison had in the United States, sad to say."

Noone went to New Orleans. Noone interviewed Garrison. Noone brought his developed evidence to the people, point for point, except on one program in Los Angeles. And I submit to you that when a night club comedian in Los Angeles with a local program is the only platform that the District Attorney has, while people are walking around - it's a sad state of affairs - while people are walking around and saying to me, 'Uh, why can't you let his soul rest in peace?'. Now I'm going to say something very harsh but nothing can be harsher than the events in Dallas. I don't think the President rests better because his killers are walking around the streets, probably at Miami Beach. Now that's what I believe. That's why me. Because I stayed on it and I worked on it for 58 weeks, and I lobbied for it wherever I could because I think that the accounts have to be squared. Now I was the first one to announce on the air that Garrison had eye witnesses - in fact the last one, unfortunate - eyewitnesses

placing Ruby and Oswald together in New Orleans, as well as Dallas and a few other places. The first one to break publicly, and none of the wire services, picked it up, God bless the media again, but, uh, he was charging anti-Castro Cubans, who were former employees of the Central Intelligence Agency. Now when I held the Press Conference this week, by the way, this corroborative information, I pointed all this out. That this is not a war between President Kennedy and myself, and ironically enough, the ones who waved his banner so flagrantly, had very little to say about him - now. In other words the books have got to be straightened out."

CALLAWAY: "You don't think the Garrison investigation, and it's been hit very hard by the media..."

SAHL: "By the media" (OVERLAPPED WITH CALLAWAY'S LAST THREE WORDS)

CALLAWAY: "People of the media. Do you think the Garrison inquiry still has validity..."

SAHL: "Absolutely..."

CALLAWAY: "...that it's on the right track?"

SAHL: "Absolutely. And I think you're going live through a reformation of America, thank God. Because there's no place to hide, this is the place to keep. You bet and we're going to see it in Court starting next month. Uh, it should be, uh, -- it's going to be an exciting time to live through. There will be great changes in this country as a result of the American reaction to what he reveals."

CALLAWAY: "What kind of changes? What do you mean?"

SAHL: "Well, when we see the power of the government and the fact that along the line we have abdicated, the government decided somewhere along the line that it knows better what's good for us than we know for ourselves. And the fact that a coup can strike down the President in the streets of the United States and that the media will not police this abuse and that everybody will look the other way, uh, who is involved, the powerful domestic force that is involved, there will be changes because the American people don't do business that way. In other words, uh, hopefully the people will get the country back."

CALLAWAY: "You talk about Miami Beach, you talked earlier about walking the streets of Miami Beach, what do you mean by that?"

SAHL: "I'm talking about the Cubans involved who sought refuge in both New Orleans and Miami."

CALLAWAY: "How many are involved, in what you say about this coup?"

SAHL: "Probably in the apparatus who pulled the triggers, there were probably seven in the conspiracy and five armed. That's the way it looks."

CALLAWAY: "What do you base this on? You base this on a personal, private investigation plus Garrison..."

SAHL: "I'm not an investigator. I'm just a citizen here."

CALLAWAY: "You talked about your own pursuit of this question over a period -- a long period of time."

SAHL: "I think the Warren Report is demolished in amongst the American people, but I know that Garrison has developed documented evidence. I know that. You can't refute it."

CALLAWAY: "Well we're out of time...we'll be back. Have we got one more minute? Mort, let me ask you to be just a little more specific. If I can, in describing this coup and what you base your information on. Is it Garrison's -- are you following Garrison..."

SAHL: "You're asking me about the Garrison investigation. There are two chapters in this for the American people. There's the report and it's merit - we went all through that with Mark Lane and the others. And now the second chapter, which is who did it? And, uh, when Jim Garrison gets to Court, there will be revelations that will, uh, cause, a uh, at least a social revelation -- revolution in this country, revelation's an interesting slip, uh, revolution..."

CALLAWAY: "Well, will it involve people who are in the Administration."

SAHL: "No. It will not and I want to state that and re-emphasize it. Uh, much I'd like to tell you the things you'd like to hear -- the Communists did not kill your President and the Administration had nothing to do with it..."

CALLAWAY: "And we're out of time. We'll be back in 15 minutes on Nightline."

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CALLAWAY: "Here's John Callaway and we're back on Nightline. Mort sahl is still with us and I'd like at this time to interview two more guests who are with us until 10:10 this evening. Father Gerald Grant of Loyola University, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Loyola University and the Chairman of the National Policy of the United World Federalists. And Morton Kaplan, Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago and Chairman of the Committee on International Relations at the University of Chicago, author of several books on international relations. These gentlemen are here to discuss, as I mentioned earlier, the United Nations - whether or not the United Nations is a viable structure to meet the problems of international order and we'll be getting to that discussion. We had some I think, you listeners who are with us from, uh, 7:45 to 8:00, some important loose ends to, uh, try and tie together as best as we can with Mort Sahl. Professor Kaplan and Father Grant feel free to shoot questions at Mort Sahl or just join in on the conversation and, uh, we'll remind our listeners that Mort Sahl was late getting here but ran into one of those monumental traffic jams on the outer drive which, uh, do tend to occur on Sunday evenings, unfortunately.

Mort Sahl, for those of our listening audience who may not have heard your earlier statement, I would ask you to -- if you would capsule the statement you made about the validity of the Garrison investigation and what you think is coming in the investigation on Kennedy's -- President Kennedy's assassination."

SAHL: "Well, uh, it's in, uh, -- the investigation is in two sections now. There were those who read the Warren Report and accompanying testimony and refuted it or that is analyzed it and criticized it, and the second chapter-- the development of hard evidence. I musn't confuse that and think that those who ~~ask~~ questions of the report necessarily must come up with their own victim. Most Americans used to say to me, uh, they don't any more and according to the gallop poll 2 out of 3 wouldn't, but, uh, they used to say to me, uh, 'Who do you think did it?' In other words, they were only dispensing with Oswald, they would release him, if I would substitute a prisoner. But my job is not to be a detective and that isn't Mark Lane's job either. However, the Garrison investigation, uh, as I, uh, well I can quote Lane mostly, he said initially that Garrison, after he visited with him down there in March, that Garrison had a structured case and that it involved a powerful domestic force - not a foreign power--and that the country would be shaken to it's foundations by the revelations that came in Court, which would be a by product of the prosecution of the people he has charged. Uh, now, uh, since that time when the Grand Jury was inpaneled, Lane and then subsequently Garrison, on television, said -- he named the

Central Intelligence Agency. I want to make this clear, not that they conspired against the President but that everyone involved in the conspiracy, at the operational level -- the apparatus of pulling the trigger, not planning, were former members of the CIA. I asked Garrison why he said former. Why he stressed that and he said to me, 'I cannot believe that anyone employed by the government would try to harm the president.' And, uh, those were his words, so when he gets to Court -- that's where it belongs, it certainly doesn't belong, uh, on television with that other major network trying it and it doesn't really belong in a nightclub or in the press -- it belongs in a Court and a great thing we have in America is advisory procedure. I wish Lee Oswald had enjoyed it so that we'd know more about who killed the President. I'm in accord with Garrison and why Lane in the sense that I'm sure all people -- all Americans -- want to know who killed their President and why he was struck down."

CALLAWAY: "Did you say you're not a detective?"

SAHL: "Yes sir."

CALLAWAY: "And yet did it not take a great deal of work on your part, you commented earlier this evening on the great amount of time that you spent thoroughly going over the Warren Commission Report, that aside from the time you spent on the Warren Commission Report, didn't it take a great deal of independent investigation on your part or on anybody's part who would agree with Garrison? That is to say, earlier this evening, if I recall correctly, you said, not quotingly, you said, when this things over with there will be a revolution. In other words, I assume you agree with what not only you quoted Lane just a moment ago, but I assume you agree with him. Now if you do agree with him what is it that you've done independently that makes the Garrison story believable to you? Why is it that you believe that? Because just that you found holes in the Warren Commission like everybody else that's ever studied that?..."

SAHL: "No, that wouldn't be a sufficient basis upon which to approve of the Garrison investigation. I went down there as a journalist, I hope the journalists will forgive me of this, I'm an amateur journalist, I went down there to interview him because I think it's a voice that while it doesn't necessarily have to be supported by any means -- it should be heard. That's because there's more at stake than Jim Garrison, there's America. I believe that's what's at stake and I went down there and I listened to him and I saw some of the evidence which is in his file and I was reasonably convinced..."

CALLAWAY: "Have you seen evidence that the rest of the country hasn't seen?"

SAHL: "A little bit, but not a great deal. I'm not in a privileged position. It's just like -- it's like him,

you know, people say, 'Well what happened did you have a revelation, we haven't found anything.' He looked. If you look it all goes in one direction. Of course, as he said himself, he must have caught a very big fish because everyone descended on him. I just wish that the audience -- my own wish -- is that the audience did not have the riveted opinion that they want to condemn him. I wish they'd do it on their own by weighing the evidence instead of quoting newspaper editorials or NBC television or -- well, uh, Americans settle for, uh, uh, derivative opinion, which I think is, uh, the antithesis of the tradition here. You know, one day Fidel Castro is visiting Washington and everybody is caught up in the spirit of revolution, he's another -- he's a Washington of his country. And the next day the papers say he isn't and everybody says he isn't. And that's not our style. Our style is to hear all and make an independent judgement. And when he gets to Court we'll have that opportunity."

CALLAWAY: "Professor Kaplan do you have any comment or question?"

PROFESSOR KAPLAN: "(VOICES OVERLAPPING:- LOST MAYBE TWO WORDS)...the way he's come up with evidence, the fact that much of the evidence he supposedly has, he stumbled on clearly after he made his original statement, uh, resort to hypnotism, the threats made against witnesses, the threats made against his private backers, who were indicating some doubts about his investigation, his saying, 'Well maybe I'll find you were a part of this', and everybody that I know, that I've talked to who knows Garrison says he's an extremely smart man and a crook."

SAHL: "We're talking about responsible charge -- are you charging that or can you document that? Are you charging he's a crook?"

KAPLAN: "I'd say on the basis of the evidence that he's developed in the newspapers, he's dishonest."

SAHL: "You haven't seen the evidence because according to the guidelines laid down by judge Digert (?) that evidence would be a violation of Clay Shaw's -- a presumption of innocence on the part of Clay Shaw and his Civil Rights."

KAPLAN: "Well, he certainly made a number of charges in the newspapers."

SAHL: "As a matter of fact, you're echoing the charge of the newspapers made against him, I'd like to remind you, if you've overlooked it, and you seem to have, that he's not on trial."

KAPLAN: "I think he is on trial. As every public... (WORDS LOST DUE TO OVERLAPPING OF VOICES WITH SAHL GETTING INDIGNANTLY LOUDER THAN KAPLAN)"

SAHL: "Well, I wish you were preoccupied with the President's brains being on the streets of Dallas, not the District Attorney's charges. The District Attorney, as a matter of fact, has the best D.A.'s office in the country. And that's an evaluation made before -- before this case."

(KAPLAN AND SAHL VOICES OVERLAP)

SAHL: "You cannot dismiss the malignance (?) in this country by dismissing him. Because too much goes with him. If you're going to hold up the old sword that he's a Southern Politician, I wish to remind you that the President is to."

KAPLAN: "Well what about the stylet ~~in~~ this investigation. You have no doubts as to the validity... (VOICES OVERLAP)"

SAHL: "When you talk hypnotic methods you're talking about Perry Russo, I'm acquainted with Perry Russo. And when you talk about bribing witnesses,, we open -- you know we could take these charges one by one. We can talk about Bulbuff (?) and the charges made which went to the Grand Jury and the Grand Jury did not choose to entertain it and when we talk of bribing, I'd like to point out to the listeners, that on the other side of the coin, Walter Sheridan of NBC who prepared the show which attacked Garrison 100% of the way, is accused by Perry Russo of trying to bribe him in the name of the CIA. And he's charged with that, in the State of Louisiana. I think it all came very fast - discredit a man. And the question is why? He's not on trial. When you pick up the New York Times and it says, this is the way the story opens, 'Two convicts today accused the District Attorney' - two convicts accused a District Attorney - one of the people who accused the District Attorney is Gordon Novel (?) who is a fugitive from justice, subsidized from his flight by the National Broadcasting Company for reasons of their own. Novel has a lawyer too, who's retained by the Central Intelligence Agency."

KAPLAN: "Well, is this a very big plot that's going into NBC now?" In your terms?"

SAHL: "I'm not accusing them. I'm bringing you the record. I live in this country, that's all. I think it belongs ~~a war~~ certainly in Court and it will be - that's good, I think we'll find out."

CALDWELL: "Well, yes we will but are you suggesting that in a really highly centered investigation like this, that careful attention should not also be paid, not so much to put Garrison on trial, but to be sensitive about the methods that are used. It's true that Joe Mc Carthy wasn't on trial but during his early years people were sensitive about

the methods he us -- he was using. Is that inappropriate? To look at Garrison as well as the case?"

SAHL: "In Mc Carthy's case at least there were Communists in the government..."

CALLAWAY: "And I don't mean -- I don't mean..."

KAPLAN: "How many did he catch? He didn't catch any and I suggest that Garrison won't either."

SAHL: "You're suggesting that? Based on what knowledge."

KAPLAN: "Based on the evidence that has come out in the newspapers, which gives me an impression of the style of the man and that's the style I suspect. I don't think he's a very trustworthy man."

SAHL: "You don't think he's trustworthy."

KAPLAN: "That's right."

SAHL: "You're convinced that Lee Oswald killed the President?"

KAPLAN: "I think all the evidence that's been developed indicates that. It's very difficult to prove the negative. I have an open mind with respect to that, I don't think that any critics of the report have come up with substantial evidence to the contrary."

SAHL: "That's not their job. Their job is to write up the report."

KAPLAN: "And I don't -- I would add that no audit that they have made has to me been convincing. That doesn't mean that the Report is correct."

SAHL: "We might document your case against the District Attorney, uh, with something better than the newspapers or you might be guilty of character assassination. After all there's a great deal at stake here and it's more than Garrison's reputation. It is the President of the United States. Do we live in a country where a coup can take place? And why can't an investigation be held? I submit to you that Kennedy is worth it."

KAPLAN: "I have no objection to any legitimate, serious investigation. I think that when you look at the way in which a man conducts himself and when that file of conduct gives rise to legitimate suspicions, which I think is the case with Garrison, uh, then he's subject to extremely serious criticism."

SAHL: "By the newspapers and other judges."

KAPLAN: "Even by the newspapers and other judges."

CALLAWAY: "But Mort aren't you really indulging in the same thing that you're accusing newspapers and other judges of indulging in and that is, not only, - and I appreciate the fact that you wanted not only Garrison to have a platform, everybody else was talking about it why not Garrison and as a broadcaster yourself you wanted the right to provide that platform, you've described earlier this evening the penalty for having to do that. My question to you, though, is this why couldn't you just stop there? Fight the case for wanting to provide a platform for Garrison without necessarily, until the Court has had it's day, endorsing what he has to say?"

SAHL: "Well said, John, that's a good point. As a matter of fact, I've only endorsed it because you asked me a question and I respect you enough to answer it, within the limitations of what I know about that case, but ordinarily if I were the moderator of this program or my own, uh, and my record proves it, merely present the information. I'm really not trying to convert anybody. If the information can't do that, it can't help people make up their minds, uh, then we let it go, that's it. It goes to Court and that's the end of it. That's the tradition."

KAPLAN: "I'd like to say something else about the conspiracy against Sahl personally, as he puts it, fortunately I have tenure, and it's rather difficult to fire anyone with tenure no matter what he does, uh, but if during the period when I didn't have tenure, when I was an Assistant Professor without Tenure, I had spent my time in class not teaching the courses I was supposed to teach - conducting a campaign some entirely different issue, entirely unrelated to my teaching, quite conceivably I would have been removed from my position. Uh; now I take it that you had your program primarily as a comic, that's the way you made your reputation - this may be important but it's not funny."

CALLAWAY: "Mort, are you suggesting, - Morton Kaplan that Morton Sahl spent so much time on this investigation that perhaps now, just in terms of show business, that his humor suffered and perhaps that's why people aren't hiring..."

KAPLAN: "Well, I don't know, but his conduct..."

CALLAWAY: "(VOICES OVERLAPPING - INAUDIBLE)...How has it been working, have you been preoccupied to the extent that you can't work on material?"

SAHL: "My conduct here, as Dr. Kaplan, refers to it, is based on the fact that I have enough respect for you gentlemen to answer you in something other than a flipant comment, when you set a serious question to me. And the fate of Jack Kennedy is serious enough to all of us because our destiny, I believe, is entwined with his..."

KAPLAN: "But you were suggesting..."

SAHL: "Forgive me, if I may finish."

KAPLAN: "Excuse me. Certainly."

SAHL: "I was on the air 58 weeks and I submit that since you did not know that program that, uh, for you to make a judgement on the program -- you're not equipped to make a judgement on the program, with all due respect and I wish that you would withhold your judgement until you view that program. You did a lot of things on that program, I, uh, as a matter of fact, I had four of the second city players -- I did an average of 40 minutes of comedy a week. But on the other hand, I quoted from Isaiah too. I did -- I drew upon the sources I needed to get us through the terrible hours. Now for some of my friends that was out of character but we do what we can as Dave Garroway said so aptly. Now while I've opened an area that spills over into me, I, uh, didn't bring my personal life to be analyzed here because I have any disrespect but because I'd like to submit my problems to people who have at least got the competence to help me solve them -- that would be either a Psychiatrist, the actual people I believe conspired against me, some of them I had the pleasure of facing, others I haven't exercised the age old traditional privilege, and then there's the audience -- on stage, I know how to entertain an audience -- and I'm not up here for judgement or scrutiny and I'll have to withdraw from the program if that continues."

KAPLAN: "Well the reason why I brought it up was because earlier, uh, we -- I had read Mike Roekel's (?) column in which, you know, in which the discussion of your personal professional career, uh was raised. And that's why the question is -- and I think it's valid, and Roekel considered it himself -- a couple of years ago I would of thought, 'Well, maybe you ought to put, you know, a net over Sahl, what's this conspiracy thing. Nobody called me here...'"

SAHL: "I gave Roekel 4 hours of documentation -- I traced back the last 5 years."

KAPLAN: "And I've read the entire column. The question I would put to you is, is there any connection between your comments on blacklisting and the Kennedy family and the investigation that you have been conducting as a journalist in the assassination. Is the Kennedy family unhappy because you're making this inquiry or is it because that didn't like

your form of humor?"

SAHL: "I have no such evidence and I tried to make that clear at the beginning. I have -- I don't even suspect uh, that the Kennedy family is -- I don't know what they're stand is on this issue or any other. I know Bob Kennedy and I know Ed Kennedy, and I saw them just a few weeks ago, socially. Until I pointed out in the column the original threats that were made to me by Lieutenants - underlings - uh, the re-application of pressure, I don't know, it's very hard to be both a corpse and a detective. I know what the results are. I'm not big at bringing conclusions. I just bring the chronological events. I'm not interested in it being explained away. I'm interested in renewing my license. To go my own way. I don't belong to groups. I don't want to be the key-note speaker for any parties convention. I just want the right to, uh, audit the incumbent, that's what I do. And if my skill had slackened, uh, I could understand that. But that's not a valid explanation. I was threatened and then my work vanished and I suspect there's a gentlemen's agreement, mostly, because it vanished without exception. Now the assassination was another issue - serving another issue."

CALLAWAY: "Father Grant did you have some comment."

FATHER GRANT: "No. I came in on this discussion too late and I'm afraid I'd get bogged down. I'm unhappy at the suggestion that anybody is being blacklisted. Blacklisting is a very real thing, back in the '40's and early '50's and I know Mr. Edward Lan of Cleveland (?) who suffered so greatly from the kickback and the fall-out from the Mc Carthy investigation, and, uh, I would now be most strongly against any suggestion of blacklisting. I would-- since I know no facts here, I can go no farther."

But one other point, and it will lead into the program we'll discuss a little later on -- once a country starts indulging in the kind of hanky-panky that's represented by the CIA (WORDS LOST - TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY) ...we will never know. And that's the plain fact. Look at the subversion that went on engineered by the CIA, uh, in all the areas of International Activity, student groups, especially magazinesubmissions, so forth; the corruption of unions, the subversion of union officers - all this done in the name of patriotism, pictured as the highest motives, and always of course hidden completely from all the public until 5, 10, 15 years later, we found out about it. The greatest danger to American liberties, at the present time, are organizations like the CIA. I have a firm belief in that. I think they are more and more dangerous than they ever could be to any enemy we could have. We don't need them. You musn't forget that the so-called Central Intelligence Agency is simply duplicating - if it's doing anything at all - it's duplicating the work of the Army, the Navy, the State

Department, the Air Force, the Treasury -- all of which have their own Intelligence Agencies, and which don't need the CIA. The CIA wasn't founded for a purpose of collecting information, it was founded for the purpose of allowing us to engage in the same kind of dirty work, but that means -- I mean, Assassination, subversion, what other countries have indulged in."

CALLAWAY: "So you're saying, Father Grant, that to the extent that the CIA, for example, would participate in the assassination investigation, you don't believe them."

GRANT: "I would say there's (LATIN PHRASE USED - INAUDIBLE) ...evidence therefore because they've participated to sus -- that anything they produce is suspect. This is what I'm saying. I'm confessing complete disgust with our CIA - complete."

CALLAWAY: "Back to the blacklisting."

SAHL: "Wish I'd said that."

(LAUGHTER)

SAHL: "If I might add a point, John, just to get off a second. I don't know when it happened but somewhere this espionage gathering organization became a policy swinging organization. And, uh, you know -- you remember Dagfreun (?) the Professor from Yale? If I'm not mistaken, he was the fellow, who was arrested by the Russians as a spy. He was on a Sabbatical and President Kennedy called Khrushchev and asked that he be released. And Khrushchev told Kennedy that he was a spy, and Kennedy said I have it on the best authority that he is not, and he said alright I'm going to release him. In the interests of the new Administration and new hope but I maintain he's a spy. And President Kennedy when he was repatriated, he sent two secret service men from the White House to pick him up at the boat and bring him back for inquiry. And he told the Intelligence Agency that they must not embarrass him, they swore up and down that he was not. The Professor arrived at the White House and the President said what's the story. He said now, I'm not a spy, I was going there for my own vacation and the agency approached me and said as long as you're there anyway., dot, dot, dot. President Kennedy began to swear. That was on Friday - Thursday before he went to Dallas, and I submit to you that this super-structure in the government be it military or the CIA or the FBI for that matter, I know this is going to shake up most Americans, because the FBI's on television right now..."

CALLAWAY: "It's 8:30 in America, folks."

SAHL: "I think when a man like J.-Edgar Hoover is in office 44 years, that he comes to look upon the President as a transient. And that's a sad state of affairs for all of us."

(VOICES OVERLAP)

CALLAWAY: "Our clock, 30 seconds ago, read 8:30 and, uh, really -- would you make it 11:00 and we'll all go out and have a beer? No -- now it's 20 till 9:00. And, uh, apparently our clock -- did the clock stop in the middle of the show Jack? ...It's 20 till 9:00 and I guess we've missed the station break. I apologize to The Federal Communications Commission...we're talking with Mort Sahl, who is appearing at Mr. Kelly's and we're talking with Father Grant of Loyola University and Professor Morton Kaplan of the University of Chicago.

And, uh, Professor Kaplan, you have, uh, been in an adversarial position, uh, -- kind of quickly here this evening -- with Mort Sahl. Do you have any comments on either Father Grant or Mort Sahl's, uh, statement that the CIA..."

(VOICES OVERLAP)

KAPLAN: "...J. Edgar Hoover. Hoover is a stubborn, not very intellectual person, has a lot of political beliefs I could not subscribe to, but is also a sense in which Hoover is one of the most decent and honest people in the American Government even if he sometimes has a view of the President, and I agree with it, as a transient in office. For instance, at the beginning of the Second World War, Hoover was the one government official who argued all the way up to the top against what was done to the Japanese, and guaranteed..."

SAHL: "On the West Coast."

KAPLAN: "On the West Coast. And that there were no spies, if there were any he knew exactly where they were and there was no problem at that time -- he fought it as far as he could. And there's been a number of other issues of that kind, which J. Edgar has been very, very good. Now Politically, he happens to be Conservative, uh, he has a lot of old fashioned opinions, which, uh, I think have little to do with the state of Society, uh, but I think he also happens to be a decent, honest man, even if a number of his opinions happen to be unfortunate. The CIA, I think, is a horse of another color, the CIA has engaged in so many dishonest operations that I think it's worth to suspect. I don't agree with Father Grant, uh, that it has no function. There are a number of very real functions which involve intelligence and not merely subversion..."

CALLAWAY: "But does it have any functions in light of the many dishonest acts it has, uh..."

KAPLAN: "It needs far better control than it's ever received and, uh, it should not be permitted to operate within the United States. I think it's inexcusable that it's been permitted to operate within the United States and it's engaged in a number of extremely heavy-handed kinds of, uh, things which I think have no place in our form of government. I be opposed to getting rid of the entire organization although as it stands now, uh, perhaps on balance, it may do more harm than good."

CALLAWAY: "I was just wondering, at what point do you begin to believe the CIA, in light of all the criticism you've just made of it. Specifically, when you don't know when it's changes occur..."

KAPLAN: "I would not believe any statement made by the CIA."

(VOICES OVERLAP - INAUDIBLE)

CALLAWAY: "I'd like to open up one of the phone lines and I know there will be a CIA guy listening and we can get instant rebuttal. Uh, Father Grant."

GRANT: "By the way my first name is Gerard."

CALLAWAY: "Gerard. I stand corrected." "Jack. We'll be right back after this message."

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CALLAWAY: "This is John Callaway, back on Nightline, and today's listeners who have been, uh, I'm sure very much aroused by the comments Mort Sahl has made on the assassination and are probably saying, 'Well, I'll call him up with this question, that question and the other question', let me say that I really would like to see or to wait and see what happens in Court. And then perhaps come back and --- because at this time, I don't feel prepared to do a big sophisticated interview on the assassination. I wasn't prepared for it and I'm not prepared to do that at this point."

SAHL: "That's a point well taken -- that's the place for it ..."

CALLAWAY: "O K. We'll wait and see what happens there and I hope we will all be around and we can say, 'Mort you were a bad guy or you were a great guy or whatever...'"

SAHL: "There's more at stake than me."

CALLAWAY: "No. Well, I sort of appreciate that (LAUGHTER)."