

Kennedy Angle of CIA Probe

Why Sinatra Didn't Sing

By Mary McGrory
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FRANK SINATRA will not be playing the capitol after all.

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, in response to a loud but limited demand, considered booking him, but decided against it. Nothing to do with his voice, they just didn't think he had any new material for them.

New York Times columnist William Safire, who has been acting as Sinatra's Washington agent, will be disappointed. He has been trying for months to get Sinatra for a singing date with the senators.

He is sure Sinatra has in his repertoire some smash numbers about Judith Campbell,

the girl Sinatra introduced to John Kennedy 16 years ago at Vegas. Ms. Campbell has confided that she had a "close personal" relationship with the President, followed by more of the same with Sam Giancana and John Rosselli, two Chicago mobsters recruited by the CIA to help kill Castro.

The committee doesn't want to hear the surly songster, Safire cries, because they want to protect Kennedy. He suggests, with some justice, that if there had been the slightest suspicion that Richard Nixon had Mafia ties, the press would be screaming.

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THE COMMITTEE turned a deaf ear to all this. They voted unanimously against calling Sinatra. Senator John Tower (Rep.-Tex.), who could hardly be suspected of taking a hand in a Kennedy coverup, was most forceful in stating that there was "not a scintilla of evidence" that Sinatra could be helpful.

"We are not authorized to investigate a president's love life," said Chairman Frank Church (Dem.-Idaho).

The Church committee was looking for crime in the CIA, not scandal in the White House, when it stumbled across Ms. Campbell's name in an FBI document relating to John Rosselli.

Two staff members, Republican as it happened, were dispatched to the Kennedy

library to study White House telephone logs. They brought back a record of 70 calls from Ms. Campbell—although no evidence that any were made from Giancana's Chicago home, as has been attested.

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MS. CAMPBELL, who now lives in a California trailer, was brought in for questioning by staff members

She told the staff lawyers, who represented both Republican and Democratic senators, that she knew nothing about CIA-Mafia plots and never carried messages between the mob and the White House.

Rosselli, who had previously testified, was called back later in the month to be questioned about her revelations. He confirmed she knew nothing about the plots and swore that mafiosi never discuss business with their women, or even in their presence.

Rosselli had said that Giancana knew about Ms. Campbell's friendship with Kennedy and joked about it. Kennedy found out about Giancana and Ms. Campbell from J. Edgar Hoover, on March 22, 1962, at a luncheon meeting that can only be imagined. Thereafter, the phone calls ceased.

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THE INFORMATION was laid before three senators assigned to study the CIA-Mafia connection—Church, Tower and Gary Hart (Dem.-Colo.). They in turn presented it to the full committee, which, after long and, to some, painful consideration, voted unanimously to investigate the Campbell-Kennedy affair no further

Sam Giancana never told his story. The committee was preparing to call him but Giancana took six bullets in his neck and head on June 19 and died of them. The Chicago police have told the committee there was nothing to suggest it was anything other than gangland murder—Giancana was about to go before a grand jury. Safire sees something more sinister, and in his most lurid charge, suggests that failure to call the FBI is further proof of the unholy alliance between the press and Congress which was formed three years ago "to strike down a President." That would be Richard Nixon, whom Safire served as a first-term ghostwriter and still admires.

That is not the end of it, of course. Ms. Campbell, who convinced the staff last September she wanted no publicity, has since reconsidered. She is writing her memoirs; the asking price is \$2 million.