

Marilyn Monroe's 'Mr. X': Was He Robert Kennedy?

NEW YORK — (UPI) — A veteran Broadway-Hollywood columnist says Robert F. Kennedy was the "Mr. X" in Marilyn Monroe's life — a friend whom she saw repeatedly during the months preceding her tragic death.

In a new book Earl Wilson says that what may have been Marilyn's last words were spoken over the telephone to actor Peter Lawford, a brother-in-law of the Kennedys with whom they often stayed on visits to the coast.

Fred Lawrence Guiles, whose "Norma Jean" may be the definitive biography of Marilyn, said without naming names that she had a secret lover, and that he was in Los Angeles the night she died there. Wilson, whose column appears in *The Examiner*, does not make this claim.

Awkward Subject

In his book, "The Show Business Nobody Knows," Wilson recalls the problems that beset Marilyn during her last months — notably the over-dependence on barbiturates that sent her to the hospital during the making of her last movie.

"Another subject difficult and awkward to explore was Marilyn's friendship with Bobby Kennedy (then the Attorney General of the United States)," Wilson says.

"I am convinced that he should be absolved completely of responsibility for any of the events connected with Marilyn's mysterious death. It would be fairly easy, now that both are dead, to concoct a melodramatic scandal. However, in my opinion it would be unjustified and untrue.

The Vegas Route

"Marilyn in her last year was frequently seen — giggling under her black wig — boarding one of the Kennedy



ROBERT F. KENNEDY
Was he Mr. X?



MARILYN MONROE
"Slurred voice"



PETER LAWFORD
Worried over condition

planes, going the Palm Springs - Vegas - Lake Tahoe route. But one did not say these things about the Kennedys in print."

Wilson notes that Guiles' book says Marilyn courted privacy during her last summer "because she was involved with a married man."

"He was not in the (movie) industry; he was an Easterner with few ties on the coast. He had come West mainly to work out the details of a film production of a literary property in which he had a hand and to escape the pressures of his work as a lawyer and public servant..." Wilson quotes Guiles as saying.

Hopeless Alliance

"Possibly it was his host who in Marilyn's view acted as buffer between them and those forces antagonistic to their affair. She was beginning to see the hopelessness of the alliance; still, a phone call from him would alter what ever else she had planned for the evening, and she would go to him."

Wilson describes this as "a dramatic way of saying that Peter Lawford had a beach house (at Malibu) where he lived with his wife Patricia Kennedy Lawford, sister of John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy."

"They both visited the Lawfords at their beach house," the columnist says. "Marilyn Monroe, who was in the circle of the Lawfords' friends, also visited them at the beach house."

On Aug. 4, 1962, Wilson says, Lawford invited Marilyn and her press agent, Pat(ricia) Newcomb, to dinner at the beach house. He says Marilyn accepted but failed to appear.

'Say Goodbye'

"At about 8 p.m. . . . Lawford phoned her. . . ." the columnist says. "Marilyn said she was tired and wasn't going to be able to come to dinner. From her slurred voice, Lawford recognized that she was either drunk or nearly asleep from pills. . . ."

"Say goodbye to Pat, say goodbye to the President, and say goodbye to yourself, because you're a nice guy," (she said). Her voice trailed off; the phone apparently had dropped from her hand or she had fallen asleep."

Wilson says Lawford wanted to go to Marilyn's home and make sure she was all right, but was dissuaded by his manager, Milt Ebbins.

"You can't go over there," Ebbins protested. "You're the brother-in-law of the President of the United States. Your wife's

away. Let me get in touch with her lawyer or doctor." Wilson reports.

Psychiatrist Called

Ebbins got hold of Milton "Mickey" Rudin, Marilyn's attorney, who called Dr. Ralph Greenson, a Beverly Hills psychiatrist who had been attending her. Greenson, who had seen his patient that day, said he was sure she was all right, Wilson says.

The doctor's opinion was reported to Lawford, who still wasn't satisfied. Then Rudin called Eunice Murray at Marilyn's home. (Wilson describes Mrs. Murray as a psychiatric nurse; Guiles says she was a former interior decorator whom Marilyn hired as a housekeeper-companion at Greenson's suggestion).

Mrs. Murray said that everything seemed to be all right. Marilyn was in her bedroom, with the door locked, but the light was on and her phonograph was playing.

That report satisfied Lawford, and he dropped the idea of going to Marilyn's home.

She was found dead at 3:30 a.m. the next day, sprawled nude across her bed with a hand resting on one of the two private telephones at the bedside.