

EDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1970

## Hogan Given Missing Letters From Mrs. Onassis

By SANKA KNOX

Four letters written by Mrs. Aristotle Onassis—both as Mrs. Onassis and as Mrs. John F. Kennedy—were turned over to the District Attorney's complaint bureau yesterday.

The letters, written to Roswell L. Gilpatric, former Deputy Secretary of Defense, had been consigned for auction by an agent for a mystery "principal."

Mr. Gilpatric, who conferred earlier yesterday with Frank Rogers, head of the complaint bureau, had apparently learned on Monday that the letters were missing from his files.

Charles Hamilton, head of the autograph concern to which the letters were consigned two months ago, would not identify the agent, but said he was a lawyer who was a former associate with Cravath, Swaine & Moore, the legal concern in which Mr. Gilpatric is a partner.

### Agent Eludes Press

The consignment was accepted "in good faith," Mr. Hamilton said, and the agent had signed a paper stating that he was legally empowered to

### Four Addressed to Gilpatric Consigned for Auction by Unknown Person

sell the letters. The correspondence, appraised to bring from \$2,000 to \$4,000 was scheduled for a March 12 sale.

Yesterday, as reporters and photographers crowded Mr. Hamilton's premises at 25 East 53d Street, the agent appeared. He avoided cameras by throwing up a briefcase as a screen, secluded himself with Mr. Hamilton for a few minutes and left by a back door.

Mr. Hamilton invited him to tell "his side of the story" to reporters, but according to the dealer, the agent said: "No one would believe it. It sounds like an Alfred Hitchcock story."

But, he did say, Mr. Hamilton related, that the letters had been sent to him by mail by an unknown person who asked him to consign them for auction.

A \$500 advance, however,

had been retained by the agent, Mr. Hamilton disclosed.

"Everything seemed to be on the up-and-up," he said. "When I told the agent that the letters would receive wide publicity, he appeared delighted."

The letters, which span a five-year period from 1963 to 1968, have been out of Mr. Gilpatric's files for at least four months.

Mr. Hamilton said he could not disclose the text of the letters, because "the letters do not belong to me." But, the contents were copied and sent to The Washington Post before the question of ownership arose.

The earliest letter was written on White House stationery on April 18, 1963 and the latest aboard the yacht Christina, while the former First Lady was on her honeymoon cruise with Aristotle Onassis.

Mr. Gilpatric's third wife, Mrs. Madelin Thayer Gilpatric, yesterday submitted notice in State Supreme Court that she and her husband had agreed to separate.