

JFK's Mystery Woman Talks

San Diego

A dark-haired mystery woman linked to John F. Kennedy and two Mafia figures said yesterday her relationship with the late President was "of a close, personal nature."

Under intensive questioning during a 35-minute press conference, Judith Campbell Exner, 41, refused to comment when asked if she had been Kennedy's lover.

She did say she had visited the White House more than 20 times and met Kennedy at other locations during a 54-week relationship that developed after they met in Las Vegas in February, 1960.

She said she never met Jacqueline Kennedy.

Mrs. Exner said she also had personal relationships with underworld figures Sam (Momo) Giancana and John Roselli, but she denied that she was a link between them and Kennedy in plots to assassinate Fidel Castro.

She said the full facts on her relationships have been transcribed, documented and stored for release at a later time.

"However," she said, reading from a prepared statement, "I can at this time emphatically state that my relationship with Jack Kennedy was of a close, personal nature and did not

involve conspiratorial shenanigans of any kind.

"I will not allow the committee to implicate me in these absurd plots nor will I allow Evelyn Lincoln (Kennedy's secretary) or Kenny O'Donnell (special assistant to the late President) to sully or distort my personal relationship with Jack Kennedy."

The Senate Intelligence Committee said in a 347-page report on CIA assassination plots that during 1961 and 1962 there were 70 telephone contacts between Kennedy and Mrs. Exner.

The report identified Mrs. Exner only as a "close friend."

Back Page Col. 1

From Page 1

but after her identity became known she called this press conference to explain her relationships.

She wore dark glasses and was with her new husband, Dan

ner, a professional golfer, as she discussed her past.

She claimed that Evelyn Lincoln and O'Donnell were fully aware of the nature of her relationship with the late President and described as "entirely contrived" statements by Mrs. Lincoln that she was simply a "campaign worker."

O'Donnell had said he had no recollection of any Judith Campbell.

Mrs. Exner told newsmen that she was introduced to Kennedy in February, 1960, by a friend, who also introduced her and Giancana the next month in Miami Beach.

She refused to identify the friend and replied "No Comment" to questions about whether that friend was singer Frank Sinatra or actor Peter Lawford, then Kennedy's brother-in-law.

She met Roselli through Giancana sometime after March, 1960, Mrs. Exner said.

"My relationship with Sam Giancana and my relationship with Johnny Roselli were of a personal nature and in no way related to or affected by my relationship with Jack Kennedy, nor did I discuss either of them with the other," she said.



UPI Telephoto

JUDITH CAMPBELL EXNER IN 1960
That was the year she met Kennedy

She accused the Senate Intelligence Committee, headed by Senator Frank Church (Dem-Ida.) of leaking details of her closed-session testimony.

The leaks, Mrs. Exner said, "have been distorted so as to implicate me in these bizarre assassination conspiracies between the underworld and the government."

The committee discovered her relationship with Kennedy while investigating CIA links with Giancana and Roselli in a plan to kill Castro.

Giancana, a Chicago Mafia leader, had been scheduled to testify before the committee last June, but was murdered before he could appear.

Roselli, once Giancana's protégé, testified in a secret session a week after Giancana's death.

"I imagine I probably knew they were part of the underworld," Mrs. Exner said.

However, she denied she was a link between the White House and the underworld.

Her attorney, Brian Monaghan,

an, said Tuesday that his client felt her life is in danger because of reports describing her as an intermediary.

"The inference put her in danger with those who think she might know something she doesn't," the attorney said.

Senator Church said there was no evidence that Mrs. Exner knew anything about the Castro plot and that no one in the committee thought Kennedy's relationships with her "were the proper business of the committee."

Mrs. Exner said it was "very difficult" to explain her relationship, but she said, "To me he was Jack Kennedy and not the President."

"It was close, but it was many years ago. Now I'm a happily married housewife."

In response to a question, she denied knowing top Teamsters officials but she said, "I've been to La Costa," a resort in north San Diego county developed with Teamster pension funds, "but not for years."

Los Angeles Times



AP Wirephoto

SEChronicle

JUDITH CAMPBELL EXNER AND HER HUSBAND DAN
She visited the White House many times, but never met Jackie DEC 18 1975

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