

Sex Watch on Nixon**Jack Anderson**

NOT EVEN Richard Nixon, perhaps as puritan a President as ever occupied the White House, could escape the sex watch of the late J. Edgar Hoover.

Buried deep in the FBI director's secret blackmail files was a story of an illicit love affair between Nixon and a Chinese woman.

During Watergate's darkest days, no one accused Nixon of a romantic indiscretion. His worst enemies considered him to be untainted by sex scandal.

But an FBI agent in Hong Kong dug out a report, admittedly unconfirmed, of Nixon's involvement with a beautiful Chinese woman during a visit to the Far East for his law firm in the 1960s.

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THE WORD had seeped throughout the FBI that Hoover wanted to know about the peccadillos of the powerful. His minions, therefore, gathered gossip and passed it up to the old FBI chief.

He kept the juiciest tidbits under lock and key in his personal custody. Since these files contained slanderous reports having nothing to do with law enforcement, the only possible purpose for their existence was blackmail.

Even in faraway Hong Kong, an FBI agent assigned as a legal attache

was on the alert for stories to pass on to Hoover. The agent learned about Nixon's alleged amourette and made a veiled reference in a letter. At the time he wrote the letter, Nixon was already reigning in the White House.

Later a second letter came from Hong Kong laying out the whole story. The letter stated that Nixon reportedly had consorted with the Chinese beauty, who was much younger than himself, during a Hong Kong stopover on a business trip.

The agent made no claim that he had any solid evidence to back up the story. In fairness, the agent wasn't merely pandering to Hoover's thirst for scandal. The agent was also concerned that Nixon, as a former Vice President, could be compromised in a place like Hong Kong.

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THE REPORT on Nixon's alleged indiscretion was accompanied by a newspaper photo, showing Nixon with the woman and her husband.

We reached the former Hong Kong agent who refused to comment on the incident. We also tried without success to get a comment from Nixon's office in San Clemente. But friends say it is "unthinkable" that he could ever have been unfaithful to his wife, Pat.

The important issue, however, was Hoover's use of the FBI to blackmail the nation's elected leaders.