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March 29, 1960

The Los Angeles Office, by letter dated 3/22/60, advised that a criminal informant indicated that the editors of Confidential Magazine have had a reporter in the Los Angeles area during the past few days for the purpose of checking into a rumor regarding an alleged indiscreet party recently held at Palm Springs in which participants were said to be Senator John Kennedy, his brother-in-law Peter Lawford, the actor, and Frank Sinatra. The informant said that the last time Senator Kennedy was in California for a visit he stayed in Sinatra's home in Palm Springs. He advised that Sinatra and Lawford are the owners of Puccini's Restaurant in Beverly Hills, California.

The informant also advised that Confidential Magazine was attempting to obtain private investigators to verify or disprove the rumors concerning the party. The Los Angeles Office has no verification or other information concerning this matter. The informant, however, is in a position to know of investigative activities conducted by Confidential Magazine.

By Airtel dated 3/23/60, the New Orleans Office advised that Mr. Joseph Hegeman, who operates a public relations business in New Orleans and who is a possible criminal informant of that office, furnished the following information:

Hegeman advised that among his clients in the public relations field are Jerry Wald, Hollywood motion picture producer, and Phillip Frank Kastel, New Orleans top hoodlum. He said that in the course of representing Kastel's gambling interests he has met a number of well known hoodlums such as Meyer Lansky, a gambler operating in Miami and Havana, and Joe Fischetti, who Hegeman believes is the dominant figure in the racketeering element in the Miami area. Hegeman said that as a result of his numerous contacts with these individuals he has met socially a number of their associates whose identities are not known to him and whom he has not sought to identify. u 301 65K1 005

Hegeman said he has overheard a number of conversations between these individuals concerning their activities. Within the past week he returned from the Miami area and while there he learned from

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individuals whom he declined to identify, except to state they were members of the underworld element, that Fischetti and other unidentified hoodlums are financially supporting and actively endeavoring to secure the nomination for the presidency as Democratic candidate, Senator John F. Kennedy. He said that Frank Sinatra is going to campaign for Kennedy in several of the primaries. He advised that Sinatra is a nephew of hoodlum Joe Fischetti and that Sinatra is only booked to appear after clearances obtained with Fischetti.

Hegeman said that Sinatra's song writer, Jimmy Van Husen, is presently writing campaign songs for Kennedy. Hegeman indicated that it is his opinion that Sinatra and Van Husen are being made available to assist Senator Kennedy's campaign so that Fischetti and other hoodlums will have an entree to Senator Kennedy.

Hegeman advised that Senator Kennedy's brother-in-law, Peter Lawford, has been cultivated by Sinatra and they are now apparently close associates. He said that Lawford has one half of one percent interest in the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas.

Hegeman said that when he was in Miami he had occasion to overhear a conversation which indicated that Senator Kennedy had been compromised with a woman in Las Vegas, Nevada. He said he knew Senator Kennedy was staying at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas about six or eight weeks ago and that he had observed Senator Kennedy in the night club of the Sands Hotel during this period. He had no idea as to the identity of any possible female companion.

Hegeman also advised that when Senator Kennedy was in Miami, Florida an airline hostess named Susan Stallings was sent to visit Senator Kennedy. He did not know just when this occurred and declined to identify his informant. Hegeman advised that he was considerably disturbed at receiving all of this information as he would hate to see a pawn of the hoodlum element such as Sinatra have access to the White House.

An editorial appearing in the March 23, 1960 edition of the Los Angeles Herald and Express severely criticized Sinatra for hiring Albert Maltz and, among other things, pointed out "the impact of Mr. Sinatra's move may also cause dismay in the campaign camp of Senator John F. Kennedy, through no fault of his own. Mr. Sinatra has put himself forward as a strong Kennedy supporter and the Sinatra recording of 'High Hopes' is the Kennedy campaign song."