

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 07-15-2008 BY 60324 UC BAW/RS/WCF

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : ADIC, LOS ANGELES (66-1700)

SUBJECT: LLOYD SHEARER, Editor
"Parade" Magazine;
NORMAN MAILER
INFORMATION CONCERNING

DATE: 7/6/73

Mr. WILLIAM G. SIMON, former SAC, called the office 7/5/73, with the following information.

Mr. SIMON stated that he had a call from LLOYD SHEARER, editor of "Parade" Magazine. SHEARER wanted to know if SIMON was, in fact, SAC of the Los Angeles Office in 1962. SIMON told him he was. SHEARER then stated that NORMAN MAILER has written a book on the life of MARILYN MONROE which is going to carry a price list of \$20.00 per copy and hopefully, be on the Book-of-The-Month within a few months. There is an allegation in the book to the effect that in 1962, FBI Agents in Los Angeles went to the telephone company in Santa Monica, California, and removed a "paper tape" of MARILYN's calls, some of which were presumably calls to the White House or White House Staff on the night of her death. Mr. SHEARER said there was some further suggestion that the FBI was either providing her some protection or providing the White House Staff with some protection.

SHEARER asked Mr. SIMON if he knew anything about this and Mr. SIMON told SHEARER that he had absolutely no recollection of any such events. SHEARER asked if he, SIMON, should not have known about this if he was Agent in Charge and SIMON reiterated that he should have known about such activity but that he had no recollection of any such events.

Mr. SIMON stated that SHEARER did not press the issue further and he does not know how far SHEARER intends to carry his inquiry but he wanted this office and the Bureau to know of SHEARER's inquiry and of this reference to the FBI in the forthcoming book if it had not already been brought to the Bureau's attention.

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② - Bureau
③ - Los Angeles
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Mr. SIMON stated that he was being very truthful with SHEARER and he did not have any recollection of any such events or any such allegations occurring in 1962 or associated with MARILYN MONROE's death.

A number of individuals in the Los Angeles Office recall hearing stories and gossip outside the Bureau at the time of MARILYN MONROE's death to the effect that she had made some calls to BOBBY KENNEDY shortly before her death, but that discreet inquiry in this office and a review of our indices revealed no confirming facts and certainly no indication of any Bureau involvement as alleged by MAILER.

In view of MAILER's alleged allegation concerning the FBI, the Bureau may desire to explore what avenues might possibly be utilized which would result in the allegation being removed from MAILER's book.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. Herington (Press Office)
- 1 - Mr. T. J. Smith
- DATE: 7/23/73
- 1 - Mr. Sizoo

TO : Mr. E. S. Miller

FROM : T. J. Smith *TJS*

SUBJECT: NORMAN MAILER
INFORMATION CONCERNING

- Assoc. Dir.
- Asst. Dir.:
 - Admin.
 - Comp. Syst.
 - Files & Com.
 - Gen. Inv.
 - Ident.
 - Inspection
 - Intell.
 - Laboratory
 - Plan. & Eval.
 - Spec. Inv.
 - Training
 - Legal Coun.
 - Cong. Serv.
 - Corr. & Com.
 - Research
 - Press. Off.
 - Telephone Rm.
 - Director's Sec'y

To advise of speculation concerning FBI complicity in the death of Marilyn Monroe propounded by author Norman Mailer in his soon-to-be-published biography of the deceased actress.

"Marilyn," a 270-page biography (New York; Grosset and Dunlap,) priced at \$19.95, is scheduled for publication on 8/1/73. It reportedly has a first American printing of 285,000 copies and is the August selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club.

Following Miss Monroe's death by drug overdose in 1962, there was a spate of rumors, originating on the West Coast, alleging she was having an affair with the then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, and that her death was in some way related to this and/or was the result of a plot revolving around some of her associates who allegedly had past Communist Party affiliations or sympathies. These rumors were embellished upon at that time in various sensational-type gossip magazines and in a short book published in July, 1964, entitled "The Strange Death of Marilyn Monroe" by Frank A. Capell. These allegations were branded false and no factual support existed for them.

Mailer, in his new book, has repeated some of these same rumors and has given them a bizarre twist.

As to whether Miss Monroe took her own life, Mailer answers "possibly" - and then suggests other possibilities. One of these is the suggestion that the FBI, CIA or the Mafia found it of interest that Robert Kennedy, brother of the President John Kennedy, was reputed to be having an affair with the movie star. Mailer suggests that "right-wing" FBI and CIA Agents had a "huge motivation" to murder Marilyn Monroe in order to embarrass the Kennedy family,

- 1 - 100-370923 (Norman Mailer) *TJS*
- 1 - 105-40018 (Marilyn Monroe)

17 JUL 27 1973

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T. Smith

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Memorandum to Mr. E. S. Miller
Re: Norman Mailer

claiming the FBI and CIA were furious with the Kennedys because following the Bay of Pigs invasion President Kennedy was moving to limit the power of these agencies.

Mailer has admitted in recent press interviews concerning his book that he has no evidence to support his theory and that it is based on his "writer's instinct" and on speculation.

A second allegation purportedly contained in the book was recently brought to the attention of the Los Angeles Office by Lloyd Shearer, editor of Parade Magazine. This allegation is that in 1962 FBI Agents in Los Angeles went to the telephone company in Santa Monica, California, and removed a "paper tape" of Marilyn Monroe's telephone calls, some of which according to Mailer, were presumably to the White House or White House staff on the night of her death.

This is false and neither the files of the Los Angeles Office nor FBI Headquarters indicate the existence of any such tapes. This again appears to be a variation of a spurious charge contained in Capell's 1964 book in which he alleged that such tapes were in the custody of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Norman Mailer is an eccentric but well-known author, who in the past has won a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Award. He is the author of "The Naked and the Dead," "The Deer Park," "An American Dream," "Cannibals and Christians," "The Armies of the Night," and "Miami and the Siege of Chicago."

He admits to little or no research concerning his speculation about Marilyn Monroe's death. He states his motive in writing the book is his dire need for money. He admits having no evidence to support his theory of FBI or CIA involvement and uses it to sensationalize his book and to gain publicity. Mailer has even coined a new word which describes some of his speculative writing in "Marilyn." The "factoid" he defines as "an event which has no existence other than it has appeared in print."

Memorandum to Mr. E. S. Miller
Re: Norman Mailer

A review in Time Magazine on 7/16/73, a Mike Wallace television interview, a 7/22/73 New York Times book review by Pauline Kael, and a Washington Post article dated 7/20/73 by Stephen Isaacs, are all critical of Mailer for his unsubstantiated theorizing and for engaging in "yellow" journalism.

ACTION:

For information only. No action is recommended regarding Mailer's allegations. Any public statements by the FBI would merely serve to feed the fires of publicity which Mailer is attempting to stoke.

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