

New light on Transatlantic assassins: Lucianne Goldberg and Murder, Inc.

by Anton Chaitkin

Lucianne Goldberg told Linda Tripp, a military intelligence spook and George Bush political operative, that she should wiretap Monica Lewinsky; Goldberg then busied herself with arrangements for the resulting sex scandal, to be used in the inquisition against President Bill Clinton. Twenty-five years earlier, the same Lucianne Goldberg carried out a startlingly similar dirty trick, in the campaign that ended up destroying President Richard Nixon.

How did a New York “literary agent” get into the business of political intrigue at this level? An *EIR* probe has now brought to light the London-controlled apparatus, procurers of Presidential assassination and Mafia blackmail, which has shaped Lucianne Goldberg’s career.

In 1972, when a gangland lawyer paid her to spy on Democratic Presidential candidate George McGovern, Lucianne Goldberg was already employed by a syndicate front for British spies and organized crime, the North American Newspaper Alliance (NANA). Her husband, Sidney Goldberg, was the longtime chief executive of that syndicate.

NANA’s role in the murder of President John F. Kennedy is now under our intensive investigation.

Lucianne Cummings (née Lucianne Steinberger), reputedly a “blonde bombshell” who slept with politicians and media men in pursuit of useful gossip and leverage, entered a rarefied world of global intelligence warfare when she married Sidney Goldberg in 1966.

The history of the Goldbergs’ mob/spy front group pivots around three individuals:

- British secret service agent **Ernest Cuneo** (1905-88), the chief American manager for media subversion and political operations of Sir William Stephenson (“Intrepid”) within the United States. Cuneo hired Sid Goldberg into the NANA syndicate in 1957.

- Intelligence community “black propaganda” operator and tabloid pioneer **Generoso Pope, Jr.** (1927-88), whose father had helped Cuneo coordinate the Mafia with British global strategy. Cuneo gave Pope control over Sid Goldberg’s NANA syndicate in 1962.

- Mob boss **Frank Costello** (1891-1973), partner of “Murder Inc.” chief Meyer Lansky; protégé of the British and the Anglophile faction of U.S. intelligence. Costello bankrolled the Pope family media empire.

Thunderball, in real life

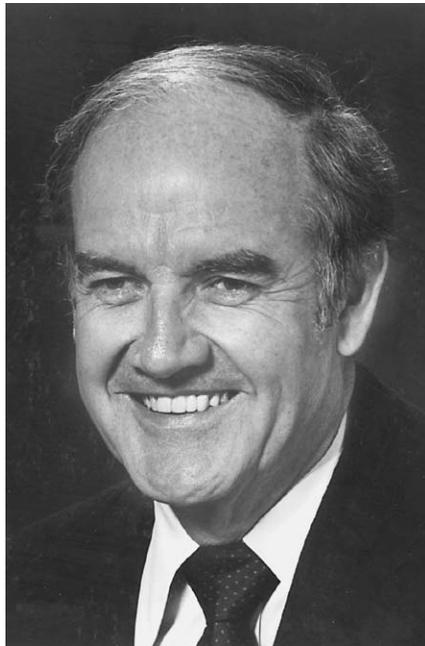
In the voluminous Ernest Cuneo papers, at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, New York, there is to be found only a small fragment of the correspondence between Lucianne Goldberg’s husband and the veteran British agent who brought him into the big time; the last letter in the file is from 1983. Well known in the spy world, Cuneo, code-name “Crusader,” was the main World War II liaison between British Security Coordination (BSC), headed by Sir William Stephenson, and American agencies including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Strategic Services.

The U.S. government designated Cuneo the official liaison to Stephenson’s spy group. But the American native Cuneo, a lawyer ambitious to rise in the lucrative power-politics associated with the Wall Street Anglophile brothers Allen and John Foster Dulles, reportedly did sufficient favors for the British Empire so as to prove himself a British loyalist, and came to represent the Crown secret services. He married BSC staff member Margaret Watson. Cuneo wrote that the “BSC . . . especially in the U.S., ran espionage agents, tampered with the mails, tapped telephone[s], smuggled propaganda into the country, disrupted public gatherings, covertly subsidized newspapers . . . perpetrated forgeries . . . and possibly murdered one or more persons in this country.”¹

Cuneo consciously betrayed his country in favor of British objectives. In an autobiographical letter to Sid Goldberg,² Cuneo explicitly described his own work “negotiating with the Italians-in-Exile headed by Count Sforza,” and his role in President Franklin Roosevelt’s conflict with Winston Churchill over the U.S. post-war aim to “liquidate the European Empires.” Yet after FDR’s death, the Stephenson-Cuneo and American Anglophile apparatus succeeded in restoring the British-sponsored Mafia to criminal life in Sicily and America, and helped engineer the subversion of U.S. strategic and security policy so that the empires were never “liquidated.”

1. Ernest Cuneo Papers, box 107, CIA file, quoted in Thomas E. Mahl, *Desperate Deception: British Covert Operations in the United States, 1939-44* (Dulles, Virginia: Brassey’s, Inc., 1998), p. 16.

2. Undated letter, addressed “Dear Sid,” Sidney Goldberg file, Ernest Cuneo Papers.



Lucianne Goldberg's gang, procurers of Presidential assassination and Mafia blackmail, targeted President John Kennedy (left), and both George McGovern (center) and his opponent, President Richard Nixon.

Cuneo's close friend, British Special Operations Executive spy Ian Fleming, credited Cuneo with having originated the plot-line for *Thunderball* and other James Bond stories.

Cuneo's intermediary role between the British, FBI boss J. Edgar Hoover (his devoted fan), and international organized crime, ran parallel to the criminal operations of Montreal-based Col. Louis M. Bloomfield. As we shall see, Cuneo's Cuban and other initiatives overlapped with Bloomfield's Permindex organization, the central focus of New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's prosecution of President Kennedy's assassins.

To continue his wartime operations, Cuneo in 1952 bought the North American Newspaper Alliance (a news syndicate which had been formed in 1922 by the pro-British San Francisco "blueblood" publisher Loring Pickering). Cuneo's idea for NANA may be understood from his boast to Stephenson, that during the war, "I controlled the world's largest newspaper and radio circulation, centering on Walter Winchell and his near 1,000 papers and . . . Drew Pearson's [syndicated column] Washington Merry-Go-Round."³ Cuneo brought his British propaganda-channeler Pearson into the NANA organization.

The Pope family and 'Uncle Frank'

NANA president Cuneo hired Sidney Goldberg, then age 26, as assistant editor in 1957. To follow the careers of Sid

3. Cuneo Papers, box 107, Crusader to Intrepid file, quoted in *Desperate Deception*, op. cit., p. 49.

and Lucianne Goldberg, we must become familiar with the gangster financial and political power backing the syndicate.

Britain's "Crusader," Cuneo, was retained on the payroll of Generoso Pope, Sr. during and after World War II.⁴ Pope owned the Colonial Sand & Stone Company, which maintained a racketeer-protected monopoly on the delivery of sand and cement to New York City.

Pope reportedly controlled the Italian-American Democratic Party clubs in New York, but he was most widely known as the publisher of the leading Italian-American newspaper, *Il Progresso*, through whose pages he supported the cause of Benito Mussolini.

When the British made their tactical switch in the late 1930s, withdrawing their previous support for Mussolini—Winston Churchill's former darling—Pope was subjected to a nasty embarrassment. In a private meeting in Italy, Mussolini asked Pope to counter the rumors that he was anti-Semitic. Back in New York, Pope dutifully relayed this message to his numerous Jewish contacts (including the Warburg-Sulzberger circles of the B'nai B'rith and American Jewish Committee, who had previously adhered to the British line of protecting the Hitler and Mussolini regimes from foreign opposition). But shortly after his meeting with Pope, Mussolini, having lost his British sponsorship, turned to Adolf Hitler as an ally and, accordingly, put anti-Jewish laws into effect

4. Sept. 10, 1943, *Il Progresso* letterhead, engaging Cuneo as Pope's attorney; regular memos with payments, to Dec. 1, 1950; Cuneo Papers, Generoso Pope file.

in Italy. In later years, Pope's coordination with Cuneo got him lionized by columnist Drew Pearson, who described Pope as the leading anti-Fascist publisher!

Pope's main "muscle" in all these arrangements came from his intimate alliance with New York mob leader Frank Costello. Cuneo and his allies used the political-criminal axis of Pope and Costello for global covert operations throughout the 1940s.

The Sicilian immigrant Costello (born Francesco Castiglia) rose in the nationwide American organized "Crime Commission," in partnership with Meyer Lansky. Costello, Lansky, and Benjamin ("Bugsy") Siegel combined their criminal money and murder forces to create the Sodom and Gomorrhah casino city of Las Vegas, Nevada. Lansky and Costello, working as partners, also set up the casino operations in pre-Castro Cuba.

From the late 1930s, gangster leader Charles ("Lucky") Luciano languished in a New York state prison; Luciano served as a political hostage for the Dulles brothers and their stooge, New York Gov. Thomas Dewey, who otherwise protected the Lansky-allied mob. During World War II, Lansky and Costello mediated between the imprisoned Luciano and the Cuneo-Pope apparatus, for strategic games amongst Mafia-linked U.S. waterfront workers and inside Italy. In 1946, after Mussolini's overthrow (and with Franklin Roosevelt dead), Costello led the successful effort to free Luciano.

"Lucky" was brought to Italy and served as a rallying point for the covert British apparatus in reintroducing Mafia control over Sicily, with the subsequent flourishing of global heroin trafficking.

Governor Dewey commuted Luciano's sentence in January 1946. Years later, reliable sources still tell a story about Murray Chotiner, the gangster lawyer and Nixon adviser who, in 1972, would secretly pay Lucianne Goldberg to spy: Chotiner was asked why he represented so many of Lansky and Siegel's murderous mobsters. Chotiner said, "It's legitimate—Governor Dewey referred them all to me."

Frank Costello, crime boss of New York City, was devoted to Generoso Pope, whose three sons, Generoso, Jr., Fortune, and Anthony, referred to him as "Uncle Frank." Costello was known as the godfather of Generoso, Jr., who assumed the family leadership when his father died in 1950.⁵

The activities of the wartime trio of Cuneo, Pope Sr., and Costello were carried over with Generoso, Jr.'s efforts to create the environment for the spook operations of Sidney and Lucianne Goldberg.

In 1951, following his father's death, Generoso, Jr. left his employment as an officer of the Central Intelligence Agency, where he had served in the Psychological Warfare section. He officially notified Cuneo that he was being kept on the

5. John Kobler, *Capone: The Life and World of Al Capone* (New York: Da Capo Press, 1992), pp. 22-23.

Pope family payroll.⁶

New York Post crime writer Leonard Katz, in his definitive biography of Frank Costello, shows that the gangster boss took his godson, Generoso, Jr., under his wing, gave him political protection, and financed his media operations. Costello dined with Pope and his staff members twice every week; this routine was only interrupted when Costello was imprisoned, and resumed in the 1960s after his release.⁷

In 1952, Cuneo bought the North American Newspaper Alliance, and Generoso Pope, Jr., meanwhile, bought the *New York Enquirer*. With thousands of dollars delivered in cash each week from Costello to Pope, the godson converted the failed rag of a newspaper into the *National Enquirer*. Cuneo's NANA and Pope's new tabloid, with its pornographic gossip, shared the intelligence community base of the Cuneo-Pope alliance.

Pope would later bring over the London sewer media expert, Iain Calder, as editor, to forge Pope's *National Enquirer* into America's premier British-modelled tabloid. With 5 or 6 million readers, it has become the third-largest circulation American publication, after *Reader's Digest* and *Parade* magazine.

In the tradition of the criminal oligarchy of Venice and their British monarchy imitators, the *National Enquirer* serves two political purposes: the degradation of the American public with sex gossip, as part of the calculated British assault against the progress-oriented U.S. culture; and, the hiring of operatives—of the type that Lucianne Goldberg became—to spy on celebrities and politicians, for blackmail and possible murder operations.

NANA and the Kennedy assassination

We may now review the employment record of Sidney and Lucianne Goldberg, seeing them through the years in which their syndicate targetted the Kennedys, and into the Watergate and Clintongate affairs.

In 1957, the year NANA hired Sid Goldberg, "Uncle Frank" Costello was shot and wounded by a gangster adversary. The Katz biography carries a photograph of Costello emerging from the hospital with bloody clothes, next to a photograph of Pope's columnist John Miller,⁸ who had just had dinner with Costello and Pope. A Costello sidekick telephoned Pope immediately to have him handle Costello's wife and the hospitalization.

Cuneo made Sid Goldberg NANA's news editor in 1958. During 1959, NANA employed Priscilla Johnson McMillan—who was otherwise a State Department and CIA opera-

6. May 18, 1951, Generoso Pope, Jr. to Cuneo, Cuneo Papers.

7. Leonard Katz, *Uncle Frank* (New York: W.H. Allen, 1974).

8. In later years, Yugoslav's Marshal Josip Broz Tito asked Pope tabloid employee John Miller, to ask Costello to organize casinos all over Yugoslavia. Costello turned down the offer, unsuccessfully recommending Meyer Lansky for the job. *Uncle Frank*, *ibid.*, pp. 253-254.

tive — when she went to Moscow and interviewed the apparent U.S.-Soviet double agent, Lee Harvey Oswald.

Sid Goldberg became the syndicate's overall editor in 1960. In that year, NANA's writer Victor Lasky issued a nasty political book attacking Presidential aspirant John F. Kennedy.⁹ "Uncle Frank" Costello was released from prison, and resumed his direct sponsorship of Pope and Cuneo.

In 1961, John Kennedy became President. A rag-tag anti-Castro invasion of Cuba by Allen Dulles's CIA became a terrible fiasco, and Kennedy fired Dulles. Recruiting enraged Cuban exiles, Cuneo and his allies formed the anti-Kennedy "Free Cuba Committee."

In 1962, NANA was officially acquired by Fortune Pope, Generoso Jr.'s brother, in partnership with Cuneo's and Costello's friend, Drew Pearson. Generoso, Jr. remained the boss of the family's enterprises; and Cuneo remained active with the syndicate.

At this time, the overlap between the Cuneo-Pope operations, and those of the British intelligence Canada-Italy-Switzerland group, Permindex, was at its height. Roy M. Cohn, the New York organized crime lawyer and pervert, figured in both scenes. In his *Autobiography*, Cohn described his having grown up on the most intimate terms with Generoso Pope, Sr. and Jr., and related how he acquired for the Popes their control over New York radio station WHOM.¹⁰ Cohn and Generoso Jr. were both involved in the direction of the Lionel Corporation (toy-train makers) as an instrument in Permindex's operations. And every single story put out by Pope's *National Enquirer* was said to be checked word for word by the firm of Edward Bennett Williams,¹¹ the longtime personal attorney for Costello, and lawyer for the Lansky mob's Caribbean operations during the 1960s.

Early in 1963, Generoso Jr.'s brothers, Fortune (Sid Goldberg's official boss) and Anthony, were convicted of violating Federal securities laws in criminally diverting funds from the family cement business, and filing misleading reports to conceal the diversion; each was fined \$25,000 and given suspended sentences. The three brothers' tax-free "Generoso Pope Foundation" — still operating as a secretive vehicle today — was listed as owning 49% of Colonial Sand & Stone.¹²

In 1963, not long before John Kennedy's murder, NANA writer Lasky put out another, more vicious sex-gossip book against the President, *John Kennedy: The Man and the Myth*.

Kennedy was shot on Nov. 22, 1963. That evening, the confused Lee Harvey Oswald was brought into a Dallas police station. When police asked Oswald if he was a member of the Free Cuba Committee, the spook outfit of which Cuneo was

9. Victor Lasky, *John F. Kennedy, What's Behind the Image?* (Washington: Free World Press, 1960).

10. Roy M. Cohn, *Autobiography* (Secaucus, N.J.: Lyle Stuart, 1988).

11. Interview in 1996 of Iain Calder with Elaine Zeide for the *Yale Journal of Ethics*, in www.yale.edu/yje/calder.html.

12. *Wall Street Journal*, April 8, 1963.

a director, mob operative Jack Ruby, standing there at the station, shouted out, blocking Oswald's reply, that it was the "Fair Play for Cuba Committee," not the "Free Cuba Committee." Oswald was then asked if he had shot Kennedy. After he denied it, he was charged with the crime. Ruby later murdered Oswald, preventing a trial for the alleged JFK assassin.

In 1964, Sidney Goldberg became the overall general manager of the Pope-Cuneo syndicate, NANA, and of its subsidiary, the Women's News Service.

In 1966, Lucianne Cummings married Sid Goldberg.

Lucianne: From Watergate to Clintongate

In 1972, as Richard Nixon campaigned for re-election, Sid Goldberg became president of the mob-spy front, NANA. A "plumber's unit" had been started up by Nixon's National Security Adviser, Henry Kissinger, supposedly to "plug leaks" from within the administration. Members of that unit — supplied with cash from the Texas Republican Party political machine run by then-UN Ambassador George Bush, and laundered through Mexico — were caught by police in a clumsy burglary at the Democratic campaign headquarters in the Watergate hotel and office complex. The burglars were officially working for the Committee to Re-Elect the President (CREEP). The scandal, directed by the media entirely against Nixon, would later force him to resign from the Presidency.¹³

Meanwhile, Pearson's column-writing partner, Jack Anderson, was the subject of a Jan. 17, 1972 memo to the chief of the CIA's Security Research Staff, Gen. Paul Gaynor, which warned of a supposedly dangerous Mafia conspiracy involving NANA, masterminded by Generoso Pope, Jr., publisher of "a pornographic sheet called *National Enquirer*." The CIA memo described the Pope syndicate's ties to the Lansky mob and to the "Zionist lobby."¹⁴

It was during the 1972 campaign, that mob lawyer and

13. According to the boast of *National Enquirer* editor Calder (in the 1996 interview, see footnote 11), the biggest coup the tabloid ever pulled off was the 1987 payment of "less than \$100,000" for a picture of Sen. Gary Hart in the company of model Donna Rice; this was used to end Hart's Presidential ambitions and career. Why target Hart? As a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Hart wanted to investigate and expose the relationship between the mob and the intelligence community. In 1976, during the Senate confirmation hearings on George Bush's nomination as CIA director, Hart had brought up, on the record, what had been the subject of Nixon's "smoking gun" tape, the notorious contribution from the George Bush, Hugh Liedtke, Bob Mosbacher, Pennzoil apparatus, to CREEP, the money that had been found in the pockets of Bernard Barker and the Plumbers after the Watergate break-in. Bush nearly blew a fuse, but though Hart and a few others voted against Bush's confirmation, Bush went on to head up the CIA. See Webster Tarpley and Anton Chaitkin, *George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography* (Washington, D.C.: EIR, 1992), especially chapter 12, and pp. 297-300. Then, during the 1980s, Hart vowed that if he were elected President he would reopen the Kennedy assassination case and the role of organized crime in the JFK killing.

14. CIA memorandum "Subject: Jackson Northman Anderson," cited in Jim Hougan, *Secret Agenda: Watergate, Deep Throat and the CIA* (New York: Random House, 1984), pp. 87-88.

Nixon adviser Murray Chotiner was in the market for a spy against the McGovern Democratic Presidential campaign. Chotiner needed to replace his former agent in that work, CIA contract-“journalist” Seymour K. Friedin (who went on to become the Hearst papers’ London bureau chief.)

NANA syndicate writer Lasky, author of the books attacking John Kennedy, told Chotiner he should hire Lucianne Goldberg, wife of Lasky’s very close friend Sid.

Chotiner paid Lucianne Goldberg \$1,000 a week plus expenses, issuing checks from his own law firm totalling \$19,932.35. Chotiner recouped the money from the CREEP on vouchers in his own name, submitted for “survey expenses.” Chotiner’s death in a January 1974 head-on collision stopped Watergate prosecutors from charging him with violating election finance law through criminally intentional misreporting.

Lucianne Goldberg, officially a “journalist” representing the NANA subsidiary Women’s News Service, travelled on Democratic campaign airplanes, and spied on the Democratic candidate and his staff. Mrs. Goldberg phoned in reports to Chotiner’s office, where they were typed and forwarded to the White House. Several of her lewd reports eventually got on file in the U.S. National Archives, following the Watergate scandal. Among the stories she sent for Nixon’s consumption was the report that Senator McGovern had been having an adulterous affair while on the campaign trail in New Hampshire, and that McGovern’s wife Eleanor had collapsed when informed of it. When McGovern and his wife learned of Goldberg’s caper, they laughingly denounced this as the most ridiculous of smears. Perhaps one could usefully ask, whether McGovern, or Nixon himself, had been the intended victim of this gossip.

Lucianne Goldberg today still travels with Sid to strategy sessions of the syndicate (Scripps-Howard), which has incorporated the now-defunct NANA.

In the intervening years, Lucianne Goldberg has emerged as a “literary agent.” Her projects have included her gang’s continuous offensive against the Kennedy family. The *National Enquirer* pummeled the three Kennedy brothers with attacks of wicked gossip, as had Lasky. Lucianne was the commercial agent for Leo Damore’s savage hit on Ted Kennedy, *Senatorial Privilege: The Chappaquiddick Cover-Up*. The Damore book was issued in 1988 by right-wing publisher Alfred Regnery.

In mid-1996, before Monica Lewinsky had been heard of, Lucianne Goldberg presented Regnery with a prospectus for an anti-Clinton book to be written by Linda Tripp; this project did not come to fruition. Goldberg is also the literary agent for Dolly Kyle Browning, a 49-year-old Dallas lawyer who claims to have had a two-decades-long affair with Bill Clinton. No publisher would swallow it; even Regnery rejected it as “far below our standards.” It was finally published by Browning’s third husband.

Regnery introduced Mrs. Goldberg to Mark Fuhrman,

and she became the literary agent for the Los Angeles police detective’s published diatribe against O.J. Simpson. But Regnery turned down Lucianne Goldberg’s proposal that Detective Fuhrman write a book on Bill Clinton’s alleged murder of Vincent Foster.

Mrs. Goldberg nearly closed a deal to become literary agent for her friend, British reporter and intelligence agent Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, the original instigator of the Whitewater inquisition against President Clinton.

On Oct. 21, 1998, this reporter interviewed Jeff Harshman, manager of Speed Service, Inc., the courier service which carried Monica Lewinsky’s love letters to the White House. Harshman confirmed that Mrs. Goldberg told Linda Tripp to use that courier service, from whom the receipts could be retained, “because Lucianne is familiar with the company.” Harshman is married to Lucianne Goldberg’s niece. Lucianne’s brother, John Steinberger, founded the company.

For Harshman, the Lewinsky caper was a labor of love against the hated U.S. President. Though his company is a relatively small one, Harshman, like his wife’s aunt Lucianne, lives in a rarefied world. When this reporter told him some stories about his British courier-client Ambrose Evans-Pritchard, Harshman responded jovially, “I will have to call Mr. Pritchard and set him straight on these things.”

**“Long before Paula Jones,
long before Monica Lewinsky,
there was a conscious decision, made in
London, that there would be a full-scale
campaign to destroy Bill Clinton,
and to destroy, once and for all,
the credibility of the office of the
Presidency of the United States.”**

—Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.



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