

Guide to
the Microfilm Edition
of the

**FBI File on
Joseph P. Kennedy**

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Introduction

Joseph Kennedy, the patriarch of America's most famous family, achieved success in both the political and business arenas. As a businessman, Kennedy was involved in banking, shipbuilding, motion picture distribution, and real estate. His political activities included a stint as ambassador to Great Britain in the harrowing years leading up to World War II.

This FBI file deals with aspects of Kennedy's life mainly in the 1940s and 1950s. It includes background checks as well as information concerning his close friendship with J. Edgar Hoover. This collection also contains snippets of information on Kennedy's sons John, Robert, and Ted, most notably the death threats made against Ted in 1968.

The documents reproduced here were drawn from the Washington files of the FBI and have been released under the Freedom of Information Act; certain documents or portion of documents have been deleted by the FBI pursuant to provisions of that legislation. The material has been filmed in the exact order and condition in which it was released, and every effort has been made to publish the most legible copies available.

This file is in approximate chronological order, and the FBI did not index documents. The Roll Notes is not a complete inventory of the file; however, it gives an indication of the types of materials or specific documents that may be particularly worthwhile for research.

Roll Notes

FBI File: 9-41998

Roll 1, 0007-0014

Mar 1964

Investigation of threatening letter sent to Joseph P. Kennedy

FBI File: 9-48276

Jul-Sep 1968

Roll 1, 0015-0177

Investigation of threatening letter sent to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy

Investigation of threatening letters sent to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and Adlai Stevenson

Investigation of threatening letters sent to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Ethel Kennedy, and Adlai Stevenson

FBI File: 77-70555

Feb 1956-Jan 1966

Roll 1, 0178-0271

Investigation of Joseph P. Kennedy as possible presidential appointee

Family and background information

Interviews with personal associates of Joseph P. Kennedy

Credit and criminal record background check

Report of prostate surgery (Sep 1956)

Report of security check made of hotel suite at Ambassador East Hotel, Chicago (Dec 1961)

Report of heart surgery (Jan 1966)

FBI File: 94-37808

Apr 1942-Nov 1969

Roll 1, 0272-0402

Special Service Contact National Defense Matters

News article:

The Washington Post (Apr 1942)

“Isolationist Kennedy Opposed As Chief of Shipping Program”

Post-World War II, Kennedy considered as a Special Service Contact for the bureau

Wedding invitation of Eunice Kennedy to Robert Sargent Shriver, addressed to J. Edgar Hoover

Report of Joseph P. Kennedy as a "vocal" admirer of
J. Edgar Hoover and the work of the FBI

Background check of bureau files reveals the allegation
that Inga Arvad (subject of Internal Security) had an
affair with John F. Kennedy (son of the Ambassador)
during 1942; also, James Roosevelt (son of the
president) secured liquor rights which were transferred
to Joseph P. Kennedy

Report of threat against Joseph P. Kennedy and children
of Robert F. Kennedy (Aug 1958)

News articles:

Los Angeles Examiner (Mar 1961)

"Insiders Tell Ike, Jack Admiration"

Westbrook Pegler article (Nov 1960)

"The Strange Case of Tyler Kent"

Investigation of threatening letter against J. Edgar Hoover,
President Lyndon Johnson, and Joseph P. Kennedy

News article:

The Washington Post (Sep 1965)

"Joseph P. Kennedy III, Hospitalized in Boston"

Hoover's condolences concerning the passing of Robert
F. Kennedy

Hoover's condolences concerning the passing of Joseph
P. Kennedy

FBI File: 105-97788

Sep 1961-May 1967

Roll 1, 0403-0428

Investigation of threatening letter to Joseph P. Kennedy
(Sep 1961)

Westbrook Pegler article:

"Kennedy Clan's Elder Statesman"

FBI File: Cross References

Roll 1, 0430-END

News articles:

Daily Worker (May 1937)

“New Seaman’s Union Step for Labor Unity”

Washington Star (May 1937)

“A Cure for Shipping Ills”

New York Herald-Tribune (Jan 1938)

“Kennedy Hits Labor ‘Chaos’ On U.S. Ships”

News articles:

The New York Times (Feb 1938)

“Kennedy Demands Sea Strike Curb; Scores Secretary”

Excerpt from the Hearings before the Special Committee
to Investigate Organized Crime in Interstate Commerce,
U.S. Senate (Feb 1951)

Investigation of Margaret Hamill claiming to be the
illegitimate daughter of Joseph Kennedy, Jr.
(Oct 1964)

Article:

Tyler Kent: The Most Sensational Story of the Century

News article:

Manchester Union Leader

“Sue Kennedys for \$12M”

Background information on Joseph P. Kennedy

News articles:

New York Daily Mirror (Sep 1940)

“Appeasement Rears Its Head Again”

In Fact (Jan 1941)

“The Truth About England! Kennedy’s Report
to President Roosevelt”

Daily Worker (Mar 1946)

“British Loan ‘Bar to Communism,’ Kennedy Says”

Pamphlet:

“Alarm: World War III in the Making!”

Minutes of the National Maritime Union Convention
(Jul 1937)

Letters addressed to President Roosevelt in protest of
appointing Joseph P. Kennedy as shipping czar

News article:

Washington Evening Star (Aug 1946)

“President May Name Gardner as Head of Domestic
Atom Board”

Report from the Commission on Organization of the
Executive Branch (Sep 1953)