

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A-10

CHICAGO TRIBUNE  
12 AUGUST 1982

## The Marilyn Monroe 'mystery'

Maybe the Los Angeles county supervisors will prove justified in reopening the case of Marilyn Monroe's death 20 years ago in order to investigate sinister rumors of murder. But one can't help suspecting that they have been seduced by the temptation to be participants in a front-page mystery story.

Agatha Christie and Conan Doyle thought up their own plots; other mystery writers find it easier to borrow enough from real life to get public attention and then attach their own intriguing versions of what really happened. If Shakespeare could persuade the world that Julius Caesar's last words were "Et tu, Brute," why shouldn't other writers hope to win fame and riches by embellishing the prevailing accounts of the death of people like Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy, and now Marilyn Monroe?

The disappearance of Miss Monroe's red diary from the coroner's office shortly after her death is

being used to support a private investigator's theory that she did not die of an overdose of pills but was murdered by the CIA in order to protect certain secrets. What's more, the theory goes, the secrets were told her by the late Robert F. Kennedy, who was later murdered himself, and involved a plot on the life of Fidel Castro. (If prominent names attract attention, why skimp? And it's only a step farther to tie in with the shopworn theory that Castro had a hand in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.)

We shall await the results of this new investigation, but not with bated breath. After all, some shoddy evidence in a pornography case disappeared from the files of the U.S. Supreme Court recently and nobody suggested sinister motives. There is far less reason to look for sinister motives in the disappearance of Marilyn Monroe's diary from a local office. The obvious motives should be adequate.