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DIANA HEARS

CLOUD OVER THE O.P....
Meanwhile, Random House is braced to unleash Jim Hougan's lollapalooza book "Secret Agenda: Watergate, Deep Throat and the CIA" in May. The only hint the publishers will drop of its content: That the poor old Wash Post was "manipulated by the CIA" in the whole Watergate story. This has old Watergate-Watchers twitchy with anticipation. Says one. "The Deep Throat segment was one reason the Post pushed to get Deborah Davis' book 'Katherine The Great' shredded." Come, darlings. Why do you think Random House just hired a Postie, Bob Woodward's former great chum Peter Osnos, as an editor? Watch that space very closely indeed, please. Report back here.

... And such a throng poised to skip aboard Jack Kent Cooke's hired plane to Tampa for the Redskins game: The Austin Kiplingers, Ted Koppels, Larry Kings, Paul Laxalts, not to mention Watergate Judge John Sirica and former CIA honcho Richard Helms — Ear's glad to have given them something to chat about, see Item Two — and, most terribly important of all, Jack Kent Cooke's brand-new Grand Amour, Swedish countess Annette Bonde. She used to date Randy Rouse in the dear old days, darlings. Hunt Country folks like it better when they know they know who's known whom. What a very weeny world it is, when you brood about it. Let's meet right here at the fence again tomorrow.

EXCERPTED