

Kennedy, John
SOC 4.01.4 Executive
Action

VARIETY
June 6, 1973
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Hush-Filming On Kennedy Killing

P-Lewis, Edward

Hollywood, June 5.

Under a rare cloak of secrecy—purportedly due to possible FBI and CIA interference—production is underway on a film that will allege a conspiracy in President John F. Kennedy's death. Pic will be distributed by National General at the end of 1973.

Called "Executive Action," and presenting Robert Ryan, Burt Lancaster and Will Geer, film has two-to-four weeks of shooting remaining, but has been kept under an exceptional hush by National General and producer Edward Lewis, who has set up offices at 20th-Fox.

Lewis has refused this paper's calls. Film pressagent Steve Jaffe, in response to request for film info, said he's "not allowing anyone to know anything about the script. No one knows about the film and its contents."

He attributed this to the film being "intensely controversial in nature" and that the producer "doesn't want any attention to the product." He said his job at present is to withhold, not disseminate, information.

He said, "We have heard from different people that there has been concern by the CIA," but denied any such direct knowledge. A National General spokesman confirmed the fact that the film is currently shooting on location throughout Los Angeles. He said it is "a closed set—closed in terms of press information."

Screenplay was written by Dalton Trumbo, based on a story by Donald Freed. Asked the reason for the secrecy involved in the shooting, the spokesman said there are "things we want to hold back."

It was learned that part of the cast of "Executive Action" includes a double for John Kennedy and one for the wife of Gov. John Connally of Texas.