

1-7-80

Typed: 1/31/80
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129-11

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6 FEB 1980

Mr. Richard E. Sprague



7c

Dear Mr. Sprague:

This is in response to your letter to the Attorney General of January 7, 1980. In my capacity as Special Counsel to the Attorney General, I am responsible for all aspects of the Department of Justice review of the Report of the Select Committee on Assassinations of the House of Representatives.

Your offer of assistance in this matter is appreciated. If you intend to be in the Washington, D.C., area in the near future, I would welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss your knowledge of the photographic and acoustical evidence in the John F. Kennedy assassination investigation. The Criminal Division attorneys and Federal Bureau of Investigation special agents who are responsible for the review of the portion of the House Report relating to the J.F.K. assassination could also attend such a meeting.

If you do not intend to be in the Washington, D.C. area, I am prepared to have the Criminal Division attorneys who are assigned to this matter meet with you in Hartsdale, if you feel that such a meeting would be helpful.

Please contact Mr. Roger Cabbage or Mr. Jeffrey Fogel (at (202) 724-6893 or 724-7526 respectively) by collect call to schedule a meeting for a time and location convenient to you. It would also be appreciated if you would summarize the nature of the evidence which you feel has been neglected in the House

Records ✓
Gen. Litigation
Cabbage (1)
Fogel (2)
Rauch

JF
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SP
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Committee Report at that time. Since those materials which are in the custody of the Archives will not be available at our meeting, I would like to know whether a representative of the FBI Laboratory, who can later examine relevant evidence from the Archives, should also be available to discuss with you any technical considerations involved in the review of the photographic and acoustical evidence.

Your cooperation in this matter of mutual concern is appreciated.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. KEUCH
Special Counsel to the
Attorney General

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date 1/21

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)	Initials	Date
1. Mr. Gubbarts		
2. Mr. Fogel		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

REMARKS

I'm inclined to believe we have to interview him. What do you think - Bureau also? etc. Let's discuss.

RLC.

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)	Room No.—Bldg.
	Phone No.

5041-102

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)
Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206

[Redacted]

7c

January 7, 1980

The Honorable Benjamin R. Civiletti
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
Constitution Avenue
Washington, DC

RECEIVED
JAN 11 1980
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Dear Sir:

I served as a consultant to the House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations. A copy of my contract is enclosed. I would like an opportunity to meet with you personally to discuss information I supplied to the Committee concerning the analysis of the acoustical and photographic evidence of the assassination of President Kennedy. My specialty for the committee was in the area of the photographic evidence.

A few days before the committee's final hearings on the acoustical evidence, which eventually led them to a conclusion of conspiracy, I called to their attention some important photographic evidence. This evidence proves that the acoustical analysis by the committee's outside consultants at Bolt Baranek and Newman, and by Professors Ashkenasy and Weiss is faulty.

I called this faulty analysis to the attention of the outside consultants, the committee's staff, and the committee's members, both before the last hearings and during the hearings, as well as during the period when the staff was working on the final report. All of them ignored this evidence and you will find no mention of it in the final report or in volume VI of the appendix to the report covering the photographic evidence.

File

I am requesting a personal interview to explain my beliefs about why the committee and the staff chose to ignore this important evidence. Following such a meeting, I would then be available to show the evidence to members of your investigating team within the Department of Justice, at the FBI or whoever you designate. The presentation of the evidence and an explanation of why the acoustical evidence analysis was in error, is rather complex and would require both preparation and access to three particular films and sets of slides in the committee's archives. I supplied them with two of the three films and slide sets. I also personally discovered the third film.

I would appreciate hearing from you at an early date.

Yours sincerely,
Richard E. Sprague
Richard E. Sprague

CERTIFIED 274259
REGISTERED
INSURED

Enclosures Copy of Contract with HSCA

RECEIVED
JAN 11 1980
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1500

CONTRACT AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this 30th of June, 1977, by and between the Committee on Select Committee on Assassinations

of the U.S. House of Representatives, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, and Richard E. Sprague

hereinafter referred to as the Contractor, subject to the approval of this Agreement by the Committee on House Administration of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It is hereby agreed that the Committee under authority of House Resolution 465 approved April 28, 1977, 95th Congress, retain the Contractor to render the following services: Photographic acquisition, presentation, analysis, and development in connection with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

It is understood, however, that the Chairman of the Committee, reserves the right to terminate this Agreement at any time. In such cases, the payment shall be based upon work performed.

The Committee further agrees to pay the said Contractor for all such contractual services rendered, a sum not to exceed \$75.00/day plus, authorized traveling expenses. It is further agreed that payment for such contractual services may be paid on a partial basis from time to time and in such amounts as the Chairman of the Committee may approve.

The Contractor further agrees and warrants that it:

- 1. Has not employed any person to solicit or obtain this Agreement for any commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee;
2. Will save the Government harmless from liability in performance;
3. Will release no information obtained in carrying out the provisions of the Contract without prior consent of the contracting Committee;
4. Will not subcontract or assign elsewhere any of the work or service involved without prior consent of the contracting Committee; and
5. Will not discriminate in its performance of this Agreement because of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin and shall comply with all laws appertaining to the compensation for labor.

The Contractor further agrees and warrants that it will fully complete its services to the Committee hereunder not later than the 31 day of December, 1977, unless said date shall be extended by mutual agreement of the parties to this Agreement with the approval of the said Committee on House Administration.

No Member or Delegate to Congress, or Resident Commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part in this Contract or to any benefit that may arise therefrom.

Approved by the Committee on House Administration of the U.S. House of Representatives:

Committee on Select Committee on Assassinations

Chairman [Signature]

[Signature]

Ranking Minority Member

x Richard E. Sprague Contractor (Individual or Partnership)

Dated:

[Redacted Address] 7C (Address)

Contractor (Corporation)

[CORPORATE SEAL]

(Business Address)

By:

(Title)

(To be submitted in quintuplicate to the Committee on House Administration)

(See instructions on the reverse side.)

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

recommends rehabilitation and the Secretary of the Army accepts its finding, the American Legion plans to have the body taken to Montana and reburied with all military honors in the national cemetery at the site of Custer's Last Stand. There, at long last, Maj. Marcus Reno would join forces with the fabled men of the old Seventh Cavalry.

NEW HAMPSHIRE:

Northern Hospitality

Sojourner George C. Wallace flew north once again last week, this time to New England, and after bouncing off his chartered Convair at Concord, N.H., the Presidential hopeful said he was still undecided whether to try his luck in the state's primary. For the moment, the assistant governor of Alabama insisted he had brought his campaign team to New Hampshire mainly "to put our ear to the ground." As it turned out, the little ex-governor got an earful.

Screaming, hissing, stomping and cursing, hecklers at Dartmouth College stirred up one of the nastiest protests that Wallace has yet encountered on his northern forays—more bitter by far than the demonstration he met a week earlier in Syracuse (NEWSWEEK, May 8), and more unruly, said Dartmouth observers, than any disorder on that usually staid campus in the last generation.

Virtual pandemonium broke out in Dartmouth College auditorium as soon as Wallace—the invited guest of The Daily Dartmouth editors—took his place behind the podium. Sarcastic banners waved wildly ("George, can you walk on water too?"), and students—led by members of the Afro-American Society—set up an incessant rumbling chant: "Wallace is a racist . . . Wallace is a racist." Wallace tried to speak during the lulls. But nearly everything he said drew gibes.

Hustled Off: The demonstration reached a near-riotous peak when roughly a score of sign-bearing protesters marched menacingly down the aisle toward the stage—heralded by a voice yelling from the balcony: "They're coming to lynch you, Wallace!" The group was intercepted by university cops while Wallace was hustled off the stage by his own bodyguards.

Later, outside, hundreds of students surrounded Wallace's car, rocked it and dented the roof. With Wallace trapped inside, it took the police half an hour to clear a path for the automobile through a milling throng of 2,000.

Dartmouth officials could scarcely have been more embarrassed. Dean Thaddeus Seymour immediately wired apologies. Wallace himself wrote off the Dartmouth experience with a wry remark. "Academic freedom like that," he said, "can get you killed."

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District Attorney Garrison: Who were the real plotters in New Orleans?

THE JFK 'CONSPIRACY'

What lies behind New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's increasingly notorious investigation of a "plot" to kill John F. Kennedy? To find out, NEWSWEEK sent a veteran reporter, who covered the assassination and its aftermath, to New Orleans for five weeks. His account follows.

by Hugh Aynesworth

Jim Garrison is right. There has been a conspiracy in New Orleans—but it is a plot of Garrison's own making. It is a scheme to concoct a fantastic "solution" to the death of John F. Kennedy, and to make it stick; in this cause, the district attorney and his staff have been indirect parties to the death of one man and have humiliated, harassed and financially gutted several others.

Indeed, Garrison's tactics have been even more questionable than his case. I have evidence that one of the strapping D.A.'s investigators offered an unwilling "witness" \$3,000 and a job with an airline—if only he would "fill in the facts" of an alleged meeting to plot the death of the President. I also know that when the D.A.'s office learned that this entire bribery attempt had been tape-recorded, two of Garrison's men returned to the "witness" and, he says, threatened him with physical harm.

Another man who spent many hours with District Attorney Garrison in a vain attempt to dissuade him from his assassination-conspiracy theory has twice been threatened—once by one of the D.A.'s own "witnesses," the second time by Garrison himself. Others—Cuban exiles, convicts, drug addicts, homosexuals,

bums—have been hounded in more subtle ways. For most of Garrison's victims are extremely vulnerable men. Some are already paying for their vulnerability. Chief among them is Clay L. Shaw, the New Orleans businessman-socialite, who now faces trial on a charge of conspiring to kill the President.

How did it all begin?

Garrison first became earnestly interested in the Kennedy assassination when he and Louisiana Sen. Russell Long rode side by side on an airplane bound for New York. Long said he had never actually believed the Warren commission report, that he still had doubts. Garrison later told me that he immediately decided that if such an important man thought there was something odd about the case, it was time to start digging.

Cleanup: Garrison is known in New Orleans as a smart operator, a bit unorthodox, but nobody's fool. He made his name by cleaning up his old haunt—the French Quarter—and putting a temporary halt to B-girl practices and lewd dancing in its gaudy strip joints. Later, he amazed the whole city by accusing eight criminal judges of taking too many days off and of winking at Mafia activity. But although the judges sued him for libel, Garrison's right to criticize the judiciary was finally upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. Thus, when he first announced his "conspiracy" case, most New Orleanians believed that "Big Jim must have something."

What Garrison had to start with was a colorfully pathetic "suspect" named David Ferrie. A onetime airline pilot, Ferrie had been questioned shortly after the

Newsweek, May 15, 1967

1626

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

assassination on the basis of a tip that he was Oswald's "getaway pilot." But the tipster was an alcoholic who later admitted that he had made up the story.

Despite his clean bill of health from the FBI and Secret Service, Ferrie became the center of Garrison's investigation. He was questioned for hours, "tailed" and subjected to polygraph tests. His acquaintances were quizzed. By February, word had leaked out of Garrison's office that Ferrie was soon to be arrested and charged with the conspiracy of conspiracies. Through it all Ferrie called the D.A.'s investigation a "farce" and told friends he would sue Garrison if he were arrested. But as the weeks wore on, Ferrie, not a strong or stable man under the best of circumstances, began to show the strain. Then, suddenly on Feb. 22, he died—of a massive cerebral hemorrhage.

Suicide: Garrison crowed that Ferrie's death was "an apparent suicide" and he warned that same week: "We know who the rest of them are. The only way they are going to get away from us is to kill themselves." A week after Ferrie's death, Garrison ruefully admitted to me in his home, "Yeah, we helped kill the son of a bitch."

Shortly after Ferrie's fortuitous death, Garrison proclaimed that he had "solved" the President's assassination; that he knew the individuals involved, the cities and other details of the "plot." Arrests would be forthcoming, and convictions too. "Don't bet against us," the district attorney warned.

Two days later, a crucial "witness" miraculously appeared. Perry Raymond Russo, a 25-year-old insurance salesman from nearby Baton Rouge, claimed that he had known David Ferrie well and that Ferrie had once said President Kennedy should have been killed for his bungling of the Bay of Pigs disaster. Garrison assigned former boxer Andrew J. Sciambra, 31, one year out of law school, to interview Russo. After his first conversation with Russo, Sciambra filed a 3,500-word memo in which he failed to mention anything about an assassination plot.

Ideal Witness: But later, after being given "truth serum" (sodium pentothal) and being prompted, Russo testified at length in a pretrial hearing about a key "conspiracy" meeting held in Ferrie's apartment which also supposedly involved Clay Shaw and Lee Harvey Oswald. Russo seemed to be the ideal witness. He was cool, calm—"almost as if he was hypnotized," said one attorney. Lo and behold, the defense later discovered that Russo had been hypnotized—just hours before he testified. Russo told the court he had stood around in the apartment and listened while Ferrie, Oswald and Shaw hatched their "plot." He could recall phrases like "availability

of exits," "diversionary tactics," and "triangulation of cross fire." Russo offered a variety of unconvincing reasons why he had never mentioned the meeting to anyone before.

Garrison produced another unusual "witness" at the hearing, a 27-year-old Negro drug addict. Vernon Bundy said that while sitting on the lakefront one morning waiting to "pop" a cap of heroin he looked up and saw Oswald being handed a wad of money by Shaw. Bundy admitted he had a four-cap-a-day habit at that time and had been on drugs since the age of 13. One defense attorney asked Bundy how he could support such a demanding heroin habit when the cost would be nearly twice his salary



Shaw: A price for vulnerability

each week. "I steal sometimes," Bundy replied.

After the three judges on the hearing panel agreed that the Russo and Bundy testimony was enough "evidence" to bind Shaw over for trial, one judge told a friend at the racetrack that although Garrison really didn't have enough to bind the defendant over, he and his fellow judges had been fascinated by how well Russo stuck to his story for two days. Many hypnotists probably were not so impressed.

Garrison did not stop with Russo and Bundy. His men tried to get another "witness" to shore up his conspiracy charge. In fact, they tried about \$3,000 worth.

Less than a week before Shaw's pretrial hearing, two investigators from Garrison's office visited an unemployed young man named Alvin Beaubouef at his New Orleans home. They told the 21-year-old they had "influence" and

could help Beaubouef get a job with an airline if only he would help them substantiate the alleged plot. Beaubouef told them he couldn't do anything without talking to his attorney. They made a date for 2:30 the next afternoon at the lawyer's office.

Just Like That: One of the two investigators, Lynn Loisel, a New Orleans policeman assigned to Garrison's office, showed up. What had Loisel told Beaubouef the night before, the attorney asked? "I told him we had liberal expense money," Loisel replied. "And I said the boss is in a position to put him in a job, also that he would make a hero out of him, instead of a villain, you understand... I mean we can change the story around, you know, to positively, beyond a shadow of a doubt... You know, eliminate him, you know, into any kind of a conspiracy or what have you." The attorney wanted to know more about the offer of money. Loisel answered: "I would venture to say... Well, I'm, you know... fairly certain we could put \$3,000 on him." He snapped his fingers. "Just like that, you know."

Loisel was asked about the promise of a job. "I don't know," the burly cop said. "I'm sure he would have to go up through the ranks, you know. The first year or two he might stay in a room in the back with the charts or something... I don't know. Then he advances a little farther. Then he's a co-pilot... Then he's a pilot." Beaubouef's lawyer asked if this was Garrison's idea, if "the boss" meant Jim Garrison? Loisel replied that it did.

Then Loisel laid out the "conspiracy plot" to which Beaubouef presumably would testify. He discussed "cross fire" and escape routes. As Loisel "recalled" it, Ferrie and Shaw had been arguing in the apartment—or maybe it had been Oswald and Shaw—the investigator couldn't quite recall for sure. Loisel added: "Clay Shaw wanted some of his methods used, or his thoughts, you know, used. But anyway, that's what we have in mind—along that line."

Suggestion: "Was Al at the meeting?" the attorney asked. Loisel said: "No, Al wasn't at the meeting." But Loisel suggested that Dave Ferrie had told Beaubouef all about it. The attorney then asked how they would explain Beaubouef's failure to come forward prior to this. "I'll tell you how we go about that problem," said Loisel. "Well, Dave Ferrie, bless his soul, is gone. Al was scared of Dave. Al has a family, you know. When Al first met Dave, he was a single man. Al has a family now. Al was threatened by Dave, you know, to never divulge this. Al or his family would be taken care of. You understand. Now that poor Dave is gone, Al has voluntarily come forth and told of his knowledge. I mean there's 99,999 ways we can skin that cat, you know. I mean, it's something, you know

Newsweek, May 15, 1967

WASHINGTON

POLITICAL HORRORS

BY KENNETH CRAWFORD



Not the least of the horrors of the Vietnamese war is what it is doing to American politics. Both critics and defenders of the war are hypocritical. Both talk about negotiation knowing that there is no basis for negotiation now and probably won't be in the immediate future. This is because the U.S. and its allies are unwilling to cede South Vietnam to the Communists and the Communists are unwilling to settle for less.

What the higher flying doves really want is withdrawal, regardless of consequences, but they don't dare say so. What the more ferocious hawks want is true victory, regardless of the risks incurred, but few of them dare say so, either. The result is debate conducted in a kind of double-talk.

The doves pretend that Johnson and Rusk could make an acceptable peace if they only wanted to, knowing that this isn't so. Administration officials, for their part, keep talking about their persistent efforts to negotiate, implying that they still hug some hope of early success, knowing that they don't. The doves take out their frustrations on the President. The more genteel question his courage to make peace. The less genteel call him "murderer." When he rises in his own defense he is accused of suppressing free dissent.

LOGIC A CASUALTY

Since the war is central to the politics of 1967—and threatens to remain so through 1968—serious political dialogue makes only slightly more sense than the demonstrations of student mobs. Decent regard for fact, logic and the amenities of argument are already war casualties. Examples turn up almost everywhere.

Item: An American woman writer, in an article for the Manchester Guardian Weekly, says: "The same Americans who detest and protest the war in Vietnam are staunch partisans of the war on poverty. A true hawk sees no need to waste money on the poor, to pamper the lazy thieving lot..." Senator Fulbright, the leading dove, is a zealous champion of the poor? The lady engages in comic-strip demonology, like Little Orphan Annie.

Item: A book-promoting novelist, appearing on a Boston TV program, deplors Sen. Robert Kennedy and all who, like Kennedy, merely advo-

cate a cessation of the bombing of North Vietnam. The novelist's own solution? Withdraw into urban redoubts. This is a thoroughly discredited proposal, even though recently revived by Senator McGovern. As strategists clearly see, the redoubts would soon be invested, brought under fire by the long-range mortars the Communists now have, and the whole countryside would be left at the mercy of the Viet Cong.

Item: A distinguished commentator on foreign affairs feels that the trouble with foreign relations generally is that policies are made by politicians. They should be made, instead, by "wise and disinterested" citizens of the world. Commentators? Foreign policy associations? Foreign affairs are too arcane to be devised as well as executed by elected officials?

ZHUKOV'S THREAT

Item: A respected columnist reports that a prominent Russian, apparently Yuri Zhukov, the political commentator for Pravda, reiterated on a recent U.S. visit that the Russians would arrange for peace negotiations if the bombing of North Vietnam were stopped. In Washington, Zhukov made no such promise. Indeed, he was so threatening in his talk about Vietnam that he came close to restoring the kind of chill in Soviet-U.S. relations that followed the 1961 Kennedy-Khrushchev talks in Vienna.

Item: The staff of the Senate GOP Policy Committee manages to publish a "working paper" questioning whether the U.S. has a valid self-interest in Vietnam, thus atomizing the considered party position of bipartisan responsibility in support of the President's war policies, the posture best calculated to be profitable in 1968. If the war by that time were won, the GOP could share the credit. If the war were stalemated, the party could say: "They have failed through no fault of ours; now let us try."

Item: Senator Aiken, the venerable Vermonter, says the Johnson Administration can't "see the interest of the nation except in terms of its own survival" and so can never make peace in Vietnam. This is so cheap an assumption that it can be made about almost anyone, including Aiken, who doubtless wants to be re-elected.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

... That's his patriotic duty ... He's placing his family, you know, at the mercy of the D.A.'s office because he must clear his conscience ... and as an upstanding citizen."

'Check Back': Beaubouef told Loisel that he really knew nothing about any plot concerning Ferrie or the assassination. But he offered to take the "truth serum," hypnotism, polygraph tests, anything. He had one question. Would they still give him the job if he turned out to be of no help to them? Loisel said: "I'll have to check back with the boss."

When the D.A.'s men learned that the meeting in the attorney's office had been recorded on tape, Loisel and a colleague returned to threaten Beaubouef. He was told if he got in the way he would be shot. Then they hauled him down to the courthouse and made him sign a statement that said, in effect, that he didn't consider the offer of \$3,000 and a job as a bribe. They told him bluntly that they had "enough on him" to ruin him. Today, with a wife, an 11-month-old son and a job, Beaubouef is as worried about the existence of some pictures the D.A. holds over his head as he is about physical harm.

So it goes in New Orleans, where several sit on the hot seat while Garrison thrashes around for "evidence" to implicate them and keep himself in the headlines. In the latest wrinkle last week the district attorney brought into his investigation two men named Oswald (Julius J. and William S.) whose only connection with the assassination seemed to be that they worked at a New Orleans coffee company that once employed Lee Harvey Oswald.

Composite Conspirator: In the beginning, Garrison theorized that Lee Harvey was an anti-Castro agent whose original mission was to kill the Cuban dictator. When Oswald could not get to Cuba, the D.A. charged, the plot "turned around" and the plotters (angered over the Bay of Pigs fiasco) set up Oswald in the Kennedy killing. But Garrison's theory has undergone so many permutations that his composite conspirator now would probably be equal parts Oswald, homosexual, right-wing extremist, FBI agent, Cosa Nostra hood, CIA operative and Russian double agent.

There is still some feeling in New Orleans that Big Jim must have something. But now that the facts of the real "conspiracy" are beginning to emerge there, Garrison seems to be losing his confidence. He is having trouble sleeping, and he says that a hired "torpedo" from Havana is stalking him.

The real question in New Orleans is no longer whether Garrison has "solved" the assassination. The question is how long the people of the city and the nation's press will allow this travesty of justice to continue.

1-7-80

28 JAN 1980

William K. Triplett
Attorney/Advisor

Typed 1/21/80

Law Enforcement Assistance Administration

RLK:LL:JIF:gvh

Robert L. Keuch
Special Counsel to the Attorney General

129-11 am

John F. Kennedy Assassination Investigation

This is in response to your memorandum of January 7, 1980, regarding your willingness to participate in the Criminal Division's review of the Report of the Select Committee on Assassinations of the United States House of Representatives.

Criminal Division attorneys have already reviewed the Committee's Final Report and all relevant F.B.I. reports related to the J.F.K. assassination. The Division is currently monitoring the results of limited F.B.I. inquiries, initiated at Criminal Division request, into several aspects of the assassination investigation. Our efforts to arrange private sector scientific examination of acoustical evidence in this matter are continuing. No need appears to exist at this time for additional Criminal Division personnel to assist in this review. Although no vacancy on this project is expected, your resume will be retained for consideration in the event that developments necessitate the assignment of additional attorneys to assist in the Criminal Division's review of the House Report.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Roger Cabbage or Mr. Jeffrey Fogel of the Criminal Division (at 724-7144 and 724-7526 respectively) if you have any particular questions or recommendations in regard to this matter.

cc: Records ✓
General Litigation
Fogel (2)
Keuch
Cabbage(1)

129/20

122/20

121

123

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)	Initials	Date
1. General litigation		
2. Attn: Mr. Cobbege		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

REMARKS

Please acknowledge — indicate present stage of ~~investigation~~ ^{consideration} review no need — will keep him in mind, etc.

RUC.

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)	Room No.—Bldg.
	Phone No.

5041-102

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)
Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION

Memorandum

TO : Robert L. Keuch
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

DATE: Jan. 7, 1980

FROM : William K. Triplett
Attorney/Advisor
Law Enforcement Assistance Administration

129-11000

SUBJECT: J.F. Kennedy Investigation

After reading the article in Saturday's Post, it occurred to me that I might be in a position to provide valuable assistance in this matter.

Although I am currently with LEAA, from July of 1977 through July of 1978 I was on leave of absence from DOJ. During that period I was employed as a senior staff counsel on the JFK Task Force of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. As a result of that employment, I have developed some knowledge of current and past investigations of the JFK assassinations. I also possess a small personal collection of books on the matter, including a complete set of the reports of the House Committee.

As a current DOJ employee, I would be pleased to participate in any further investigation of the JFK assassination. In this regard, I would gladly transfer to the Criminal Division for this purpose, or, if that is impossible, accept a detail.

For your consideration, I have enclosed a brief resume.

WILLIAM K. TRIPLET

[REDACTED] 6

[REDACTED] 6

Law Enforcement Assistance
Administration, 20531
202/633-3747

EDUCATION:

[REDACTED] 6

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

From 1973 to the present I have been employed in Washington, D.C. in advisory or managerial capacities. The following are the committee, agencies, and job classifications for those positions:

Department of Justice, LEAA - Attorney/Advisor

6 [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

6 [REDACTED]

6

[REDACTED]

6

[REDACTED]

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES AND AWARDS:

6

[REDACTED]

6

[REDACTED]

6

[REDACTED]

Applying currently for admission in Washington, D.C.

References and salary requirements will be supplied upon request.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Typed: 9/14/79
RLK:LL:JIF:jad

September 24, 1979

129-11
AD

Admiral Stansfield Turner
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

The Department of Justice is currently reviewing the Report of the Select Committee on Assassinations of the United States House of Representatives. The Committee determined through an acoustical analysis of Dallas Police Department radio communications dictabelts, which were recorded at the time of President Kennedy's assassination, that the assassination was probably the result of a conspiracy. This conclusion was based entirely upon the determination that one shot was fired from the grassy knoll at approximately the same time as several shots were fired from the Texas School Book Depository.

The Committee recommended to the Department of Justice that these acoustical materials be further evaluated. Specifically, we anticipate reviewing the acoustical studies as well as other physical evidence and arranging whatever further scientific analysis appears appropriate.

We request that the Central Intelligence Agency provide the Department with any information which it may have concerning the theory and application of the principles of acoustics as they relate to the analysis of the Dallas Police tapes. Any other information or recommendations which are relevant to the evaluation of physical evidence in this matter would also be appreciated.

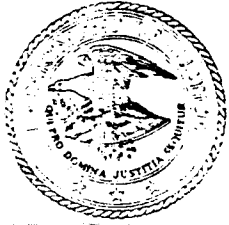
Records ✓
Gen. Litigation
Fogel (2)
Keuch

- 2 -

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. KEUCH
Special Counsel
to the Attorney General



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

September 14, 1979

129-11
DLP

Honorable William H. Webster
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Judge Webster:

In a separate letter I have called your attention to the outstanding work of certain special agents who participated in responding to the demands made by the investigation conducted over the last two years by the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Without, I hope, in any way detracting from the compliment I intended to pay to each one of those agents I believe it necessary to call particular attention to the efforts made by three individuals during the course of the Committee's investigation and during the course of my service as Special Counsel to the Attorney General for the purpose of responding to the Committee's demands.

Those three special agents are [REDACTED] 7C

7C While each one of the agents I have mentioned in a separate letter to you deserves, in my view, special commendation for their work involving the Select Committee investigation, Special Agents [REDACTED] 7C were particularly helpful to me in discharging my duties as Special Counsel for the Attorney General and impressed me throughout this investigation with their willingness to work exceptional hours and to provide the support I considered necessary to discharge my duties. I commend them to you for special consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Keuch
Robert L. Keuch
Special Counsel
to the Attorney General

cc: Records
RLK
Chron

RLK:mal

ROUTING AND TRANSMISSION SLIP

Date 8/27/79

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)	Initials	Date
1. Mr. Lippe		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

REMARKS

Mr. Keeney wasn't in today either so I called Mr. Keuch at home and got his approval to order this investigation. The FBI is doing nothing on this until they get it in writing.

URGENT

Call Roger when signed.

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post) Mr. Roger B. Cabbage	Room No.—Bldg. 542 FTRI
	Phone No. 724-7526

5041-102

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)
 Prescribed by GSA
 FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206

Typed: 8/27/79

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Philip B. Heymann
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

129-11awb
PBM:LL:RBC:jad

AUG 27 1979

John F. Kennedy Autopsy Photographs;
Theft of Government Property, 18 U.S.C. 641

This will confirm a conversation between Roger S. Cabbage of the Criminal Division and Special Agent [redacted] of the FBI in which the FBI was requested to conduct an investigation of the above captioned matter. 7C

On August 23, 1979, Mr. G. Robert Blakey, former Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the United States House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations, received a telephone call from [redacted] 7C+7D

[redacted] advised Mr. Blakey that a consortium was offering the original John F. Kennedy autopsy photographs to NBC for \$100,000. The consortium claimed that three of the autopsy pictures showed evidence of tampering. 7C+7D

On August 27, 1979, [redacted] advised Mr. Blakey that the vendor of the photographs was Glen Fallin, a Baltimore lawyer. According to [redacted] Mr. Fallin represents Harry Livingston. Mr. Blakey advised that Livingston is a reporter for the Baltimore Chronicle. Currently, Mr. Livingston is in charge of an investigative reporting team for the Baltimore Sun which is conducting an inquiry into the John F. Kennedy autopsy pictures. Mr. Blakey advised that in one Baltimore Sun article, Mr. Livingston referred to the photographs as "fake." Mr. Blakey further advised that a critic told Mr. Blakey that Livingston stated in a second Baltimore Sun article that Livingston had interviewed the doctors who performed the autopsy and that the doctors had stated that the photographs were "fakes."

Since these facts indicate a possible violation of Title 18, U.S.C. § 641, theft of government property, the FBI is requested to conduct an investigation into this matter and to provide copies of the investigative reports to the Criminal Division.

Records
Gen. Litigation
Cabbage (2)
Heymann

PBK
7C+7D
RBC
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7C+7D
PP
7C+7D
8/27

In conducting this investigation, it is suggested that the Bureau consider the possibility that violations of 18 U.S.C. 1341, mail fraud, and 18 U.S.C. 1343, fraud by wire, may also have occurred in the attempted sale of these photographs.

8-13-79

Retyped: 8-23-79
RLK:PTW:GMcN:jkw
129-11

SEP 4 1979

Mr. Alan Jules Webberman
Independent Research Associates
6 Bleecker Street
New York City, New York 10012

Dear Mr. Webberman:

Attorney General Civiletti has asked me to thank you for your recent letter enclosing a copy of a biography of Jack Ruby you compiled from documents released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the Freedom of Information Act.

Your interest and concern are appreciated. You may be sure that all available materials will be carefully considered as the Final Report of the House Select Committee on Assassinations is reviewed.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Keuch
Special Counsel to the
Attorney General

RLK
PTW
5/31

[Handwritten signature]
423

Files
W McNemar
Keuch

CRIM

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

6 BLEECKER STREET · NEW YORK CITY 10012 · PHONE: AJ WEBERMAN (212) 477-6243

Mr. Benjamin Civiletti
USAG
DOJ
Washington, D.C.

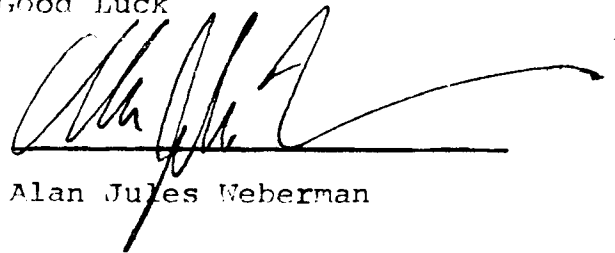
13 AUG 79

Dear Mr. Civiletti:

In a few months you will be faced with determining what course of action the Department of Justice will take in regard to the findings of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. In order to help you make this determination I have enclosed a copy of a short biography of Jack Ruby based on documents released by the FBI under FOI/PA.

If I can be of any further help in this matter please let me know.

Good Luck



Alan Jules Weberman

129711

RECORDED

RECEIVED

AUG 22 1979

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
RECEIVED

JACK RUBY - ALL MOBBED-UP

by A.J. Weberman

BOOK ONE

JACK RUBY

After three years of intensive investigation the House Select Committee on Assassinations has concluded that certain organized crime figures were part of a conspiracy to assassinate the President of the United States of America, John F. Kennedy.

The House Select Committee named Don Santo Trafficante Jr. of Miami, Florida and Don Carlos Marcello of New Orleans, Louisiana as possible conspirators. This revelation threw new light on a document I uncovered while doing research at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. This once secret report revealed that Frank Ragano, Trafficante's attorney, was an FBI informant who reported directly to J. Edgar Hoover. Ragano, who also represented Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa, told Hoover about a conversation that occurred between the two Mafia Dons:

Don Carlos was driving through New Orleans. Don Santos was sitting next to him, I was in the back seat. Trafficante turned and remarked to Marcello: 'Carlos, the next thing you know they will be blaming the Kennedy assassination on us'.

Trafficante's words were prophetic; in this book it is my contention that there is sufficient credible evidence available to indict both of these men, along with several other Teamster-linked hoodlums, for conspiracy to kill the President of the United States.

Marcello and Trafficante, along with Jack Ruby, who silenced Kennedy's alleged killer, were all members of the National Crime Syndicate. The "Syndicate" is a multi-ethnic version of the exclusively Sicilian Mafia. Its roots date back to

1925, when the younger members of the Jewish and Italian gangs in Chicago found they had need for each other - the Jews had the brains and the Italians the muscle - so they formed a loose alliance. That was the beginning of the Mob as we know it today.

In 1925, Jack "Ruby" Rubenstein* got in on the ground floor of organized crime. While scalping tickets at a baseball game, he met Al Capone, the first non-Sicilian leader of the Mafia and the first Mafioso to work with Irishmen and Jews. Ruby explained - "When you live in the city of Chicago and you are in the livelihood of selling tickets to sporting events, your lucrative customers are some of these people.....you may know them as you get acquainted with them at the sporting events or the ball park or prizefights.

At age 16, Jack began running errands for Capone. Jack's friend, Barney Ross, told the FBI - "When I began my prizefighting career in '26, back in the 24th ward, Jack and I ran errands for Capone". Ross went on to say that Capone had sponsored his boxing career and that Ralph and Matty Capone, along with Capone enforcer Frank Nitty, were all "close followers" of his.

There is reason to believe that Al Capone "sponsored" Ruby just as he "sponsored" Ross. When the FBI conducted their investigation into Jack's background in 1964, they interviewed James Allegretti, who they described as "the top local organized crime figure in Chicago." Allegretti admitted - "I may have seen Ruby back in the Capone days...." then became agitated when the Federal men pressed the issue - "I told you, he was not connected, he was not mobbed-up!"

Matty Brescia was also questioned by the FBI about Ruby. Brescia's partner, Lew Farrell, was described as being a "Top Hoodlum" from Chicago.

*Jack Rubenstein's parents were Jewish immigrants who came to the United States in 1903. Jack was born eight years later. His father, Jacob, was the neighborhood drunk in a lower-class, tough Jewish-ward of Chicago. In his early teens Jack became part of the David Miller Gang. Miller, the gambling boss of Jack's ward, had ties to many Jewish hoodlums, including Meyer Lansky.

Farrell had been "on the fringes" of the Capone Mob and had eventually moved into the labor racketeering field where he maintained a close association with teamster boss James Riddle Hoffa.

Eva Rubenstein Grant, Jack's sister, inadvertently supplied us with the best evidence linking Jack Ruby to the Capone Mob, when she admitted to an FBI informer in 1962 - "Jack and I were once connected with the Capone Mob in Chicago." On November 13, 1962, Eva's "friend" - Mrs. Susan Brown, telephoned the Dallas office of the FBI and told them what Eva had said. In 1964 the Warren Commission interviewed Mrs. Brown and her sister. Both of them stuck by their recollection of the conversation.

The Warren Commission, more interested in covering up, than uncovering, the truth about Ruby, told Eva Grant about the Brown sisters accusations. Eva called the Browns and asked them if they had spoken with the Warren Commission. This frightened the Brown sisters and they complained to the FBI that the Warren Commission had put their lives in danger.

They had good reason to complain! Jack Ruby and his sister Eva, had worked for Capone in Chicago, from 1925 to 1933. Jack was engaged in making payoffs, delivering bootleg liquor, strong-arming speak-easy owners, you name it. His life was a chapter out of Eliot Ness's "Untouchables".

Capone had made Ruby an "associate" member of the Mafia. Because of this, when the National Crime Syndicate was formed in 1929, Ruby became a minor part of it.

The Syndicate formally came into existence during a historic meeting between Al Capone and Meyer Lansky. Capone's cousin, Salvatore "Lucky" Luciano brought the two gangsters together at a meeting of Mafia crime families in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and suggested that they discuss a merger between the Jewish and Italian underworld. Capone had already teamed-up with Lansky in the early 1920's and had formed "The Combination" - an amalgamation of bootleggers throughout the United States. "The Syndicate" was Lansky's brainchild.

Meyer Lansky was born in Russia in 1902 and was brought, along with a younger brother named Jake, to the United States in 1911. By 1920 Lansky ran a floating crap game on the streets of New York City. When the Mafia became aware of Lansky's operation they tried to extort a weekly payoff from him. Shaking down small-time gangsters was a major source of income for the Mafia at this time. Lansky refused to pay them off and had some of his friends attack the Mafioso who had approached him.

Lansky soon discovered that many Italian gangsters were also opposed to the tactics of the Sicilian traditionalists. These "young turks" included Frank Costello, Vito Genovese, Joe Adonis, Albert Anastasia, "Lucky" Luciano and Al Capone. By 1922 the insurgents had murdered many of the old-line Mafioso and had taken over their territories. Jewish gangs were now given a sizable "piece of the action".

The 1929 Atlantic City Summit merely formalized a long-standing relationship. United, the Jewish and Italian gangsters became the most powerful criminal organization in the world.

In 1933 President Roosevelt ended prohibition. Ruby and his sister moved to San Francisco where they began to work for Frankie "The Gambler" Goldstein. In 1961 a confidential informant told the FBI that Goldstein was a professional bookmaker. The FBI opened a case on Frankie and subsequent investigation revealed that he had operated a local sporting book for many years. The Feds felt Frankie was in the "Big Leagues" and tapped his telephone.

Jack Ruby told the Warren Commission - "I have never been a bookmaker" yet his association with Frankie Goldstein tells another story. ^AIf Goldstein and Ruby were making book in the 1930's, they probably worked for Johnny Roselli. Rosselli, born in Italy on July 4, 1905, entered the United States illegally at age six. Rosselli joined the Capone Mob in Chicago, where he worked under Sam Giancana.

Rosselli came to California in 1933, the same year that Ruby did. By 1936 Rosselli controled gambling on the West Coast.

There are several other Rosselli-Ruby links. Ruby sold "tip" sheets at Santa Anita raceway - back in the mid-1930's. Rosselli had risen to gangland prominence by taking over the wire service there. In 1944 Rosselli was

convicted for labor extortion through a Union whose organizers included Ruby's brother-in-law.

After the Kennedy assassination, Goldstein told the FBI that Ruby and Eva sold newspaper subscriptions for him from 1933 - 1939. Frank insisted that "Jack had no association with hoodlums or with the underworld". In 1977 I called Frank and asked him about his and Jack's mob-connections - "The kid worked for me. I don't know any of these names you mention. How'd you get this information?"

During Jack's stay in California he also worked for Gene Shriber, a former partner of Bones Remer, the owner of the mob-linked Cal-Neva Lounge, Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Remer had extensive operations in San Francisco. Ruby and Eva were employed by Shriber as card dealers; none-the-less Ruby was said to have a reputation as a hoodlum who was "quick with a gun".

In 1939 Jack left California for his native Chicago. By this time the Jewish-Italian Alliance was officially ten years old. In 1932 Capone began serving a sentence for income-tax evasion. Luciano took over his position as Chairman of the Board. "Lucky" began importing and selling narcotics in order to make up for the loss of revenue that occurred as a result of repeal of prohibition. In 1936 Luciano went to prison. Joe Adonis was appointed boss of bosses. Adonis put out the word to the families to co-operate with Lansky, because Lansky had promised to get Luciano out. One of Lansky's first moves as "Godfather" was to take over gambling in Louisiana. Brother Jake was listed as an officer in an outfit controlling slot machines. In New Orleans Lansky found Carlos Marcello. Born in Tunis, Africa, of Sicilian parents, Marcello entered New Orleans before his first birthday, in 1910. Eighteen years later he and his brother "Pete" were charged with being accessories in a bank robbery. A year later Marcello went to prison on a similar rap. Paroled in 1935, Marcello was granted a pardon by Louisiana Governor O.K. Allen. Allen was controlled by Senator Huey Long, who was

meeting with Meyer Lansky on a frequent basis. In 1938 Carlos did a year in prison for marijuana possession. When he got out he began placing and servicing slot machines for the Syndicate.

When Ruby return^{ed} to Chicago in 1939 he used his connections with the Syndicate to enter the labor-racketeering field. Ruby had learned from Rosselli that labor unions could provide a steady source of revenue. He contacted an old friend from the Capone Mob, Paul J. Dorfman. The McClellan Committee investigating organized crime reported "Dorfman's connections with members of the old Capone Mob are a matter of record".

Dorfman was able to secure Ruby a position in the newly chartered Chicago Waste Handler's Union. Several years later a Chicago private detective conducted an investigation concerning Dorfman and Ruby's entrance into this Union. The Warren Commission was unable to question this private investigator. He was killed in an automobile accident in 1962.

Dorfman made John Martin President of the Union and Jack Ruby Secretary-Treasurer. The man who had originally formed the Union out of beneficent motives, Leon Cooke, held no office with the Union. Instead, Cooke served as an attorney and advisor. In late 1939 Cooke became an FBI informant and reported that he "was then in the process of forming a rival Union affiliated with the CIO and had written several letters to junk dealers in regard to this, which he had signed "Cook" and Martin had learned of these letters".

On December 8, 1939, Martin shot Cooke in the back. Martin disappeared with the only witness to the shooting, his secretary. At the time of this incident, Martin was under indictment for conspiring with a well known Chicago hoodlum to withhold income tax information from the Internal Revenue Service. The State's Attorney was investigating Martin because he believed that the Waste Handler's Union was a shakedown racket and Jack Ruby was a thug who would intimidate prospective members into joining the Unions

at gunpoint! After the shooting, a member of the State Attorney's office confiscated the Union's Charter and records. Dorfman immediately formed a new local.

One day after the shooting, Martin and his secretary turned themselves in. Jack Ruby told the press that Martin had shot Cooke in self-defense. At Martin's trial, Martin claimed the incident took place at his home - actually it took place in his office - and his secretary backed him up. Martin was acquitted of murder. He soon disassociated himself from the Union. A few months later, Ruby followed suit. Jack adopted the middle name of "Leon" around this time, allegedly to honor his dead friend. In reality he had helped murder him.

Dorfman began to dominate the Union. He worked closely with Anthony "the Tuna" Accardo, known as the head of the Chicago mob since the death of Capone.

In 1948, when industrialist Nathan Gumbin was shotgunned to death by two gunmen firing from a moving car, Dorfman was called in for questioning. The Chicago Police believed Gumbin's slaying was linked to the killing of Charles Crane, another industrialist who had negotiated with the Waste Handlers Union. The Chicago Police Intelligence Unit reported that Gumbin and Crane, along with about one hundred waste and rag dealers were allegedly paying monthly installments to a person named "Dorfman", Secretary of the Waste Handlers Union, to guarantee no labor troubles. Years later the Intelligence Unit learned that during a meeting of top syndicate people in Miami in 1953, an unknown person mentioned the execution of Nate Gumbin, and the fact that he refused to take part in a deal.

As of today Gumbin's murder is still unsolved.

In 1949 Dorfman teamed up with Jimmy Hoffa of the Teamsters Union in a complex conspiracy to give a billion dollars worth of Teamster Pension Fund business to an insurance company owned by Dorfman's son Allen.

Dorfman continued to run the Union until 1957, when he was expelled by the National Office of the AFL-CIO. The AFL-CIO had tolerated Dorfman's gangster tactics for more than a decade - but Dorfman's pension fund scheme had brought him to the attention of the McClellan Committee, which was investigating labor racketeering and focusing on Hoffa and the men around him.

Robert Kennedy, an attorney for the McClellan Committee, wrote - "Everywhere Hoffa goes, Paul Dorfman is close by".

Paul Dorfman was forced into semi-retirement. His son Allen took over where he had left off, and began functioning as Jimmy Hoffa's "Rabbi". When Hoffa was indicted by a Nashville Grand Jury, Dorfman and Hoffa-thug Robert "Barney" Baker helped him earn an acquittal. In early 1963 Allen Dorfman was indicted for jury-tampering in the aforementioned case. *The government's star witness* in this case was New Orleans Teamster leader Edward Grady Partain.

By 1967 Dorfman had become co-ordinator of the Teamster Pension Fund following Hoffa's incarceration. Two years later he was indicted by a Grand Jury in New York City. The government's *chief* witness in this case was also a witness against Meyer Lansky.

In 1973 Dorfman was indicted in Chicago on charges related to his management of Teamster Funds. His co-defendant included Irwin (Irv) Wiener, a long time Chicago Syndicate member. Dorfman and friends were acquitted after a key government witness was killed in his office by shotgun blasts fired by gunmen wearing ski masks.

Both Paul and Allen Dorfman are notorious organized crime figures. After the Kennedy assassination, the Warren Commission received several reports indicating an on-going relationship between Jack Ruby and Dorfman. Justice Department investigator Walter Sheridan received information to the effect that Jack Ruby had recently picked up a bundle of money from Dorfman. Justice Department Attorney Robert D. Peloquin was assigned to investigate the matter. Peloquin, who at the time was part of Attorney General Robert

Kennedy's "Get Hoffa Squad" was called off the case by his boss, Herbert "Jack" Miller.*

Miller informed Peloquin that he had contacted the source of the information concerning Ruby and Dorfman, and the source had refused to substantiate the information. Miller ordered "no further inquiry in this matter" because "the story would give Hoffa an opportunity to criticize the Justice Department for trying to tie Hoffa in with President Kennedy's murder". FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover agreed - "I do wish Justice Department would mind it's own business".

There were other reports linking Ruby and Dorfman to the Kennedy assassination. In the course of evaluating the "Bobby Baker" investigation into high level corruption, a reporter for Life Magazine had spoken with Don B. Reynolds, a long time friend and associate of Robert G. "Bobby" Baker. Reynolds confided in hushed tones that Ruby had killed Oswald for a purpose and that Ruby had known Jimmy Hoffa's henchmen, Paul and Allen Dorfman. A few months later Reynolds told an associate of Kennedy's aide, Pierre Salinger, that Clint Murchison, Jr. may have been involved in the Kennedy assassination. On orders from President Lyndon Johnson, the FBI interviewed Reynolds, who denied making this statement. Interestingly enough, on November 25, 1963, an individual who called himself "Mr. Miller" contacted the FBI and told them he was "a close friend of Jack Ruby".

*In the late 1950's Miller had been part of a law firm retained by the "Board of Monitors" of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Howard Willens, a member of Miller's law firm at this time, would later become a Warren Commission staff member.

In 1961 Miller was appointed head of the Justice Department's Criminal Division by Robert Kennedy and in 1964 he became the liaison between the Justice Department and the Warren Commission. Ten years later he served as Richard Nixon's attorney during the Watergate affair.

In addition, he identified Clint Murchison and Johnny Webb as being "friends of Ruby". When J. Edgar Hoover saw this anonymous report (the name "Miller" and the address given by the informant were determined to be fictitious) he ordered the Bureau to "Press vigorously. I would surmise it is Clint Murchison, Jr., not Sr.,I think we should talk to Clint Murchison, Jr.". Hoover was close to the Murchison family and vacationed, almost annually, at their Del Charro Hotel, thoughtfully situated near the Murchison's Del Mar racetrack.

Did Hoover order the FBI to "pursue the matter vigorously" because he did not want to be accused of protecting a friend, or did Hoover harbor his own suspicions about Murchison Jr.'s criminal connections?

Clint Murchison, Jr. told the FBI he never heard of Ruby or Oswald before the events of November, 1963. Tommy Webb told them the same.

In 1977 Webb signed an affidavit in which he admitted his association with Murchison and Allen Dorfman. Hoffa-confidant, turned stooley, Edward Partin, told Walter Sheridan that Murchison was a "great benefactor" of Hoffa's.

Paul Dorfman was not the only labor racketeer Ruby worked with in the late thirties and early forties, who was associated with Jimmy Hoffa and the Teamsters. Ruby was acquainted with Irwin Weiner, a Teamster bail bondsman who had worked closely with Dorfman (see page _____). On November 26, 1963, a confidential informant told an agent of the Chicago Bureau of the FBI that he had overheard a conversation between Weiner and his business partner, Felix Alderisio,* a top hoodlum. Weiner told him that he knew Jack Ruby. When the FBI questioned Weiner about this report he admitted knowing Ruby, but refused to say anything more.

Ruby knew many of the gangsters around Hoffa because he was one of them. There were several reports of a Hoffa-Ruby link subsequent to the events of November, 1963. Roy William Pike, who had once served as a book-

*In May 1964 Weiner and Alderisio were indicted for extortion in Miami, Florida.

keeper for Jack Ruby and was one of twelve persons known to have been in telephone contact with Ruby just before the Kennedy assassination, told the FBI - "Jack Ruby was a good friend of Jimmy Hoffa and a member of The Syndicate. Ruby is the payoff man - he knew about any police raids in advance. I think I spoke with Ruby about his relationship with Hoffa".

On November 27, 1963, a credible informant told an agent of the Bureau of Narcotics that "Pig-Face Cohen" was with Jack Ruby frequently and knew him from Chicago". "Pig-Face" was the brother of Ray Cohn, a close associate of Jimmy Hoffa.

Hoffa and the men around him bore tremendous animosity for the Kennedy family. As a result of Attorney General Robert Kennedy's efforts, Hoffa went to prison in the mid-1960's.

In 1940 Jack Ruby was Number Two man in Dorfman's organization. Had Leon Cooke's murder not have forced him to resign, Ruby would have probably ended up as an official of the Teamsters Union Pension Fund.

In 1941 Ruby distributed "punch boards" - gambling devices - throughout the United States while serving as a courier for the Syndicate. Ruby claimed that during this period he and his associates disrupted numerous pro-Nazi German-American Bund rallies. I doubt Ruby's claim because I can find no evidence of any arrests of his associates for this type of activity, and because there was no money to be made in it. Ruby's story about selling "Remember Pearl Harbor" plaques during this period is far more indicative of how the Syndicate re-acted to World War Two - they attempted to exploit it!

In September 1941 Ruby was drafted. He tried to "weasel" his way out of fighting the Nazis, but was inducted anyway. Jack never saw any action, and spent his military career in the United States, taking bets and selling punchboards to the other G.I.s. One of Jack's Army buddies, Hersey Colvin, was employed by a Chicago hoodlum when the FBI questioned him in late

November, 1963.

While Jack was in the Service, his sister Eva had moved to Dallas, Texas, where she became associated with Paul Roland Jones. Jones' criminal record began in 1930, when he was arrested on a boot-legging charge in Kansas. In 1931, he began serving a life sentence in Lansing, Kansas for the first degree murder of a government witness. He was pardoned on July 8, 1940. Throughout the early 1940's, Jones continued to run afoul of the law - his offenses ranged from vagrancy to Grand Larceny. During the War, Jones and Eva were busily opening up new territory for the Mob. Jones admitted that he had started gambling operations in Dallas in 1942 on behalf of Al Capone's cousins - the Fischetti brothers.

By 1943 the Syndicate was prospering throughout the South. In New Orleans, Carlos Marcello had at least 5000 slot machines in operation. By 1945 Marcello had accumulated enough cash to join Meyer Lansky as a partner in the newly opened Beverly Club - at that time the plushiest casino in Jefferson Parish. Marcello could not have operated without widespread corruption among New Orleans police and public officials. Paul Roland Jones also relied on bribery to keep the Syndicate's gambling operations from being closed down.

Jones had the Sheriff of Dallas, Texas on his payroll for at least five years.

In February, 1946 Ruby was discharged from the Army. He returned to Chicago where he took up residence with his brother Hyman in the Congress Hotel. Jack frequented the H and H restaurant - a known hang-out for Chicago bookmakers, gamblers, "juicemen" and hoodlums. The proprietor of the H and H restaurant, Maishi Baer, became upset when the FBI questioned him in 1964. He told them that he didn't wish to "get involved", then tried to reach his attorney with negative results. Baer became incensed to think

that the FBI would come to him concerning Ruby.

Eva, who had purchased a building in Dallas and was in the process of opening a nightclub, introduced Jack to Jones. Jones recalled his first meeting with Ruby:

"It was in 1946, at the Congress Hotel in Chicago. I came up from Dallas to discuss the slot machine business with Paul Labriola and Jimmy Weinberg. Jack Ruby's sister arranged the meeting".

Ruby and Jones began to work together on unspecified affairs.

In 1946 Steve Guthrie was elected Sheriff of Dallas, Texas. Jones tried to put him on the Syndicate's pad on behalf of gangsters like Dominick "Butch" Elasi and old Capone henchman Jake "Greasy Thumb" Guzik. Guthrie explained:

"Shortly after my election Paul Roland Jones contacted me asked me if I wanted to make some big money. At the time gambling, prostitution were "wide-open" in Dallas and there were three gangland murders each month. I knew the Syndicate had moved in because there were always at least 25 Chicago thugs in town. I was determined to get them".

Guthrie had his home wired for sound and installed a hidden movie camera to photograph Jones entering and leaving. When Jones and Guthrie met, Jack Ruby's name came up on numerous occasions. Jones reported his apparent success to Tony Accardo, overboss of Chicago, (see page ____) who sent Labriola and Weinberg to Dallas.

Just before Christmas, 1946, Jones and his associate Jack Nappi, were indicted on Bribery Charges. Nappi was related to Frank Nitti, Capone's Number One enforcer.

In early 1947 Jones was convicted on the Bribery charge, then released on appeal bond. Jones could no longer be used as a payoff man by the Syndicate, so he began to engage in the narcotics trade, which was

experiencing a post-war renaissance.

Thanks to Meyer Lansky, Lucky Luciano had been released from prison in 1946 and immediately deported to Italy. Luciano charged his long-time associate with the responsibility for managing his financial empire. Lansky also played a key role in organizing Luciano's heroin syndicate. Lansky's relationship with the Florida-based Trafficante family was of particular importance. In 1947 Lansky and Luciano had a meeting in Cuba about expanding the Mob's heroin trade.

Jones' narcotics operation involved John and Maurice Melton, two brothers who owned about 127,000 acres of land near Durango, Mexico, suitable for the cultivation of the opium poppy. The raw opium was flown into the United States by a pilot, named appropriately enough, Taylor Crossland.

Crossland told the FBI that when he and Maurice Melton brought a load of opium from Mexico to Dallas, Texas, Paul Jones introduced him to Jack Ruby as the man who would dispose of it in Chicago.

In August 1947, the Federal Bureau of Narcotics became aware of the Jones-Ruby operation. Jones was put under 24 hour surveillance and the Narcotics Bureau began to monitor his telephone calls. They found that Jones was in close touch with Jack and Hyman Rubenstein.

On August 27, 1947, Crossland was forced down and arrested at the Mexican-American border with 48 pounds of raw opium worth nearly one million dollars in his aircraft. Crossland turned States witness against Jones as did the Melton brothers. On October 24, 1947, Jones was arrested in Dallas, Texas. Five days later the Chicago office of the Bureau of Narcotics questioned Jack and his brother about their involvement in international narcotics traffic. Jack admitted knowing Jones through his sister, Eva, who had met Jones while operating her "supper club" in Dallas. Jack claimed he had never spoken to Paul Jones in the city of Chicago, either personally or via telephone. In fact, when the calls in question occurred (August 2nd

and 3rd, 1947) Jack said he was visiting Dallas. Jack went on to say that he was a sales promoter and merchandise distributor who knew absolutely nothing about narcotics. Hyman, who was far less involved in the rackets than Jack, came forward and "took the heat". Hyman admitted knowing Crossland, Melton and Jones and told the Narcs that the telephone calls in question had been made to him. He admitted meeting with the trio, although he insisted "I know absolutely nothing about opium, or narcotics in any shape, manner or form, nor the illicit traffic of narcotic drugs. Jones never mentioned opium to me, nor did Crossland or Melton. I'm a business man with no arrests. We were involved in selling lumber and pipe. They gave me a sample of lumber which I showed around Chicago".

On January 10, 1948 Hyman Rubenstein appeared as a witness in the narcotics trial of Jones in Dallas. Eleven months later, the Bureau of Narcotics closed the Rubenstein/Ruby file but seven years later, in 1955, they reopened it.*

*The original file, released by the Justice Department in unexcised form (over the objection of the Drug Enforcement Administration - the current heirs to Bureau of Narcotics files) has the following in a box labeled "Related Files"; "SE-202 Mafia pages 234 and 240". When I applied for these files, Benjamin R. Civiletti informed me that the materials were not of "historical interest", because, "even today, the materials remain substantially related to continuing investigations.....I do want you to know that no reference to Jack Ruby has been discovered in the materials which are the subject of this appeal."

In retrospect, there is no doubt that the file was closed prematurely. After the Kennedy assassination Ruby no longer denied having been in touch with Jones in Chicago and Jones admitted that Ruby was a member of the Syndicate during this period.

In late January, 1948, Jones was convicted of Conspiracy to Import Narcotics and sentenced to three years in prison. An additional two years were added when his Appeal on the bribery charges was denied. Released in 1952, Jones returned to Dallas and began managing several taverns for the Syndicate. In 1953 Jones was involved in the sale of worthless uranium stock. By 1960 he had become connected with a phoney cancer clinic. Jones lived in Birmingham, Alabama but made frequent trips to Dallas.

In early 1948, when Jones went to prison, Jack Ruby moved to Dallas. After the Kennedy assassination Ruby would admit that he "came to Dallas because of connections with the Chicago Crime Syndicate". Later that year Eva moved to California and Jack took full responsibility for the management of "The Silver Spur Club".

In 1948, Commander Russell Ross Farrell, a former FBI agent, was hired to investigate beatings of patrons in Ruby's club. Farrell determined that the Dallas Police Department was involved in at least one beating.

In 1952 Ruby went into partnership with "Ralph Paul", a restaurateur and bar owner from New York City. Ralph Paul was a partner of Joe Campisi, owner of the Egyptian Lounge*. The Campisi family represented the interest of Don Carlos Marcello in Dallas. The Marcello's often appeared at Campisi family affairs.

By 1952 the Marcello family had gained control of organized crime in Dallas. Carlos Marcello had made an alliance with Dallas Mafia boss Joseph Francis Civello, whom he knew from Baton Rouge. In 1938 Civello had served four years of a 15-year federal prison sentence arising from a heroin and

*Employees of the Egyptian Lounge included men like Peter Piccola, who was known to the FBI as a bookmaker.

cocaine bust in 1937 that reached from Dallas to New Orleans to Chicago. In late 1962 the Department of Immigration and Naturalization began proceedings to deport Civello.

In 1953 Ruby obtained an interest in a third nightclub - The Vegas Club. His partner in this venture was Joe Locurto (AKA "Joe Bonds"). An FBI report filed in 1953 revealed "Ruby and Bonds always carried concealed pistols and were in constant association with Jack Todd, a well known Dallas hoodlum". Todd, has been described as "knowing Marcello on a first name basis" and Todd's son, Gerald, was involved in a shootout with Joe Campisi in 1973: The two "business partners" had a falling out.

In July, 1953 Locurto was convicted of White Slave Traffic and committing "unnatural" sexual acts. The Ruby/Locurto partnership ended when Locurto went to prison.

In August of 1953 an FBI agent witnessed Ruby threaten the Branch Manager of the American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA). Ruby said he would kill the man if he didn't stop asking him to pay his entertainers in advance. The AGVA representative was non-plussed; he explained that he had already been pistol whipped by Locurto and knew that Jack was a hoodlum, who was experiencing financial difficulties because of Kefauver's investigation into Organized Crime.

Throughout 1953 Ruby was involved in gambling activities and confidence games. His partner in crime was Harry Hall. Hall, whose real name was Schwartz, came from the same neighborhood as Jack, and has been described as a big-time swindler who associated with John Rosselli. Hall's uncle, Marty Schwartz, was a dealer at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas.

In Dallas, Hall was able to worm his way into the Petroleum Club where he fleeced numerous oil barons. Ruby, who provided a degree of protection to Hall against arrest by the Dallas Police Department, wanted to bring

down some of the "boys" from Chicago and hold the oilmen up at gunpoint. Hall vetoed Jack's suggestion.

One of the men Ruby wanted to rob, Bill Byers, was soon held-up while staying at the Del Charro Hotel at Del Mar, California. Other millionaires allegedly ripped off by Hall and Ruby included Clint Murchison, Sr., the owner of Del Charro (see page _____) and H.L. Hunt.*

The FBI discounted Hall's story despite the fact that Hall was an FBI and Treasury Department informant who had provided them with valuable information in the past. Hall wanted to trade his information for release from Federal prison, where he was incarcerated for fraud.

In 1956 Ruby went back into the heroin business. His activities came to light in March, 1956, when Eileen "Bunny" Curry, an informant for the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, called the FBI to report the disappearance of her boy-friend, James Breen.

Bunny advised that in January, 1956, while she was operating a house of prostitution in Los Angeles, California, Breen had jumped bond on local narcotics charges and fled to Dallas. A month later Breen called her and told her he had made contact with "a large narcotics set-up, operating between Mexico, Texas and the East". Breen named Jack Ruby of Dallas, Texas, as the "kingpin" of the operation and told Bunny he had already made several profitable "runs". Bunny told the FBI she was afraid her boy-friend had been killed, since the Syndicate believed he was planning to hi-jack half a million dollars worth of heroin from them.

The FBI believed Breen had abandoned Curry and made her a PCI - Possible Criminal Informant - in case she wanted to inform on her ex-lover.

In June, 1956, Bunny went back to Dallas where she was arrested for vagrancy. Bunny was "lodged in a motel frequented by colored patrons....

*When Hall went after Hunt he used the name "Ed Pauley, Jr., in order to make it seem as if he was a member of the Pauley family of Miami and Havana.

where she plyed her trade as a prostitute". Curry left Dallas and traveled around the country. She managed to amass 24 arrests and numerous convictions for prostitution. In 1961 Assistant United States Attorney Burt W. Griffin indicted her for violations of White Slavery Act. Three years later Griffin would become an investigator for the Warren Commission. The Commission would never question Curry despite the fact that on June 11, 1964 she told the FBI - "When I was in Dallas, James brought Ruby over to meet me. James told me he had accompanied Jack to a secret location where he had been shown films of various border guards, both Mexican* and American, along with various narcotics agents".

The Bureau of Narcotics may have been aware that Jack was "the Mexican connection" in November, 1955 when they reviewed their 1948 report on him (see page _____). None-the-less, they did not act on the information.

*Ruby had the telephone number of a Mexican Government Official in one of the notebooks taken from his home by the FBI in late November, 1963.

Ruby traveled to Israel in 1955, possibly under an assumed identity. While visiting "known racketeers and gamblers" in San Francisco that year, he told Harry Hall "After I leave here I'm going to Florida to buy a load of contraband (arms) to send to Israel".

In 1956 Jack traveled to Hot Springs, Arkansas, a center of gambling and vice in the South. Ruby was probably accompanied by Jesse Curry, the Chief of Police of Dallas. After the Kennedy assassination, a friend of Ruby named Eli Schulman told the FBI that "Ruby had many Dallas cops for friends - in fact he took the Chief of Police to Hot Springs, Arkansas, when, I don't know".

The contents of a cable regarding "Possible Association Between Jesse Curry, Chief of Police and Jack Ruby" have been classified Secret and withheld indefinitely.

The Cuban Connection

During the early 1930's Meyer Lansky, ^{had} "discovered" Cuba for the Syndicate and invested their illegal profits there. In 1933 Lansky moved to Miami Beach and in the late thirties, he lived in Cuba, where he owned the Hotel Nacional Casino and Havana's municipal racetracks. In 1940 Lansky left Havana for Miami. When Lansky moved to New York just before America entered World War II, he delegated the responsibility for the management of his Cuban and Miami holdings to Santo Trafficante, Sr., a Sicilian born Tampa gangster. (See page _____).

Business was slow for the Mob during World War II. Lansky worked to secure Luciano's release from prison by collaborating with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS)*, in an effort to stem Nazi subversion in America's ports. When the war ended Lansky felt he had secured enough immunity to open a gambling house within easy reach of Miami. In 1946, The Colonial Inn opened it's doors in Hallandale, Florida. The Sheriff of Hallandale, Walter Clark, operated a numbers racket from his office and controlled slot machines throughout the County of Broward. His deputies protected Lansky's holdings.

Many members of the Syndicate owned "points" (a percentage) in the Colonial Inn. Vincent Alo (also known as "Jimmy Blue Eyes"), Frank Erickson, Joe Adonis (see page _____), Carlos Marcello (see page _____), Santos Trafficante, Sr. (see page _____), Frank Costello and Jack Ruby all had points in the Colonial Inn.

Jack Ruby's connection with Lansky's Colonial Inn was first exposed by Mack Blaney Johnson, an FBI informant. In 1975 I attempted to verify Johnson's contention during a visit to Hallendale, Florida. I was able to locate a Hallendale policeman named Walt Zassler, who had worked for Sheriff Walter Clark. He was familiar with the Colonial Inn operation. I asked him if Jack Ruby or Jack Rubenstein was involved - "I do remember the name. There was Jack so and so, Rubystein and Rubystein....I do remember the name. I don't know if it was the same Jack Ruby, but there was a Jack Ruby involved. I met this guy a long time ago, about 1950. I was indicted by a Grand Jury that came about as a result of the Kefauver Investigation and I went to Alaska".

The profits from the Colonial Inn were invested in the Flamingo Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, then under construction. While Lansky and his

*The predecessor of the CIA.

partner "Bugsy" Siegel concentrated on The Flamingo, Santos Trafficante, Sr. managed the rackets in South Florida, while his son, Santos Trafficante, Jr (also known as "Santos") took over the Mob's Havana concessions. Santos' official position was Manager of the Sans Souci Casino - in reality he was in charge of receiving the Syndicate's bulk shipments of heroin from Europe. From Cuba, the heroin would be smuggled into the United States.

Things were going well for the Mob until the Senate began investigating the Syndicate in 1950. The Flamingo Hotel and the Colonial Inn, along with the names Meyer and Jake Lansky re-occurred with regularity throughout the Kefauver Hearings. When Lansky testified, he admitted knowing many gangsters. The list included Frank Costello, Joe Adonis, Frank Erickson, The Fischetti Brothers (see page _____), Vincent Alo, Tony Accardo, Jack Dragna, John Rosselli, Doc Stacher (see page _____) and "Trigger-Mike" Coppola. In February, 1951 Lansky was questioned again. Soon Adonis was deported and Erickson was jailed.

Lansky knew he could no longer operate with immunity within the United States. He considered returning to Cuba where Doctor Carlos Prío Socarras' Authentic Party was currently in power. Prío, who had been elected President in 1948, was able to build a two-million dollar home - a remarkable feat since his salary as President was twenty-five thousand dollars a year. Prío was unable to control the other grafters in his government and a steady deterioration in public service was accompanied by a severe tourism slump. Lansky wanted to see Prío overthrown and ex-Cuban President Fulgencio Batista, installed. Lansky had worked with Batista in the early 1930's and knew he would rule with an iron hand. In 1944, Batista had been forced to leave Cuba and take refuge in Miami. Lansky encouraged Batista to run, in absentia, for the Cuban Senate.

Batista won easily and returned to Cuba with Senatorial immunity. Lansky paved the way for his return by putting a quarter of a million dollars in one of Prio's Swiss bank accounts.

Batista waited until March 10, 1952 before he made his move. On that day Batista and a small band of rebels entered Camp Columbia, a military fortress in the suburbs of Havana, and seized control. The Army, which remembered the high pay and good times of earlier days, rallied to his support. Prio was overthrown and took refuge in the Mexican Embassy. Soon he fled to Miami where he set up a government-in-exile.

Lansky could not take immediate advantage of the Coup. He was in prison for one year. When he was released in 1953 Lansky began investing heavily in Cuba. In 1954, Lansky moved to Havana, where he became the top Syndicate figure. Santos became second in command. It was easy for Lansky to persuade President Fulgencio Batista to legalize gambling. In 1955 Batista changed the gambling laws to permit a legal casino in any nightclub or hotel worth one million dollars or more. Next, the Cuban Minister of Labor ruled that all "pit bosses, stickmen and dealers" in casinos were skilled "technicians" who qualified for admission under two year visas.

Finally, the Cuban government offered in one way or another to put up a good part of the construction costs for any new casinos. For the \$14 million dollar Riviera, for example, government-controlled banks loaned \$6 million dollars. Lansky personally supervised the construction of the Riviera. Within four years the Syndicate constructed \$50 million dollars worth of gambling casinos; the Riviera, \$17 million; the Cleveland-mob controlled Hotel Nacional worth \$7 million; Tropicana, \$6 million, Capri - a property of the old line Mafiosos headed by Charlie "the blade" Tourine - estimated worth - \$5 million; Seville Biltmore \$4 million, Deauville 2.5

million and the San Souci, \$1 million.

Lansky and Batista turned Cuba into the center of gambling, narcotics and vice in the Western Hemisphere. The take was so high that Albert Anastasia, who was the "Chairman of the Board" of a group known as Murder Incorporated, tried to take-over Lansky's empire. Murder Incorporated was the Mafia's version of an elite assassination squad; this made Albert a formidable opponent. None-the-less Meyer and Santos hit Albert's under-boss, Frank Costello, then hit Big Albert himself, as he lay in a barber-chair, getting a shave. New York District Attorney Frank S. Hogan named Santos as a suspect in the killing and announced that he wanted to question Lansky.

Meyer and Santos were out of Hogan's reach in Cuba, and were prospering enormously. Their only problem stemmed from the fact that Cuba was a "banana republic". This meant constant, periodic changes of government. In order to "hedge his bets" and protect himself against an unexpected coup d'etat, Lansky began supporting Carlos Prios' "government-in-exile". Prio, in turn, supported a young rebel named Fidel Castro. Castro and his 26 of July Movement had begun guerilla warfare against Batista and had allegedly agreed to re-install Prio as President, if they defeated Batista.

In 1957 Jack Ruby began shipping arms to Fidel Castro; this information came to light in 1976, when James E. Beaird came forward and told the FBI that in 1957 he became acquainted with many people in the area of Kemah, Texas, ^{including} one Jack Ruby, who was at that time "involved in the business of selling guns to Fidel Castro in Cuba....Jack stored guns and ammunition in a two-story house between the waterfront and railroad tracks in Kemah, Texas. He would take the guns to Cuba, mostly on week-ends...Jack had a boat about 50 feet long, surplus, a military landing craft or LST".

In 1977 I called Mr. Beaird and asked him how he became acquainted with Jack Ruby - "Playin poker. What I can't understand - this seems a little out of line - well, there was enough people like myself who knew all about this. The doggone thing is that he was so open with it. Why nobody came forward with this information beats me. Ruby never talked about Castro. The boat would get loaded and Ruby would leave by car. It was a well known fact the boat was headed to Cuba.....".

In June, 1958, Jack Ruby was selling arms in Islamorada, Florida. Mary Lou Woodard, who was introduced to Jack by her husband, James Woodard, an adventurer and soldier-of-fortune, blew the whistle on him after the Kennedy assassination. According to Mary Lou - "Jack had a trunk-full of guns and said he was going to supply them to the Cubans. He was driving a grey car with Texas plates. I was told he was originally from Chicago - part of the Syndicate". The FBI never interviewed Woodard - on January 23, 1964 an order went ^{out} _^ "to discontinue active investigation to locate Woodard". Instead, the FBI transmitted the results of a September, 1963 interview to the Warren Commission. During the interview Woodard alleged he had participated in the Bay of Pigs invasion and had furnished ammunition and dynamite to both Castro and anti-Castro forces. A month later the FBI re-interviewed Woodard about stolen dynamite which was being stored at his residence in South Dade County. Woodard told them the explosives were going to be used against the Castro regime.

The most important witness to Ruby's smuggling activities was Mack Blaney Johnson, the same informant who supplied the FBI with the Ruby-Colonial Inn link (see page _____). Johnson told the FBI that in the 1950's he was an independent airplane pilot engaged in numerous flights of cargo from Miami to Havana, Cuba. "This is how I learned about illegal flights of weapons from Miami to the Castro organization in Cuba. Jack Ruby was

active in arranging these flights. He used the name "Jack Rubenstein" in this connection. He was part owner of two airplanes used for smuggling arms. Donald Edward Browder was associated with Ruby in this operation. Ruby contracted Joe Marrs to make flights to Havana. The former Police Chief of Hialeah, Florida, Leslie Lewis, knows about Ruby's flights".

The FBI questioned Lewis. He told them he never heard of Jack Ruby and had no knowledge whatsoever of persons flying weapons to Cuba. Joe Marrs told the FBI the same story, although he admitted knowing Browder.

On November 30, 1963, Johnson was recontacted by the FBI and shown a photograph of Jack Ruby. Johnson said he was convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the Jack Rubenstein he knew was identical to Jack Ruby. He added that Clifton T. Bowes, Jr., a National Airlines pilot, was familiar with Rubenstein. When the FBI questioned Bowes, he told them the same story as Lewis and Marrs. Johnson told the FBI that these men were lying due to their participation in illegal activities - none-the-less the FBI determined "Investigation appears to indicate information furnished by Johnson is a fabrication in its entirety. No further inquiries in same connection are intended". The FBI began pressuring Johnson to recant; they exposed his name, interviewed his wife and tried to confuse him with extraneous photographs. He wouldn't budge. The FBI was determined to make mince meat of Johnson's information. They located "Donald Edward Browder" - he turned out to be Edward J. Browder - and interviewed him. Browder denied knowing Ruby, etc. and the FBI officially closed the investigation into Mack Blaney Johnson's charges.

A glance at Browder's rap sheet could have told the FBI that he was lying. Browder had been involved in arms smuggling to Cuba. A closer study of Browder's life would have revealed the fact that Browder had associations which lead directly to Jack Ruby. Browder was born in 1917, at Amarillo,

Texas. Browder's father was Secretary Treasurer of the Santa-Fe Railroad. In 1942, at age 25, Browder enlisted in the Army. In 1944 he became a volunteer pilot for the Royal Air Force.

In 1947 Browder took the first step on a road that would lead him to a virtual life-sentence in Federal Prison; he stole a cache of machine guns from an Army base located at Augusta, Georgia. A few days later a Federal Warrant was signed charging Browder with theft of government property and ordering his arrest. When Browder was taken into custody he told the authorities that he had become involved in a conspiracy to overthrow President Romulo Betancourt of Venezuela. A few weeks later a Federal Grand Jury in Tulsa, Oklahoma indicted him for unlawfully exporting a P-38 airplane from Tulsa to Havana, Cuba.

Before Browder came to trial on these charges he was hit with another charge - conspiracy to smuggle arms ^{from Florida} to Cuba, arms which were eventually destined for a revolution in the Dominican Republic. A Cuban government official was named as the instigator of the plot.

The Judges in Miami and Tulsa gave Browder probation but the Judge in Georgia gave him 18 months. Browder served his time and was released from Federal Prison in September, 1949. He returned to Miami, then began to travel around America, getting arrested wherever he went. He returned to Miami in 1957 and began working with the 26 of July Movement. Browder would buy arms from a CIA-proprietary, the International Arms Corporation, (Interarmco), then smuggle them to Castro and his men in the Sierra Maestra. Browder dealt with Efrom Pichardo, the local representative of the 26th of July Movement. In 1954 Pichardo had pleaded innocent of conspiracy to ship arms to Cuba on behalf of former President Carlos Prío Socarras. His co-defendants in this case included Marcos Diaz Lanz, a close associat