

Ex-Castro Soldier Balks at House Hearing on Assassination of Kennedy

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WASHINGTON, June 7—Loran E. Hall, a self-styled soldier of fortune who fought for Fidel Castro in Cuba before turning against him in 1959, refused to answer questions put to him today by a House assassination subcommittee, which had hoped to get information from him about a possible conspiracy in the murder of President Kennedy.

When asked if he was in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, the day President Kennedy was killed, Mr. Hall invoked his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination and said that he would do the same with all other questions put to him by the subcommittee. After continuing Mr. Hall under subpoena and telling him to reappear on Sept. 14, the subcommittee adjourned its public hearing.

After the seven-minute hearing, Mr. Hall answered questions at an impromptu news conference at the witness table and accused the committee's investigators of "lying" to him when they tried to inter-

view him in Los Angeles, where he resides.

He said that the investigators had told him "they had a lot of witnesses who said I was involved" in the Kennedy assassination, and that Art Kevin, a Los Angeles radio newsmen, could be present while investigators asked questions and took a deposition.

However, before the interview started, the investigators asked Mr. Kevin to leave the room, Mr. Hall said. When Mr. Kevin refused to leave and Mr. Hall refused to ask him to, the investigator served him with a subpoena to appear in Washington, Mr. Hall said.

Representative Richardson Preyer, Democrat of North Carolina, who is chairman of the subcommittee, said that the investigators had not promised Mr. Hall that the radio reporter could sit in on the interview. He would not comment on the investigators' alleged use of a newsman to find Mr. Hall so he could be served with a subpoena.

But Mr. Preyer did say that the subcommittee would discuss ways to force

witnesses to answer questions, and that it would consider granting some witnesses immunity in exchange for their testimony.

The subcommittee was interested in pursuing at least three lines of questioning with Mr. Hall, according to sources close to the committee.

Questions Are Listed

The committee wanted to ask Mr. Hall about his association with an alleged organized crime figure, Santos Traficante Jr., in a Havana jail in 1959.

This would pursue the possibility that anti-Castro Cubans, organized crime figures and some Central Intelligence Agency operatives had been involved in the murder of President Kennedy. That theory arises from C.I.A. disclosures that some organized crime figures had been involved in attempts to assassinate Mr. Castro.

The committee also wanted to ask Mr. Hall about statements made to the committee by a Dutch journalist, Willem Oltmans, that Mr. Hall had been offered \$500,000 in a Dallas law office if he would

kill Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Hall would not comment today to newsmen about that allegation. Previously, he talked publicly about such an offer but made conflicting statements about who wanted Mr. Kennedy killed.

Finally, the committee wanted to talk to Mr. Hall about the alleged visit that he and Lee Harvey Oswald, President Kennedy's assassin, made to the Dallas home of Sylvia Odio, an anti-Castro Cuban refugee.

Mr. Hall had told the Federal Bureau of Investigation that he visited Mrs. Odio in the company of two other men, neither of whom was Mr. Oswald. He subsequently told a different story to the F.B.I., and Mrs. Odio insists that one of the men who visited her was Mr. Oswald.