

Ex-Cabbie Compiles Data on Slayings

By William Claiborne

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NEW YORK, April 27—He is only a spear carrier among the leading assassination conspiracy theorists, but Theodore Gandolfo takes his job seriously.

Gandolfo, a background figure during the three-day "Politics of Assassination" conference held here over the weekend, said he has collected 2,000 hours of tape recordings of public statements made about the assassinations of President Kennedy, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

"I'm the only person in the country who's done it," said Gandolfo, a former taxicab driver who lives in West New York, N.J.

Gandolfo said he has also collected thousands of published articles on the subject as a result of having subscribed to 23 newspapers and magazines.

"I have tapes and articles

on all aspects of the three assassinations. Everything that's relevant. I have everything, including a complete verbal record of what has transpired since Nov. 22, 1963," Gandolfo said in an interview. President Kennedy was shot that day.

He said he was supplied taped and printed material to 20 assassination researchers, including author-lawyer Mark Lane, author-investigator Harold Weisberg, comedian Dick Gregory and John Marks, co-author of "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence."

Gandolfo said his material fills a storage room and has cost him thousands of dollars, although he declined to say exactly how much he has spent.

He said he began taping news broadcasts, documentaries and panel shows immediately after President Kennedy's assassination, but was motivated at first only by the profound historical

importance of the slaying. "Like everybody else, I went along with the government conclusion that there was no conspiracy," he said.

The historical aspect hit me hard," Gandolfo said, adding that it wasn't until two years later that he became convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald had not acted alone.

"On Nov. 12, 1966, I decided the government's conclusion was fraudulent," Gandolfo said. On that date, he said, he watched a local New York panel show in which Lane, Weisberg and author Jim Bishop discussed the conspiracy theory and criticized the Warren Commission's investigation.

Gandolfo said he believes that when the Kennedy assassination conspiracy begins to "unravel like Watergate did," his tape library will be invaluable.

"It's all there, everything everybody has said publicly about the assassinations. It can be compared against

what evidence finally comes out, and it will be telling," Gandolfo said.

Gandolfo said he does much of his own taping from radio and television sets, but arranges to obtain tapes of programs originating from other cities.

Gandolfo said he is not interested in getting into the mainstream of the conspiracy theorists who have become nationally known as a result of their lectures and books.

"I supply material to a lot of people, but I don't do research myself. All my tapes are indexed, and that takes enough time by itself," he said.

Gandolfo said his reference work is an avocation, but he refused to say where he worked for a living.

"I'm a floor manager, but it's not relevant to your story where I work," he said. "I'd just as soon my employer didn't know my political beliefs."