

MIDNIGHT 6-9-75

Was Bobby Kennedy

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Just seven years ago, on June 5, 1968, an assassin's bullet tore through the skull of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. And the repercussions of that shot are still echoing. Was there a link to the assassination of his brother, President John F. Kennedy, on Nov. 22, 1963? Could both killings have been part of the same sinister plot?

A theory explaining the two deaths as a gangster's feud against the Kennedy brothers is put forward by investigator Peter Noyes in a recent \$1.25 paperback book, "Legacy of Doubt," published by Pinnacle Books.

One aspect of this theory is that Bobby Kennedy was the primary victim. His brother, the President, was killed more or less incidentally, simply to leave a clear path to get to Bobby. Bobby would be more vulnerable with the President out of the way, the idea was.

The gangster was Carlos Marcello.

As Attorney General, Bobby Kennedy had ordered Marcello deported to Guatemala. Marcello managed to get back,

but he was afraid it would happen again. And he was revenge.

Marcello plotted to kill the Kennedy brothers — and talked about using a "nut" to do the job, declared Mafia-watcher Reid in his book "The Grim Reapers."

The presumed killer of JFK was Lee Harvey Oswald, a nut who renounced his American citizenship to live in Russia, disliked it there, returned and hung around with other wild-eyed groups of the far left and far right.

The killer of Bobby Kennedy was Sirhan Sirhan, a politically-confused nut whose favorite phrases written on and over again, were "Robert Kennedy must die!" and "to the order of Sirhan..."

"Legacy of Doubt" says there was a meeting called in September, 1962 at a country farmhouse near New Orleans.

"The conversation turned to Attorney General Robert Kennedy and the informant quoted Marcello as crying out: 'I'll kick the stone out of my shoe. Don't worry about that little Bob... He's going to be taken care of.'

"Marcello realized that to eliminate Bobby he would

Shot Because He Knew

have to take care of his brother, the President," the book goes on.

"He noted that Bobby was usually closeted in his office in Washington, while the President was much more accessible, constantly moving about the country. Hence John Kennedy would be a much easier mark. The informant said there was no doubting that Marcello was serious..."

Indeed, just about the time of that meeting, the Attorney General was making plans for a massive war on organized crime. The Mafia mobsters felt Bobby was "leaning hard" on them. And Marcello himself, the memory of his deportation still rankling, knew that Bobby meant business.

In the tangled maze of obscure actions and unresolved motivations that still hovers over the two presumed killers, Oswald and Sirhan, the Marcello story makes a brutal kind of sense, some think.

Certainly as much sense as any tortured explanation offered in the Warren Commission's elaborate report.

As for Marcello's power and ruthlessness in concocting and carrying out such a plan, there need be no doubts.

JFK's Real Killer?

A Wall Street Journal study in 1970 identified Marcello as: **"The undisputed patriarch of the Cosa Nostra in Louisiana and the nearby Gulf Coast area."** He was nicknamed "The Little Man." Life magazine said of him: **"People who cross the Little Man still get killed. In 1967, for example, Harry Bennett, a Marcello syndicate gambler, was gunned down 13 hours after he was seen approaching a federal prosecutor with an offer to testify against the boss."**

One more question brought up by "Legacy of Doubt": was Bobby satisfied with the Warren Commission's report that JFK's death was entirely the work of one lone assassin, Oswald?

"Robert Kennedy had lingering doubts," Noyes asserts.

"For many months after that day in Dallas, Robert Kennedy was numb with grief. And initially that numbness led to his quiet acceptance of the Warren Commission's investigation.

"But in the spring of 1967 that numbness seemed to vanish overnight. As a United States Senator from New York, he picked up the mantle of the Kennedy legacy and began a feverish bid for the Presidency.

Bobby also began his own investigation. He was troubled by the wire services report that 20 minutes before President Kennedy was slain, a telephone company executive in Oxnard, Calif., heard a woman whispering over what was apparently a crossed wire, **"The President is going to be killed."**

"Robert Kennedy felt that unless the woman heard by the telephone supervisor was clairvoyant, there was sufficient reason to suspect she might have knowledge of an assassination plot.

"It bothered him no end," the book relates.

