

Tuesday, April 26th, 1988

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# LIZ SMITH

## Bold, new book says mob killed JFK

**I** AM NOW firmly of the opinion that the mob did it. It is a historical truth," said G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, referring to the murder of President John F. Kennedy.

While recently watching network TV, I was fascinated to learn that the L.A. police are only now releasing cartons of evidence on the subsequent 1968 murder of the president's brother, Robert F. Kennedy. The L.A. lawmen also admit that some of the important data is missing????

As usual, the story came across in an odd, cursory, unsatisfactory manner—it raised more questions than it answered and left the viewer still not knowing what to think about the death of RFK and the jailing of his so-called "single assailant," Sirhan Sirhan.

If you want to satisfy that curiosity, I urge you to read a new book by David E. Scheim titled "Contract on America: The Mafia Murder of President John F. Kennedy" (Shapolsky Publishers, N.Y.).

This book also includes startling chapters on the killings of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Robert F. Kennedy and others.

The writer of this tome has been described by Kennedy specialist John Davis as "not a mercenary sensationalist, an assassination buff or a career criminologist, but rather ... a computer systems analyst with a Ph.D. in mathematics from MIT. Scheim's sole motivation has been a passion for historical truth."

★★★★

**THE BOOK'S** conclusion—supported by a great deal of evidence, some long in existence and some recently discovered—is that all of these killings mentioned, including the death of Lee Harvey Oswald at the hand of Jack Ruby, and more murders that are peripheral, bear the mark of Mafia culpability.

So far as RFK is concerned, Scheim lays the origins of his murder at the doors of a revengeful union boss, Jimmy Hoffa, and mobster Carmine Galante.

Scheim's theory (and the theory of others also, such as Robert Houghton, L.A. chief of detectives) is that Sirhan's background discounts the possibility that he acted alone.

These theorists feel Sirhan was not an ideological activist as he was presented in the press, but a "hired killer."

And Scheim states flatly that the fatal shot to Kennedy's head was not fired from Sirhan's gun.

There is evidence, he says, that security guard Thane Eugene Cesar also fired his gun at Kennedy and that as RFK fell to the hotel kitchen floor, mortally wounded, he clutched at and

pulled off Cesar's clip-on tie. (There is a photograph of the tie lying by Bobby's hand.)

★★★★

**ONE WEIGHT** in favor of Scheim's book is its foreword by the aforesaid John Davis, who wrote his own massive tome, "The Kennedys." (He is related to Jacqueline Onassis.)

Davis says in his introduction: "It is the special merit of David Scheim that he chose to construct 'Contract on America' almost wholly out of evidence that already had been gathered by the official investigators of the crime, who, for various reasons, had either ignored, suppressed or failed to evaluate properly the evidence before them.

"In confining his research to documented records, Scheim rides above the pitfalls of hearsay, rumor and speculation.

"His evidence had already been accumulated by the official investigators who preceded him, but they did not possess Scheim's analytical skills, intelligence and moral courage to make the case the evidence demanded."

★★★★

**SCHEIM USES** phone records and other documents to show "extensive contacts" between Ruby and underworld figures from across the country in the months before the JFK assassination. . . .

Scheim says one of the plotters was "New Orleans Mafia boss Carlos Marcello," who, according to a reliable federal witness, discussed having Kennedy killed by an outsider who would not be traced to the mob.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations also uncovered a portentous lead: that Lee Harvey Oswald's uncle and "surrogate father" and close 1963 contact was a bookmaker associated with the Marcello criminal organization. . . .

Scheim notes precedents for political murder in the Capone mob's 1933 killing of Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak; the shooting of UAW president Walter Reuther in 1948; the murder of UAW-AFL President John Kilpatrick in 1961. Mob rule was behind all of these deaths. . . .

Scheim spares the administrations of neither Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon nor Ronald Reagan for having suspicious mob connections.

It is amazing that this book is not already the sensation it demands to be!

This is a so-called law-abiding, truth-loving democratic nation, but no true government investigation has ever really rendered an absolute and final verdict in the matters of these horrible deaths that have so changed our times.

Every investigation so far has failed to come to complete realistic conclusions or to suggest total justice.



John F. Kennedy



Robert F. Kennedy



Martin Luther King



Malcolm X