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Contact: Kimberly Hovey 212/337-6011

"If there is real democracy in the United States today, and if the press has integrity, MAFIA KINGFISH will trigger outraged demands for official action. This is a powerhouse of a book."

--Anthony Summers, author of CONSPIRACY and GODDESS: The Secret Lives of Marilyn Monroe

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MATAKINGFISH

CARLOS MARCELLO AND THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F KENNEDY

POWERFUL NEW BOOK STRENGTHENS CASE AGAINST MAFIA BOSS MARCELLO IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Was the assassination of John F. Kennedy a mob boss's revenge? The House Select Committee on Assassinations identified Louisiana Mafia chieftain Carlos Marcello as a prime suspect in a possible assassination conspiracy. Now, in MAFIA KINGFISH (McGraw-Hill, ISBN: 0-07-015779-0, Publication date: November 18, 1988, \$19.95) John H. Davis, author of the 1985 national bestseller, THE KENNEDYS: DYNASTY AND DISASTER, uncovers explosive new evidence in the case against this powerful underworld figure, evidence far surpassing that presented in any other book on the subject, and going far beyond the case against Marcello assembled by the House Select Committee in 1979.

Davis has new information on:

*Suspected assassin Lee Harvey Oswald's relationship with the Marcello criminal organization.

*Jack Ruby's connections with the Marcello organization.

*Carlos Marcello's connections with high-ranking politicians locally--in Louisiana--and nationally, in Washington, going all the way into Nixon's White House.

*The full, previously untold story of Robert Kennedy's campaign to "get" Carlos Marcello. New information on the Marcello's "kidnap deportation" and exile.

*How J. Edgar Hoover suppressed evidence of possible Marcello complicity in the assassination and manipulated the Warren Commission into accepting his "lone gunman" solution to the crime.

*The House Select Committee on Assassinations' investigation of 1977-1979. Its successes and failures.

*The BRILAB undercover operation that enabled the Justice Department to finally "get" Marcello. Marcello's veiled admissions of complicity in the assassination made to FBI undercover agent Joseph Hauser.

*Robert Kennedy's reponse to the assassination. His role as an accessory after the fact.

Davis tells Marcello's whole sinister story, from his roots in Sicily through his violent apprenticeship in the New Orleans Mafia, to his reign over a \$2 billion-per-year criminal empire. Probing the innermost workings of a vast "invisible government," Davis details how Marcello ruthlessly held sway over public officials of every rank. Through aggression, subversion, and murder, Marcello's organization virtually controlled the state of Louisiana and stretched its tentacles as far as Washington, D.C.

Young Attorney General Robert Kennedy made Carlos Marcello a primary target of his massive campaign against organized crime, essentially kidnapping him in 1961 in his effort to deport him.

John Davis dramatically recounts their bitter feud, revealing fascinating details of the Kennedy brothers' dangerous liaisons with the Mafia. And he establishes the all-too-real possibility that Robert Kennedy's crusade backfired into his brother's 1963 murder.

From voluminous research into the assassination and its official investigation — including hundreds of never-before-published documents acquired under the Freedom of Information Act — Davis pieces together a grim scenario of conspiracy and cover-up, an apparent act of vengeance executed with brutal efficiency.

Following Marcello's villainous heyday in the 1960's and 1970's, MAFIA KINGFISH reaches its climax in a gripping recreation of the elaborate "sting" operation — the most extensive in FBI history up to that time — that ultimately put Marcello behind bars. Tapes made by undercover agents and vivid first-hand accounts from the agents themselves provide an unprecedented inside look at the kingpin of the oldest, most politically powerful Mafia family in the United States.

With the painstaking research, penetrating analysis, and compelling narrative for which he is known, John Davis achieves a chilling portrait of a criminal mastermind who many believe violently changed the course of American history and got away with it.

No one with an open mind can read this riveting page-turner of a book without concluding that the Kennedy assassination scenario Davis presents in MAFIA KINGFISH is far more convincing than the palliative of the mad-lone-gunman solution Hoover and the Warren Commission tried to force down the throats of the American people in 1964. Even more inescapable is the reader's conclusion that both Attorney General Kennedy and FBI Director Hoover, each for his own reasons, knowingly let conspirators get away with the crime.

About the Author

John H. Davis was born in New York and educated at Princeton, Columbia, and the Italian Institute for Historical Studies in Naples, where he studied on a Fulbright scholarship. His previous books include the bestselling THE KENNEDYS: Dynasty and Disaster, THE BOUVIERS: Portrait of an American Family, and THE GUGGENHEIMS: An American Epic. Mr. Davis lives in New York City.

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