

Kennedy 'victim of gangsters'

PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S assassination was probably the result of a conspiracy involving organised crime, according to a leaked version of a report by the Assassinations Committee of the American House of Representatives.

The committee's report is not due out until next month, but, according to NBC News, a final draft "does not prove, but discusses in great detail, how and why individual members of organised crime could have arranged the murder."

"The committee will say President Kennedy was probably assassinated as a result of a conspiracy," NBC said. "It will explain its conclusions that an acoustic analysis of the sound of the shots makes it highly probable two gunmen were shooting—even though three of the committee's 12 members questioned the acoustics evidence."

STRONGEST EFFORT

The network said the final report would say that organised crime's battle with John Kennedy and his brother Robert dated back to the McClellan anti-rackets hearings of the 1950s. Later, the Kennedy administration, with Robert as Attorney General, brought about the strongest effort ever against organised crime.

"The report names Carlos Marcello and Santo Trafficante as the most likely organised crime bosses to have been involved," NBC said. "It provides evidence, some of it inconclusive, that they and Teamster leader Jimmy Hoffa threatened John Kennedy, Robert Kennedy or both."

"Further, it suggests associations through which they could have influenced accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald or Oswald's killer, Jack Ruby."

Both Marcello, underworld boss in New Orleans and Dallas, and Trafficante, one-time underworld boss in Cuba, denied involvement, NBC said.—UPI

With sincere apologies to patient subscribers, here - at last - is a belated Issue No. 34. Sorry to have taken so long to re-appear after the February publication but we can blame the apparent lack of news and developments as related to the JFK case, and the empty promises of the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Their interim Final Report of 2 January 1979 stated that it was anticipated that their entire Final Report would be published by 30 March 1979. It was therefore decided to defer our next issue to fully cover this momentous publication but that date, and another deadline, 1 May 1979, passed by without any tangible result. As the short "leaked" article, which appeared in the (London) Sunday Telegraph for 3 June 1979 would suggest that we will, in fact, have to wait until July for the HSCA's verdict this issue of JFK.AF will be rushed out to prove that it is still in existence! It will include "bits and pieces" of information gleaned over the last few months, but is generally devoted to the printed word with information of books and articles etc which you may have missed and not be aware of. Hopefully, next month, it will be "business as usual" with reactions to the news from Washington?

Since the muted cries of "conspiracy!" at the end of 1978 comparatively little has been heard from Messrs Blakey, Stokes & Co. We are therefore indebted to our fellow-researcher, Edgar Tatro, for this account of Louis Stokes in action in Boston:

"On Monday, 19 March 1979, Representative Louis Stokes, the Chairman of the HSCA, lectured at Boston University and it is clear that his greatest blunder was allowing a question and answer period. Although I could not attend since, ironically, I teach a course on the JFK assassination Monday nights, I did send a former student, Jim Coughlin, to get the lowdown and according to him, the method of avoiding pertinent questions by means of side stepping gobbledegook, is still alive and well and living in Washington.

Apparently Mr Stokes' favourite pastime was a feeble attempt to assure the audience that most of the questions that he couldn't answer himself would be answered in the Final Report by a horde of nameless, faceless experts and scientists.

Despite this convenient way to hide his ignorance, Stokes did manage to put his foot (at least, up to his knee) in his mouth on several occasions. He informed his captives that CE 133 A+B, the notorious yard photographs of Oswald, were legitimate pictures, and that again, it was the

sensitivity of the Kennedy family which prevented the Autopsy photos from being released. However, this was trivial pabulum of what was to follow.

Stokes, as expected, resurrected the stench of CE 399, the magic bullet, but he added a new wrinkle. He explained that CE 399 was pristine in shape because "it only hit soft tissue". This incredible remark indicates more than ignorance; it exposes blatant dishonesty and sheer stupidity. When Mr Coughlin appropriately pointed out that CE 399 is credited with shattering John Connally's fifth rib and traversing his right wrist, Mr Stokes then suggested that the scientists knew more about this subject than he did. Frankly, how could they know less! Keep in mind that Officer Charles Harbison and Nurse Audrey Bell had testified before the HSCA that a number of fragments had allegedly been removed from Connally's wrist.

Stokes was also asked about Emilio Santana's testimony before a New Orleans Grand Jury in which he confessed firing two shots at President Kennedy from the Dal-Tex building on November 22, 1963. Stokes had no knowledge of this material at all. Santana's veracity is not the issue, but Stokes' ignorance of a well-known character in this scenario is amazing.

Alas, we come to grips with the comment of all comments. Mr Stokes claimed that there were no ties between Jack Ruby and the Mafia. According to Stokes, Ruby was a "buffoon". I guess Al Capone, Paul Dorfman, Paul Rowland Jones, Paul "Needlenose" Labriola, Jim Weinberg, Dave Yaras, Lenny Patrick, Barney Baker, Dusty Miller, Irwin Weiner, among others, should be considered no more than circus clowns!

I think it is dramatically obvious who deserves the epithet of "buffoon". "

In reaction to our inclusion in Issue No. 33 of Blakey's "freudian slip" it was suggested from a certain quarter that the "blacking out" of the details of the addressee was the bad sight of the month.

There was no nefarious reason on our part - it was merely because of the fact that we didn't have the time to obtain Jeff Hoyle's permission to reprint and it was not our intention to cause him any embarrassment.

Here, therefore, is an unexpurgated re-run - with his blessing!!

We only aim to please.....

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Select Committee on Assassinations
U.S. House of Representatives
3300 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 1
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

November 21, 1978

Mr. Jeffrey P. Hoyle
56 Lockwood Circle
Swansea, MA 02777

Dear Mr. Hoyle:

Thank you for your letter of October 17, 1978, and for your interest in the work of the Select Committee on Assassinations.

Let me assure you that the comments raised in your letter have been brought to the attention of those people directly involved in the assassination of President Kennedy for their use.

Since the Committee's inception, the comments and suggestions of concerned citizens such as yourself who have taken the time to write have been appreciated and given us interesting issues to study.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

G. Robert Blakey
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Chief Counsel and Director

GRB:jl

BOOKNEWS

The Mystique of Conspiracy: Oswald, Castro and the CIA.
by Brian K. Buggé. May 1978. 135pp. \$2.95 (* 80.55 postage).
Copen Press. P.O.Box 598. Staten Island. N.Y. 10314.

Published over a year ago, I have only become aware of the existence of this book a matter of weeks. Although it is basically a defence of the CIA in any involvement - officially - in the JFK assassination, it is a well-researched effort and deserves study. Subsequent developments have dated its contents a little and, in this reviewer's opinion, there was always more credibility in the question of the anti-Castro element rather than the "Fidel did it" scenario. One major blemish is in his chapter "Review of the Literature" where the author zeroes in on the "weirdo" element to bolster his viewpoint - such as Messrs MacDonald, Canfield and Weberman, Morrow, Oswald/McMillan etc.

An interesting addition to your assassination library - and it includes a good bibliography!

Three Assassinations. Volume 2.

Editor: Lester A. Sobell. November 1978. 255pp. \$11.95.
Facts on File Inc. 119 West 57 Street. New York. N.Y. 10019.

This follow-up volume to their 1971 Volume 1 (which is also still in print and available) is recommended because it fills an important information gap since their previous publication. Of course, much of the theories and information printed here will probably be made obsolete by the forthcoming HSCA Final Report but here is the chronology which will provide a continuing overview.

The recent conspiracy theories of past years are discussed along with the CIA and the "Cuban connection". Reprints of the two official "investigations" - a segment from the Rockefeller Report and the Schweiker/Hart Report - are reprinted. These are especially welcome additions in print for those students who don't have the original volumes. The story of the new Senate investigation is reported with mentions of new literature related to the case.

A highly-recommended book which is marred by the total lack of illustrations!

(NOTE: British and European readers should order their copies from: Clio Press. Publishers. Woodside House. Hinksey Hill. Oxford OX1 5BE. England. The price is \$7.85. Postfree to British Isles. Postage £1.25 to Europe.)

Mr Chairman: Evidence of Conspiracy.

by R.B. Cutler. March 1979. 95pp. 65 illustrations. \$7.00.
The Author. Box 1465. Manchester. MA 01944.

This is Bob Cutler's eighth book in his continuing series related to the Dallas assassination, and, dare I say that it is his best to date?

It remains to be seen how the HSCA Report affects his theories but he has managed to publish in advance of them and, therefore, the onus is on them to answer the many questions that he advances. He provides his "Crossfire 78" answer to the firing dispoctions in Dealey Plaza and

sensitivity of the Kennedy family which prevented the Autopsy photos from being released. However, this was trivial pabulum of what was to follow.

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