

LEGAL

nearly eight years after the House Select Committee on Assassinations issued its finding of probable conspiracy and voiced its suspicions of the possible involvement in the crime of Jimmy Hoffa, Santos Trafficante, and Carlos Marcello, one cannot help but conclude that the United States government either does not want to know who was behind the assassination of the President or, at best, does not want the nation and the world to know who was behind the crime.

It was one thing to tell the world that an unbalanced loner killed the President and was then quickly executed for his crime by a patriotic citizen taking the law into his own hands, and quite another to admit that one of the most powerful crime families in the nation had been able to change the course of American history by violent means and get away with it.

What was Carlos Marcello's reaction to the House Select Committee on Assassinations' publicly declared suspicion that he or his "crime family or organization" might have played a role in the assassination of President Kennedy?

There is solid evidence that he was quite disturbed, for in the summer of 1979, when those findings were finally published by the government printing office, he apparently assigned the matter to his most trusted attorney, the brilliant Jack Wasserman, for investigation. Wasserman immediately set about obtaining the available FBI files on the Kennedy assassination, which included the extensive files on David Ferrie and some documents, but not all, on the allegations of Eugene De Laparra and SV T-1, as well as the Edward Becker story of Marcello's threat to kill Kennedy.

These files, amounting to well over 220,000 pages of documents, had been obtained through a lengthy and costly Freedom of Information Act lawsuit brought against the Justice Department by Harold Weisberg, noted Kennedy assassination researcher and author of several books relating to the assassination. They were the files the Assassinations Committee should have had at the beginning of its investigation but did not receive until too late. Now they were being put at the disposal of Carlos Marcello's attorney.

From correspondence between Wasserman and Weisberg that I have examined, it appears that throughout the summer and fall of 1979 Jack Wasserman ~~foraged in Weisberg's files~~ in an attempt to retrieve every FBI document that could relate to the possibility of his client's having been involved in the assassination.

Because of this frantic response of Marcello's principal attorney

made use of the FBI files that had been released to the public as a result of Harold Weisberg's Freedom of Information Act requests.

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