

The heavily armed men turned out to be connected to the CIA — and a document found in their hotel revealed they were out to shoot Senator Ted Kennedy! At the end of his investigation Lind-say was ordered to destroy all traces of the assassination plot. Now, for the first time, he is blow-

ing the lid off the attempt to kill the last Kennedy brother and the secret cover-up that lasted 12 years.

TED KENNEDY was marked for death by rogue CIA assassins linked to his brother Jack's cold-blooded murder in Dallas - and the government doesn't

the government doesn't want you to know! That's the shocking conclusion of Philadel-phia police officers who thwarted the super-se-cret plot during Ted's run for the White House more then a decade son

than a decade ago.

And the lawmen are convinced there's been a massive cover-up — and that the last Kennedy brother would be dead to-day, if they hadn't gotten

lucky. Here's why:
On Jan. 4, 1980 — just two days before Ted was scheduled to visit the city - three men using pho-ny names and fake I.D.s ere arrested in a Sher were arrested in a Sher-aton Inn room crammed with cash, high-powered guns, CIA documents and cryptic notes referring to "Operation Blue Fin."

Operation Blue Fill.

A drawing of the Bellvue Strafford Hotel suite
booked by Ted's presidential campaign was also
found in the room. But the
sketch mysteriously disappeared from police files
the the fide strain date. after the feds entered the

investigation.

When confronted by cops, the hitmen - Larry Bryant, his cousin Bradley Bryant and Roger Barnard - claimed to work for the government. Later, they were linked to The Company, a savage organ-ization allied with the CIA that operates in a twilight world of espionage, mur-

Rogue CIA hitmen wanted to finish the evil job they started with J.F.K

der and racketeering.

Bradley Bryant helped arrange for Cheers star Woody Harrelson's father, Charles, to carry out ther, chartes, weary out the contract murder of U.S. Judge John Woods in Texas. Incredibly, Harrel-son — not Lee Harvey Os-wald — has been identi-fied as the real triggerman in JFK's assassination.

Frantic feds

"There's no doubt in my mind — or in the minds of our other investigators — that these three men came here with the plan, mon-ey and means to blow Kennedy away," says Philly Po-lice Inspector William Lindsay, who led the probe. "There was an obvious

CIA-government connec-tion in this case, and the way it was handled after the arrests proved it.
"We opened the lid on

something that smelled really bad. I could tell the fix was in when the various government agen-cies got involved." Frantic feds ordered lo-

cal cops to destroy any notes about their investi-gation, Lindsay says. The G-men even tried to

change evidence that linked Bradley Bryant to The Company and the CIA.

Certainly, the most damning piece of evidence — the sketch of Teddy's room — turned up missing once the feds got involved.

"I was shown the di-agram that was seized agram that was seized the night the three were arrested," Philly Police Capt. James Maleno says. "But the floor plan turned up missing after the cache from the hotel room was transported."

That's just too much of an accident for Maleno's taste. But the cons did get

taste. But the cops did get one break — they stopped Teddy's killers cold. After his brother Bob-

After his brother Bob-by was gunned down in Los Angeles by Sirhan Sirhan, Teddy was next on the hit list, especially after he decided to run for President and was lead-

ing in the polls.
But the plot to kill him short-circuited after Bar-nard and the Bryant cousins checked into the Sheraton Airport Inn on Dec. 26, 1979. Hotel staffers became

suspicious when the trio paid their bills on a daily

basis — with crisp \$100 bills — and refused to let maids into their rooms. When they'd go out, the men put up "Do Not Disturb" signs, left TVs on and showers running so folks would figure the rooms were occupied.

But the tricks didn't work. Sheraton employ-

work. Sheraton employ-ees tipped off the cops. And the police put a 24-

hour surveillance on the trio. After detecting

marijuana in Bradley Bryant's room, cops got a search warrant. But before the police

could use the warrant, Bradley — who'd regis-tered as Doug Clark — took off for the airport.

Paramilitary group

He was tailed through a howling snowstorm — and nabbed by Detective William Stephenson before boarding a flight to At-

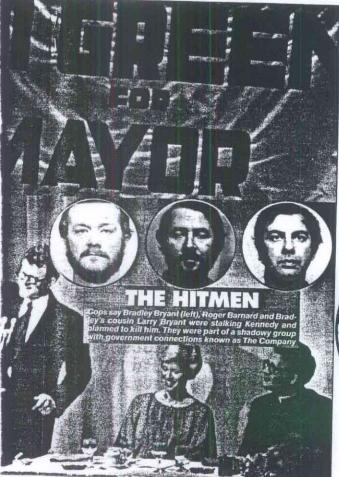
lanta. Stephenson found out that Bradley had booked a return flight to Philly for the next day.

As the cuffs were snapped on, Stephenson says Bradley told him: "Officer, this is a mistake. I'm one of the good onys. – like one of the good guys — like you! You'll find out just who I am very shortly." Bradley was packing a loaded Walter 9 mm. pis-

tol, a two-shot derringer, \$22,800 in new \$100 bills



Senator Ted Kennedy campaigns for Philadelphia Mayor Bill Green just a few w



st a few weeks after police officers uncovered a sinister plot to assassinate him there

ley had flight to it day. s were phenson um: "Ofake. I'm
's — like
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icking a nm. pisrringer, 00 bills

all with sequential numbers - and 10 dif-ferent Kentucky driver's licenses, each with his ac-tual photograph and dif-ferent names and Social Security numbers.

His briefcase held a so-birticated built in the

His briefcase held a so-histicated, built-in phone frambler and other as-sorted phony identifica-tion, wallets and gun per-hits. Stephenson was stunned. But he was in for a bigger shock when he

helped raid the hotel. "In all my street experience, I never saw a more formidable paramilitary group so well-equipped and armed for a hit," he says.

Cops seized pistols, silencers, commando daggers, ski masks, ropes, jump suits, 11 phony drivers' licenses, government documents — and an address book.

Hitman Charles Harrelson was listed, along with

son was listed, along with

the numbers of CIA, FBI and Secret Service agents. At first, Larry Bryant said his team was on a secret government mission.

Called off visit

"We work for the CIA!
We're good guys!" Maleno
says Larry shouted. Then,
Larry, a highly decorated
Air Force electronics wizard, changed his story after talking with his partners. His cousin did, too,

and Maleno says they later denied ever making statements linking them

to the government.
But Maleno, Lindsay
and Stephenson did manand Stephenson did man-age to trace the trio's mountain of cash to Jim-my Chagra, a drug king-pin suspected of hiring JFK's killer to murder Judge Woods. And Stephenson says the feds told him that Bradley acted as the go-

between for Harrelson and Chagra. The cops used the information to warn Kennedy. He called off his visit,

He called off his visit, but campaigned in Philly a few weeks later with then-Mayor Bill Green. Still, he's lucky to be alive. Now, Harrelson's in federal prison serving life for the Woods hit. And Bradley's free after serv-ing two years on charges

ing two years on charges stemming from the Phil-

ly police raid. Larry and Barnard beat the rap en-tirely. But even after all

tirely. But even after all these years, the three hit men aren't talking.

When investigators offered a deal in exchange for his testimony, Bradley coolly said: "No thanks. I think I'll sit this one out." And the feds' cover-up doesn't sit well with the Philly police.

— FRANK GEARY and CHARLIE MONTGOMERY

