

Book claims Mafia plotted murder of John F. Kennedy

By Blaine Taylor

Contract on America: The Mafia Murder of John F. Kennedy: David E. Scheim. Shapolsky Books. 480 pages. \$19.95.

"The conclusion is clear," author David Scheim states in this controversial look at a much-covered subject that breaks new ground, "the Mafia killed President Kennedy."

JFK was killed in a three-way cross-fire that included alleged "lone assassin" Lee Harvey Oswald in the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas' Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963, as well as a second gunman firing from the Dal-Tex Building and yet a third shooting from a position where many eyewitnesses placed him along on the legendary "grassy knoll."

And that's not all, according to Scheim, who said in a recent interview about the book that the Mob-style "hit" on the President was plotted by longtime Robert Kennedy foe James R. Hoffa of the Teamsters union in conjunction with the Mafioso bosses of New Orleans and Tampa respectively, Carlos Marcello (in jail today at age 78) and Santo Trafficante, Jr. in retaliation for RFK's anti-organized crime drive.

The key figure in Scheim's work — one that is endorsed by many other assassination book authors, it should be noted — is not Oswald at all, but the man who gunned him down in the basement of the Dallas Police headquarters, nightclub owner Jack Ruby. Far from seeking altruistically to avenge the Kennedys, Scheim states, Ruby was a mob figure himself who was a one-time errand-boy for Al Capone, and who moved to Dallas in 1947 from Chicago to set up a Mafia



JFK Library

DELIVERS A QUIP — President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated 25 years ago next week, delivers a quip at one of his famous press conferences in the U.S. State Department auditorium.

front organization.

Not only did he shoot Oswald to silence him, but he'd met several times with him *prior* to the assassination. Scheim, 39, Director of Management Information Systems at Bethesda's National Institutes of Health, worked on the book for ten years and financed researchers to cross-reference and check the government's own documents and FBI witness interviews with \$80,000 of his own money, then sent the manuscript out over the next five years for reading by known assassination authorities.

The result makes a convincing case for his main thesis, as well as connecting the 1968 RFK slaying in a similar vein. He believes that while J. Edgar Hoover, Lyndon Johnson, the Secret Service and the CIA had little to do with plotting the Dallas crime itself, all played major roles in the subsequent Warren Commission cover-up; discounter, too, is any plot complicity on the parts of the Russians and Cuban dictator Fidel Castro. A measured scholarly tome thoroughly researched, *Contract* has a ring of the truth at last.