## Aides Say Robert Kennedy Told of C.I.A. Castro Plot

By SEYMOUR M. HERSH

Special to The New York Times

late Robert F. Kennedy; say said. that he told them in 1967 that agents of the Central Intelli-count was initially provided to gence Agency had contracted The New York Times in sepwith the Mafia in an aborted arate off the record discussions plot to assassinate Premier in 1973 and restated Friday for Fidel Castro of Cuba before direct attribution. the Bay of Pigs invasion in On March 3, 1967, Jack An-

Edelman, who were assistants may have plotted Mr. Castro's to Mr. Kennedy when he was assassination and depicted Mr. Attorney General and a Sen-Kennedy as the official who ator, said in interviews last may have approved the oper weeks that Mr. Kennedy told ation." Mr. Anderson also cited them, that he had played an what he termed persistent active role in stopping the as- "rumors" to the effect that Mr. sassination attempt.

in private practice in New been blaming himself for the York, said that Mr. Kennedy death of his brother so desclosed that he had received The column publish "assurances in writing from time of strained relations bethe C.I.A. that the attempted assassination had been aborted. Those assurances came the Senator Kennedy and President Johnson, "outraged" the Senator Mr. Walinsky reafter Mr. Kennedy discussed the issue with high officials of the agency, Mr. Walinsky recalled the then-Senator saying.

"Ill remember him saying."

"He told us that he had dis-

WASHINGTON, March 9 - made a contract with the Mafia Two former key aides to the to hit Castro," Mr. Walinsky

The Walinsky-Edelman ac-

Adam Walinsky and Peter B. umnist, reported that the C.L.A. A high official of the C.I.A., of the American plot and de-informed of the Walinsky-cided to retaliate by having Edelman account, said the President Kennedy assassinated agency would have "no com- in 1963. Because of that possibility, the columnist suggested, Mr. Walinsky, now a lawyer Senator Kennedy may have

"assurances in writing" from time of strained relations be-

"In remember him saying,

covered, that the C.I.A. had Continued on Page 49, Column 3. Continued From Page I, Col. 74

> 'blame myself?' Mr. Edelman recalled. "I didn't start it [the Castro assassination attempt]; I stopped it." was !

> Mr. Edelman, now a vice president for policy at the university of Massachusetts, further quoted Mr. Kennedy as saying, "I found out that some people were going to try an attempt on Castro's life and I turned it off."

> Mr. Edelman said that Mr. Kennedy had "mentioned the Mafia." Mr. Edelman said that the inference he had then drawn. from the conversation was that someone associated with the C.I.A. had done this, but not necessarily that it had been officially anctioned by the agency, whatever that means." anctioned by the

Clue Found in Las Vegas.

Mr. Waiinsky also recalled Mr. Kennegy as explaining in 1967 that he had learned of the alleged C.I.A.-Mafia link while working as an organized crime investigator for a Senate committee in the late fifties.

"He was out in Las Vegas," Mr. Walinsky recalled Mr. Kennedy as saying, "and a mobster told him, you can't touch me, I've got immunity." he said 'who

gave you immunity? he said who gave you immunity? and the mobster said "C.T.A." "He went back and he cheeked and sure enough it was true." Mr. Walinsky said. "They had made a deal with this giv."

this guy."
Mr. Walinsky said that Mr. Kennedy did not say in his conversation in 1967 who had informed him of the alleged C.I.A. Mafia ties, He also said that Mr. Kennedy apparently learned more about that relationship while serving at President Kennedy's request on a panel in 1961, that reviewed the C.LA, s planning and preparations for the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs, invasion.

Asked why Senator Kennedy did not try to make that in-formation public, Mr. Walinsky said he could only speculate, but that he believed the Senator, who was assassinated while seeking the Democratic Presidential nomination, in 1968, planned to take some corrective action toward the C.I.A. if elected to the White House.

Briefing of Ford Reported

A number of news organizations have reported that Pres-ident Ford was briefed late last year on C.I.A.-connected assassinations or assassination attempts. The White House has refused to comment.

Asked at a news conference

last Thursday night what Wil-liam E. Colby, director of Central Intelligence had told him about the allegations of assassination or assassination attempts on foreign leaders, Mr. Ford replied that he was 'not in a position to give any factual account." Mafia leaders have been

linked to American intelligence efforts since World War II, when Charles Luciano allegedly aided the planning for the Allied

invasion of Sicily.

A number of Mafia leaders had extensive gambling and syndicate holdings in Cuba dating to the late nineteen-thirties when Meyer Lansky opened his first casino in Havana. The Mafia also reportedly enjoyed a close relationship with Fulgencio Batista, the Cuban dic-tator whom Mr. Castro deposed.

After the Castro revolution in 1958, the gambling casinos and other activities were shut down by the Cuban Govern-ment and the Mafia allegedly worked closely with C.I.A. op-eratives in providing intelligence, planning and other help for the Bay of Pigs invasion, according to a number of Federal investigators.

in a book called "The Politics of Herofn in Southeast Asia," Alfred McCoy, then a Yale student, charged in 1972 that Corsican and American syndicate gangsters had become involved in the heroin trade from Laos, Burma and Thailand. He also wrote that such infor-mation was well known to many officials of the Central Intelligence Agency and that they had done nothing to stop such activities.

High officials of the intelligence agency, including Mr. Colby and Cord Meyer, now the station chief in London, denied the allegation at the

Mr. McCoy quoted Edward Lansdale, a high-level C.I.A. operative in Southeast Asia, as telling him in 1971 that he had met with Corsican mobsters and informed them he would take a hands-off attitude toward-them.

"We had some kind of truce Mr. McCoy quoted Mr. Lansdale as saying.

Aid on Spying Reported

A number of past and present C.I.A. agents told The Times in interviews shortly after Mr. McCoy's allegations were published that agency officials repeatedly looked the other way in the nineteensixty's because the Southeast Asian drug trade was considered to be helpful to anti-Communist forces.
San Giancana, a Chicago

rackets chief with long-time connections to Cuba, is believed by some investigators to have aided the C.I.A. in spying efforts against Mr. Castro.

In August, 1963; Sandy Smith, a crime reporter for The Chicago Sun-Times, quoted Justice Department sources as saying the C.I.A. had apparent-ly helped Mr. Giancana spy on his then girlfriend, Phyllis Mc-Guire, one of the singing Mc-Guire sisters, sometime in 1961.

Mr. Smith, now a Time magarine reporter who is highly respected for his reporting on organized crime, wrote that Mr. Giancana had become concerned because a prominent right club singer was becoming too attentive to Miss McGuire and the C.I.A. apparently decided to help him confirm his suspicions.

An man describing himself as an "investigator" for a private detective agency in Florida was arrested by sheriff's police while prowling in Miss McGuire's hotel suite in Las Vegas. After persistent questioning, the detective agency told the police to get in touch with the CLA

## Explanation Lacking

The matter was apparently dropped without any formal charges being filed, but Mr. Smith wrote that neither the C.I.A. nor the detective agency ever offered the police an explantion of what the prowler had been doing in the hotel suite

A former Justice Department official knowledgeable about such matters supported Mr. Smith's account in a recent interview with The Times. But he said that a file on the matter, which also showed that a wiretap had been involved, had been removed by a Nixon Administration appointee from the department's organized crime division.

The alleged Giancana-C.I.A. link became of concern to the Nixon Administration in the late nineteen-sixties, the source said, because there was a mistaken initial belief that the wiretap on Miss McGuire's room had been authorized by Robert Kennedy when he was Attorney General.

In a series of interviews late last year, a former undercover agent for the C.I.A. in New York City alleged that he and other agents "had some dealings" with the mafia.

The former C.I.A. man, who told of monitoring the activities of radicals and other dissidents in the late nineteen-sixtles and early nineteen-seventies and whose knowledge of the C.I.A. seemed extensive, said that the Mafia was relied upon for exchanges of information and also to assault targets seected by the C.I.A.

The former C.I.A. man refused to name any such victims or to permit his name to be used. In a recent statement to a House subcommittee, Mr. Colby said that he had ben unable to identify the man and, therefore, believed him to be "a fabricator."

A number of high-ranking present and former Justice Department officials with close involvement in organized crime activities also expressed the belief in interviews last week that the full story of alleged C.I.A. involvement with the Mafia was not known.

## 6 DEMOCRATS HERE CRITICAL OF C.I.A.

Representatives Draw 800 to East Side Meeting

By PAUL I. MONTGOMERY
Six Democratic Representatives attracted an audience of 800 on the East Side yesterday for a town meeting on the controversy over the Central In-

telligence Agency.
The Representatives, all of whom took anti-C.I.A. positions of varying severity, were peppered with questions from the audience about the current Congressional investigations of the agency, possible links between the C.I.A. and the assassination of President John E. Kennedy, and the 65-billion in Federal funds spent annually for foreign intelligence gathereing.

Representative Belia S. Ab-

Representative Bella S. Abzug, who found at a hearing last week in Washington than the C.I.A. had been keeping a dossier on her, was asked if the intelligence agency ought to be abolished.

"Government nto Itself"

"The C.I.A. has become a government unto itself," the Manhattan Congresswoman teplied. "They seem to consider themselves above the executive branch of government, the judicial branch, the legislative branch and the Constitution. That is the question—whether the C.I.A. in its present form should exist at all."

should exist at all."

The gathering at Julia Richmond High School, 67th Streeth and Second Avenue, was sponsored by the Committee for Public Justice, a part of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation. It was founded in 1970 at the urging of Lillian Hellman, the playwright, to look into acts of the Administration of President Richard M. Nixon in domestic intelligence, secrecy in government and political

Members of the audience paid \$10 for reserved seats or \$2 for general admission to the meeting. Warren Beatty, the actor, who is a member of the Committee for Public Justice, introduced the participants and apologized to Elizabeth Holtzman, the Brooklyn Congressman, for saying that she represented Richmond.

Questions on Assassination.

Several questions from the audience concerned the assassination of President Kennedy, John D. Marks, co-author of "The C.I.A. and the Cult of Intelligence," said: "I don't think there's anybody in this room who believes that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone." He said, he had a "visceral feeling" that some figures in the murder had C.I.A. connections.

The Representatives on hand —Mrs. Abzug, Miss Holtzman, Herman-Badillo, Mario Biaggi, eBnjamin S. Rosenthal and Edward-I. Koch—indicated they favored a resolution by Representative Henry Gonzales that the Kennedy case be reopened.

Former Representative Allard K. Lowenstein, who was in the audience, urged that the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in 1968 be included in an re-examination of the assassination.

## C.I.A. Link Alleged In a Plot for Mafia To Kill 3 Dictators

Time magazine reported yesterday that it had been told by "credible sources" that the Central Intelligence Agency had been "involved in assassination plots" against the Caribbean leaders Fidel Castro, Rafael L. Trujillo and Francois Duvalier. The magazine said its "sources contend that the C.I.A. enlisted the hired-gun help of U.S. Mafia figures in several unsuccessful attempts to kill Cuban Premier Castro both before and shortly after the C.I.A. planned Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961."

It said the sources reported that the agency got the help of two underworld figures, Sam Giancana and John Roselli in efforts to kill Mr. Castro by poison, shooting or bombs. It said the Federal Bureau of Investigation later learned of these attempts while investigating a burglary of the comedian Dan. Rowan's hotel room in Las Vegas. It said the F.B.I. learned "the arrested prowlers had been assigned by the C.I.A. as a favor to Giancana, who sought information to break up a budding romance between Rowan, and Giancana's girl friend, Phyllis Mcguire."

The magazine said its sources asserted that the C.I.A. "backed the successful drive to overthrow" General Trujillo, whose 31 years as dictator of the Dominican Republic ended with his death by shooting in May, 1961. The sources said the agency thought President Trujillo was "geting too friendly with the Communists" and "nobody wanted another Cuba in the Dominican Republic."

It said the C.I.A. "collaborated with Hait leaders of a group of at least 200 rebels" who tried unsuccessfully to overthrow Mr. Duvalier, dictator of Haiti, in 1963. It said the rebels were stopped at the Dominican border when they tried to invade Haiti.

Costa Rican Link
MEXICO CITY, March 9 (UPI)
—José Figueres, former President of Costa Rica, said in a televised interview broadcast today that he worked for the C.I.A. in "20,000 ways!" since it was founded. He said he believed other Latin-American Presidents had also done so but dist not mention any names.



The New York Times/George Tame

Senator Robert F. Kennedy in 1968 with Adam Walinsky, right, and Peter B. Edelman, rear. They were then assistants to Mr. Kennedy. They revealed details on alleged plot against Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba.