

Stand Up for America and Help Us

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By Art Buchwald

Two Robert Kennedy aides revealed the other day that the CIA had plans to assassinate Fidel Castro, and they were going to give the contract to the Mafia to do the job. The question is how did they approach the Mafia about it and what was said.

This is only conjecture since the files are sealed.

It probably happened during the wedding of Don Corleone's daughter. Hagen, the consigliere, and Sonny Corleone bring the head of the CIA into Don Corleone's library.

The CIA chief kisses Don Corleone's ring.

"Godfather, may I speak to you alone?"

Don Corleone shakes his head. "I trust these men with my life. I cannot insult them by sending them away. What do you want of me?"

The CIA chief licks his lips nervously. "Our honor in Cuba has been violated. This man Fidel Castro spits on us and insults us publicly. We must have justice."

"Why do you come to me?" Don Corleone asks.

"Because we have gone to the Army, the Navy and the Air Force like good citizens, and they just laugh at us. You, Godfather, are the only one we can turn to."

"What do you want me to do?"

The chief glances at Hagen and Sonny and then goes over and whispers in Don Corleone's ear.

The Don looks up gravely. "That I cannot do."

The CIA chief says desperately, "I will pay you anything."

Don Corleone rises from behind his desk and speaks coldly. "We have known each other many years, but until this day you have never come to me for counsel or help. I am your friend, but have you ever invited me to your home in McLean? Has your wife ever invited my wife for as much as a cup of coffee? Your children refused to

Play God, Godfather

Capitol Punishment

play with my children. And once when my son wanted to borrow some camera equipment and a red wig, you turned us down. Let us be frank. You spurned my friendship. You feared to be in my debt."

The CIA chief wipes his forehead with a handkerchief.

"We never invited you because we didn't think you'd come."

The Don holds up his hand. "Don't speak. When you wanted something you went to the government—to the White House, the FBI and the U.S. post office. You did not need Don Corleone. Very well, my feelings were wounded, but I am not the sort of per-

son who thrusts his friendship on those who do not value it. Now you come and say, 'Don Corleone, give me justice against Castro.' But you do not ask with respect. And you say, 'I will pay you anything.' And you do this on my daughter's wedding day. I do not want to have anything to do with you."

The CIA chief gets on his knees. "Forgive me, Godfather, I thought we could count on the armed forces for justice. I tried to work through the system. But Castro still lives. Grant me this one favor, and you and your wife can come to our home any time you want to. We want your friendship. We really do."

Don Corleone goes over to the CIA

chief and puts his hand on his head. "Good, then you shall have your justice. Someday, and that day may never come, I will call upon you to do me a service in return. Until then, consider this favor a gift from my wife who, as you know, is G. Gordon Liddy's godmother."

The CIA chief is overcome with gratitude.

Don Corleone picks him up gently and says, "Now give me a kiss on the cheek, so I can get back to the wedding."

The CIA chief kisses Don Corleone on the cheek, and says, "If you ever want us to read anybody's mail for you, let me know."

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