

Bob Wiedrich

Cain was on move with big schemes



1 Ch. Trib 12/28/73
RICHARD CAIN had so many projects underway at the time of his murder last week it is a wonder there was time enough left for two underworld assassins to gun him down:

- He was writing an expose on the hidden alliance between Chicago police, politicians, and crime syndicate gangsters, naming names and detailing facts based on his own experiences as an undercover Mafia agent while a police officer himself.

- He was seeking to complete financing for a \$2.4-million motion-picture extravaganza on the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, using a script he had written himself and including some personal experiences as a CIA payroller training Cuban refugees for the abortive attack.

- He was trying to line up a wealthy investor with \$100,000 to launch a gambling casino somewhere in the Mediterranean.

- And he was touring Rush Street and other North Side areas of the city, demanding that local mob enterprises now pay him the tribute due gangsters Joey [Caesar] DiVarco and Big Joe Arnold while they remained in jail on income tax-evasion charges.

Cain's multitudinous activities came to light yesterday thru a series of private letters written to Chicago friends earlier this year by Cain from the apartment he maintained under the aliases Richard Scott and Riccardo Scalzitti at Calzada Tacubaya, Mexico City.

This columnist was permitted to view them with the promise of eternal anonymity for the recipients. They make fascinating reading. And enough of the contents have been corroborated by other sources to give the material more than usual credence.

FOR EXAMPLE, Washington sources confirm off-the-record that Cain's claims of having been ousted from Mexico in 1961 after having trained anti-Communist refugees for an attack on Fidel Castro's island bastion are true.

Further, other sources in the capital verify Cain was hired by the CIA because his American crime syndicate

connections afforded him certain contacts in Havana as a result of the mob-operated gambling casinos that flourished in Cuba under former dictator Fulgencio Batista.

In a letter dated last Feb. 22, Cain reported a United States agency at odds with the CIA had been responsible for his 1961 ouster from Mexico by fabricating for local authorities a story he was a fugitive wanted back in Chicago. The following year Cain, a former Chicago police vice detective, was

appointed chief investigator of the Cook County sheriff's office.

In his letter, Cain suggested one of his CIA chores had included wiretapping the Czechoslovakian embassy in Mexico City and that rivalry between the agencies had brought that to an abrupt halt.

Last April 2, Cain discussed his proposed novel and his need for a publisher.

"I have set aside all planned activities [including a trip to Europe . . .] in order to spend the next three months in seclusion writing a novel about the Chicago Police Department, politics, crime, etc. etc. I've been planning to do so for ages, but have been lazy . . . People should know about [a name obliterated] and how search warrants are obtained and ward committeemen and whores, not how gallant our guardians are!"

According to two of Cain's letters, his movie script is in the possession of a friend in Chicago. People who have read it verify its existence.

In a Feb. 7 letter, Cain claimed to have already obtained a \$1 million commitment for the film from European sources. A major Hollywood studio had offered to make up the difference in exchange for distribution rights. But Cain said he had refused the offer because the studio wanted to exercise "editorial license."

Exterior shots would be filmed in Mexico with the cooperation of the Mexican government thru the loan of

an infantry regiment to portray combatants at the Bay of Pigs, he wrote. And, he claimed further, David Lean, the distinguished British movie director who won an Academy Award for "The Bridge on the River Kwai," was interested in the film.

THEN, IN a March 15 letter, Cain reported he could smooth the way for a prospective investor in a Mediterranean tourist hotel gambling casino by introducing him to the proper officials needed for a government license. He did not name the country, altho while in Chicago he boasted of plans for a gambling ship cruising off the island of Malta.

Finally, sources report Cain was alleging along Rush Street just a few days before his murder that he had been named to substitute for DiVarco and Arnold during their absence in prison and claimed to have their personal approval.

None of these schemes, however, came to pass. Cain didn't have enough time to do them all for he had an appointment he didn't know about— with death.