

11/14/89

Dear Dave,

Someone came today with some nutty books. I noticed that one is the Signet paperback of John Davis's Marcello book. So, I was curious to see what changes had been made in the language to which I objected. What I had objected to has been removed and the closest reference to me is innocuous, merely that I had sued and gotten 220,000 pages of JFK assassination records.

I was pretty certain that it was the last textual reference to me in the hardback so I checked the index, saw that 463 is the last reference, and there is no mention of my name on that page.

There is a mention, the one I refer to above, on ~~463~~ 462. So, either there was a typo or there were changes made in those passages that were not picked up in the index.

Best,



Actually, the changes could have been made on earlier pages, with the error carried forward but I've not checked. He may have made other changes for other reasons.

THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY... "EXPLOSIVE NEW EVIDENCE!"
—LIZ SMITH, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS



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history, has been suspect from the start, many seasoned researchers and investigators believe that the Justice Department will never act on the case. Better to let the case die than to establish proof of conspiracy that would discredit the FBI's original investigation.

And so, given the status of the case within the Justice Department nearly eight years after the House Select Committee on Assassinations issued its findings of probable conspiracy and voiced its suspicions of the possible involvement in the crime of Jimmy Hoffa, Santos Trafficante, and Carlos Marcello, one cannot help but conclude that the United States government either does not want to know who was behind the assassination of the President or, at best, does not want the nation and the world to know who was behind the crime.

It was one thing to tell the world that an unbalanced loner killed the President and was then quickly executed for his crime by a patriotic citizen taking the law into his own hands, and quite another to admit that one of the most powerful crime families in the nation had been able to change the course of American history by violent means and get away with it.

What was Carlos Marcello's reaction to the House Select Committee on Assassinations' publicly declared suspicion that he or his "crime family or organization" might have played a role in the assassination of President Kennedy?

There is solid evidence that he was quite disturbed, for in the summer of 1979, when those findings were finally published by the government printing office, he apparently assigned the matter to his most trusted attorney, the brilliant Jack Wasserman, for investigation. Wasserman immediately set about obtaining the available FBI files on the Kennedy assassination, which included the extensive files on David Ferrie and some documents, but not all, on the allegations of Eugene De Laparra and SV T-1, as well as the Edward Becker story of Marcello's threat to kill Kennedy.

These files, amounting to well over 220,000 pages of documents, had been obtained through a lengthy and costly Freedom of Information Act lawsuit brought against the Justice Department by Harold Weisberg, noted Kennedy assassination researcher and author of

The Fall of Carlos Marcello

several books relating to the assassination. They were the files the Assassinations Committee should have had at the beginning of its investigation but did not receive until too late. Now they were being put at the disposal of Carlos Marcello's attorney.

From correspondence I have examined, it appears that throughout the summer and fall of 1979 Jack Wasserman searched through the recently released FBI files in an attempt to retrieve every FBI document that could relate to the possibility of his client's having been involved in the assassination.

Because of this frantic response of Marcello's principal attorney to the House Committee on Assassinations' findings, we can safely assume that those findings were a matter of deep concern to Carlos Marcello.

Did Carlos expect there would be an investigation of his possible complicity in the assassination by the Justice Department—an investigation which might have led to the convening of a grand jury and the returning of an eventual indictment for conspiracy to murder the President of the United States?

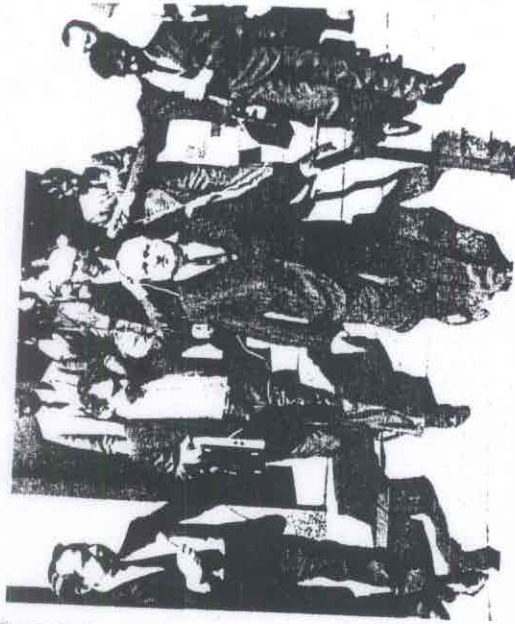
If he did, Carlos could have done no better than to put his defense in Jack Wasserman's hands. If Wasserman could successfully defend him against the Immigration and Naturalization Service for over thirty years, in what had been the longest and costliest deportation case in U.S. history, he could surely give the U.S. attorney in New Orleans, who would prosecute any assassination conspiracy case against Marcello, the battle of his life.

But Jack Wasserman never got to defend his client against the charge that he had conspired to murder President Kennedy, for shortly after Wasserman began preparing for the anticipated case, he suddenly died of a heart attack.

However, as it turned out, the Justice Department was not preparing to prosecute Carlos Marcello for conspiring to murder Kennedy when Wasserman died in 1979. Instead it was conducting an undercover "sting" operation against him that the government hoped would send the Louisiana Mafia boss to prison for the rest of his life.

The operation had begun—unknown, of course, to

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