

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

JIM BRADEN a/k/a EUGENE HALE BRADING,  
3224 Peachtree Road, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30305  
Plaintiff

v.

Law #48449

MICHAEL EWING  
P.O. Box 218  
St. Michaels, Maryland 21663

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.  
811 Prince Street  
Alexandria, Virginia

THE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS, INC.  
2101 "L" Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037, A Non-Profit Corporation  
Serve: United States Corp.  
Co. 529 14th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004,  
Registered Agent

KENSINGTON PUBLISHING CORPORATION  
521 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10017  
Serve: Sulsky, Haber &  
Simenowitz, 500 Old Country  
Road, Garden City, N.Y. 11530  
Registered Agent

PETER NOYES  
c/o KFMB Television  
San Diego, California

and

PINNACLE BOOKS, INC.  
275 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10016  
Serve: C.T. Corporation  
277 Park Avenue, New York,  
N.Y. 10017, Registered Agent

Defendants

DECLARATION  
(Libel)

1. This Court has jurisdiction of this action by virtue of sections of 6-102 and 6-103 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings volume of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

2. The plaintiff, Jim Braden, also known as Eugene Hale Brading, is a resident of the State of Georgia, and is a private figure.

3. The defendant, Michael Ewing is a resident of St. Michael's, Maryland.

4. The defendant, Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., is a resident of Alexandria, Virginia.

5. The defendant, The Committee To Investigate Assassinations, Inc., is a District of Columbia non-profit corporation, with its principal place of business in the District of Columbia. This corporation is engaged in the activity of "investigating assassinations".

6. Defendant, Kensington Publishing Corporation is a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the law of the State of New York and engaged in the business of publishing books. The corporation derives substantial income from business performed in and with the State of Maryland.

7. Defendant, Peter Noyes, is a resident of San Diego, California. The address of his residence is not known to the plaintiff, although plaintiff believes that Peter Noyes is employed by KFMG Television in San Diego, California.

8. Defendant, Pinnacle Books, is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware and engaged in the business of publishing and distributing books.

COUNT ONE

9. All allegations made in the previous paragraphs are incorporated within this Count by reference.

10. On or about April 1977, the defendant, Kensington Publishing Corporation, printed and distributed a book entitled Coincidence or Conspiracy, copies of which were distributed and sold within the State of Maryland, Montgomery County, and

elsewhere. This book was written, produced and compiled by defendants Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Michael Ewing, and The Committee to Investigate Assassinations, Inc.

11. The book, Coincidence or Conspiracy, consists largely of short biographical sketches of different persons alleged to be involved in, or related to, either the assassination of President John F. Kennedy or the investigation of the assassination. A copy of the front cover, first inside page and the table of contents is attached as Attachment "A", and incorporated by reference.

12. The "chapter" on the plaintiff is included within the section of the book entitled "The Mafia Connection." The inclusion of the chapter on the plaintiff within this section suggests that he is or has been involved with the Mafia. Such an imputation is false, misleading, malicious and libellous.

13. Said book, contains, among other material, several passages referring to the plaintiff by name, as well as a photograph of him. Copies of the pages of the book which contain these statements are attached hereto as Attachment "B", and incorporated herein by reference. All references in the book to Eugene Hale Brading, Jim Braden or Braden refer to the plaintiff.

14. The statement that "Jim Braden is the central character involved in one of the most incredible areas of evidence that was not available to the Warren Investigation" [page 287] suggests, by innuendo, that the plaintiff was involved in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. The statement is false, misleading, malicious and libellous.

15. The statement that "Braden is the main character in one of the most significant books on the Kennedy case, Legacy of Doubt, by Peter Noyes," [page 287] suggests that the plaintiff had a significant role in the assassination. This statement is false, misleading, malicious and libellous.

16. The passages that state that the plaintiff is believed by federal authorities to be presently serving as a 'personal courier' for syndicate leader Meyer Lansky [pages 287, 445] are false, misleading, malicious and libellous, accusing the plaintiff of criminal conduct and linking him with an individual widely thought to be a criminal. The allegation that this belief is held by 'federal authorities' is false and by innuendo, casts the plaintiff in a false light, implying that he is or has been under investigation, although he has not been under investigation. Further, the plaintiff has never been acquainted with or employed by Meyer Lansky.

17. The statements that "Jim Braden, incredibly enough, had actually been stopped and held for questioning at the scene of the Dallas assassination shortly after the shots were fired" [page 287] and "just minutes after the fatal shots were fired" [page 444] for "acting or behaving suspiciously" [pages 287, 444] are false, misleading, malicious and libellous, casting the plaintiff in a false light, falsely suggesting that the plaintiff was involved in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

18. The statements that "Jim Braden's actual identity never became available to the Warren Commission or the FBI" [page 287], that "Braden had actually changed his identity--by legally changing his name--only a few weeks prior to the

assassination" [page 287] that "he actually had another identity" [pages 444-445] and that "his real identity was never known to the commission" [page 445], cast a false light on the plaintiff by innuendo. These statements imply a sinister motive to the plaintiff's name change and are misleading, false, malicious and libellous.

19. The statements that the plaintiff's background "actually consisted of a long criminal record and heavy involvement with many powerful organized crime figures across the nation" [page 288], that he "had in fact been associated with top Mafia leaders in virtually every national crime syndicate jurisdiction" [page 288] and that the plaintiff "was long associated with powerful Mafia figures in virtually every national crime syndicate jurisdiction including several professional killers who worked for the syndicate" [page 445], are misleading, false, malicious and libellous. The plaintiff does not have a long criminal record, has not been "heav[ily] involve[d] with many powerful organized crime figures across the nation" and has not "associated with top Mafia leaders" in any jurisdiction.

20. The references to "Braden's involvement with Mafia figures stretching over a twenty-year period" [page 288] and "to an extensive amount of national and state law enforcement records" [page 445] are false, misleading, malicious and libellous.

21. The statements that "the plaintiff had visited the H. L. Hunt Oil Company that Jack Ruby visited on November 21, 1963--the afternoon before the assassination--and at approximately the same time"[pages 288, 292, 572] suggest by innuendo,

particularly when read with other references to the plaintiff in the book, that the plaintiff was involved in a conspiracy with Jack Ruby. This allegation or imputation is misleading, false, malicious and defamatory.

22. The statement that the plaintiff was "staying at the Cabana Motel in Dallas--a reported "mob hang out" that was frequented by Jack Ruby and various Ruby associates" is misleading, false, malicious and defamatory. The use of the term 'mob hang out' further implies that the plaintiff was involved in organized crime and casts the plaintiff in a false light. The references to "Jack Ruby and various Ruby associates" further imply that the plaintiff was involved in a conspiracy with Jack Ruby, [pages 288, 292], and are misleading, false, malicious and defamatory.

23. The statement that "Jack Ruby visited the Cabana Motel sometime around midnight on the night before the assassination-- November 21, 1963--while Jim Braden was a registered guest there" [page 288] is misleading, malicious and defamatory, casting the plaintiff in a false light by implying that he saw Jack Ruby that night and was involved in a conspiracy with Jack Ruby.

24. The statements that "Braden also has a possible connection to the late David Ferrie," [page 288] and that Braden worked out of an office in the Pere Marquette Building in New Orleans in the fall of 1963 in the weeks immediately preceding the assassination during the same period that David Ferrie was working for the Mafia leader Carlos Marcello on the same floor ...in the same building...just down the hall from Braden--in Room 1707, [pages 288, 301, 302] are false, misleading.

malicious, and defamatory. The plaintiff was never associated with David Ferrie and never worked out of the Pere Marquette Building in New Orleans, Louisiana.

25. The statement that "[i]n recent years, Jim Braden has been the subject of various tax and gambling investigations in California and Nevada" is false, misleading, malicious and defamatory. [page 288].

26. The statement that "[u]ntil his move to Atlanta, Georgia, in 1975, Braden had lived at the La Costa resort in California, widely reported to be a prime meeting place for various Mafia and teamster leaders" [page 288, 289], is misleading, malicious and defamatory, casting the plaintiff in a false light and, by innuendo, suggesting that he is or was involved with the 'Mafia and teamster leaders'.

27. The statements that The National Archives disclosed that at least two documents pertaining to the arrest of Jim Braden were missing from the official Archives collection of assassination documents [pages 289, 445], are false, misleading, malicious and defamatory. By innuendo it is falsely suggested that the plaintiff is responsible for the absence of such records.

28. The references to "highly possible links" between Lawrence V. Meyers and the plaintiff, [page 290], and the further reference to the plaintiff's staying at the Cabana Motel on the evening that Meyers is alleged to have met Jack Ruby at the motel [page 292], are false, misleading, malicious and defamatory, suggesting by innuendo, that the plaintiff met with Lawrence Meyers that evening.

29. The references to the plaintiff as "Mafia figure Jim Braden" [pages 290, 301, 572], "the alleged Mafia courier", [page 302], and "a known Mafia figure" [page 446], are false, misleading, malicious and libellous.

30. The statement that "Ferrie's chain of associates-- particularly his links to both Lee Oswald and Jim Braden--are as solid as they are mysterious" [page 304], suggests a relationship not only between the plaintiff and David Ferrie, but the plaintiff and Lee Harvey Oswald as well. The plaintiff was never acquainted with Lee Harvey Oswald. Such an imputation is false, misleading, malicious and defamatory.

31. The reference to links between the plaintiff and Carlos Marcello [page 314] is false, misleading, malicious and defamatory. The plaintiff has never been acquainted with Carlos Marcello.

32. The statements that the plaintiff "was a man with several possible connections to both Jack Ruby and David Ferrie" [page 445] and that "[s]trong possibilities exist of Braden connections to both Jack Ruby and David Ferrie in the days and weeks immediately preceding the assassination" [page 572] are false, misleading, malicious and defamatory.

33. All references to the plaintiff made in Coincidence or Conspiracy, including but not limited to those specifically enumerated, supra, when taken as a whole, suggest that the plaintiff played a role in the assassination of John F. Kennedy and that he is a figure involved in the criminal underworld. Such statements are false, defamatory and libellous.



34. All statements referred to above as libellous were made by the defendants Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Michael Ewing, The Committee to Investigate Assassinations, Inc., and Kensington Publishing Corporation, with reckless and willful disregard of the truth of the matters alleged, or in the alternative, in a negligent manner, without proper regard for the truth of the matters alleged.

35. Prior to the publication of the book, Coincidence or Conspiracy, the plaintiff was actively and gainfully employed in the oil industry. He had a good reputation among his business colleagues and among the public generally. Since the date of said publication, he has been the subject of hatred, contempt, scorn, and derision and has lost his good reputation among his business colleagues. The plaintiff has suffered emotional distress, embarrassment, and humiliation. In addition, he has suffered a loss of income and will continue to do so in the future.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff prays for judgment in the amount of nine million dollars (\$9,000,000.00) in general and compensatory damages and one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in punitive damages against the defendants Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Michael Ewing, Kensington Publishing Corporation, and The Committee to Investigate Assassinations, Inc., jointly and severally.

COUNT TWO

36. All allegations made in previous paragraphs of this complaint are incorporated in this count by reference.

37. On or about October 1973, the book, Legacy of Doubt, was published by defendant Pinnacle Books, Inc. This book was written by the defendant, Peter Noyes.

38. Many of the defamatory portions of the book Coincidence or Conspiracy, which concern the plaintiff are attributable to work or research performed by the defendant, Peter Noyes, or are direct quotations or paraphrases of sections of Legacy of Doubt.

39. The references, quotations and paraphrases to the book Legacy of Doubt and to research of defendant Peter Noyes, contained within the book Coincidence or Conspiracy, were made, written and published with the knowledge, consent, acquiescence and participation of defendants, Peter Noyes, and Pinnacle Books, Inc. As included within the book, Coincidence or Conspiracy, those sections of Legacy of Doubt, are republished by the defendants, Peter Noyes and Pinnacle Books, Inc.

40. All sections of Legacy of Doubt and the research of Peter Noyes, quoted, paraphrased or otherwise noted in Coincidence or Conspiracy, which refer to the plaintiff, are false, misleading, malicious, and libellous.

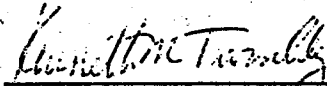
41. The libellous statements made by Peter Noyes and Pinnacle Books, Inc. were made with malicious, wanton and reckless disregard of the truth of the matters alleged. In the alternative, the statements were made negligently, without adequate inquiry into the truth of the matters alleged.

42. As a result of the tortious acts alleged, the plaintiff has been damaged in his previous good reputation, has suffered scorn, derision, hatred and contempt, has suffered loss of

income and emotional distress and will continue to do so in the future.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff prays that he be awarded judgment in the amount of nine million dollars (\$9,000,000.00) in general and compensatory damages and one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in punitive damages against the defendants, Peter Noyes and Pinnacle Books, Inc., jointly and severally.

A jury trial is demanded on all counts.



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1762 Church Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
202-462-1500

True Copy Test  
Howard M. Smith  
Clerk

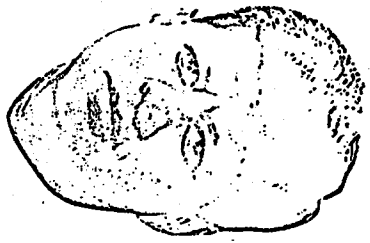
Attorney for the Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF BAR MEMBERSHIP

I certify that I am a Member in good standing of the Maryland Bar. I reside at 4607 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. My residence telephone number is 202-363-4826.



Kenneth M. Trombly



THE NAMES OF RICHARD HELMS, HOWARD HUGHES,  
J. EDGAR HOOVER, SAM GIANCANA, FIDEL CASTRO

—AND OVER 200 OTHERS—

BEEN LINKED TO THE INVESTIGATION OF THE

# ASSASSINATION OF JFK EVIDENCE OR CONSPIRACY?

PRODUCED BY THE  
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
BERNARD FENSTERMAK, JR.  
AND COMPILED BY MICHAEL EWING

ZEBRA-232-82.50

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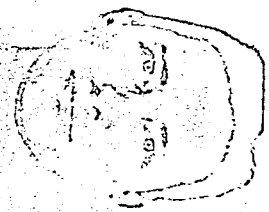
ZEBRA BOOKS

KENSINGTON PUBLISHING CORP.

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Jim Braden



Jim Braden is the central character involved in one of the more incredible areas of evidence that was not available to the Warren investigation. Braden is the main character in one of the most significant books on the Kennedy case, *Legacy of Doubt*, by Peter Noyes. According to Noyes and other investigators, Braden is believed by Federal authorities to be presently serving as a "personal courier" for syndicate boss Meyer Lansky.<sup>76</sup>

Jim Braden, incredibly enough, had actually been tipped and held for questioning at the scene of the Dallas assassination shortly after the shots were fired.<sup>76</sup> Braden was picked up by Dallas Police Deputy L. Lewis, for "acting suspiciously."<sup>77</sup> He was cased after an hour and was later given only minimal attention by the FBI and Warren Commission as a "stander" at the scene of the murder.<sup>78</sup>

Due to the fact that the Dallas police didn't fingerprint Braden or run a make on him to check his background, Jim Braden's actual identity never became available to the Warren Commission or the FBI. Braden actually changed his identity — by legally changing name — only a few weeks prior to the assassination. Jim Braden's real name had been Eugene Hale Hiding. However, on September 10, 1963, Braden received a new driver's license in California under new legal name of "Jim Braden" and had been tested and identified only under that name.<sup>79</sup> Thus

Jim Braden's real background as Eugene Hale Hiding was never available to Federal investigators.

The investigators were not aware it actually consisted of a long criminal record and heavy involvement with many powerful, organized crime figures across the nation. Braden had in fact been associated with top Mafia leaders in virtually every national crime syndicate jurisdiction.<sup>80</sup> Peter Noyes has compiled a mass of federal, state, and local law enforcement files covering Braden's involvement with Mafia figures stretching over a twenty-year period.

In addition, it turns out, Braden also had some other startling connections which were also discovered by the Warren Commission. Jim Braden had visited the same Dallas office of the H.L. Hunt Oil Company that Jack Ruby visited on November 21, 1963 — the afternoon before the assassination — and, at approximately the same time,<sup>81</sup> Braden was also staying at the Cabana Motel in Dallas — a reported "mob hang-out" that was frequented by Jack Ruby and various Ruby associates.<sup>82</sup> As will be seen later, Jack Ruby visited the Cabana Motel sometime around November 21, 1963 — while Jim Braden was a registered guest there.<sup>83</sup>

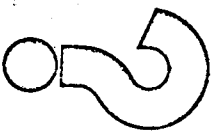
Braden also has a possible connection to the late David Ferrie. According to information documented by Peter Noyes, Braden worked out of an office suite — Room 1701 — in the Pate Marquette Building in New Orleans in the fall of 1963, in the weeks immediately preceding the assassination.<sup>84</sup>

During this same period in late 1963, David Ferrie was working for Mafia leader Carlos Marcello on the same floor . . . in the same building . . . just down the hall from Braden — in Room 1707.<sup>85</sup>

In recent years, Jim Braden has been the subject of various tax and gambling investigations in California and Nevada.<sup>86</sup> Until his move to Atlanta, Georgia, in 1975, Braden had lived at the La Costa resort in

California, widely reported to be a prime meeting place for various Mafia and Teamster leaders.

Interestingly, in the spring of 1976, the National Archives disclosed that at least two documents pertaining to the arrest of Jim Braden were missing from the official Archives collection of assassination documents. In a listing of "Records Relating to the Warren Commission Investigation Missing from the Archives" (prepared for the House Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights), the Archives included the following two items: "Records of the Dallas Police and County Sheriff's Office concerning arrests on November 22, 1963," and a "Photograph taken by Philip Willis in Dealey Plaza showing man being arrested or under arrest near the Dal Tex Building . . ."<sup>86a</sup>



Lawrence V. Meyers and his brother Edward, two New York businessmen, are another subject of increasing interest by various investigators of the Kennedy assassination. Lawrence Meyers was a personal friend and associate of Jack Ruby.<sup>87</sup>

In the last several years, an impressive and quite enormous amount of information has been compiled regarding the Lawrence Meyers-Jack Ruby relationship, and what appear to be highly possible links to Mafia figure Jim Braden, as well as David Ferris, the mysterious private investigator and pilot for New Orleans Mafia leader Carlos Marcello. Lawrence Meyers was briefly examined by the Warren Commission in late August, 1964, as the final draft of the Warren Report was being finished, as Meyers testified that he had known Jack Ruby for at least five or six years and had visited him in Dallas repeatedly over the years.<sup>88</sup>

Due to the fact that Meyers had been a close friend of Ruby's for so many years, the Warren Commission sought to determine how much knowledge Meyers had about Ruby's background and associations. When asked by Commission counsel Burt Griffin whether Ruby had ever talked about "his associations with underworld characters — hoodlums," Lawrence Meyers had replied: "Many times. Generalities . . . nothing specific . . . just dropping names of so-called important people that he met or had known."<sup>89</sup> When asked if

about 11:00 PM, Mr. Meyers stated that while at the Carousel Club he had invited Ruby to join him at the Cabana Motel for a drink with him and his brother, Edward Meyers, and Edward's wife, who were attending a [Bolter's] convention in Dallas. He said that shortly thereafter Jack Ruby came to the motel where he was introduced to his brother and his wife. Ruby remained at the motel for only a few minutes before he left, saying that he had to return to his club.<sup>84</sup>

Braden was also staying at the Cabana Motel at this same time. Thus, late on the night before the assassination, Ruby met with Lawrence Meyers at the same motel in Dallas where Braden was staying. As noted before, Braden had told the authorities that he was in Dallas on "oil business," including a meeting with Lamar Hunt, the son of oil billionaire H. L. Hunt.<sup>95</sup> Thus, a second possible Ruby-Braden connection arises, in addition to their having both been at the H.L. Hunt offices in Dallas, sometime earlier that same afternoon, as previously detailed.

Lawrence Meyers was queried about his late-night meeting with Ruby on the eve of the assassination during his brief Warren Commission appearance. Meyers stated that during his visit to Ruby's Carousel Club at about 9 o'clock that night, he had told Ruby to "meet me at the Cabana Motel at 11 o'clock that evening."<sup>96</sup> Meyers further stated that Ruby had arrived at the Cabana between 11:30 and midnight.<sup>97</sup> Interestingly, Commission counsel Griffin had asked Meyers where he had been in between the time he left Ruby's club and when he met him around midnight.<sup>98</sup> Meyers answered that he didn't recall where he had been, but assumed that he had been having dinner somewhere in Dallas, although "I haven't got the vaguest recollection of where I had dinner that night."<sup>99</sup>

police immediately after the assassination, Ferrie also stated that he had driven over a thousand miles on the night of the assassination (and early morning hours of November 23) to go goose hunting in Texas.<sup>131</sup> Under subsequent questioning by the authorities, David Ferrie's "goose hunting" companions disclosed that they had later decided against hunting and had subsequently gone to a skating rink where David Ferrie waited two hours at a telephone booth before receiving a call he was expecting.<sup>132</sup>

As pointed out in the 1969 *Look* magazine article, Ferrie's "goose hunting" companions refused to answer any questions about the trip when they were questioned by the authorities shortly after the assassination. According to the *Look* report, it was not until an attorney on the payroll of Carlos Marcello showed up to represent Ferrie's friends that they agreed to respond to questioning.<sup>133</sup> It should again be remembered in this sequence of events (which are admittedly confusing, although well documented) that Ferrie was then under brief investigation due to allegations that he had been involved with Oswald in the assassination — allegations made to the FBI and New Orleans Police Department by his colleague, Jack Martin, who subsequently reportedly retracted his information.

In the past several years Peter Noyes has uncovered substantial new information regarding David Ferrie's activities in 1963. Noyes in fact has uncovered documented evidence which shows that in the three-month period before the assassination, Ferrie worked out of the same floor of offices in a New Orleans building which were also being used by Jim Braden. Noyes has documented that just ten weeks before the November assassination, David Ferrie was working out of Room 1707 of the Pere Marquette Building in New Orleans (in an office used by a top attorney for Mafia leader Marcello) at the same time that Mafia figure Jim Braden was

working out of Room 1701.<sup>134</sup> Noyes established that in one official parole office document relating to ex-convict Braden, the alleged Mafia courier had even given his address as Room 1706 in the Pere Marquette Building, which would have been right next door to David Ferrie in Room 1707.<sup>135</sup>

It was apparently through his Mafia involvement that David Ferrie also became heavily involved with various right-wing anti-Castro Cuban militants. It has been noted through the years (most recently in the Church Senate Intelligence Committee Report) that the Mafia and various anti-Castro Cubans had fashioned a close relationship — particularly in the Miami, Florida area — after the fall of Cuba to Fidel Castro. As the Church Committee disclosed, top Mafia figures Sam Giancana and Santos Trafficante had been used by the CIA to recruit Cuban exiles for involvement in assassination plots against Castro.<sup>136</sup> David Ferrie had been involved to a still unknown extent in the CIA's abortive Bay of Pigs invasion in April, 1961, apparently as a pilot for clandestine landings inside Cuba. Ferrie himself often spoke of having made a landing somewhere within the island on the very night of the invasion.<sup>137</sup> Three months later, in July 1961, according to a New Orleans Police Department report, David Ferrie had become involved with Cuban exile leader Sergio Arcacha Smith, the head of the Cuban Revolutionary Democratic Front.<sup>138</sup> The Cuban Revolutionary Democratic Front, according to various intelligence sources, was closely affiliated with the CIA, particularly during the Bay of Pigs. E. Howard Hunt, the top Watergate conspirator and former Executive Assistant to CIA Director Allen Dulles, has himself written of the CIA's close involvement with the Cuban Revolutionary Democratic Front, which later became a key part of the larger CIA-coordinated Cuban Revolutionary Council.<sup>139</sup>

According to several reports, David Ferrie was later

J. W. Hammon discovered the badly mutilated body of Elicadio del Valle in a Miami parking lot.<sup>143</sup> Ferrie's friend had been shot in the heart at point blank range and had also had his skull split open, apparently with an ax. Police reported that del Valle had also apparently been tortured prior to the actual killing.<sup>144</sup>

Whatever information Elicadio del Valle possessed about David Ferrie's activities died with him just hours after the mysterious Ferrie had himself been found dead. The Miami police have never solved the murder.

With the death of David W. Ferrie in 1967, the man who most Warren Commission critics view as a prime assassination suspect became even more of a mystery than he had been in life. As can be seen from the preceding information, Ferrie's chain of associations — particularly his possible links to both Lee Oswald and Jim Braden — are as solid as they are mysterious.

Interestingly, an episode relating to a morals charge against David Ferrie has provided an indication of the powerful political forces with which Ferrie was allied — political forces allied with Carlos Marcello.

Ferrie had been suspended as a pilot by his employer, Eastern Airlines, in the early 1960s, due to a homosexual incident. Ferrie subsequently filed suit against Eastern in an attempt to retain his job, and the case stretched on into the spring of 1963. Representing Ferrie in the case was G. Wray Gill, who served as Carlos Marcello's top criminal lawyer.

An internal Eastern Airlines legal memorandum, dated May 2, 1963, disclosed that Eastern's lawyers had been approached by two U.S. Congressmen who expressed their interest in Ferrie's behalf.<sup>145</sup> According to the Eastern Airlines lawyer who wrote the memorandum:

This afternoon I talked with both Congress-

The FBI report notes that Ferrie placed at least six telephone calls to Carlos Marcello's top lawyer during the immediate three-day period following the Kennedy assassination.<sup>166</sup> As noted earlier, David Ferrie was at that point driving straight through from New Orleans to Houston on what he claimed was a goose hunting vacation.<sup>167</sup> The November 26th FBI report states that Ferrie claimed that his first several telephone calls late the night of the assassination (or in the early morning hours of November 23rd) were to let Carlos Marcello and his lawyer know that he "had left New Orleans and was on a vacation trip."<sup>168</sup>

The FBI report notes that Ferrie had returned from Houston to New Orleans on November 24, 1963, after hearing news reports that he was a suspect wanted for questioning in regard to the Dallas assassination.<sup>169</sup> According to the report, Ferrie then consulted with Marcello's top lawyer, G. Wray Gill, in the Pere Marquette Building in New Orleans, and then "surrendered" himself to District Attorney Jim Garrison's office late on the afternoon of November 25, 1963.

While Garrison pursued David Ferrie several years later as a "leading suspect" in what Garrison alleged was a massive conspiracy behind the Presidential assassination, the links between David Ferrie and Carlos Marcello and other top Mafia figures — including Jim Braden — have only begun to receive more serious attention in recent years.

In the immediate years following the Kennedy assassination, Carlos Marcello's close relationship with Florida Mafia leader Santos Trafficante became even more apparent. Santos Trafficante was the top Mafia leader selected by the CIA to plan the assassination of Fidel Castro. According to the Church Committee, "Cosa Nostra Chieftain" Trafficante (using the code name "Joe") worked with Mafia figures John Roselli, Sam Giancana, and Robert Maheu in the assassination conspiracies against Castro from late 1960 to mid-1963.<sup>170</sup>

In late 1966, Santos Trafficante and Carlos Marcello

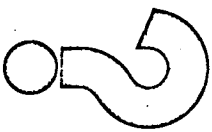


murder weapon as a Mouser. The CIA analysts wrote: "The rifle he [Oswald] used was a Mouser which OSWALD had ordered (this is now known by handwriting examination) from Klein's Mail Order House, Chicago, Illinois. He had the rifle sent to a Post Office Box which Lee OSWALD had rented. In the order for the rifle, OSWALD used the name Alex HIDEELL. OSWALD also had in his possession at the time of his arrest (after he also killed a Texas policeman) a U. S. Selective Service Card in the name of Alex HIDEELL."<sup>103</sup> The CIA has refused to comment on this memorandum.

Deputy Sheriff C. L. Lewis

Deputy Sheriff C. L. Lewis was one of the first Dallas police officers to arrive at the Texas School Book Depository. He quickly arrested an out-of-town man whom he believed was "behaving suspiciously" across from the Book Depository, just minutes after the fatal shots were fired.<sup>104</sup>

The man arrested by Lewis, Jim Braden, was briefly questioned and then released — without being fingerprinted or a check made of his past records. It was not until the late 1960s that former CBS producer Peter Noyes began an investigation of Jim Braden and soon determined that he actually had another identity. Braden had



legally changed his name from Eugene Hale Brading in the weeks just prior to the assassination. Thus, his real identity was never known to the Commission.

Peter Noyes' intensive probe into Brading's background quickly revealed that he was long-associated with powerful Mafia figures in virtually every national crime syndicate jurisdiction, including several professional killers who worked for the syndicate. Noyes compiled an extensive amount of national and state law enforcement records on Brading and found that federal authorities had identified him, as of the early 1970s, as a key courier of Meyer Lansky.

Noyes also established, through such sources as Brading's parole records and documentation on his travels and business activities in 1963, that he was a man with several possible connections to both Jack Ruby and David Ferrie.

Following his arrest by Deputy Sheriff C. L. Lewis, Jim Braden [Brading] signed a brief statement at police headquarters recounting the circumstances of his arrest:

I am here on [oil] business and was walking down Elm Street trying to get a cab and there wasn't any. I heard people talking, and saying "My God, the President has been shot." Police cars were passing me, coming down the triple underpass and I walked up among other people and this building was surrounded by police officers with guns and we were all watching them. I moved on up to the building across the street and I asked one of the girls if there was a telephone I could use . . . .

According to his brief statement, after he unsuccessfully tried to make a phone call, a "colored man" ran up to him and said, "You are a stranger in this

building and I was not supposed to let you [in] . . . ."<sup>105</sup> The black elevator operator then ran out and brought Deputy Sheriff Lewis in, who then arrested Braden, whose only identification was a credit card.<sup>106</sup>

Two FBI agents re-interviewed Jim Braden on January 29, 1964, but never discovered his actual identity as Eugene Brading, a known Mafia figure. The official FBI report concluded: "Braden has no information concerning the assassination and both Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby are unknown to him."

In 1976, the National Archives disclosed that two records of the Warren Commission, pertaining to the arrest of Jim Braden, are missing. These include "Records of the Dallas Police and County Sheriff's Office concerning arrests on November 22, 1963," as well as a "photograph . . . showing a man being arrested or under arrest near the Dal Tex Building." In Dealey Plaza, on November 22, 1963, six other photographs of the Braden arrest do however still exist.

1. Warren Commission Report, p. 224.
2. Meagher, *Accessories After The Fact*, p. 422.
3. Warren Commission Exhibit 1467.
4. Meagher, *Accessories After The Fact*, p. 422.
5. Warren Commission Volume 4, p. 420.
6. Butler, Warren Commission Report, p. 793; Arnett, Warren Commission Exhibits 1467 and 1615; Swain, Warren Commission Exhibit 2002, p. 171; Kaminski, Warren Commission Exhibits 1592 and 1592; Gilmore, Warren Commission Exhibits 1592 and 2329; Warren Commission Volume 12, pp. 76-78; Eberhardt, Exhibit 5026; Warren Commission Volume 13, pp. 181-187; Standiford, Warren Commission Volume 15, p. 617; McGee, Qee, Warren Commission Exhibit 2002; Curchishev, Lowery and Hutton, Meagher, *Accessories After The Fact*, p. 425; Blankenship, Warren Commission Exhibits 1611 and 1628; Carlson, Warren Commission Exhibits 1612 and 2080; Neal, Warren Commission Exhibit 1542; Walton, *Ibid.*
7. Warren Commission Volume 4, p. 238.

had arisen following the assassination concerning the possible involvement of H. L. Hunt and other Texas oil men, and that the name of H. L. Hunt's son, Lamar Hunt, had been found in a notebook belonging to Jack Ruby.<sup>18</sup>

The Commission also established that on the day before the assassination, Jack Ruby had "visited with a young lady who was job hunting in Dallas," and had driven the woman around in her search for employment that day.<sup>19</sup> The woman, Connie Trammel, had become friends with Ruby several weeks earlier. The Warren Report didn't mention where Ruby drove Trammel on November 21, 1963, but an FBI interview report did: to the office of Lamar Hunt, at the H. L. Hunt headquarters in Dallas.<sup>20</sup>

Ruby's visit to the H. L. Hunt offices on the afternoon before the assassination occurred at roughly the same time that Mafia figure Jim Braden was visiting there. Strong possibilities exist of Braden connections to both Jack Ruby and David Ferrie in the days and weeks immediately preceding the assassination.

In a Commission memo of February 24, 1964 to Richard Helms, it requested any information the CIA could provide on possible Ruby ties to H. L. Hunt and his son Lamar.<sup>21</sup> This request was contained in the extensive memo on Jack Ruby's background that Helms did not respond to until the Warren Commission Report was already being set in type.<sup>22</sup> The Commission requested any CIA information relating to the following facts:

H. L. Hunt and Lamar Hunt. May be same person. Name Lamar Hunt found in notebook of Ruby. Ruby visited his office on November 21. Hunt denies knowing Ruby. Ruby gives innocent explanation. Ruby found with literature of H. L. Hunt [in his apartment] after shooting Oswald.<sup>23</sup>

The extensive and usually subterranean right-wing political financing of H. L. Hunt and his sons, Lamar