

ARTICLE BY TED GANDOLFO - 1214 FIRST AVENUE - NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

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TITLE: ASSASSINATION COMMITTEE SURRENDERS TO INTELLIGENCE FORCES
TED GANDOLFO CALLS CHIEF COUNSEL "LEGAL HIT MAN FOR ORGANIZED CRIME"
CHARGES COMMITTEE HAS BEEN "CAPTURED BY FBI AND CIA"

Ted Gandolfo, the chairman of the Assassination Information Committee, says that the Chief Counsel of the House Select Committee On Assassinations, G. Robert Blakey, is a "legal hit man for organized crime" and that he had permitted the Committee to be "captured by the FBI and CIA." Gandolfo added that the Committee had recently abused a key witness in the Kennedy assassination inquiry so severely that the witness, an elderly man, "had broken down and was reduced to tears in the Committee's hearing room." "A reason," said Gandolfo, "that the Committee questions witnesses behind closed doors is that the American people would not stand for their abusive questioning in public." Gandolfo added that "witnesses have been denied counsel of their choice by the Committee and denied an opportunity to testify in public." "The Select Committee has combined the worst of two eras. Unlike the Warren Commission of the 1960's which permitted witnesses to testify in public if they insisted upon that right, the Select Committee adheres to its policy of secrecy. Unlike Joe McCarthy of the 1950's, the Committee does not permit witnesses to be represented by counsel of their choice. I now understand how Dr. Frankenstein felt when he looked up one day and saw the monster begin a rampage."

The key figure in the surrender of the Select Committee On Assassinations to the intelligence interests is Robert Blakey, its present Chief Counsel. Charging that Blakey had "odd and recent connections" with organized crime characters, Gandolfo said:

"On February 4, 1976, Robert Blakey associated himself with Moe Dalitz, one of the early activists with organized crime in America. On that date, Blakey, for a substantial sum of money, sold his 'expertise' to Dalitz as an 'expert' in the area of organized crime. Blakey refuses to disclose how much money he was paid leaving only that question in doubt. Blakey refers all questions regarding his service to Dalitz to his attorney, Louis Nizer. Nizer is also the attorney for Moe Dalitz. Nizer also wrote the introduction to the Warren Commission Report in which he stated that only "neurotics" clinging to a "sordid interest" would believe that the

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Warren Commission Report could be doubted or should be investigated. Blakey, his client, is OSTENSIBLY investigating the Warren Commission Report. Nizer wrote in his Warren Report preface that the issue of the JFK assassination was now closed and that only "neurotics" clinging to "pride or a more sordid interest" would refuse to accept the Report findings.

Blakey was recommended for his position on the Select Committee by Assassination Committee member Congressman Christopher Dodd, who had been a law partner with indicted former FBI Director, L. Patrick Gray. Many of the most frightening and recurring questions which the Kennedy, and later the King assassinations presented were those dealing with the roles of the intelligence organizations. The Church Committee has revealed the criminal excesses of our intelligence agencies, and their close cooperation with organized crime. The original chief counsel for the Assassination Committee, Richard A. Sprague, told me when he guested on my cable T.V. "Assassination U.S.A." show recently, that he refused to yield to the demand of the intelligence agencies that he and his staff sign "non-disclosure agreements" Those agreements would have given the FBI and the CIA the authority to decide what the Select Committee could disclose. Blakey quickly entered into those agreements and then required Committee personnel to sign the agreements which prohibited each of them, himself included, from releasing or commenting upon ANY information relating to "substance or procedure" that was learned through contact with the Committee.

The Report of the Select Committee on Assassinations of January 25, 1978, submitted with the budget request, states, "All staff members on the Committee have received or are in the process of receiving 'top secret' security clearance. The FBI, as an accommodation to the Committee, conducts the background investigations for these security clearances. The CIA then reviews the background investigations done by the FBI. After consultation with the FBI and CIA, the full Committee makes the determination regarding an individual's security clearance."

Those very police agencies which have participated in a COVERUP of the facts in these assassinations as shown by the Church Committee, are now charged with passing on the eligibility of those who would judge their conduct. Blakey said to one charter staff member, of the

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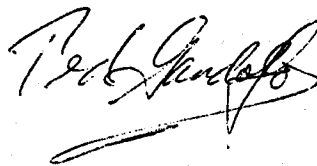
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several he recently fired: "The CIA would be more comfortable if you were gone." The CIA has not explained how this activity does not violate its charter prohibition against domestic activities.

The Rules of the Committee, formulated with the assistance of Congressman Don Edwards of the Constitutional Civil Liberties Committee, have been flagrantly violated under the leadership of Chairman Louis Stokes and Counsel Blakey. Subpoenaed witness Robert McKeown was not allowed to have his attorney present, was abused, insulted, and threatened, was not allowed a recording or transcript of his testimony, and was not permitted a public hearing. Witness Jerry Ray and James Earl Ray have been told that they may not have an attorney of their choice. Their sister has been told that although she cannot afford an attorney, she will not be provided with counsel.

The House Select Committee On Assassinations must be freed from the stranglehold of the intelligence agencies; it must deal with the CONFLICT OF INTEREST presented by Counsel Blakey's ties with organized crime and Louis Nizer, defender of the Warren Report, and with its own violation of the Rules, before it can pursue THE TRUTH about the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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