

Who killed JFK?

3-4-93
Low Country
Journal

EVEN before Oliver Stone's controversial movie, "JFK," was released a little over a year ago, opinion polls indicated most Americans believed President Kennedy was killed as a result of a conspiracy.

To many, the Warren Commission's theory that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone has never seemed credible.

But if, in fact, there was a conspiracy, some experts believe it more likely involved not the CIA and the "military-industrial complex" — the villains of the Stone film — but the Mafia.

We were reminded of the conspiracy theories by the news this week that Mafia boss Carlos Marcello had died in New Orleans, at age 83.

Though he was never officially linked to the assassination — much less charged — Mr. Marcello certainly had a motive. Robert F. Kennedy, the President's brother and then U. S. attorney general, had had Mr. Marcello deported to

Guatemala in 1961. As writer John H. Davis noted in his 1989 book, *Mafia Kingfish*, several persons who had dealings with Mr. Marcello after that incident reported that the New Orleans crime boss threatened to get even — by striking first at the President.

Jonathan Kwitny, a former *Wall Street Journal* reporter who wrote a PBS documentary on the Kennedy assassination, also believes that Mr. Marcello is far more likely to have had a hand in the assassination than some shadowy right-wing cabal within the U. S. government.

But that theory doesn't bolster the political biases of Mr. Stone and other propagandists, and for some reason it didn't attract New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison, the hero of Mr. Stone's movie.

Mr. Garrison died last October. Now Mr. Marcello, too, is dead. But suspicions that the Warren Commission got the story wrong remain very much alive.



1966 FILE PHOTO

Carlos Marcello, left, scuffles with an FBI agent at the New Orleans airport.