

started to again ignite public interest," says James Lesar, the Freedom of Information Act attorney for many assassination researchers. Harold Weisberg had sued to obtain the transcript of the January 27, 1964, executive session of the Warren Commission, which discussed a newspaper article that asserted Oswald had been an FBI informer.* "We got that in the summer of '74 [June 14]," says Lesar, "and it made headline news that November. *The Washington Post* ran a big story, on page three, and that was picked up by Senator Pell. That was the beginning, more or less, of the buildup for an eventual congressional investigation."⁷

A few months after the release of the transcript of the executive session, conferences on the assassination were held in both New York and Boston. They received considerable attention, were moderate in tone, and instead of jumping to conclusions, both demanded new government investigations. In March 1975, Geraldo Rivera aired, for the first time, the Zapruder film on ABC's *Goodnight America*. Millions were shocked by its graphic detail, and especially the image of Kennedy's head snapping back and to the left after the final shot. Without an understanding of the medical evidence or the physics involved, it appeared as though the President reacted to a bullet fired from the front, rather than the rear as the Commission had concluded.

"I also think the disclosures about Watergate had an effect," says Lesar. "It reminded people of how duplicitous government leaders could be, and it created the right atmosphere for a renewed look at the assassination."⁸

In 1975, the work of the Senate's Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities revealed yet another persuasive reason for a new investigation. It had discovered that the CIA, with the assistance of the mafia, had repeatedly tried to assassinate Cuba's Fidel Castro during the early 1960s.⁹** There was an added outrage. The CIA had not

*At the time, the Commission was extremely concerned about the story, and discussed ways to approach J. Edgar Hoover about Oswald. See page 348, about how the report was a hoax concocted by reporter Lonnie Hudkins et. al.

**The mafia leaders who cooperated with the government were Sam Giancana and Santo Trafficante, the godfathers of Chicago and Tampa, respec-