

Says He Was Told JFK Would Be 'Hit'

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WASHINGTON (UPI) — An FBI informer nervously testified yesterday that the Mofia gambling chieftain in pre-Castro Havana told him in the early summer of 1963 President John F. Kennedy

was "going to be hit."

Anti-Castro exile Jose Aleman told the House Assassinations Committee he did not then know a "hit" was underworld parlance for murder.

Aleman, an acknowledged informant for the FBI, testified gambling Czar Santos Trafficante told him in a Miami conversation in June 1963 Kennedy "is going to be hit." The President was assassinated Nov. 22, 1963.

Aleman maintained under intense committee questioning that he thought Trafficante meant the Republicans would "hit" or beat Kennedy in the next election.

Gambling world witnesses appeared for the committee's exploration of possible Cuban and underworld ties to Lee Harvey Oswald, Kennedy's accused assassin, and Jack Ruby, who shot Oswald to death.

Committee Chief Counsel G. Robert Blakey said the Cuban government told its investigators several months ago in Havana that Trafficante was the Mafia "Don" there until the Castro revolution.

Aleman, escorted at his own request from his Miami home by U.S. Marshals who ringed the hearing room, said he feared his life was in danger and that he believed Trafficante now was collaborating with Fidel Castro's secret police.

Trafficante appeared in closed session before the assassinations committee last year but refused to answer any questions, citing his Fifth and 14th Amendment rights.