

# Mafia Knew of Kennedy Escapades

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WASHINGTON — Transcripts of FBI bugs and wiretaps of leading Mafia figures show there was widespread knowledge among underworld kingpins of President John F. Kennedy's womanizing.

Summaries of the tapes, one version released accidentally by the House Select Committee on Assassinations, indicate an underworld belief that Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy, involved in a crackdown on the Mafia at the time, was also involved in an extramarital affair.

The transcripts allege that President Kennedy and his brother were being introduced to women by singer Frank Sinatra.

One New York crime boss threatened in 1962 to talk to the news media — to throw a "stink bomb" — in order to damage the Kennedys politically, according to one of the transcripts.

The FBI apparently turned the transcripts over to the committee because one of the underworld figures used the phrase "really kill him" in referring to

President Kennedy. The committee decided, however, that in the context in which the phrase was used, it meant to politically damage the late president.

The Assassinations Committee is investigating the 1963 murder of President Kennedy and possible underworld involvement in it.

The FBI transcript about Robert Kennedy involves a bugged conversation between Mafia kingpin Meyer Lansky and Lansky's wife, Teddy. The FBI report of the conversation, which took place on Aug. 1, 1962, says that Lansky and his wife were talking . . . "about someone named Bobby (it's Bobby Kennedy) who has seven kids and is carrying on an affair with a girl in ??? (possibly El Paso).

"Teddy (Mrs. Lansky) says it's all Frank Sinatra's fault and he is nothing but a procurer of women for those guys. Sinatra is the guy that gets them all together," the FBI report states.

"Meyer says it's not Sinatra's fault and it starts with the president and goes right down the line," the report concludes.

The committee heard from another Mafia connection yesterday. Reputed Mafia boss Santo Trafficante testified that he took part in a CIA plot to murder Fidel Castro but knew of no conspiracy to assassinate John Kennedy.

Trafficante, described as a former Mafia chief in Tampa, Fla., told the committee he never told anyone that Kennedy would be "hit."

The gray-haired, 63-year-old Trafficante recalled a 1963 conversation with Jose Aleman, a Cuban exile, but said he did not tell Aleman that Kennedy would not live to be reelected.

Aleman's version of that conversation, which took place about six months before Kennedy was shot to death in Dallas, had Trafficante saying he expected Kennedy to be "hit."

Trafficante also testified he never heard any mobster threaten to kill Kennedy, although there was anger about the Kennedy Administration crackdown on organized crime.

Trafficante's testimony came as the Assassinations Committee wrapped up its public inquiry into the murder.

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