

Washington Merry-Go-Round

# Warren Panel Was Misled, Memo Says

4/18/77 Bull's

Washington—A confidential House memo accuses the FBI and CIA of "a serious suppression of evidence which was vital to this country's investigation" of the John F. Kennedy assassination.

The House assassinations subcommittee "has uncovered a good deal of information which suggests that Lee Harvey Oswald was associated with one or both of these organizations," the memo reports. It charges "that both the CIA and FBI intentionally withheld relevant information from the Warren Commission and, in at least one instance, provided the commission with information known to be false."

The memo accuses the FBI of withholding 23 Oswald files from the commission—turning over only 46 of the pre-assassination files which it possessed on Lee Harvey Oswald.

**THE INFORMATION** that allegedly was withheld was contradictory. On the one hand, the CIA suppressed facts suggesting that Cuba's Fidel Castro may have retaliated against President Kennedy after learning about the CIA's plot against his own life. But on the other hand, the CIA allegedly covered up evidence linking



Jack Anderson with Les Whitten

Oswald to CIA-sponsored, anti-Castro Cubans.

The House memo, which was not intended for publication, draws no conclusion about the Kennedy killing. But it lays out the evidence the committee has gathered thus far, including:

—The CIA did not disclose to the Warren Commission that it had been trying to knock off Fidel Castro at the time Kennedy was shot. Killers from the Havana underworld, controlled by mobster Santos Trafficante, were used in the plot. The mobster who directed the attempt on Castro's life, John Roselli, hinted privately that the same killers had been caught by Castro and had been turned against Kennedy.

—Roselli also suggested that the

mob had ordered Jack Ruby to kill Oswald to prevent any disclosure of the Trafficante connection. One of Ruby's underworld associates, the memo reports, "indicates that in 1959 Jack Ruby traveled to Cuba and visited Santos Trafficante in jail" and also that "Ruby and Roselli had meetings in Miami several months prior to the assassination."

—A witness told committee investigators that Ruby introduced her to Oswald at a Dallas nightclub two weeks before the assassination.

—The Warren Commission on Jan. 27, 1964, discussed "evidence" from two independent sources that Oswald had been a \$200-a-month FBI informant up to the time of the assassination. The late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover denied any relationship between Oswald and the FBI. Reports the memo: "The Warren Commission decided that rather than embarrass J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI they would not pursue the evidence."

—A credible witness told House investigators he met Oswald in Dallas shortly before Kennedy was killed. The witness swore Oswald was in the company of a CIA agent whom the witness had known for years by the name of Morris Bishop. According to

the memo, Oswald was also seen leaving the Dallas office of Alpha 65, an anti-Castro organization founded and funded by Bishop.

—A DALLAS WOMAN, Sylvia Odio, reported she had been visited by anti-Castro Cubans who introduced her to an American whom she later recognized as Oswald. The Cubans told her the American was trying to persuade anti-Castro groups "to kill President Kennedy because of Kennedy's reaction to the Bay of Pigs invasion." Not long afterward, Kennedy was shot. The FBI misrepresented the woman's story to the Warren Commission, the memo alleges.

—The committee has a cryptic Nov. 3, 1963, note allegedly written by Oswald to a Mr. Hunt, requesting information "before any steps are taken by me or anyone else." The memo suggests the mysterious Hunt might be Watergate's E. Howard Hunt, who had worked closely with anti-Castro Cubans.

**Footnote:** FBI Director Clarence Kelley has told us that all 69 summaries were provided to the commission and the bureau also gave the commission all pertinent information about potential informants. The CIA did not comment.