

SFChronicle
Prober's View NOV 24 1975

Ike, JFK Roles in Plots Questioned

Washington

The executive director of the Rockefeller commission which investigated the Central Intelligence Agency, said yesterday he believes President Eisenhower and Kennedy knew about the spy agency's assassination plots against Fidel Castro.

David Belin, Des Moines lawyer who also was on the legal staff of the Warren commission, which investigated John F. Kennedy's assassination a decade earlier, said he submitted a memorandum during the Rockefeller inquiry reporting that "the evidence is in conflict" regarding presidential responsibility for the CIA actions.

But Belin said his personal judgment is that both presidents must have known of plots against the Cuban leader, even if they had to "read between the lines" to understand what was occurring.

The Rockefeller commission's findings on CIA involvement in assassination attempts against foreign leaders were withheld from publication at White House request. Belin commented on

CBS-TV's "Face the Nation" yesterday after publication of a report on the same subject by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

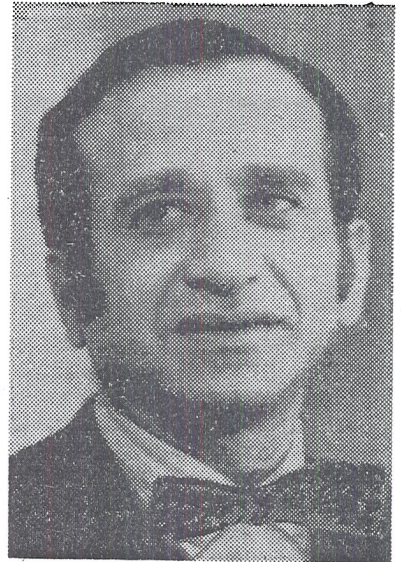
Belin was also asked about his proposal Saturday that Congress should reopen the investigation into Mr. Kennedy's murder in the light of new evidence that both the CIA and FBI had withheld pertinent information from the Warren Commission.

Belin said he is sure a new probe of the Kennedy slaying would reach the same conclusion — that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone — but action is needed to restore public confidence and resolve questions about the case.

Belin praised the Senate committee's CIA report overall, but said he felt it went "easy" on past presidents and their knowledge of assassination plots.

"There is evidence in conflict about their knowledge because they were in sophisticated Washington," not the hinterlands, Belin said.

He said it could be inferred that the two presidents knew of the plotting "because of the facts



AP Wirephoto

DAVID BELIN
 'Evidence is in conflict'

of some of the people that did know. In the case of President Eisenhower where the director of Central Intelligence (Allen Dulles) was the brother of the secretary of state (John Foster Dulles) . . . "

"And President Kennedy, where the attorney general (Robert F. Kennedy), who did have knowledge . . . was the brother of the President. I think you can assume that perhaps the presidents did know," he said.

"It's reasonable to assume that they did know, when the brother of the President knew and when the brother of the head of the CIA was the secretary of state."

United Press