

# Mobsters Linked to JFK Death

## Assassinations Unit Issues Final Report Laced With Doubts

By George Lardner Jr.  
Washington Post Staff Writer

In a final report heavily stitched with reservations and uncertainties, the House Assassinations Committee suggested yesterday that President Kennedy may have been killed in a "patchwork" assassination involving a patchwork assortment of gangland figures and anti-Castro activists.

The committee acknowledged, however, that it was difficult to see how they could have enlisted Lee Harvey Oswald for the murder. The House panel said it had no doubt that Oswald was the one who killed the president in Dallas' Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963.

The committee, which also investigated the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis on April 4, 1968, concluded that there was "substantial evidence to establish the existence of a St. Louis-based conspiracy to finance the assassination" of the civil rights leader.

The report contended that King's killer, James Earl Ray, may have been motivated by rumors of the \$50,000 bounty on King's life that some businessmen allegedly were offering.

With three members dissenting to the finding of a probable plot in the JFK case, the committee, however, held that "it was possible, based on an analysis of motive, means and opportunity, that an individual organized crime leader, or a small combination of leaders, might have participated in a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy."

The 686-page final report, made public yesterday more than six months after the committee formally ceased operations, added:

"The committee's extensive investigation led it to conclude that the most likely family bosses of organized crime to have participated in such a unilateral assassination plan were Carlos Marcello and Santo Trafficante."

See ASSASSINATION, A3, Col. 1

# Mobsters Linked to JFK Assassination

## ASSASSINATION, From A1

The committee also suggested that the former Teamsters union chief, James R. Hoffa, may have played a role in the killing because he, too, had the motive, means and opportunity for planning an assassination attempt on the president's life and because he had once actually spoken of having the president's brother, Robert F. Kennedy, killed.

But having said all that, the committee gingerly backed off, pronouncing that it was "unlikely" after all that New Orleans Cosa Nostra leader Marcello or Tampa underworld chief Trafficante was involved. Similarly, after raising the question of Hoffa's possible complicity at a time when the Kennedy administration was trying to put him in prison, the report stated:

"It may be strongly doubted, therefore, that Hoffa would have risked anything so dangerous as a plot against the president at a time that he knew he was under active investigation by the Justice Department." With only seven of its 12 members

voting, the committee reached its central conclusions last Dec. 29, including the especially controversial finding that Kennedy was "probably assassinated as the result of a conspiracy."

A committee majority was convinced by a detailed acoustical study of the noises in Dealey Plaza that there was "a high probability that two gunmen fired" at Kennedy within a split-second sequence. Oswald shooting from the Texas School Book Depository behind the president and an unknown sniper firing from the so-called "grassy knoll" to the right of the presidential motorcade.

Since those findings were made, a skeleton committee staff, headed by chief counsel G. Robert Blakey, has been putting together the final report, and companion volumes, to back them up. Blakey, for one, says he believes even more strongly than the report suggests that organized crime figures were somehow responsible for the president's murder.

"This committee report does not say the mob did it," Blakey has stated. "I said it. I think the mob did it."



LEE HARVEY OSWALD  
... still considered JFK killer



JAMES EARL RAY  
... panel cites "bounty" rumor

# Weisberg won't rush for House report

By LUCIAN WARREN  
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WASHINGTON — One man who is not rushing today (Wednesday) to get a copy of the final report of the House Assassinations Committee is Harold Weisberg of Frederick, the author of a half-dozen books on the John Kennedy and Martin Luther King assassinations.

Weisberg told *The Frederick News-Post* Tuesday there will be "absolutely nothing new" in the committee's report.

The committee's investigation, he

said, was improperly conducted and the end product will be "hurtful to the country."

Instead of investigating whether the executive branch of the government had functioned as it should in the two assassination cases, "it wasted the largest appropriations for any Congressional committee in the history of Congress" by "star chamber proceedings that got nowhere," he declared.

Much of the investigation's hearings were held behind closed doors, he said, "because they couldn't stand public scrutiny."

Testimony from James Earl Ray, the convicted killer of King, was held in open session, enabling the committee to "make a public spectacle of Ray," but otherwise it gained no useful information, the Frederick man declared.

Weisberg is mentioned nowhere in the committee's final report, a 686-page printed volume, which reiterates its preliminary findings of early January that John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King were probably the victims of conspiracies rather than just lone assassins.

The committee early on obtained copies of the Weisberg books and consulted with him before holding hearings, but has otherwise ignored the expertise he gained from his own investigations into the cases.

Weisberg, considered the "dean" of private investigators questioning the conclusions of the Warren Commission's report, is known to be among the first to develop possible evidence of an acoustical nature indicating shots were fired at John Kennedy from a grassy knoll area along Kennedy's Dallas motorcade route in addition to those fired by Lee Harvey Oswald from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository.

Rep. Richardson Preyer, D-N.C., chairman of the subcommittee investigating the Kennedy assassination, during the course of the hearings chided



Harold Weisberg

the FBI for failure to obtain evidence that Weisberg was able to dig up on his own.

Weisberg said the saddest thing about the failure of the massive House investigation is the lame result which have disillusioned many Americans, especially young people, about the inept way the federal government conducted itself in the matter.