

'It Doesn't

JUN 21 1975

Look Like

# A Mafia Hit

Oak Park, Ill.

The slaying of crime syndicate chieftain Sam Giancana, linked recently to Central Intelligence Agency plots to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, does not appear to be a gangland killing, a federal crime official said yesterday.

Giancana, 65, who in the 1920s was wheelman for Capone, was found in a pool of blood late Thursday in the basement of his sprawling home by his caretaker. The underworld leader was shot once in the mouth and five times in the neck.

Peter F. Vaira, head of the Justice Department strike force in Chicago, said, "It doesn't look like it is an official Mafia hit . . . and the manner in which it's done leads us to believe it may have been something personal . . ."

Oak Park police said six .22 caliber shells were scattered on the floor.

Chief Wilbur Reichert said, "It seems like a professional hit but the small

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caliber of the gun bothers us." Gangland slayings often are committed with shotguns or large-caliber weapons.

About \$1400 in cash, mostly \$100 bills, was found on the body, Reichert said, discounting robbery as a motive for the shooting.

Reichert also said that Giancana apparently knew his killer and admitted him to the basement of his home, a ranch in a quiet, tree-lined area of Oak Park, one of the close-in Chicago suburbs where many of the crime syndicate leaders reside in rustic, private luxury.

Vaira said Giancana made appearances in December and February before a grand jury investigating organized crime but he doubted Giancana's testimony was connected with his murder.

"He talked, but quite frankly we were contemplating indicting him for perjury," Vaira said. One of Giancana's lawyers, Edward J. Calihan, told newsmen that Giancana was not questioned about mob activities but was asked about his financial dealings. Calihan also said he doubted the murder was ordered by a crime cartel.

Vaira said he knew nothing about reports of CIA assassination plots linked to Giancana.

Richard Bissell, who headed the CIA's "dirty tricks" department during the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, has made recent statements linking Giancana and John Roselli, a Giancana associate, to a CIA contingency plan to kill Castro.

A staff member of the Senate Committee on Intelligence Operations said committee investigators had succeeded in locating Giancana only within the past

few days and no decision had been reached on whether to call him as a witness during the probe of alleged CIA assassination plots.

Acting committee chairman John Tower (Rep. Tex.), said he did not think Giancana would have been a "particularly valuable witness."

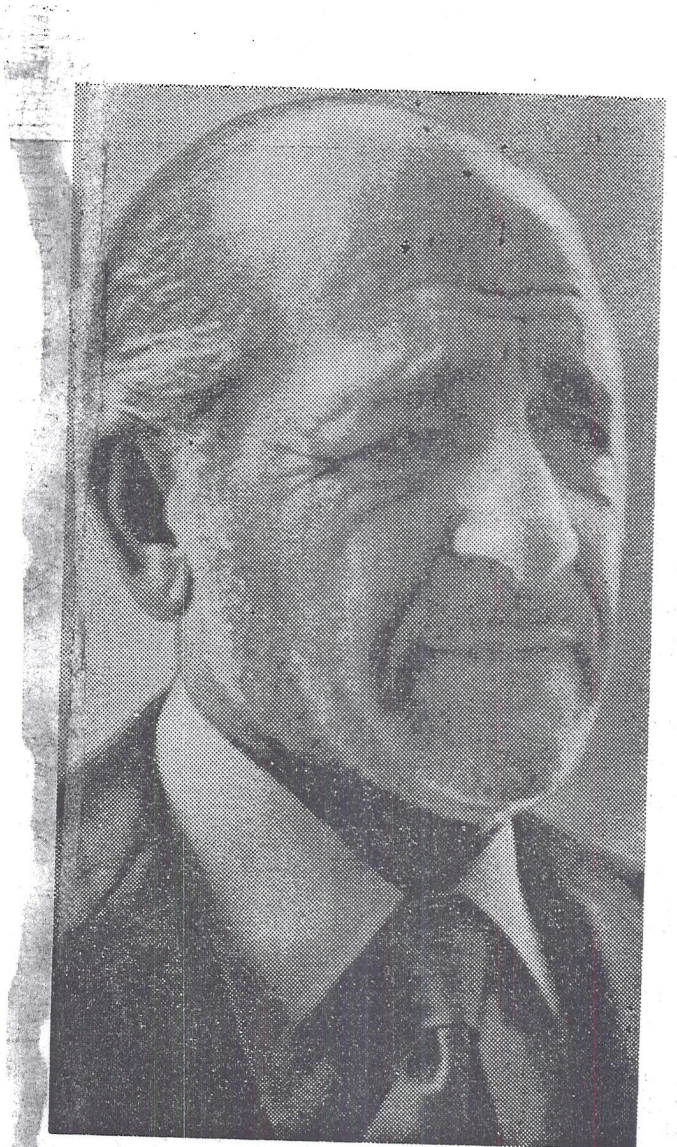
Giancana held extensive gambling interests in Cuba before the revolution that ousted dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1959.

Giancana, who had a romantic interest in singer Phyllis McGuire after their meeting in 1961 in a Las Vegas casino, did not remarry after his wife's death in 1954. In later years, Giancana hobnobbed with show business personalities.

In his youth, Giancana was head of a gang of strong-arm thugs on Chicago's West Side. He served his first jail sentence — 30 days — at the age of 17 and twice was arrested for murder before his 20th birthday.

On murder of John Roselli, see clippings this file, beginning 5 Aug 76.

See also this file 9 Aug 76, transcription of CBS News, Charles Osgood, which includes statement by Roselli's lawyer.



UPI Telephoto

Slain Sam Giancana had been tied to a CIA plot to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro

He served a prison sentence in the 1930s for operating an illegal still, and was questioned repeatedly during the 1960s about gang killings, but never indicted.

In 1965 he was imprisoned for a year for refusing to answer grand jury questions.

During World War II, the draft board labeled him "a constitutional psychopath with an inadequate personality," classified him 4-F and sent him home.

Their action resulted from an answer he gave to a question about what he did for a living.

"I steal," Giancana said.

During his heyday years as a syndicate leader, he reportedly earned \$1 million a year.

Associated Press