

G-4 Los Angeles Herald-Examiner
Sunday, April 2, 1967

Inside Labor

A Mafia Hint in JFK Quiz

By VICTOR RIESEL

DALLAS, April 1 — Despite the histrionics of king-sized Jim Garrison, the eerie trail of the Kafka-like David W. Ferrie does not appear to lead to the tragedy of '63.



RIESEL

In 40 still-classified pages of the Warren Commission Report, Ferrie's path, instead, heads toward one of the land's most notorious of Mafia dons.

The secret record, established by ace FBI teams, discloses that Ferrie positively was in New Orleans the day a rifle spat fire and death from the book depository.

Ferrie, a pilot, in effect worked for Carlos Marcello, often referred to as the syndicate "boss" of Louisiana and described by the late Sen. Estes Kefauver as "one of the worst criminals in the country."

The manicured, bantam multimillionaire Marcello is one of the 13 alleged Mafia high council who were picked up by New York police last September in a Queens restaurant.

Amongst those with him at the interrupted dinner was his intimate friend Carlo Gambino, long accused of being the Cosa Nostra's account executive in charge of labor. The ailing don, Carlo Gambino, has powerful influence over far-flung waterfronts and some construction labor.

SWUNG AT FBI MAN

His comrade-in-arms, Marcello, who once took a swing at an FBI agent, for many years has had influence over trucking and waterfront activity as well as gambling throughout the Southwest.

During one Senate investigation, a witness testified

that "we find their fingers (the Marcello mob) in Texas . . . and in Mississippi, Alabama . . . and up into Missouri . . . in the St. Louis area."

For almost two decades Carlos Marcello, estimated by police to be worth at least \$50 million in real estate, motels, oil wells, shrimp boating and commercial enterprises, has been feuding with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The Federals charged he was an alien and sought to deport him. The Federals also charged him with attempting to show he was born in San Jose Pinula, Guatemala, by allegedly forging a birth certificate. Some seven years ago the U. S. Government actually flew him to Guatemala. But he returned. Then he was charged with other improprieties involving his birth papers.

Marcello came to trial during the week of Nov. 18, 1963. His learned counsel then was G. Wray Gill, who also spoke for him when he attempted to hit an FBI agent at the New Orleans airport.

WEIRD CHARACTER

The defense needed an investigator and all-around handyman for some of this work. They took on a weird character by the name of Dave W. Ferrie. The latter hit the road considerably on this case of Government charges that Marcello had used a false passport. Ferrie took at least one trip to Guatemala.

Gill outpointed the Government and Marcello beat the rap — on Nov. 22, 1963.

The late Ferrie later told the FBI that he was just outside the courtroom when the jury acquitted Marcello. But Gil told Federal agents that at 12:15 p.m. that grim day he talked to his office. One of his staff told the lawyer that Ferrie was right there. This was just five minutes before the assassination of Jack Kennedy hundreds of miles away.

This testimony conflicts but it does establish the dead Ferrie's alibi. It also proves how tangled are the skeins of this explosive bit of history. So many people, so many viationist shadows across the mysteries to whip up.