

January 27, 1992

Mr. Brian Lamb

C-Span-2

400 N. Capitol St. #650

Washington, DC 20001

Dear Sir:

Because of the "Stone" JFK movie furore, I thought you might be interested in the attached press articles:

United Press Int'l, San Francisco Chronicle.

The Literary Journal review, states - this is the most comprehensive book written on JFK assassination. Also Life, Time, Newsweek and Details magazine have referred to this book.

We suggest that you interview the Author on your "Books Notes" program. A local OKC radio station, he informed me that the Author could be reached at [REDACTED] (TX)

My wife and I listen to your program because of interesting subjects, and the program is well organized and controlled.

Respectfully

[REDACTED]

Spont, ohls 74869

Hoover guilty of treason?

Book: FBI chief knew of assassination plot

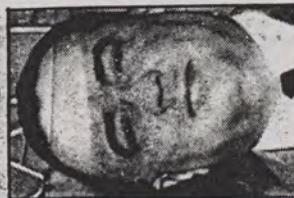
By Frederick M. Winship

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

NEW YORK — A new book by a Texas attorney-historian charges that late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was guilty of treason for failing to divulge advance knowledge of a Mafia conspiracy to assassinate President John F. Kennedy, working instead to make sure the plan would be successful.

"Act of Treason" by Mark North of Austin, scheduled for publication Nov. 14, is the result of five years of research and based on documentation from many sources, including the 1979 report of the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

This report implicated that Kennedy was most likely killed by the Mafia organization in New Orleans, an allegation attacked by the Justice Department and the FBI.



Hoover



Kennedy

HOOVER

From A-31

cause he felt Kennedy was an indecisive, immoral liberal, who if left in place would destroy the nation.

"But most important, he did this because JFK had made it known that he intended, by the end of his first term in office, to retire the director (Hoover) and replace him with a man of his own, more liberal political philosophy."

North said Hoover's decision to let events take their course was enforced by his possession of sufficiently damning FBI information connecting Vice President Lyndon Johnson to the Billy Sol Estes fertilizer swindle and the Senate aide Bobby Baker-Mafia scandal. This information would allow Hoover to control Johnson

should be become president.

In withholding this information about Johnson from the Justice Department, Hoover "hopelessly compromised" the vice president, who gave Hoover a retirement waiver shortly after he succeeded Kennedy as president, North wrote.

According to North, Lee Harvey Oswald was drawn into the conspiracy as a scapegoat and was eating his lunch in the Texas Book Depository building in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, when two Mafia hitmen fatally wounded Kennedy.

Hoover promoted the "lone nut" theory as to Oswald's role in the assassination, and actually demanded in a public statement that the Warren Commission examine this theory, which it eventually and apparently reluctantly did.

"In all likelihood, preservation of institutional credibility was the

paramount concern (of the commission)," North wrote.

"Consider what the short-term public reaction would have been if it had been revealed that the director of the FBI, an ultraright figure of messianic bent and a hero to many, had allowed the president, a highly popular man of the middle and left, to be assassinated primarily for personal gain."

In answer to the question as to why the Justice Department failed to follow up on evidence of the Marcello family's complicity in the assassination, North wrote:

"If the truth behind the Kennedy assassination had involved only a Mafia contract, would the Justice Department have kept it from us for 28 years? Undoubtedly not. And yet they have done just that. In their minds, they have to."

"To do otherwise will implicate Hoover, but more importantly, the FBI as an institution."

North concentrates on proving that Marcello was out to get Kennedy because he was the only Mafia leader the president had personally humiliated by attempting to deport him as an undesirable.

Marcello also was a confidant and business associate of Jimmy Hoffa, the corrupt Teamsters' union leader who had Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy as his implacable foe.

North writes that Marcello decided to put out a contract on the president by September 1962, hoping that his assassination would precipitate the removal of the attorney general.

Marcello confided his plans to Hoffa and Santos Trafficante of the Miami Mafia, who in turn told a close friend, wealthy Cuban exile Jose Aleman. Trafficante had helped Aleman get a loan from the Teamsters with Hoffa's approval and did not know the Cuban was an FBI informant.

Aleman reported the plot to FBI chief in Miami, Wesley G. Grapp, who sent the information to Hoover and his FBI associate director Clyde Tolson. North claims Tolson helped Hoover analyze the probable success of the plan and was as guilty of treason as his boss.

"Despite specific statutory requirement, and his duty as an American citizen, Hoover did not inform his superiors within the Justice Department, or warn the Secret Service," North wrote.

"He withheld the data in part be-

Please see **HOOVER, A-32**

BETWEEN THE LINES Patricia Holt

A Persuasive Case Against Hoover

I thought I would never become a JFK assassination buff until I read Mark North's absorbing and addictive "Act of Treason: The Role of J. Edgar Hoover in the Assassination of President Kennedy" (Carroll & Graf; 671 pages; \$26.95).

North, a tax attorney living in Austin, Texas, makes the shocking accusation that FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover knew of a Mafia murder contract against President John F. Kennedy as early as September of 1962, more than a year before the assassination, but never informed the Secret Service.

That act alone could constitute an "act of treason," but North goes on to say that long before the assassination, Hoover, concerned that Kennedy would enforce Hoover's mandatory retirement in 1965, had attempted to blackmail Kennedy with FBI information about Kennedy's philandering, particularly with Mafia boss Sam Giancana's girlfriend, Judith Exner. When Kennedy refused to be intimidated, North says, Hoover then compromised Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson with undisclosed FBI information on scandals involving Johnson's gangster friends Billie Sol Estes and Bobby Baker.

Of course, conspiracy theorists reap new plots from each new crop of books published every year, and North agrees that he's not the first to advance the notion that Mafia hit men, not Lee Harvey Oswald, killed Kennedy. While he is the first to accuse Hoover of knowing about it, what really pulls readers into "Act of Treason" is North's meticulous chronicle of every possible assassination-related event that occurred from November 1960 to May 8, 1964 (Hoover's 40th anniversary as FBI director).

This month-by-month, often day-by-day (and, on the day of the assassination, minute-by-minute and second-by-second) account is the hook that may turn uninterested readers into rabid assassination buffs. Here is Exner making phone calls to the White House from 1960 to 1961; wealthy Cuban exile Jose Aleman talking about a loan from the Teamsters union ("cleared by Jimmy Hoffa himself"); Aleman pal Miami mobster Santo Trafficante

involved in a "hit" for Mafia boss Carlos Marcello; Marcello, whose deportation had been arranged by Robert Kennedy, issuing the contract for Jack Kennedy.

And here is ELSUR (FBI electronic surveillance) recording Mafia death threats against RFK, then JFK; Oswald staging a one-man "Hands Off Cuba" demonstration in Dallas; Jack Ruby subscribing to Marcello's gambling hotline; Robert Kennedy arguing publicly with Johnson; JFK making a speech that the Communist threat no longer existed, undoubtedly infuriating Hoover.

North uses hundreds of sources, quoting from seemingly unconnected articles in the Washington Post, the New York Times and dozens of other newspapers, hearings of the Warren Commission and House Select Committee on Assassinations, IRS bulletins, PBS' "NOVA" report "Who Shot President Kennedy?," hundreds of articles and nearly 70 books on everything from Marilyn Monroe's death

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THE TOP Mafia BOSS Carlos Marcello

is terminally ill. Jane watches a television program on a

in the forthcoming issue of Iowa Review.

HOOVER

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to FBI surveillance of Martin Luther King Jr. to studies of communism and organized crime in America.

The result is the most thoroughly documented statement of events preceding and following the assassination that may ever have been compiled. Both its strength and its weakness is that every source is given the same weight as every other source. But North's attempt to cut through the mythology and stick to what he believes to be the facts

PUZZLE ANSWERS

BRIDGE

1 — What a pity that partner holds the wrong major. Still, you have enough to bid game and you certainly don't want to try for a 4-3 spade fit or an 11-trick contract in clubs. Bid three no trump.

2 — We can understand those who are reluctant to hear partner respond to a takeout double with two clubs and, therefore, choose a one-heart overcall rather than risk losing a 5-3 heart fit. However, we feel that runs a much higher risk of missing a 4-4 spade fit. Our choice is to double, and pass should partner respond two clubs.

3 — You can't double because partner's most likely response in hearts would leave you in an untenable position. This is one of those rare hands where we would overcall on a four-card suit — the suit quality and strength of the hand warrants it. Bid one spade.

4 — When an opponent opens the bidding in your best suit, it is invariably in your best interests to pass initially. This hand is no exception — your spade suit is nowhere near good enough for an overcall, even at the one level.

5 — This hand is a whit too strong for a one-spade overcall. Our choice would be to double, then bid spades as cheaply as possible over partner's response. If partner persists in hearts, a no-trump contract could still be a viable possibility.

6 — Partner has made the weakest response possible, and could have next to nothing. That's unlikely on this specific auction, but despite your fine support, you have a minimum takeout double, so you must pass.

ACROSTIC

ROBERT C. OWEN: (Treaty Needed to) LIMIT (Orbiting) TRASH:
"Three decades of space activity have built . . . an inventory of . . . T, orbiting trash . . . dead satellites . . . tools and gloves and a cloud of dust . . . We're messing up a pristine environment without knowing what we're doing."

'When the House Select Committee formally found a conspiracy and rejected the Warren Commission Report in 1979, I was hooked'

— MARK NORTH

is honest and impeccable.

North, contacted by phone in Texas, says that he got interested in the assassination in 1975, when Mort Sahl hosted a television program showing film of the motorcade and questioning the Warren Commission Report. "I read the conclusion of the Warren Report and wondered even then about the part where they specifically condemn the FBI for its failure to supply the Secret Service with information regarding specific threats. (He reprints this section in the book.) Pretty soon I was reading every book I could find, and when the House Select Committee formally found a conspiracy and rejected the Warren Commission Report in 1979, I was hooked."

North admits he has no inside information or sources, that he "came to this as an outsider, as an attorney looking for evidence and legal relevance. I realized early on that I had to frame a time period and create a chronicle in which I could put every dated, documented fact I could find. I started analyzing all of Hoover's speeches and writings, the things his supporters put in the Congressional Record, studies on the Mafia, microfilm of the Post and Times for every day from November of 1960 on, and all serious books on the assassination, pro and con."

As North compiled his chronicle, "I began to look more specifically at who was in charge of the investigation, who had a vested interest in keeping material away from the Warren Commission — real motive-and-opportunity questions. One night it finally dawned on me that this thing in all likelihood had been set up, and that Hoover was the responsible party. It was very unsettling, but when I realized I was right, I reacted as most Americans would, initially very sad that this could happen in the United States. Then I got angry. I felt we had been cheated out of the constitutional process."

Patricia Holt is book editor for *The Chronicle*.

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