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Agency Information

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TO :  
TITLE : ROSELLI: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

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ROSSELLI, JOHN  
ORGANIZED CRIME

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TRAFFICANTE, SANTO

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[R] - ITEM IS RESTRICTED

OSBORN  
CHRONOLOGICAL  
CALENDAR

MEMORANDUM

To: Mike Madigan

From: Ed Greissing

Date: Sept. 16, 1976

Subject: Review of CIA documents presented the SCI by Jack Anderson

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The documents recently received by this Committee, from Jack Anderson, had previously been reviewed by the Church Committee staff. The documents appear to be a few of those requested for FOIA review by David Belin. It is my understanding, after these documents were declassified, David Belin furnished copies to both David Martin(AP) and Jack Anderson.

The Church Committee was permitted to review the entire Oswald 201 file, the AMLASH file, Garrison files and selected Office of Security files. The Committee primarily concerned itself with the early period of the investigation(November 1963 - October 1964), as it believed the information to be received from this time period to be more relevant in evaluating the performance of the intelligence agencies with respect to their investigation.

Dan Niescher, the Church Committee contact at the CIA, was the individual responsible for the declassification of documents relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. During this declassification process, Dan Niescher consulted the Committee staff to make sure that we were aware of certain documents. In addition, Mr. Kaleras had given the staff unlimited access to all files we believed necessary to conduct our investigation.

Yet, the possibility still remains that the staff was not shown everything. The CIA has maintained throughout that the Oswald 201 file was a complete compilation of the material related to the assassination of President Kennedy. However, information relating to who Lee Harvey Oswald was, and what he was doing are not included in their files. The Oswald 201 does not attempt to question Oswald's connection with both pro-Castro and anti-Castro groups or any of the AMLASH information. The most notable subject missing was information relating to CIA/U.S. Government attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro.

*Doc to Rosselli file*

*re: J. Jackson w/  
LaBreegue  
12/22/76*

. . . . .  
No, I can't either confirm or deny it. We are prohibited at staff level from discussing any Committee business. I apologize for not being able to help you. You know the ground rules and they haven't changed. Right.

. . . . .  
I can't say. I don't know. You indicated that you . . . .

. . . . .  
Are you still working Rosselli? You getting anywhere?

. . . . .  
You got a pretty good source on that? On the fact that they were having dinner together on many occasions before he was murdered?

. . . . .  
I just can't help you because of the ground rules. I'd like to have a copy of your piece, or two, for me and Inderfurth here. Just drop a copy in the mail and I'll appreciate it.

. . . . .  
You mean people like . . . Well, I think . . . people like Trafficante?

. . . . .  
Well, I can't discuss whether or not such a meeting took place. I can't tell you whether you're right or wrong.

. . . . .  
Now when you talk about Trafficante you don't need to be

cautioned. You know them as well as I do.

.....

Well, as far as our rules are concerned, it wouldn't make any difference if Trafficante was here. It wouldn't make any difference in our ability to confirm or deny that.

.....

# Trafficante Made Secret Appearance At Senate Investigation, Sources Say

By RON LABRECQUE

Herold Staff Writer

Florida's reputed organized crime boss, Santos Trafficante of Tampa and Miami, made a secret, four-hour October appearance before the Senate Intelligence Committee to answer questions about his role in a CIA assassination plot, investigation sources have disclosed.

Trafficante, 62, had not previously been questioned by the committee or its staff in the two-year-old investigation of CIA activities.

Of the three Mafia figures involved in the early 1960s plot to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, only Trafficante is still alive. Both Sam Giancana and John Rosselli were murdered within the last 16 months.

The murders are unsolved.

**INVESTIGATORS ALSO** said that Trafficante had dinner with Rosselli at The Landings, a Fort Lauderdale restaurant, in mid-July, less than two weeks before Rosselli disappeared. Rosselli's body, stuffed in an oil drum, floated to the surface of Dumbounding Bay the first week of August.

Trafficante reportedly has told police that the July dinner with Rosselli — as well as several other meetings previously at the Cordoba Restaurant in Miami, formerly owned by the husband of Rosselli's niece, according to police — were "friendly" social events with no business.

Investigators in recent weeks have centered their efforts on tracing the whereabouts of Trafficante's associates at the time of Rosselli's disappearance, a source said.



**John Rosselli**  
... dined with Trafficante

years has maintained a home at 740 NE 155th St. in North Dade, could not be reached for comment. Trafficante was identified as the head of a South Florida Mafia family in testimony in 1963 before a U.S. Senate subcommittee.

**HIS ATTORNEY**, Henry Gonzalez of Tampa, who accompanied Trafficante when he went to Washington, according to sources, would not comment on either the Senate appearance or Trafficante's past activities. When first asked about the Senate appearance, he said, "You realize you're treading on dangerous ground."

A committee source said that Trafficante had not been questioned previously by the committee because his role in the plot had been considered "secondary." Interest was renewed in the plot after Rosselli's death. Investigators

sought to determine whether the murders of the two men were connected in any way with their testimony or potential testimony before the committee.

**GIANCANA, WHO** was a Mafia boss in Chicago for many years, was killed in June 1975, at the same time Senate investigators were preparing to contact him. The gun used to kill Giancana, found discarded on a roadside several miles from Giancana's house a month after the murder, was traced to a Miami gunshop, but the trail stopped there.

Investigators said the gun was part of a shipment purchased in 1965 by the Tamiami Gun Shop, but there are no records to indicate where it went from there, according to investigators and gunshop owners.

Rosselli, whose most powerful Mafia days were reportedly in the 1950s and early 1960s in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, did appear before the committee at least three times in the 12 months before his death.

In Washington, the committee has kept a tight clamp on comment about the investigation, and only one member, Robert T. Stafford (R., Vt.), acknowledged the Trafficante session, saying "I was not present when the witness you speak of was in front of the committee."

Sen. Daniel Inouye (D., Hawaii), the committee chairman who, along with Sen. Howard Baker (R., Tenn.) pressured for Justice Department and FBI involvement in the Rosselli murder case, said "I have never met Mr. Trafficante. That's as far as I'll go."

A PRIME interest of the committee has been possible links between

the CIA Castro plotting and the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Revelations of the Senate committee were a key factor in the creation of the new House of Representatives investigation, which is taking a new look at the JFK murder.

Trafficante reportedly has told investigators that he first met Rosselli about 1956. It was in the early 1950s that Florida law-enforcement officials estimated that a Bolivia operation run by Trafficante and his brother netted \$2 million annually.

Trafficante was a major gambling figure in pre-Castro Havana, where he ran a casino. In 1959, it was estimated that \$1 million or \$2 million was bet nightly in all the Mafia-run casinos in Havana. The gambling stopped when Castro took over in 1959.

Rosselli was the first of the three Mafia figures to be recruited by the CIA in 1960 in its plot to assassinate Castro.

**IN A CIA memo** quoted in an interim report of the committee a year ago, it was said that Trafficante's role was to "serve as a courier to Cuba and make arrangements there."

Rosselli told his CIA liaison that "Trafficante believed a certain leading figure in the Cuban exile movement might be able to accomplish the assassination." An internal CIA investigation in 1967 suggests that this Cuban may have been receiving funds from Trafficante and other racketeers interested in securing "gambling, prostitution and dope monopolies" in Cuba after the overthrow of Castro.

Miami Herald  
Dec. 24

# Roselli Probe

By RON LABRECQUE

Times Staff Writer

Sen. Gary Hart (D., Colo.) made an unannounced trip to Miami Friday for a private meeting with homicide detectives to underscore the strong interest of the Senate Select Intelligence Committee in the John Roselli murder investigation and to insure that federal agencies cooperate with local police.

The FBI was ordered into the case last week by Attorney General Edward Levi after pressure from the Senate committee.

"We're not here to solve the crime," Hart said, "we want to find out if there is any connection between (Roselli's) death and his testimony before the Committee."

HART SAID he also hoped to meet with local officials of the FBI and Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Roselli, 71, organized crime figure who testified three times before the Senate Intelligence Committee in the past year about his recruitment by the CIA in a plot to kill Fidel Castro, was found dead two weeks ago, stuffed in an oil drum floating in Dumboedling Bay.

Hart made it clear that the Intelligence Committee is concerned about the possibility that Roselli's death is connected to his testimony, although he did say there was no "evidence" indicating Roselli might have been killed to prevent him from talking about other CIA-organized crime pacts.

"I know of no plans whatsoever to have him come back," Hart said, "but that's not to say we wouldn't have called him back if some new facts arose."

"But it would be reaching to say we had some indication," he had (not yet testified about) evidence "important to us," Hart said.

THE MURDER of Roselli, who last testified in April, renewed Intelligence Committee interest in the death of Chicago organized crime leader, Sam (Homo) Giancana, Giancana was shot to death in his home in June of 1975, just a little time when Intelligence Committee investigators were tracking him down.

Accompanying Hart Friday was Michael Madigan, a committee attorney who, in June of 1975, was preparing to interview Giancana about his involvement with Roselli in the Castro plot.

Giancana and Tampa organized crime figure Santo Trafficante played "accompanying roles" in the CIA-inspired Castro assassination plot, another committee staff member traveling with Hart said Friday.

The committee had also "considered" subpoenaing Trafficante, the staff investigator said, but Trafficante was never called because the committee considered Roselli's testimony the most important.

CHICAGO AREA investigators concluded that Giancana's death was part of an internal gangland struggle.

Nevertheless, Hart told The Herald Friday that with Roselli's death, "troubling questions" about Giancana's murder linger. "The coincidences begin to string themselves together," said the 1972 presidential campaign manager for George McGovern.

Asked if he was satisfied with the conclusions of investigators that Giancana's death was not connected to his potential testimony before the committee, Hart said "there is the absence of any corroborating evidence which prevents

Turn to Page 2B Col. 4



# Visits Local Officials

FROM PAGE 1B

us from moving beyond speculation."

Madigan said the widespread reports after Giancana's death that his appearance before the committee was imminent were not true. That further indicates, he agreed, that Giancana's death was not directly related to his past CIA association.

"WE FINALLY got Giancana's home number the day he was killed," Madigan said Friday. "We had some difficulty tracking him down in Houston (where Giancana had been in the hospital). It had been decided that I was going to interview him to see whether it would be worth it to call him as a witness. He had not been contacted yet and he had not been subpoenaed," Madigan said.

Roselli, who had been subpoenaed, did testify for the first time four days after Giancana was shot.

That committee was headed by Sen. Frank Church and has since been replaced by a newly formed committee headed by Sen. Daniel Inouye (D., Hawaii) and Sen. Howard Baker (R., Tenn.). In its final report, that former committee strongly urged the new committee to continue the investigation of covert CIA activity as well as connections between the Castro assassination plot and the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

HART SAID FRIDAY there are still unanswered questions about Lee Harvey Oswald's motive, particularly relating to the so-called "retaliation theory" — that Castro or pro-Castro agents had JFK killed because of the CIA attempts on Castro's life.

Hart interviewed Roselli twice as a member of the former committee and he is also a member of the new Intelligence Committee.

"Roselli was very candid but he did not volunteer information," Hart said.

Committee investigators said Friday they have found no link between Roselli and Eugene M. Carrara, a Rockville, Md., antique auto dealer with reported organized crime connections who died under circumstances mysteriously coincidental to Roselli's death.

Carrara, 37, was reported missing by his wife on July 28, the same day Roselli was last seen by his sister in Plantation with whom he had lived for three years.

Carrara's body floated to the surface of New York Harbor off Staten Island on Aug. 4, his body wrapped in a padlocked chain and weighted by two 15-pound boat anchors. Police said he had been strangled. Roselli had been asphyxiated, possibly by strangling, according to investigators here.

New York City detectives said that Carrara "knew Giancana" but they have not been able to pin down a motive in his death.

The Washington Star, quoting an unidentified FBI source, reported that Carrara had met with Roselli in Chicago about two months ago.

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MEMORANDUM

To: Rick Inderfurth  
From: Mike Madigan  
Date: August 13, 1976  
Re: Miami Interviews

I spoke with Senator Hart today about setting up interviews in Miami for Friday, August 20, in the Rosselli matter. He will be calling you about these arrangements.

I will try to have a subpoena for Santos Trafficante signed by Senator Baker before he leaves for the convention. We, however must obtain the approval of all or a majority of the members of the Committee (under the Rules) to issue the subpoena. Therefore, I have asked Martha to poll members on two questions:

(1) Authority to issue a subpoena for Trafficante;

(2) Authority for Senator Hart to disclose to the Miami police investigators in the Rosselli case those portions of the classified Rosselli related transcripts which he deems relevant to the murder investigation.

In case we miss connections, the relevant people involved are:

(1) Bill Lynch -- head of the Justice Organized Crime Section, telephone number 739-3516 (he should help us locate Trafficante and perhaps have a

suggestion as to how best to serve him with a subpoena);

(2) Detectives Wolf and Zatrepallek -- Dade County Sheriff's Office, telephone number 305-547-7456 (they are the detectives investigating the Rosselli murder for the locals). (I have been putting them off about whether they can have access to the transcripts -- you need to talk to Bill Miller and Gary about this);

(3) Paul Daly -- you may have to go through him if we need the FBI to locate Trafficante.

By the time you return I will have taken preparatory steps to set up interviews with the Miami police people as well as begun an effort to locate Trafficante. After talking with Gary you will need to follow up and confirm all these next week as I will be in Kansas City from Monday through Thursday. I will be flying from Kansas City to Miami on Thursday night for the interviews on Friday. You can reach me through the numbers that either Bill Miller or Marie has. We need to talk at some point next week to confirm all this.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Michael Madigan

August 13, 1976

I recently discussed with Agent Richard Taylor of the Federal Bureau of Investigation my recollections of pre-testimony interviews with Mr. John Rosselli prior to Rosselli's testifying under oath in June of 1975. It is my recollection that there were several meetings between myself, as counsel for the Committee, and Rosselli and his attorneys. Rosselli and his attorneys expressed on numerous occasions fear for the well-being of Rosselli. They insisted and the Committee agreed that I would conduct interviews prior to the sworn testimony at a location away from the Senate so as to avoid any publicity. During these interviews Rosselli, on more than one occasion, stated that he was taking a great risk in testifying. He was worried about retaliation and particularly worried about his relatives with whom he was living in Florida. I cannot recall Rosselli specifying exactly who he was most afraid of, but he declined to testify about Giancana (until after Giancana's death), refused to identify any of the Cubans who were involved in assassination plots, and was reluctant to mention Santos Trafficante by name. In fact, I cannot recall Rosselli ever mentioning Trafficante by name and only very vaguely responding to questions if the questioner used the name Trafficante.



It is my recollection that on at least one occasion, in the presence of Senator Howard H. Baker, Jr., Rosselli told the Senator that he, Rosselli, was concerned for his safety and his life and that he was risking his well-being by testifying before the Committee. I am uncertain in my recollection as to whether that conversation took place up in the Senate interview room or elsewhere.

Throughout his testimony Rosselli declined to give his exact address in Florida for reasons of safety. It is also my recollection that Rosselli's demeanor was visibly affected whenever testimony or interview focused or attempted to focus on Santos Trafficante.

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