

VIA FACSIMILE AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

February 14, 1997

Mr. Frank Ragano
1126 Shipwatch Circle
Tampa, Florida 33602

Re: Deposition of Frank Ragano and Records of Mr. Ragano

Dear Mr. Ragano:

I am writing to request that you address several matters raised by your deposition testimony. These matters concern your records purporting to corroborate the assertions in your book, *Mob Lawyer*, regarding the assassination of President Kennedy.

First, let me provide some background regarding the reasons we initially decided to take your deposition. As you know, the Assassination Records Review Board is attempting to identify and place into the public domain historical records relating to the assassination of President Kennedy. We were led to believe that you had historical records that would corroborate the assertions in your book. First, Selwyn Raab's prologue clearly refers to corroborating records. He wrote:

From his earliest days as a lawyer, Ragano had kept notes of meetings and conversations with clients. These records bolstered his recollections of numerous discussions with Santo Trafficante and other Mafiosi and with Hoffa and his coterie. It was a cornucopia of fresh material about the mob . . .

Over a year-long period, from 1992 to 1993, at scores of follow-up interviews with Ragano in New York and at his home in Tampa, I sifted through the documents. Relying on the records for corroboration, we reconstructed his Mafia links as well as the texture and rhythm of his legal practice and lifestyle.

Mob Lawyer, at 5. Second, in preliminary discussions by phone with you and Mr. Raab, we were told that there were contemporaneous records relating to the assertions about the Kennedy assassination. We therefore decided to depose you to identify and authenticate historical records

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relating to the Kennedy assassination. Our purpose was not to investigate your claims or to cross-examine you on the body of your work. Having said that, however, your book does make very serious claims regarding the assassination of President Kennedy, and it purports to alter the historical record regarding the assassination. Accordingly, the Review Board has wanted to conclusively identify for the historical record those documents that are in your possession that are truly contemporaneous notes corroborating your claims, particularly any contemporaneous records recording a so-called death-bed confession. This is why we deposed you.

As the transcript of your deposition will show, however, you could not state with any certainty when you created the various notes that purportedly bolster the assertions in your book. In particular, you could not say when you first wrote down the Trafficante confession. *See Ragano Tr. -- (attached hereto).* At best, your testimony leads to the conclusion that your notes on the Kennedy assassination were prepared for the book and, thus, are of little historical or corroborative value. Yet, this appears inconsistent with the claims made by Mr. Raab, claims which lent credibility to the book.

There are other inconsistencies between the book and your testimony with regard to supporting documentation: (1) Throughout the book, Mr. Raab refers to a "diary" that you kept, but you testified that there was no such diary, just your miscellaneous notes and a scrapbook mostly of news articles. (2) throughout the book 93 I am returning several of the original notes you made available to the Review Board for inspection. Please call me to confirm receipt of these originals.

We are still retaining for further inspection the originals of those notes that were marked as exhibits to your deposition. Those will be returned to you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Ronald G. Haron
Senior Attorney