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07609070 OVERHEARD St. Petersburg Times (PE) - MONDAY April 18, 1994 By: JEFF TESTERMAN Edition: TAMPA Section: TAMPA TODAY Page: 1B Word Count: 395

TEXT: Their body is so wide, you wouldn't get a saddle to fit."

- Sgt. Robert Dietrich, head of the Fort Lauderdale Mounted Police, on the massive Clydesdale horses that Tampa City Council member Rudy Fernandez suggests could be acquired for mounted patrols in Ybor City.

This is like lifting a load of stones off my shoulders. Now, they'll get off my back. . . . We'll make big money out of this and maybe go back to Cuba."

- The late alleged Mafia boss Santo Trafficante Jr., toasting the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, as recalled by his attorney, Frank Ragano, in Ragano's book, Mob Lawyer. Ragano alleges Trafficante confessed to masterminding the presidential hit.

That's what it's always been. Alleged. Alleged. Alleged."

- Trafficante's daughter, Sarah Ann Trafficante Valdes, disputing her father's Mafia background and involvement in the Kennedy assassination.

We were in a world of drinking Diet Pepsi and staying up until 3 a.m. looking for a new team. Now we're drinking Dom Perignon."

- Edward Sewell, agent for Tampa Bay Bucs defensive back Ricky Reynolds, a mainstay player who was freed to negotiate with other teams and last week signed a \$5.05-million contract with the New England Patriots.

Tell me, is this a football team, or is it a remake of The Great Escape?"

- The Times sports columnist Gary Shelton, on the Bucs' loss of Reynolds and several other starters to other NFL teams.

I guess we're

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07606149 BARBER SNIPS AT RAGANO'S MOB CONFESSIONS; DOWNTOWN GOES PUBLIC AND ACCOUNTANTS GO WILD. St. Petersburg Times (PE) - FRIDAY April 15, 1994 By: PAUL WILBORN Edition: TAMPA Section: NATIONAL Page: 1A Word Count: 618

MEMO:

TYPE: COLUMN

TEXT: A retired Tampa barber called this week to complain about Mob Lawyer. The new book by Tampa lawyer Frank Ragano tells tales of life with the late Santo Trafficante and other reputed mob bosses. The book upset the barber who says he cut hair for some members of the Trafficante family and for other men who were well-known in Tampa's gambling establishment - "they were very nice people, very nice." He thinks Ragano wrote the book because he needed the money. This old Sicilian scissors-man, who probably could use the money, says he has no plans to write Mob Barber. He doesn't even want his name used here. "That is not such a smart idea," he said.

Taxing times in downtown: Who is developing downtown Tampa these days? Well, it's not the private sector, that's for sure. At an upcoming "Showcase of Projects" sponsored by the Tampa Downtown Partnership, the private non-profit downtown promotion group, you will be able to hear updates on the Florida Aquarium (public financing), Convention Center Hotel (public), the sports arena (public and private), Garrison Seaport Center (public), Curtis Hixon Park (public), U.S. Court House (public), Riverwalk (public), Multimodal Transit Terminal (public) and Union Station (public/private). Only one project on the agenda, Harbour Island, is not publicly financed. The showcase will take place at the publicly financed Tampa Convention Center on April 22 from 7:30 a.m. to noon.

Rumors, hunches, half-truths, etc.: What's behind Phil Esposito's interest in leaving the Tampa Bay Lightning for a job with ESPN? Esposito said it was for personal reasons. "Sometimes . . . you have to make decisions you don't want for your family," he told reporters this week. We hear Esposito's wife, Donna, is not happy in Tampa.

And remember to vote for me in November: When a Tampa woman read comments by Circuit Judge Bob Mitcham that seemed to imply that date rape was understandable, she sent the clipping from The Times to Gov. Lawton Chiles. In her letter to Chiles, she wrote: "As long as this man sits on the bench, the women of Hillsborough County will be denied justice. He is clearly performing the judicial equivalent of the crime described here. I urge you in the strongest terms to remove this man from the bench." Chiles sent a prompt reply: "I wanted to thank you for your letter about crime. As you know, the legislature is meeting now, and crime prevention and the drive to keep violent predators behind bars for the length

of their sentences is my top priority. I promise you we will change the perception that crime is beyond control . . ." The form letter never mentioned Mitcham or his courtroom comments.

Press agent's quote of the week: Today's best manufactured political quote appeared in an April 6 press release announcing Republican Ander Crenshaw's upcoming campaign stop at the University of South Florida. "'It's always exciting to talk to young people about government and to encourage them to get involved in their own political futures," said Crenshaw. "'I look forward to meeting with supporters at USF and sharing my 14 years of experience in public service with them as we work to see a better way for Florida."

Beating the tax day blues: Tampa businessman Ken Walters and his accountant always celebrate April 15 with the same ritual. Walters and CPA John M. Mueller finish Walters' tax return at the last possible moment. Then, just minutes before midnight

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07601139 LAWYER FOR MOB HAS PLENTY YET TO TELL St. Petersburg Times
(PE) - SUNDAY April 10, 1994 By: MARY JO MELONE Edition: CITY Section: TAMPA BAY
AND STATE Page: 1B Word Count: 775

MEMO:

TYPE: COLUMN

TEXT: TAMPA - (ran T, ET editions of A)

They used to call Frank Ragano ""Frankie Rags." Rags. It was a ludicrous name to hang on a rich lawyer. But maybe that was the point.

He was one smart lawyer, but still there was a comic book aura about the man. The voice that sounded as though somebody had a hand on his throat all the time. Talking about Santo this, Santo that. Then that craziness about his memoirs. And a movie deal. About how Santo helped bump off JFK. If Frank Ragano was really a mob lawyer, would he kiss and tell? Didn't they have some special send-off for guys who yapped too much, like executing them and leaving firecrackers in their mouths for the cops to find?

There are no firecrackers now, but that crazy talk about the memoirs came true. Ragano's co-author on Mob Lawyer is New York Times reporter Selwyn Raab. They won't call Frank Ragano ""Frankie Rags" after this, his tell-all about representing Tampa's mob chief, Santo Trafficante, and Jimmy Hoffa. Raab is among the biggest of the big guns in the news business.

In the book, Trafficante gives Ragano a new nickname, ""Che," Ragano gives one to Hoffa, ""Marteduzzo," and the solutions to two of the greatest crimes of the twentieth century are revealed in a long drive, back and forth, on Bayshore Boulevard.

Wonder if they'll ever say this on the tour bus: Somewhere on this lovely avenue, on Friday, March 13 - what perfect timing - in the year 1987, a Tampa mobster confessed to his lawyer how he ordered the murder of JFK, and how he could have intervened to save Jimmy Hoffa but didn't. He didn't even ask what they did with the body.

Geez. And you thought all anybody ever did on Bayshore was speed or jog.

Call it tall tales from a low life, if you want. Or call it the truth. For years, Ragano had a wife and children in Tampa and a mistress and children in Miami. He's the kind of guy who makes anybody who can't beat even a speeding ticket shake his fist at the heavens in frustration. There are two kinds of people in the world. Those guys. And guys like Ragano.

A month ago, he managed to get himself sprung from a federal prison hospital, the

closest he came to jail for fooling the feds on his income taxes. But he says it's because he was such a model prisoner. He never mentions this enables him to go on the 25-city book promotional tour that is about to begin. He does say, though, he is very sick. There's a spot on his kidney. May be cancer, he says.

Let's hope not, and not just for Frank's sake. We need this guy. We need him to tell us everything that did

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07591205 L'UNIONE ITALIANA MARKS 100 YEARS St. Petersburg Times (PE) - THURSDAY
March 31, 1994 By: SUSAN CLARY Edition: TAMPA Section: TAMPA TODAY Page: 4B
Word Count: 772

MEMO:

SERIES: LATIN BEAT

TYPE: COLUMN

TEXT: L'Unione Italiana (the Italian Club) will celebrate its centennial anniversary with a celebration from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday at its clubhouse, 1731 Seventh Ave. in Ybor City.

Dick Greco will be master of ceremonies and U.S. Rep. Sam Gibbons, D-Tampa, will unveil a commemorative marker in front of the Italian Club building. Retired Maj. Gen. Frank Ragano of the National Italian American Foundation in Washington, D.C., will present the club with lithographs commemorating the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discoveries. The art has been designated National Art Treasures by the U.S. Government Quincentenary Commission.

Refreshments and tours of L'Unione Italiana's clubhouse will follow the ceremony. The Italian Club was founded in 1894 as a mutual aid society for Italian immigrants. It provided health care through its clinic, operated a death benefit program for families and ran the Italian Club Cemetery and Mausoleum.

In 1918, the club built its current building, listed in the National Register of Historic Landmarks. Today, the club continues to fulfill its original purpose and also plans events, teaches Italian classes and promotes the Italian language and culture. Over the years, members have worked to raise money and obtain grants for the continual restoration of L'Unione Italiana building. The club will continue to sponsor centennial events throughout the year. For information, call 248-3316.

Viva la Vida: Efrian Yepes is a 39-year-old Pasco County businessman who has leukemia. For six years, the National Bone Marrow Registry has searched for a donor for Yepes, but none has been found. In the hopes that a local donor may be a match for Yepes, a bone marrow drive has been scheduled for Saturday, April 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pasco/Pinellas Cancer Center, 3000 U.S. 19 in Holiday.

Because Yepes is Hispanic, the chances of finding a compatible donor are slim, as only 5 percent of the potential donors on the national registry are Hispanic, said recruitment specialist Sandra Fernandez-Lopez. The drive is part of the National Marrow Donor Program local outreach effort

called ""Viva la Vida" or ""Long Live Life" to recruit more Hispanics/Latinos to become volunteer donors. The preliminary screening requires a simple blood test to be entered in the national registry. There is no cost to the donor. For information, call 977-5433.

Calling all artists: The Hispanic Heritage Festival in Miami is looking for amateur and professional artists to participate in its annual commemorative poster contest. Th

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07327032 JFK: 30 YEARS LATER St. Petersburg Times (PE) - MONDAY November 22, 1993 By: Associated Press Edition: CITY Section: NATIONAL Page: 1A Word Count: 974

MEMO:

SERIES: JFK: 30 YEARS LATER

TEXT: The basics had emerged within two days of President Kennedy's assassination. And after 30 years of investigating, it remains essentially unchanged.

Extensive probing by government commissions, private sleuths, and experts in forensics, acoustics, metallurgy and the mob have added tremendous breadth to our understanding of the case.

But that vast record tells us surprisingly little that wasn't known in the frenzied 48 hours after the crime.

To the police and FBI, Lee Harvey Oswald appeared the lone shooter. They had his gun, his bullets, his palm prints, a few eyewitnesses who actually saw him fire the shots from his sixth-floor perch.

They also knew they had a potential conspiracy case on their hands. There were persistent claims of shots coming from the grassy knoll. There were Oswald's communist ties. And there was his murder at the hands of a shady Dallas nightclub owner named Jack Ruby with links to the mob.

Still, after 30 years of investigations and re-examinations, just 12 percent of the American people believe they have been told the whole truth, according to an Associated Press poll. Seven in 10 suspect a conspiracy, and those who were young on Nov. 22, 1963, are especially likely to be among the 82 percent who believe the truth has not been told.

In keeping with many recent polls that show Americans suspicious and distrustful toward government, 78 percent think there was an official coverup.

Many experts, though, will have none of it.

""It was a good shooter investigation," said Notre Dame law Professor G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel to the House Select Committee on Assassinations. ""Within 30 hours we knew with roughly the same degree of certainty what we know now after 30 years: Oswald shot the man; he fired three times, hit him twice. That's true beyond a reasonable doubt. The sticky question is: Alone or with someone else?"

Investigators swiftly developed the single-gunman portion of the case.

At 12:45 p.m. Dallas time, fifteen minutes after the assassination, a Dallas Police dispatcher, using information provided by eyewitness Howard Brennan, broke into Channel One with the following alert: ""At Elm and Houston, reported to be an unknown white male, approximately 30, slender build, height 5 feet 10 inches, 165 pounds."

In the next 65 minutes, police found the Mannlicher-Carcano bolt-action rifle, the three spent cartridges, and Oswald's palm print on a box by the sixth-floor window of the Texas School Book Depository. At about the same time, police in Dealey Plaza le

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Questions about a conspiracy developed with equal speed. Seconds after the assassination, a policeman in the motorcade ran his motorcycle onto the curb and ran up the grassy knoll looking for a shooter.

The research conducted over the next three decades tended to do one of two things: support the single-gunman case by disproving various conspiracy allegations; or add tantalizing detail - but no solid scenario - to those pursuing the conspiracy case.

Here are some of the key developments:

Sept. 24, 1964: The Warren Commission releases its report arguing that Oswald acted alone. It taps extensive physical, documentary, and eyewitness evidence, but finds no clear motive for the killer.

1966: Publication of the first major critiques of the Warren Report.

1967: Josiah Thompson publishes *Six Seconds in Dallas* using Zapruder film to argue JFK was shot from the front-right, not the rear.

March 7, 1967: Jack Anderson column reveals a CIA-mob plot to kill Cuban leader Fidel Castro and raises speculation that Castro ordered Oswald, a Cuban sympathizer, to kill JFK.

1968: A panel appointed by Attorney General Ramsey Clark concludes JFK was shot from behind.

1975: A House subcommittee reports that the FBI destroyed a note from Oswald to a Dallas agent delivered weeks before the assassination, raising questions about what the agency concealed.

March 1975: Geraldo Rivera airs the Zapruder film for first time on national television. The apparent movement of president's head to the left stirs conspiracy theories.

1976: Dr. Louis Alvarez, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist, publishes a study explaining how a shot from the rear could account for Kennedy's head movement to the left.

1978: Dan Moldea publishes *The Hoffa Wars*, the first book to lay out the theory that Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa recruited mobsters Carlos Marcello and Santos Trafficante to arrange the assassination.

1979: The House Select Committee on Assassinations supports much of Warren Report but says acoustical evidence from a dictabelt tape indicates a second gunman on the grassy knoll fired at Kennedy and missed. Its report says the mob had "means, motive and opportunity" to execute plot.

Oct. 4, 1981: Oswald's body is exhumed and through dental records, confirmed to be Oswald, laying to rest theories of a double or an imposter.

1982: A panel of 12 scientists headed by Harvard Professor Norman Ramsey finds the acoustical evidence cited by the House select committee "seriously flawed." The dictabelt contains "cross talk" indicating that the pulses were not gunshots.

1992: Frank Ragano, attorney who had represented Hoffa, says that Hoffa ordered JFK killed and that he conveyed the order to Marcello and Trafficante. Some question Ragano's veracity.

August 1992: The Russian newspaper *Izvestia* reports that the Soviet KGB never recruited Oswald to be an agent or to assassinate Kennedy during the period when Oswald lived in the Soviet Union.

August 1993: Oswald's CIA file made public at National Archives.

CAPTION:

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO, Bob Moreland; BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO, Associated Press

Profile of John F. Kennedy; John Kennedy Jr. salutes his father's casket after the funeral mass Nov. 25, 1963, Jacqueline and Kennedy's daughter, Caroline, are flanked by Ted and Bobby Kennedy.

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DESCRIPTORS: HISTORY; ARTICLE

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07280012 WITNESS LINKS LAWYER, MAFIA St. Petersburg Times (PE) - WEDNESDAY
October 6, 1993 By: BRUCE VIELMETTI Edition: CITY Section: TAMPA BAY AND STATE
Page: 1B Word Count: 413

TEXT: TAMPA - Two years before he was charged with being the middleman in a \$35,000 bribery scheme, Charles B. Corces aspired to become consigliere to the Florida Mafia, Corces' former office partner said Tuesday.

Manuel A. Machin, now the star government witness against Corces, said that in 1989 Corces proposed the two lawyers combine their talents and take over the legal needs of organized crime.

Corces was a business lawyer with specialized tax training, and Machin was a skilled criminal defense lawyer.

To that end, Machin said, Corces introduced him to Vincent LoScalzo, the alleged successor to Santo Trafficante Jr. as head of Florida's organized crime.

Machin's testimony drew heated objection from Corces' attorney, Anthony Gonzalez, who said it was irrelevant and highly prejudicial.

"The witness is trying to convict Mr. Corces through guilt by association," Gonzalez argued later.

First Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory Kehoe countered that such context was crucial to the jury's understanding conversations Machin secretly taped with Corces during a January 1991 extortion investigation.

U.S. District Judge Elizabeth Kovachevich denied Gonzalez's request for a mistrial.

For days, Machin has been interpreting the often scratchy, hard to hear tapes to the jury. He made Tuesday's remarks after jurors heard a segment of a dinner conversation with Corces in which he mentions his representation on federal tax charges of Frank Ragano, a Tampa lawyer who was Trafficante's attorney for many years.

Machin testified that Corces implied that Ragano had paid \$50,000 to bribe a visiting federal judge from Georgia who heard the case. That judge threw out two counts against Ragano, but he still was convicted on other counts and eventually sentenced to federal prison.

In providing background, Machin testified that Corces once had said he would represent

Ragano for free, or at a low fee, just to get the publicity of being counsel to someone with alleged Mafia connections.

Corces and former Assistant State Attorney John S. Valenti were arrested Jan. 15, 1991, after Machin gave Corces \$35,000 and Valenti approved a 12-year sentence for Machin's client in a murder case. Valenti eventually admitted fixing four earlier cases for Corces and testified against him at a trial last year that ended with a hung jury.

Machin refused to testify in that trial, citing his right against potential self-incrimination. He has been suspected of supplying cocaine to a major trafficker. Federal prosecutors granted Machin immunity to testify in the current retrial of Corces.

CAPTION:

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO, (2)

Manuel Machin; Charles Corces

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DESCRIPTORS: ORGANIZED; CRIME

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07260046 LAWYER MAY TAKE STAND IN BRIBERY CASE St. Petersburg Times
(PE) - THURSDAY September 16, 1993 By: BRUCE VIELMETTI Edition: CITY Section:
TAMPA BAY AND STATE Page: 1B Word Count: 573

TEXT: TAMPA - Coming attractions in Tampa federal court: The Manny Machin Show.

Federal prosecutors disclosed Wednesday that Tampa lawyer Manuel A. ""Manny" Machin has been given immunity and likely will testify against fellow lawyer Charles B. Corces at his second trial on public corruption charges.

A jury was selected Wednesday, and both sides are scheduled to make opening statements today.

The last time Machin talked about the case he rocked the Hillsborough County legal community with tales of sexual favors to one judge, secret necktie signals between prosecutors and another judge, even a \$50,000 payoff to a federal judge.

Machin didn't vouch for the truth of the stories. He attributed the sensational allegations to Corces, who Machin said made them during a restaurant meeting that Machin secretly recorded while working undercover for police.

But the muffled, scratchy tapes themselves revealed far less. At Corces' first trial, jurors never got the benefit of Machin's interpretations. The government never called him as a witness; and when Corces tried, Machin claimed his privilege against possible self-incrimination.

The trial ended with a hung jury, and some jurors later said they were bothered by Machin's absence from the case.

Machin's key testimony could hinge on whether the government gets its way.

Prosecutors have asked that Corces be prohibited from asking Machin questions about the FBI's suspicion of him as a cocaine trafficker or about why Machin took the Fifth Amendment in the first trial or other issues.

U.S. District Judge Elizabeth Kovachevich has not ruled on that request. If she does not agree to limit Machin's cross-examination, prosecutors could decide not to call Machin as a witness. That, in turn, might affect whatever immunity Machin has bargained for.

Corces' attorney, Anthony Gonzalez, has argued that Machin entrapped Corces as a scapegoat after Machin and former state prosecutor John S. Valenti already had set up a

bribe to help Machin's client in a murder case.

Valenti and Corces were arrested Jan. 15, 1991, after Valenti approved a 12-year sentence for Machin's client and Corces accepted \$35,000 from Machin. It was during depositions for the state trial that year that Machin said Corces had once boasted that:

Hillsborough Circuit Judge Robert Bonnano did favors for Corces' clients because Corces' secretary had sex with Bonnano.

That Assistant State Attorney Ron Ficarrota communicated his preferred rulings to then-Circuit Judge Harry Lee Coe III by tugging his tie.

A federal judge from Georgia was bribed to drop tax evasion charges against lawyer Frank Ragano, longtime counsel to the late Santo Trafficante Jr., reputed organized crime chief in Florida.

All those individuals since have denied there is any truth to the allegations, which were made public in 1992 when federal prosecutors took over the case and announced that Valenti would plead guilty and testify against Corces.

He did, admitting under oath that he took cash from Corces for favors on cases ranging from misdemeanor lewdness to murder.

At the first trial, jurors also heard about how the FBI arrested Valenti, put him in a room of props that suggested agents had massive evidence on public corruption, and urged him to cooperate or never see his son graduate high school.

A few nights later, agents and prosecutors tried the same trick on Corces, but he did not cave in.

Kovachevich ruled Wednesday that the methods did not amount to misconduct by prosecutors. CAPTION:

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO, (2)

Manuel Machin; Lawyer Charles B. Corces

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07080032 LAWYER MAY START PRISON SOON FOR TAX EVASION St. Petersburg Times (PE) - SATURDAY March 20, 1993 By: BRUCE VIELMETTI Edition: CITY Section: TAMPA BAY AND STATE Page: 3B Word Count: 390

TEXT: TAMPA - During his storied legal career, Frank Ragano kept reputed Tampa crime boss Santo Trafficante Jr. out of jail and 114 murder defendants out of the electric chair.

But now, at 69, Ragano appears headed to federal prison himself.

An appeals court last fall upheld Ragano's 1990 conviction on tax evasion charges and recently denied his request to remain free during any further appeal.

Early next week, U.S. District Judge Owen Forrester of Georgia is expected to sign an order giving Ragano 30 days to surrender to U.S. marshals and begin a three-year sentence.

Ragano could not be reached Friday. His Atlanta attorney did not return a telephone message seeking comment.

A Tampa federal jury convicted Ragano of failing to report more than \$100,000 he received in 1982 and 1983 from investors bankrolling a planned movie, The Life and Death of Jimmy Hoffa, the late Teamsters Union boss who relied on Ragano's counsel for many years.

In the early 1980s, Ragano told Tampa investors he had exclusive rights to Hoffa's life story. Among the investors was former client Mary Haire. In 1983 Ragano successfully defended her against charges she murdered her husband, millionaire car dealer Ernie Haire Jr.

A Florida Bar inquiry began after Mrs. Haire complained that Ragano took advantage of her emotional state by asking her to invest in the movie on the eve of her testimony in the trial. Ragano surrendered his license to practice law last year after Bar officials sought his disbarment.

Ragano said federal prosecutors indicted him on tax charges only after he refused to wear a wire and gather incriminating statements from members of the late Trafficante's family. Ragano said one prosecutor has had a vendetta against him since a failed 1986 prosecution of Trafficante.

Ragano contended that investors in the Hoffa movie later agreed to call the transactions loans and that he relied on his tax preparer's advice that the money did not have to be reported as income.

The movie was never made.

Ragano made headlines nationwide last year when he said he unwittingly carried an order in 1963 from Hoffa to Mafia bosses that they should kill President John F. Kennedy. He said the assertion was to counter theories promoted by the film JFK, not to promote a planned biography of his own career.

CAPTION:

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO

Frank Ragano

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06827126 MIAMI FILES ON ASSASSINATION ARE MISSING OR STILL OFF LIMITS St. Petersburg Times (PE) - SUNDAY November 22, 1992 By: Associated Press Edition: CITY Section: NATIONAL Page: 9A Word Count: 486

TEXT: MIAMI - The federal government is preparing to release 500,000 pages of files on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, but most local investigative records in Miami are missing or still secret 29 years later.

The supposed Miami connection to the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination in Dallas runs in several sometimes conflicting directions.

Some theories, including that advanced in last year's film JFK, suggest a thread connecting Miami Cuban exiles, Lee Harvey Oswald, the CIA and assassination plots against Fidel Castro.

Another theory, most recently advanced by Frank Ragano, lawyer to the late Tampa crime boss Santo Trafficante Jr., suggests a hit by Mafia figures worried about then-Attorney General Robert Kennedy's mob crackdown.

A third theory held that Kennedy was killed as Fidel Castro's revenge for Miami-based CIA-Mafia assassination plots against the Cuban leader.

But researchers will be disappointed if they seek out the records of Miami police agencies, says Gordon Winslow, Dade County's official archivist and historian.

In the spring of this year, Winslow gave the Miami police department a list of 30 names of Miami-area figures whose names had surfaced in the Kennedy assassination, and asked for related files. He was turned down flat.

"They specifically told the (city) legal department not to release anything on the JFK investigation," Winslow said.

He hopes one day to get police intelligence files from 1959 to 1963, but he has had no luck so far, Winslow said.

Metro-Dade police have been more forthcoming, but many of their records appear to have vanished, said Winslow.

"If someone has a JFK file at Metro-Dade headquarters, they have it in a drawer and nobody knows about it," Winslow said.

Metro-Dade performs security at Miami International Airport and has voluminous files on visits by dignitaries, including Kennedy. But the file on Kennedy's Nov. 18, 1963, visit to Miami on his way to Dallas has disappeared, Winslow said.

Also missing from Metro-Dade police files is any mention of major Cuban exile groups in the late 1950s and early 1960s, Winslow notes. But he did find a membership list of Fair Play for Cuba, a pro-Castro group Oswald joined in Louisiana before the assassination.

Winslow even approached former Dade State Attorney Richard Gerstein, whose office investigated many cases supposedly related to the Kennedy assassination, to ask for his files. Gerstein, who died this year, told Winslow that his Kennedy case files were also missing.

Many files may simply have been lost or mislaid over the years, or routinely destroyed, Winslow said.

Federal investigators may have taken many others after the assassination - and could still have them.

But that doesn't mean they will be included in the 500,000 pages the FBI is releasing under Congress' direction. The Freedom of Information Act doesn't cover files obtained from outside the federal government.

""Unless they voluntarily release them with the new JFK papers, you won't see them," Winslow said.

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06594194 FORMER HOFFA LAWYER LOSES RIGHT TO PRACTICE LAW St. Petersburg Times (PE) - FRIDAY April 3, 1992 Edition: STATE Section: TAMPA BAY AND STATE Page: 7B Word Count: 856

MEMO:

SERIES: BRIEFLY

TYPE: DIGEST

TEXT: ST. PETERSBURG; TAMPA; PINELLAS PARK; CRYSTAL RIVER - Tampa lawyer Frank Ragano, longtime counsel to Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa, has lost his license to practice law in Florida. On Thursday, the Florida Supreme Court accepted Ragano's permanent resignation and ordered him to pay \$5,759.73 in costs. The Florida Bar sought Ragano's disbarment last May after a hearing officer found him guilty of misconduct for asking a client for a \$75,000 loan on the same day she was set to testify as a defendant in a murder trial. Ragano, 68, who also represented Santo Trafficante Jr., the late reputed leader of organized crime in Florida, made national news in January after claiming he had unwittingly carried an order from Hoffa to Trafficante and another mobster to assassinate President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

St. Petersburg to examine

legality of referendum

ST. PETERSBURG - Before residents try to bring back fired Police Chief Ernest "Curt" Curtsinger, a judge may rule on whether residents even have that kind of power. The City Council voted unanimously Thursday to have City Attorney Michael Davis go to court and ask for a ruling before the issue is put to a popular vote. "Because if it's illegal, then I would suggest that it not go on the ballot," Mayor David Fischer said. About 18,200 voters signed petitions to get a June 16 referendum on the issue. Davis says the voters legally don't have that power, because they can vote only to force the council into legislative decisions, not administrative ones such as hirings. Virginia Swanson, president of the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) and a leader in the drive to bring back Curtsinger, disagrees. "And we are prepared to go to court and present our case," she said after the meeting.

Gibbons cleared of charge
of abusing franking privilege

TAMPA - A congressional panel on Thursday dismissed a complaint that U.S. Rep. Sam Gibbons, D-Tampa, abused the free mailing privileges he receives as a member of Congress. The complaint was filed last month by one of Gibbons' opponents, millionaire businessman Kevin

Gowen, a Republican, who contended that Gibbons' winter newsletter about a town meeting on health care violated the rules because it had a political purpose. Members of Congress have the free mailing privileges, known as franking privileges, to inform constituents. But rules bar the use of the frank for partisan purposes. Gowen said Gibbons broke that rule when he used the mailing to invite residents to a town meeting where only Democratic health care plans were discussed. But the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards, which approved Gibbons' newsletter before its mailing, voted 5-0 Thursday to dismiss Gowen's complaint.

Wreck on I-4 injures

man, ties up traffic

TAMPA - A three-vehicle wreck on Interstate 4 Thursday night blocked traffic for more than an hour, Florida Highway Patrol officials said. A speeding Mercury was passing eastbound traffic in the breakdown lane near McIntosh Road about 7:30 p.m. when it slammed into the back of a parked dump truck and trailer, Trooper Thomas Hansen said. The Mercury spun into eastbound traffic, hitting a 1989 Buick, Hansen said. The Buick was forced into the median before stopping in the westbound lanes, he said. The Mercury flipped repeatedly, ejecting the driver, before landing upside down on the shoulder of the road, Hansen said. The driver, Richard A. Leonard, 35, of 8925 Tom Costine Road in Lakeland, suffered severe head injuries, Hansen said. He was in critical condition at Tampa General Hospital late Thursday. The driver and passenger in the Buick were not injured seriously.

Vehicle owned by

Pinellas Park in wreck

PINELLAS PARK - One person was hospitalized Thursday after a two-vehicle accident involving a Jeep owned by the city of Pinellas Park. Police said Timothy Henault was crossing Belcher Road in the Jeep at 82nd Avenue N. The car stalled as he pulled into the intersection, and it was hit by a car driven by Kelly Freiha of 8500 Belcher Road. Nicholas Tervasi, a passenger in the Jeep, was taken to Bayfront Medical Center, where he was in stable condition Thursday night.

Educators resolve

to fight for more money

CRYSTAL RIVER - Members of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents voted this week to form a coalition to go after more state and federal money. The group's next steps include collecting detailed information about the disparities of government aid, courting public opinion and possibly suing the state of Florida. The group,

meeting this week in Citrus County, heard statistics showing why financing for education in the nation and the state has not been equitable. In Florida the costs are higher, the expenditures per student are lower, the non-educational needs are greater, and the political conservatism of the central government is greater, said Kern Alexander, a former University of Florida professor now with Virginia Tech. While Florida is 17th in the nation in the level of personal income, the state is 46th or 47th in the nation for the effort made to finance schools, he said. "The problem in Florida is misdirection, I think," Alexander said. "The problem is that education is not declared the most important function."

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06018061 COCAINE DEALER MANAGES TO GET THREE CASES SEALED St. Petersburg Times (PE) - SUNDAY March 24, 1991 By: CHUCK MURPHY Edition: CITY Section: NATIONAL Page: 13A Word Count: 510

MEMO:

SERIES: HIDING THE PAST

TYPE: SERIES

TEXT: TAMPA - When Michael R. Napoli stood before a federal judge in 1989, he was an admitted drug dealer who had been arrested three other times on felony charges.

But when U.S. District Judge Wm. Terrell Hodges asked about Napoli's record, his attorney, Frank Ragano, said: "He has no prior criminal history or record."

Technically, that's correct.

Napoli, who the FBI said ran a cocaine dealing operation for the Tampa Mafia, had convinced three Hillsborough judges to erase his criminal history.

So when Napoli pleaded guilty to federal cocaine distribution charges and came before Hodges for sentencing, the state of Florida allowed him to masquerade as a first offender.

In December 1989, Hodges sentenced him to six and a half years in prison, the minimum he faced under federal guidelines. Napoli, who is still in prison, declined to be interviewed.

Ragano said Napoli got his 1977 and 1980 aggravated battery arrests and 1983 carrying a concealed firearm arrest sealed because he wasn't guilty.

But how did Napoli get around the state's sealing statute, which allows just one sealing in a lifetime? Ragano, who didn't represent Napoli on any of the sealed cases, could only answer: "I don't know."

Tampa police sent a letter to a judge, trying - without success - to undo the apparently improper sealings. It says:

The 1977 aggravated battery wasn't prosecuted because the victim disappeared; the case was sealed in 1978. Another disappearing victim prevented prosecution of the 1980 aggravated battery; it was sealed in 1980.

Napoli was arrested in 1983 for carrying a concealed firearm. Prosecutors let him enter a program for first offenders that required him to admit his guilt and stay out of trouble for 18 months. Then prosecutors dismissed the charge. The case was sealed late in 1984.

Tampa police Maj. M. W. Campbell complained to Circuit Judge J. Rogers Padgett that the second and third sealings were improper. The cases remain sealed.

Padgett said through his judicial assistant that he doesn't remember the letter or sealing the case.

In 1989, a federal grand jury charged that Napoli was using four Tampa bars to help him distribute cocaine and launder the money.

Federal investigators said they were aware of Napoli's sealed cases but doubted they would have made a difference in his sentence. They suggested the sealings helped Napoli hide his past from state beverage inspectors, which enabled him to buy the bars he used to help him deal the drugs. An FBI agent has testified that Napoli laundered thousands of dollars in cocaine profits for the Gambino crime family.

State law requires people with liquor licenses to be of "good moral character."

Sgt. J. T. Allen of the Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco said agents didn't know about Napoli's past, but it might not have made a difference. "He would have to be convicted of those crimes.

"But if you've got somebody with multiple arrests, you would want to take a look at those and see the nature of the crimes."

CAPTION: BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO

Michael Napoli

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