Date:08/21/93

Page:1

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : HSCA

RECORD NUMBER : 180-10110-10237

RECORDS SERIES :

TRANSCRIPTS OF EXECUTIVE SESSION HEARINGS

AGENCY FILE NUMBER :

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

garage and the second

ORIGINATOR : HSCA

FROM :

TO:

TITLE :

DATE : 03/16/77

PAGES : 22

SUBJECTS:

TRAFFICANTE, SANTOS

DOCUMENT TYPE : TRANSCRIPT

CLASSIFICATION : U

RESTRICTIONS : OPEN IN FULL

CURRENT STATUS : O

DATE OF LAST REVIEW: 08/16/93

OPENING CRITERIA:

COMMENTS:

Open session.

Box 1.

CONNECTOR OF PIECE

March 16, 1917

Mineral Person of Company to

	H	
1	TABLE OF CONTENTS	
2	U.S. House of Representatives,	Washington, D. C
3	Select Committee on Assassinations	March 16, 197
4	TESTIMONY OF:	PAGE
5	Santos Trafficante, Jr., (Accompanied by Henry Gonzalez,	
6	Esquire.)	7
7		
8	·	
9	Note that the same of the same	
10	•	
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
.17		
18		
19		
20		·
21	y.	
22	, com	
23		

2

3

4

5

6

8

10

. 11

12

13

14

1.5

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

COMMITTEE MEETING

- 5-

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1977

was

Select Committee on Assassinations

Washington, D. C. U

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:32 delicated a.m., in Room 2167, Rayburn House Office Building, the Honorable Louis Stokes (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Stokes (presiding), Preyer,
Fauntroy, Burke, Dodd, Ford, Fithian, Edgar, Devine, Anderson,
McKinney, and Thone.

Also Present: Richard A. Sprague, Chief Counsel and Staff Director; Ms. Rebecca Martin, Clerk of the Committee, and Mr. Tanenbaum.

مسسرح

The Chairman. The Committee will come to order.

At this time we will ask the witness if he will rise and be sworn.

Will you raise your right hand?

Do you swear or affirm that the testimony you will give before the Select Committee on Assassinations shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as you shall answer unto God?

Mr. Trafficante. Yes, sir, I do.

The Chairman. You do. Thank you, you may be seated.

Sir, would you please identify yourself for the record.

Mr. Gonzalez. Mr. Chairman, at this time I would like to identify myself. My name is Henry Gonzalez. I am an Attorney at Law in Tampa and Miami with offices at 620 Madison, Tampa, Florida, in Suite 1922; 1 Biscayne Tower, Miami, Florida

The gentleman to my right is Mr. Santos Trafficante, Jr., and he is here pursuant to the authorized subpena, subpenas that were served on him last Friday.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, I would like to invoke the provisions of Rule 6.3(2) relative to the taking of photographs etc., as provided for in your rules, and on behalf of that witness I so request.

Pause

- 11

The Chairman. Under the provisions of the Rules of the select committee, Rule 6, and specifically subsection 6.3 which provides that no witness served with a subplena by the committee shall be required, against his or her will, to be photographed at any hearing, or to give evidence or testimony while the broadcasting of that hearing by radio or television is being conducted. At the request of any witness who does not wish to be subjected to radio, television or still photography coverage, all lenses shall be covered, and all microphones used for coverage turned off.

2

3

4

5

7

9

10

. 11

13

14

- 15

16

17

18

17

20

22

23

24

25

 $\widehat{\mathscr{J}}$ The request of counsel is hereby granted.

Mr. Gonzalez. Thank you, sir.

The Chairman. All news media will cease at this point to do any photographing of any type, and you will in accordance with this provision, cut off all microphones and cease any photography whatsoever.

We will have to provide about ten minutes for the removal of this equipment before we can proceed.

A brief recess was taken.

The Chairman. I have been assured that all equipment is off, and at this point we will proceed with the hearing.

Mr. Gonzalez. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make one further comment.

Mr. Trafficante was served with two subpoenas, one to appear personally, and the other, a subpoena duces tecum for production of certain records. I want to advise the committee that none of the requested documents does Mr. Trafficante have, and there is no production at all pursuant to that subpoena, and I just want to advise the committee to that fact, sir.

The Chairman. All right, thank you very much, counsel.

I will direct at this point that counsel and the witness be provided with a copy of the Rules of this committee.

Mr. Gonzalez. Thank you.

The Chairman. At this time we will ask that the glerk

3

4

5

7

8

6

9

10

12

13

14

1.4

17

18

19

20

22

21

23

24

25

read the two subpoenas which have been previously referred to, which were issued by this committee on March 16, 1977, and which were subsequently served upon Mr. Trafficante.

Ms. Martin. ABy authority of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, to Richard A. Sprague or any assistant designated by him, you are hereby commanded to summon Santos Trafficante, Jr., Tampa, Florida, to be and appear before the Select Committee on Assassinations of the House of Representatives of the United States, of which the Hongrable Louis Stokes is Chairman, in their chamber in the Qity of Washington of March 16, 1977, at the hour of 10 choleck a.m., then and there to testify touching matters of inquiry committed to said committee, and he is not to depart without leave of said committee. Herein fail not and make return of this summons. Witness my hand and the seal of the House of Representatives of the United States at the City of Washington this 9th day of March 1977, Louis Stokes, Chairman.

The Chairman. All right, you may proceed to read the other one.

Ms. Martin. #By authority of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America to Richard A. Sprague or any assistant designated by him, you are hereby commanded to summon Santos Trafficante, Jr., Tampa, Flexida, to be and appear before the Select committee on Assassinations

18

20

19

22

21

23 24

25

of the House of Representatives of the United States, of which the Hongander Louis Stokes is Chairman, and to bring with you any and all notes, materials, documents, receipts, vouchers, memoranda, correspondence from January 1958 to December 1964 relating to attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro, relating to attempts to assassinate or the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, relating to the groups and organizations known as Alpha 66, International Anti-Communist Brigade, Nonanke Group, and the Cuban Revolutionary Council, and relating to release from prison in Havana Cuba, in their chamber in the ⊄ity of Washington on March 16, 1977 at the hour of 10 € o'clock, then and there to testify touching matters of inquiry committed to said committee, and he is not to depart without leave of said committee. Herein fail not, and make return of this summons. Witness my hand and the seal of the House of Representatives of the United States at the Zity of Washington this 9th day of March, 1977, Louis Stokes, Chairman.

 $^{\prime\prime}$ The Chairman. Thank you.

Does counsel for the witness have any further motions at this time?

No further motions at this time, Mr. Chair-Mr. Gonzalez. man.

The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Gonzalez.

At this time, then, we will ask Mr. Richard Sprague, thief counsel for the committee, to propound questions to the witness.

Mr. Sprague. Mr. Trafficante, have you at any time been an employee, a contract employee, or in any manner been in the service of the Central Intelligence Agency, or any other agency of the Federal Government of the United States?

- 15

19

18

21

20

23

22

. 24

25

TESTIMONY OF SANTOS TRAFFICANTE, JR. (ACCOMPANIED BY HENRY GONZALEZ, ESQ.)

Mr. Trafficante. I respectfully refuse to answer that question pursuant to my constitutional rights under the first,

Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, I request that you direct the witness to answer the question.

The Chairman. The witness is directed to answer the question.

Mr. Gönzalez. Mr. Chairman, he is at this time upon advice of counsel exercising the rights under $\frac{1}{24}$ pursuant to those provisions of the Constitution of the United States.

The Chairman. Counsel may proceed.

Mr. Sprague. Mr. Trafficante, did you know John Rosselli?

Mr. Trafficante. I respectfully refuse to answer that

/st

question pursuant to my constitutional rights under the First,

4th 5th 14th

Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, I request that you direct the witness to answer the question.

The Chairman. The witness is directed to answer the question.

Mr. González. Mr. Chairman, likewise, as previously announced, upon representation and advice of counsel, Mr. Trafficante shall maintain his constitutional rights to answer that question $\frac{1}{M}$ to refuse to answer that question.

did you have information that President Kennedy was going to 2 be assassinated? Mr. Trafficante. I respectfully refuse to answer that question pursuant to my constitutional rights under the 4 4+6 5th 5 First, Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. 6 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, I request that you direct the witness to answer the question. 7 The Chairman. The witness is directed to answer the 8 9 question. Mr. Gonzalez. Same directive by counsel for the 10 witness. - 11 The Chairman. Counsel for the Committee may proceed. 12 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Trafficante, prior to November 22, 1963, 13 did you advise other people of the assassination of President Kennedy? . 15 Mr. Trafficante. I respectfully refuse to answer that 16 question pursuant to my constitutional rights under the First, 17 Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. Mr. Spraque. Mr. Chairman, I request that you direct the 19 witness to answer the question. 20 The Chairman. The witness is directed to answer the 21 question. 22 Mr. Gonzalez. The same directive by counsel for the 23 witness, Your Honor $\frac{1}{27}$ Mr. Chairman. 24 The Chairman. Counsel for the committee may proceed. 25

witness, the same remarks previously made would apply to that

question also.

Ó

The Chairman. Counsel for the committee is directed to proceed.

Mr. Sprague. Mr. Trafficante, is any agency of the United States Government giving you any immunity with regard to any plans to assassinate any world leaders?

Mr. Trafficante. I respectfully refuse to answer that

/s/
question pursuant to my constitutional rights under the First,

4th 5th 14th
Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, I request that you direct the witness to answer the question.

The Chairman. The witness is directed to answer the question.

Mr. Gonzalez. At this time, counsel for the witness also has the same directive as previously announced to that particular question.

The Chairman. Counsel for the Committee may proceed.

Mr. Sprague. Mr. Trafficante, did you ever discuss with any individuals plans to assassinate President Kennedy prior to his assassination?

Mr. Trafficante. I respectfully refuse to answer that

/s +

question pursuant to my constitutional rights under the First,

4th 5th /4th

Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, I request that you direct the witness to answer the question.

The Chairman. The witness is directed to answer the 1 question. 2 Mr. Gonzalez. Counsel for the witness has the same 3 directive to that question as previously announced to the other questions. 5 The Chairman. At this time I would like to have the 6 Committee recess for a few moments in order to discuss the 7 matter now under consideration before us. 8 We will adjourn to the room to my right. 9 The Committee will be temporarily recessed for that 10 purpose. - 11 A brief recess was taken. 12 The Chairman. The meeting will come back to order. 13 At this time I will yield to counsel for the committee for 14 one additional question. · 15 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Trafficante, while you were in a 16 prison in Cuba, were you visited by Jack Ruby? 17 Mr. Trafficante. I respectfully refuse to answer that 18 question pursuant to my constitutional rights under the First, 19 Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. 20 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, I request that you direct 21 the witness to answer the question. 22 The Chairman. I direct the witness to answer the question 23 Mr. Gonzalez. Counsel for the witness has the same direc-24 tive as previously announced to the other questions with 25

respect also to this question. 1 Mr. Trafficante, to the extent that your claim of privilege is deemed inappropriate by the Chair, as 3 indicated by my directing you to answer the questions that have been propounded to you, I advise you that this Committee may 5 recommend to the House of Representatives that you be cited á for contempt. 7 In light of this, do you care at this time to change your 8 answer to any of the questions propounded to you? 9 Mr. Gonzalez. Pursuant to the directives, the same 10 response would be to that directive of the Committee. 11 Mr. Trafficante. I respectfully $\frac{\chi}{M}$ 12 The Chairman. Would counsel permit the witness also to 13 answer the question? 14 Mr. Gonzalez. Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman, he is just about 15 to. 16 Mr. Trafficante. I respectfully refuse to answer that 17 question pursuant to my constitutional rights under the rirst, 18 Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. 19 The Chairman. Thank you. 20 Do any other members of the committee have any questions 21 to propound to the witness? 22 Mr. Devine. Mr. Chairman? 23 The Chairman. The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Devine. 24 Mr. Devine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 25

- 15

Amr. Gonzalez, I recognize your responsibility to advise your client on his rights under the Constitution, and the protection against self-incrimination. However, would you advise this select committee how a response from the witness to a question about whether he knew Jack Ruby would be incriminating or violate his constitutional rights?

Mr. Gonzalez. At that point, Mr. Devine, I feel that a determination has been made relative to that question, and I would have to most respectfully say that that would be within the attorney-client relationship which I am not at liberty at this time to disclose. It is a determination that has been made and would be sustained at this time on behalf of Mr. Trafficante.

Mr. Devine. A determination has been made by whom?

Mr. Gonzalez. After consultation by directive of myself concerning the nature of the inquiry and the questions propounded.

Mr. Devine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman. I believe the gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. Dodd, has a question.

Mr. Dodd. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Trafficante, as a result of your appearance here today, have you been threatened by anyone, any group or agency?

Has your life been threatened in any way?

Mr. Trafficante. I respectfully refuse to answer that

question pursuant to my constitutional rights under the First,

4th 5th 14th
Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendment.

Mr. Dodd. Mr. Trafficante, have you been contacted by within any agency the executive branch, the CIA or FBI, in connection with your possible testimony before or after you received formal subpoena to appear before this committee?

Mr. Trafficante. I respectfully refuse to answer that /s+ question pursuant to my constitutional rights under the First, 4+h 5+h 6+h Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

Mr. Dodd. Mr. Chairman, I would respectfully ask that the witness be directed to respond to both of those questions.

The Chairman. The witness is hereby directed to respond to both of the questions propounded by Mr. Dodd of Connecticut.

Mr. Trafficante. I respectfully refuse to answer that question pursuant to my constitutional rights under the 1st 4th 5th 14th First, Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

The Chairman. Any other members have any further questions of the witness?

In the opinion of the Chair, in light of the present state of the witness refusing to answer the questions propounded to him in the exercise of his constitutional rights, I would at this time recognize the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Richardson Preyer, who is Chairman of the Kennedy Subcommittee for any motion he would care to make at this time.

Mr. Preyer. Mr. Chairman, at this time I move that the

```
committee excuse this Witness, the Witness to remain under
the subpoena issued by this committee, subject to further
call by the Chair.
  The Chairman. You have heard the motion.
     Are you ready for the question?
    All those in favor 7- Mr. Devine?
     Mr. Devine. Is it my understanding that this will be a
continuing subpoena, it will not be necessary to reserve him,
that it is a continuing subpoena, he is under the jurisdiction
of this committee, subject to the call of the Chair.
     The Chairman. Would the gentleman care to
    Mr. Preyer. Yes; that is the intent of the motion.
   Mr. Devine. Thank you.
    The Chairman. Are you ready for the question?
    All those in favor say aye.
     A chorus of ayes.
    The Chairman. Those opposed?
     (No response)
     The Chairman. The motion is carried, and it is so
ordered.
    Mr. Trafficante, do you understand that you are under
the continuing subpoena of this committee?
    Mr. Trafficante. Yes, sir.
    The Chairman. All right, thank you very much, counsel.
    Mr. Gonzalez. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and member.
```

6

11

12

13

14

. 15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

of the committee. \mathcal{J} The Chairman. At this time $\frac{2}{\lambda J}$ Mr. Gonzalez. Mr. Chairman, may we be excused at this 4 time? The Chairman. Yes; counsel, you and your Witness may be 5 excused. 6 7 Thank you very much, sir. $m{k}$ Whereupon, Mr. Trafficante and Mr. Gonzalez left the 8 hearing room. The Chairman. Members of the committee, on March 16th 10 this committee issues subpoenas on four other persons that were returnable today $\frac{1}{44}$ I am sorry. They were issued on the 12 Ath day of March, 1977, returnable on March 16, 1977 on the following persons: Captain Jack LeGrand, Birmingham Police 14 Department, Birmingham, Alabana; Hugh Stanton, Jr., pistrict Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennasse; Gene Barksdale, Sheriff, Shelby County, Tenness; E. Winslow Chapman, Director of Police, Memphis, Tennesse. I request at this time that the committee grant the 19 authority to extend these subprenas at this time for an indefinite period. 21 Do we have such a motion? 22 Mr. Fauntroy. Mr. Chairman. 23 The Chairman. Mr. Fauntroy. 24 Mr. Fauntroy. I so move. 25

The Chairman. It has been properly moved that an extension of time be granted as it relates to each of these subprepars.

Are you ready for the question?

Those in favor say aye.

A chorus of ayes.

The Chairman. Those opposed?

No response.

The Chairman. The motion is carried and so ordered.

(Pause)

The Chairman. In light of the answers which have come to the committee's questions this morning, it would seem to me at this time that the committee ought to have further dialogue with reference to the state of the investigation as it relates to the Kennedy matter, and I would think that this would be appropriate in executive session rather than public session, and I would at this time entertain a motion.

Mr. Thone. Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman. Yes; Mr. Thone.

Mr. Thone. Mr. Chairman, I am certainly not going to make that motion, needless to say, but while our broadcast media and the electronic media are out of the room, so it isn't considered too self-serving, I would say we had a dramatic example here this morning of a double standard that I think is terribly unwise and unfair, and almost just assinine. We have

our friends over here from the print media who were allowed to attend this entire session this morning, while the members from the broadcast media were excluded, and I just think it is 3 basically unfair, and I just bring it up again to call attention to it. ${\mathscr N}$ I understand that it is a rule of the House, which was incorporated in our rules, but as I said, I think it is just 7 basically and patently unfair. The Chairman. Any further comments before we ask for a motion? 10 Mr. Fauntroy. I expected to hear some cheers from the 11 left there, but I heard none. 12 Mr. Preyer. Mr. Chairman, I will move at this time, if 13 there are no further questions, that the Committee go into executive session. . 15 The Chairman. You have heard the motion. 16 Are you ready for the question? 17 All those in favor the clerk will call the roll. 18 Ms. Martin. Mr. Stokes. 19 The Chairman. Aye. 20 Ms. Martin. Mr. Devine. 21 Mr. Devine. Aye. 22 Ms. Martin. Mr. Preyer. 23 Mr. Preyer. Aye. 24 Ms. Martin. Mr. Anderson. 25

```
// Mr. Anderson.
         Ms. Martin. Mr. Fauntroy.
  2
          Mr. Fauntroy. Aye.
  3
          Ms. Martin. Mr. McKinney.
          Mr. McKinney. Aye.
  5
          Ms. Martin. Mrs. Burke.
 6
          Ms. Burke. Aye.
 7
          Ms. Martin. Mr. Thone.
 8
          Mr. Thone. No.
 9
         Ms. Martin. Mr. Dodd.
10
         Mr. Dodd. Aye.
11
         Ms. Martin. Mr. Ford.-
12
         Mr. Ford. Aye.
13
         Ms. Martin. Mr. Fithian.
14
         Mr. Fithian. Aye.
15
         Ms. Martin. Mr. Edgar.
16
         Mr. Edgar. Aye.
17
         Ms. Martin. Mr. Chairman, the vote is eleven aye, one
18
    nay.
19
         The Chairman. This meeting is recessed subject to the
20
    call of the Chair, without objection.
21
         Whereupon, at 11:14 eleck a.m., the committee recessed
22
   subject to the call of the Chair.
23
```