

Testimony of Jose Aleman
HSCA Volume V at 301-323
Summary by Laura Denk, ARRB
File No: 4.0.1.3

Summary of Testimony:

Jose Aleman, member of the Cuban exile community in Miami, met with Santos Trafficante in September 1963, and may have heard Trafficante say that JFK was “going to be hit.” Trafficante was the head of La Cosa Nostra (LCN) in Miami and Tampa, Florida, and one of the LCN members involved in the CIA’s plot to kill Castro. During his meeting with Trafficante, Aleman claims that Trafficante told him that JFK would not be reelected because he was “going to be hit.” Aleman told Crile of *The Washington Post*, Gaeton Fonzi of the HSCA, and possibly the FBI, that JFK would be “hit” because the Kennedys had been harassing LCN leaders, including Jimmy Hoffa. However, in the HSCA testimony, Aleman backtracks and says that Trafficante might have meant that JFK would be “hit” by a lot of Republican votes. Aleman said that he feared that the DGI (Cuban intelligence) and Trafficante would retaliate against him for testifying.

Testimony Highlights (Leads in BOLD)

- 301 **Aleman’s HSCA testimony was photographed and recorded.**
- 301-302 Aleman’s background. Born Havana. Active in anti-Batista and anti-Castro activities in Cuba and in the United States.
- 303-304 Met with Trafficante approximately 3 times in Miami in fall 1963 to set up business deals in the Dominican Republic and loans to Aleman from the Teamsters’ Union.
- 304 Key meeting occurred at the Scott Bryan Hotel. **Aleman identified George Nobregas and Macho Gener as the other two men present in the room during his conversation with Trafficante.** Gener was in and out of the room. Nobregas did not really participate in the conversation. Meeting lasted 3-4 hours.
- 305 Trafficante started talking about how the Kennedys were harassing Hoffa and became “very upset.” Trafficante tells Aleman JFK will not be reelected because “he is going to be hit.”
- 306-321 Aleman backtracks and evades questions about what he understood Trafficante to mean by “hit.” Complains that he cannot remember the conversation. Says he does not know what the term “hit” means.

- 321-322 Aleman asserts that after his conversation with Trafficante and before the assassination, he talked to some members of the FBI about Trafficante's statements. Then, after the assassination, the FBI asked him more about the conversation with Trafficante. Says that whatever is in the FBI files "must be the exact thing" that Trafficante told him in 1963.
- 322 Aleman asserts that, after the Warren Commission finished its work, the FBI told him that a lone assassin killed JFK and that Aleman should not worry further about Trafficante.
- 322-323 Aleman testified that he was concerned about his safety. He believed that the DGI and Trafficante might conspire to harm him.

