

## OUTLINE FOR RAGANO DEPOSITION

### INTRODUCTION

- Convening at the ARRB for deposition of Mr. Ragano
- Introduce Mr. Ragano, myself and others present
- Ragano appearing pursuant to subpoena for testimony and his records
- Opportunity to have an attorney present
- Opportunity to correct transcript
- Breaks during the deposition
- Clarification of Questions
- You understand that you are appearing pursuant to subpoena?
- You understand that you are testifying under oath and that you are subject to the laws on perjury?

## PRELIMINARY BACKGROUND

--Current residence Tampa, Florida

--Age

--World War II Service

--College

--Law School

--Children

--Law Practice in Florida

## IMMUNITY

--Do you have any information that relates to the assassination of President Kennedy? [Ragano takes the 5th]

--Did you bring with you today any records that relate to the assassination of President Kennedy? [Ragano takes the 5th]

--Apprise Ragano that he is accorded immunity pursuant to federal statute/Department of Justice authorization. (For Kennedy assassination only?)

--Introduce EXHIBIT 1, the subpoena/Dept. Of Justice authorization of immunity.

--In compliance with the subpoena, have you brought with you any records? Go through the categories of records that Ragano has brought--

videotapes

news articles

notes

--Discuss deposition with anyone?

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

--How long have you been practicing law in Florida?

--Type of practice? (Criminal defense)

--In your career as a criminal defense attorney in Florida, did you come to represent Santo Trafficante? Carlos Marcello? Jimmy Hoffa?

--For those who are not familiar with organized crime figures, could you briefly explain who Mr. Trafficante and Mr. Marcello were?

--**When/where/how did Ragano first meet Trafficante?**

Tampa/May/1954/through Pat Whitaker/defended Trafficante associates on gambling charges

--Go over Legal Work/Key Cases for Trafficante and Hoffa

--Getting Trafficante out of Cuba

--1967 Grand Jury ("Little Appalachin" \_

--1986 RICO Case

--**When/Where/How did Ragano First meet Hoffa?**

--Explain the Legal Work that Ragano Performed for Jimmy Hoffa

--Sun Valley Case in Florida

--Jury Tampering Case in Nashville

--Consolidated Fraud Trial in Chicago

--Introduce "Mob Lawyer" as an Exhibit

**--KEY KENNEDY ASSASSINATION ALLEGATIONS**

--July 1963 at DOJ. Hoffa chokes RFK ("I'll break your fucking neck. I'll kill you.")

--July 23, 1963. Lunch. Marble Palace, Teamsters HQ, Washington, D.C. Bill Bufalino, Danny Maher. 1 hour later--"Something has to be done. The time has come for your friend and Carlos to get rid of him, kill that son-of-a-bitch John Kennedy" This has got to be done...No more fucking around."

--That evening, Ragano flies to New Orleans

--The next morning, July 24, 1963.

--Breakfast meeting with Traff. & Marcello.

--"He [Hoffa] wants you to get rid of the President right away."

--No response from Traff./Marcello

**[STANDARD QUESTIONS FOR KENNEDY ASSERTIONS]**

--Did you tell anyone else about these conversations?

--Did you take any notes of those conversations?

--Have you brought the notes with you today?

--How soon after the meeting did you make notes?

--Where did you keep the notes?

--Next Meeting with Hoffa In Washington, D.C. August, 1963 Harvey's Restaurant, Mayflower

Hoffa, Jim Haggerty, Danny Maher.

JH: "Did you talk to your friend and Carlos about that matter?"

--The Day of the Assassination, Nov. 22, 1963

--Hoffa phones Ragano at his office

“Did you hear the good news? They killed the son-of-a-bitch bastard..”

--Dinner with Trafficante at the International Inn, Tampa. Trafficante Toast.

--Meeting wit Hoffa three days later (November 25, 1963) in D.C.

--Teamsters Headquarters. Bufalino, Maher, Schiffer

--JH to Ragano: “I told you they could do it.”

12/63 (2 weeks after JFK’s assassination)

MEETING WITH MARCELLO & TRAFFICANTE IN NEW ORLEANS:

- Car ride in New Orleans after picking up Trafficante and Ragano at the airport (also Joe Marcello)
- Trafficante: “Carlos, you mark my words. Before this thing is over they’re going to blame you and me for the killing of the President.
- Marcello: “When you see Jimmy, you tell him he owes me and he owes me big.”

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- Made attempt to be accurate?
  - If you gave date, then it’s because you knew the conversation occurred on this date?
  - This, as you state in book, occurred 2 weeks after JFK assassination? There is no doubt in your mind?
  - Didn’t this conversation actually occur in 1967? Not 2 weeks after the assassination?

- Didn't you tell the FBI about his conversation in 1967? And you pointed to it as evidence of your clients' innocence?
- \* introduce 4/67 FBI document.

### DEATHBED CONFESSION

- Ragano says it occurred in Tampa, Friday, March 13, 1987
- Background

Ragano got call from Trafficante in the morning at his office

Went to Trafficante's home in the (Parkland Estates) afternoon

Gray Mercedes

Trafficante suggested -- "We need to take a ride, Frank."

4.5 mile drive on Bayshore Blvd.

- Substance of Confession

"That Bobby made life miserable for me and my friends. The biggest mistake of my life was not taking pictures of the President when he was in Cuba; that was a bad mistake."

"Who would have thought that someday he would be President and he would name his goddamn brother attorney general? Goddamn Bobby. Carlos fucked up in getting rid of Giovanni -- maybe it should have been Bobby."

Sunday, 3/15/87 - Santo Trafficante flew to Houston and entered the Texas Heart Institute.

Tuesday, 3/17/87 -- Santo dies in Houston, fails to survive bypass operation.

Santo Trafficante's son in law calls (Aggie Paniello) Ragano.

### CROSS EXAMINATION ON THE DEATHBED CONFESSION

- Establish who worked in Ragano's office in March 1987

- Any other attys?

- Secretary?

- Law Clerk

- Did a secretary take Santos' call in the morning?
- As a matter of office procedure, would Ragano have told anyone in his office where he was going? Who else, if anyone, knew he was going to meet Trafficante?
- Did Ragano or his secretary keep an appointments calendar? Or otherwise record what he did that day?
- Who was Ragano's Secretary? Name? Where is she? (We need to locate her)
- What else did Ragano do that day? Go back to the office? What records show what he did at the office (Billing records?)

#### SUMMERS/TRAFFICANTE EVIDENCE

- Introduce Trafficante affidavits

Mercy hospital records

- Exchange of letters with Summers

Ragano said he could produce 3 witnesses who would corroborate his story. Who are they? "I have not identified the three witnesses in Tampa who support my version because of their fears of retaliation from the mob."

- Ragano will want to introduce the Tampa article saying Ragano spoke with Trafficante on Friday 3/13/87.

#### WRITING THE BOOK

- When did Ragano conceive of idea?
- When did Ragano first draft?

- Who was it first submitted to? Panel?

DRAFTS:

Did the Kennedy sections get changed?

- Where is the first draft?
- Can we get it?
- Who else saw it?
- Who was involved in revising?
- Arrangements made for Compensation

how much earned to date?

Movie Rights?

- What research did Ragano do?
- What books, if any, did Ragano read on the Kennedy assassination?
- When did Ragano first hear about potential organized crime involvement in the Kennedy assassination?
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Garrison case?

HSCA?

-- After Publication, who contacted you?

-- Anyone threaten you?

-- Anyone corroborate or refute assertions?

--Comments from any of the players or associates thereof?



-- Did you conduct any interviews before or after writing the book?

--Any other evidence? referenced by others?

-- Is anything in the book inaccurate or untrue?

RAGANO RECORDS

\*\* mAKE SURE WE HAVE EVERYTHING.

- Safety Deposit Box
- Notes v. Diary
- Law Office Records
- ELSUR on Hoffa, Trafficante or Marcello?