

Nixon

Nixon was in charge of Operation 40 (which came to be known as the Bay of Pigs). He was aware of the CIA assassination team that included E Howard Hunt and David Morales. According to John Mitchell (Nixon's Attorney General) Nixon had approved the CIA / mafia collaboration in Castro assassination plots. By the time JFK was elected president, he must have known that the assassination team had taken a sharp turn and focused its resources on JFK, not Castro. It is likely that Nixon ordered the Watergate break-in to retrieve evidence that Nixon had authorized mafia participation in the CIA plots to kill Castro.

John Ehrlichman said that Nixon had requested all CIA documents relating to the JFK murder, but The Agency had not complied. Watergate was an attempt to get information regarding the CIA's role in the Kennedy assassination. Nixon wanted leverage over the CIA so that if Nixon ever found himself threatened by the agency, he could threaten to expose the CIA involvement at a time when Nixon had no influence in federal government.

Although that did not succeed, Nixon still tried to blackmail Richard Helms (CIA Director) with knowledge of the agency's involvement in the Kennedy killing and the Bay of Pigs. He was trying to get the CIA to back off on the Watergate scandal that was spiraling out of (Nixon's) control. It was couched as concern that the investigation would reveal secrets that would compromise national security. It was H R Haldeman who was sent to deliver that message to Helms, and to convince him that E Howard Hunt would crack under pressure and spill the beans.

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As the day of the JFK murder approached, LBJ had to consider the possibility that there was someone outside the conspiracy who might be able to put the pieces together and pose a problem for the coverup. One name stood front and center: Richard Nixon. LBJ knew about Nixon's connection with Carlos Marcello, and that potentially meant that Nixon

had heard about the plot, or at least part of it. For that, LBJ had a plan. The two of them met at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas on the afternoon of November 21. (Nixon was in Dallas that week for a Pepsi-Cola company board meeting.) LBJ expressed concern for JFK's safety because of all the right-wing hatred in Dallas for the president. The ruse worked, and Nixon believed after the murder that the killer(s) had been extreme right-wingers, and that he might even be accused of instigating their crime. But LBJ's misdirection didn't work very long, because when Nixon called J Edgar Hoover, the FBI Director told Nixon the shooter was a left-leaning communist, which was another attempt at misdirection that met with limited success.