



WES: IT MAY BE THE MOST FAMOUS MISSING PERSON CASE IN HISTORY. ON JULY 30TH 1975 THE LABOR LEADER JIMMY HOFFA VANISHED.

JAMES R. HOFFA: My father James R. Hoffa has been missing for some 32 hours.

WES: THE CONTROVERSIAL TEAMSTERS BOSS HAD HELD A CHOKEHOLD OVER THE NATION'S ECONOMY

MOLDEA: Jimmy Hoffa has the power to stop interstate commerce.

WES: AND HIS DISAPPEARANCE HAS BAFFLED US FOR A GENERATION.

TV NEWS REPORTER: we have no information that he is living or dead

WES: WAS HOFFA SLAIN BY A UNION RIVAL? WAS IT A GANGLAND HIT?

Kaiama: Certain guilty parties would have been more than a little bit nervous.

WES: OR WAS HOFFA THE VICTIM OF A CONSPIRACY INVOLVING SOME OF OUR NATION'S DEEPEST SECRETS FROM THE COLD WAR? TONIGHT ON HISTORY DETECTIVES SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS WE UNCOVER ONCE CLASSIFIED GOVERNMENT FILES....

Kaiama: According to this Justice Department document there were large sums of money involved.

WES: FOLLOW A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR MONEY TRAIL...

MOLDEA: They had their gambling operations, big casinos; it was also the southern route for the European drug traffic.

WES: AND DISSECT A CONFESSION FROM A MAFIA HITMAN,,,

Hoffa got out of the car, Sheeran behind him, as soon as he got in, Hoffa can see there was no meeting.

WES: AS WE ANSWER THE QUESTION: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA?

VO: History Detectives special Investigations was made possible in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and by contributions to your PBS station, from viewers like you. Thank you.

WES: Guys, this Hoffa case is such an interesting story. One of the most powerful men in American disappears. I mean look at his picture. You know this Hoffa case, such an interesting story. One of the most famous and powerful men in America disappears

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

TUKUFU: It was back in July 1975 and it was shocking

WES: Take a look at this.

HOFFA SOT: "We have a right, as American workers to coordinate our activities..."

WES VO: BECOMING PRESIDENT OF ONE OF THE NATION'S BIGGEST UNIONS IN 1957, THE OUTSPOKEN AND SCRAPPY HOFFA WAS A HERO FOR MILLIONS, TAKING ON MANAGEMENT AND BOOSTING WAGES AND BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS NATIONWIDE.

WES: Remember that the Teamsters controlled 90% of the transportation in the United States.

TUKUFU: And Hoffa controlled the Teamsters.

WES: BUT ALLEGATIONS HOFFA WAS TIED TO ORGANIZED CRIME STRUCK FEAR INTO MANY POLITICAL LEADERS.

KAIAMA: I have a video for you guys that you might want to check out.

WES (overlapping): Yeah. Yeah. Let's take a look.

KAIAMA: Well, this is Bobby Kennedy. This is the hearing where he's actually grilling Hoffa.

RFK video plays.

RFK SOT: "Did you say 'that SOB I'll break his back?'"

HOFFA SOT: "Who?"

RFK SOT: "You."

HOFFA SOT: "To who?"

RFK SOT: "To anyone. Did you make that statement?"

HOFFA SOT: "I may have been discussing somebody in a figure of speech."

RFK SOT: "Well who did you make the statement – whose back did you say you were gonna break?"

HOFFA SOT (overlapping): "I don't even remember it."

RFK SOT: "Well whose back were you gonna break, Mr. Hoffa?"

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

HOFFA SOT: "Figure of speech, I know you know who I was talking about. I don't know what you're talking about."

WES: Bobby Kennedy, as attorney general, was determined to bring down the Mob. The Mob investigations would inevitably lead to Jimmy Hoffa.

WES: SINCE HE VANISHED THAT JULY OF 1975 MUCH OF THE SPECULATION HAS BEEN ON WHERE HE WAS BURIED.

KAIAMA: As recently as 2013 they were digging around in some field in Michigan trying looking for his body.

TUKUFU: They are trying to find where the guy is buried. I think the more important question is who killed him and why did they kill him? And I think this is what we ought to be investigating.

WES: I don't care if they buried they guy in Giants stadium or Timbuktu – who killed him, why did they kill him?

KAIAMA: The question is where do we start and how do we go about figuring these things out. I have been digging round starting a little bit of the research on this, and I found what is called the Hoffex report – now a lot of research has been declassified in the last forty years since he went missing and this is maybe a key piece of evidence. The fbi more or less says that Hoffa was killed because of his involvement with the mob – maybe even killed by the mafia

WES: So you are going to dig into the declassified stuff?

KAIAMA: I am in the archive Wes .

WES: Oh man that is a great place to start.

TUKUFU: Here is a book about Frank the Irishman Sheeran who claims to have killed Hoffa and it is written by this guy named Brandt and lives in Philly and so I am going to go talk to this guy.

WES: And I am going to Detroit because that's where Hoffa was last seen alive in July of '75

KAIAMA: You know guys this is really the perfect time to be looking into this story. We have unprecedented access to these declassified documents, people who were alive at the time are talking, we have this biography, Sheeran, Brant, we may really be able to solve this thing

TUKUFU: So we got a plan.

KAIAMA: Let's make it happen.

WES: I WAS ABLE TO RUN DOWN RETIRED FBI AGENT GREG STEJSKALL. WE'RE MEETING IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE FORMER MACCHUS RED FOX RESTARUANT, WHERE HOFFA VANISHED. IN JULY OF 1975 GREGG WAS A ROOKIE -- ONE OF MORE THAN 200 INVESTIGATORS ASSIGNED TO THE CASE.

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

GREG: I had been in Detroit, and been an actual FBI agent, for all of a month.

WES: What was it like?

GREG: It was a Bureau Special. Basically, all hands on deck, and then you throw as many resource as - at a - at a crime – as you possibly can.

WES: THE AGENTS HIT THE PAVEMENT, QUESTIONING HOFFA'S FAMILY, FRIENDS , AND COLLEAGUES. PHONE RECORDS WERE SCRUTINIZED, SEARCH PARTIES LAUNCHED .

GREG: We went in and pulled all the receipts to determine the people that were present in the restaurant at that time, and then went and interviewed all of those people.

WES: A ROUGH TIMELINE OF THAT DAY WAS PIECED TOGETHER.

WES: What was Hoffa doing and why was he here?

GREG: Hoffa believed he was going to have a meeting here.

WES: AT 2 PM ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 30th, HOFFA HAD COME TO THE RESTAURANT FOR WHAT HE BELIEVED TO BE A PEACE CONFERENCE WITH TONY PROVENZANO, A MOBBER UP TEAMSTERS OFFICIAL FROM NEW JERSEY , AND TONY GIACALONE A MAFIA CAPTAIN HERE IN DETROIT . PROVENAZO WAS A CAPO IN THE GENEVESE CRIME FAMILY.

GREG: Hoffa and Provenzano had been associates before. They had a falling out. And they were going to have a reproachment.

WES: BUT ACCORDING TO GREG, THE TWO MOBSTERS STOOD HOFFA UP.

GREG: Tony Provenzano wasn't even in Michigan he was still in New Jersey. And then Tony Giacalone is at the Southfield Athletic Club, which is several miles from here. But unlike usual, he makes himself very visible.

WES: So both these guys are - are - are going out of their way to establish their alibis?

GREG: That would appear what happened.

During that period of time, uh, you know, he's waiting, and nobody shows up. And of course, so he had to find a pay phone.

So, over here where the shopping center is, there was a hardware store over here, we determined that he had gone to – and found a pay phone over here.

WES: AT 2:30 HOFFA CALLED HIS WIFE.

GREG: And said, "Hey, you know, nobody showed up here. I'm waiting. Have you heard from anybody?" And she replied in the negative, and that was the last time she heard from him.

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

WES: HOFFA'S ABANDONED CAR WAS FOUND THE NEXT MORNING IN THE RESTAURANT PARKING LOT .

JAMES R. HOFFA: My father James R. Hoffa has been missing for some 32 hours.

FBI SPOKESPERSON: We have no information as to the present whereabouts of Mr. Hoffa.

WES: And really, there we are, you know, how many years later. I mean, we're still in the same place...

GREG: Yeah. 30 – 30-some years later, we're still, in a sense, speculating about what just exactly occurred. Until somebody who had direct knowledge comes out, and says, we won't know.

WES: (overlapping) Yeah, yeah.

KAIAMA: THE SEARCH FOR A WITNESS OR AN INFORMANT HAD FRUSTRATED INVESTIGATORS FROM THE START. THE HOFFEX MEMO I'D FOUND WAS WRITTEN BY FBI AGENTS A FEW MONTHS AFTER HOFFA VANISHED. IT WAS ONLY PUBLISHED IN FULL IN 2006.

KAIAMA: AS I DIG INTO IT MORE, IT'S CLEAR INVESTIGATORS SUSPECTED THE MAFIA. BUT WHAT SEEMED TO BE A CODE OF SILENCE OR 'ORMERTA' LEFT THEM SUSPICIOUS, AND FRUSTRATED.

KAIAMA: Quote – “The lack of concrete informant information... leads one to believe that there is a limited number of people who know the facts surrounding the disappearance of James R. Hoffa.”

KAIAMA: “This would tend to indicate a hit which was authorized at the highest level of the organized crime structure...”

KAIAMA: THEN, FOUR MONTHS INTO THE INVESTIGATION, THE FBI GOT A BREAK. AN INFORMANT BROKE THE SILENCE.

KAIAMA: A New Jersey prison inmate named Ralph Picardo. Now, Picardo claimed that that shortly after Hoffa disappeared; he was visited in prison by one of the perpetrators and given some confidential information about the hit. .

Based on Picardo's information, the FBI was able to create a list of suspects.

KAIAMA: MOST OF THESE GUYS WERE ASSOCIATES OF TONY PROVENZANO – THE MAFIA-LINKED TEAMSTERS OFFICIAL WHO HOFFA WAS MEANT TO SIT DOWN WITH ON THE DAY HE VANISHED.

KAIAMA: A Federal Grand Jury was convened but each suspect pled the Fifth Amendment and refused to testify. Not a single indictment could be handed up and the case more or less went cold.

TUKUFU: THE DISAPPEARANCE REMAINED A COLD CASE FOR DECADES – UNTIL A FORMER NEW JERSEY TEAMSTERS OFFICIAL FRANK SHEERAN TOLD HIS LAWYER AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY, OF A CAREER AS A HITMAN FOR THE MAFIA, AND HOW HE HAD MURDERED HIS BEST FRIEND – JIMMY HOFFA. BUT IS THAT STORY TRUE?

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

TUKUFU: I'M MEETING SHEERAN'S LAWYER AND BIOGRAPHER CHARLES BRANDT, AT THE WARWICK HOTEL IN DOWNTOWN PHILLY WHERE SHEERAN WOULD MEET HOFFA WHEN HE WAS IN TOWN, HOW HAD BRANDT MET SHEERAN, AND WHY HAD HE CONFESSED?

TUKUFU: How did you develop your relationship with Sheeran?

CHARLIE: I got a call from a Philly mobster they wanted to hire me to get Frank out of prison on medical grounds. I represented Frank, got him out.

TUKUFU: SHEERAN BEGAN TO TRUST BRANDT, HE SAYS.

CHARLIE: Frank Sheeran is again a complicated person again he's not just a thug. Frank is a guy who did nothing wrong in his life until after WWII. He had a kind of Huckleberry Finn existence before the war. He enlisted. He spent 411 combat days in the war, when the average was 80. And he was in three amphibious invasions, you know. He was in Patton's killer division. The division that was told by Patton not to take prisoners.

TUKUFU: He became a killer.

CHARLIE: He became a killer during the war.

TUKUFU: AFTER THE WAR SHEERAN TOLD BRANDT THAT HE HAD CONTINUED KILLING, FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA CRIME BOSS RUSSELL BUFALINO WHO, IN TURN, INTRODUCED HIM TO JIMMY HOFFA.

TUKUFU: Talk a little but about Frank Sheeran and his relationship with Jimmy Hoffa.

CHARLIE: Well, Frank Sheeran was famously quoted as saying I'll be a Hoffa man 'til they pat my face with a shovel and steal my cufflinks.

TUKUFU: SHEERAN TOLD BRANDT THAT HE HAD BEEN INTRODUCED TO THE TEAMSTERS PRESIDENT AT A TIME WHEN THE JIMMY HOFFA WAS FACING CHALLENGES FROM REBEL UNION FACTIONS IN CITIES SUCH A DETROIT AND PHILADELPHIA. SHEERAN BECAME A TEAMSTER ORGANIZER IN DETROIT. ACCORDING THE BRANDT, WITH THE GIANT IRISHMAN AT HIS SIDE, HOFFA PLAYED THE HARDEST HARDBALL.

CHARLIE: When Hoffa took over the teamsters in '57. The first thing he did was got rid of his rivals by having Frank Sheeran go out and kill them.

TUKUFU: So you're saying that Frank was Hoffa's hit man.

CHARLIE: In-- In the early part of the -- their relationship he was. My book, I Heard You Paint Houses, those were the first words that Hoffa uttered to Frank Sheeran in a job interview. It means, I heard you whack people. He was brought on board to solidify Hoffa's position as boss of the union.

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

TUKUFU: So Sheeran is the right hand man to the organized crime and yet he is a well the right hand man to Jimmy Hoffa.

CHARLIE: I wish I'd said it that way. That's exactly what it was.

TUKUFU: AND SHEERAN GREW CLOSE TO HOFFA PERSONALLY.

CHARLIE: He loved Hoffa. He loved Hoffa's family.

SHEERAN: Hoffa was one of the best men I ever knew.

TUKUFU: BRANDT SAYS WHAT HAPPENED THAT SUMMERS'S DAY IN A DETROIT PARKING LOT, WAS THE BETRAYAL OF A TWENTY YEAR FRIENDSHIP, A BETRAYAL FRANK SHEERAN NEVER GOT OVER.

SHEERAN: There was a lot of shit. It never shoulda – never should have happened.

TUKUFU: AS JIMMY HOFFA WAITED FOR HIS MEETING WITH THE MOBBER UP TEAMSTER ANTHONY PROVENZANO, INSTEAD, IT WAS HIS FRIEND FRANK SHEERAN WHO PULLED UP.

CHARLIE: Hoffa was on the phone calling his wife behind the Machus Red fox restaurant. When Hoffa finished he walked toward his car. They drove up and intercepted him.

TUKUFU: PLANS HAD CHANGED, SHEERAN ANNOUNCED. THE PEACE MEETING WITH TONY PROVENZANO WOULD NOW BE HELD IN THE PRESENCE OF MOB BOSS RUSSELL BUFALINO.

CHARLIE: Russell being there was a good thing in Jimmy's mind.

TUKUFU : HOFFA BELIEVED THAT BUFALINO WOULD BE A CALMING INFLUENCE ON THE NOTORIOUSLY HOT-HEADED ANTHONY PROVENZANO. A PREVIOUS MEETING BETWEEN HOFFA AND PROVENZANO HAD BEEN ANYTHING BUT PEACEFUL.

CHARLIE: They tried to have a meeting in Miami to mend fences. And at that meeting Tony Pro threatened to kidnap Jimmy's granddaughter and to rip his guys out.

TUKUFU: THE NEWS THAT RUSSEL BUFALINO WOULD BE PRESENT LIKELY PERSUADED JIMMY TO GET INTO THE CAR.

CHARLIE: Hoffa uh not only admired Russell, uh he trusted Russell and he trusted Russell not to be part of a plot to kill him.

TUKUFU: Mhm, how did it unfold?

CHARLIE: Jimmy got in the car. They drove to a house that had been pre-selected for them. When they got there Hoffa got out of the car, Sheeran behind him.

TUKUFU: Had Hoffa ever been to this house before?

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

CHARLIE: No, none of them had.

TUKUFU: So Frank and Jimmy are walking up to the door. And he trusts Frank?

CHARLIE: Oh. Frank is his Luca Brasi.

TUKUFU (overlapping): Obviously Frank is acting like his sort of bodyguard. Okay.

CHARLIE: As soon as they walk in Hoffa can see there is no meeting going on. No table of food. There was no sound of Italian being spoken. Hoffa realized this is dangerous, did an immediate about face, and started to head out the door and as he passed Sheeran, Sheeran shot him twice in the back of the head.

TUKUFU: Bam...

TUKUFU: RUSSELL BUFALINO HAD ORDERED THE HIT, ACCORDING TO SHEERAN – BUT WHY HAD FRANK SHEERAN AGREED TO WHACK HIS FRIEND JIMMY HOFFA.

CHARLIE: he explained to me, if he had said no to Russell, Hoffa would be just as dead and I would've gone to Australia with him. That's a euphemism for going down under, being buried. And that's the truth. You can't ever refuse to do what they call a piece of work in the mafia. The second you say no to killing somebody, you are dead.

TUKUFU: EARLIER IN HIS LIFE SHEERAN HAD TOLD DIFFERENT STORIES ABOUT THE HOFFA MURDER, BLAMING THE HIT ON SOMEONE ELSE

TUKUFU: Come on you're an experienced attorney. This guy is a murderer, gangster. And what on earth makes you think he can give you an honest confession?

CHARLIE: I had Frank Sheeran for five years to myself. He could tell me something today and 3 yrs later I could bring it up to see if he told it the same way,

TUKUFU: BRANDT SAYS SHEERAN HAD GRADUALLY SHARED OTHER CONFIDENCES. HE CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN THE SHOOTER IN ANOTHER FAMOUS UNSOLVED KILLING, A MOB HIT IN LITTLE ITALY IN 1972. WITNESSES HAD DESCRIBED MULTIPLE SHOOTERS. SHEERAN'S NAME HAD NEVER BEEN MENTIONED BY COPS

CHARLIE: Here's Frank Sheeran telling me no, no I killed Crazy Joey Gallo. I went in by myself, uh and I killed him. And I did it for Russell. I had absolutely no doubt he was telling the truth.

TUKUFU VO: BRANDT BELIEVES SHEERAN MURDERED JOEY GALLO AND SHOT HOFFA TOO.

CHARLIE: it haunted Frank Sheeran. Literally haunted him every second for the rest of his life.

TUKUFU: IT'S AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY. BUT DID FRANK SHEERAN MURDER JIMMY HOFFA, ON ORDERS FROM RUSSELL BUFALINO? OR IS HIS CONFESSION NOTHING MORE THAT A DYING MAN'S GRAB AT MAFIA CELEBRITY?

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

KAIAMA: hello

TZ: Hey. Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. How ya doin'?

KAIAMA: Good

TZ: Look, I need your help.

KAIAMA: OK

TUKUFU: Charles Brandt: good information, good insight about the personal relationship Hoffa had with the Mafia. But the Sheeran story, I still have my doubts. I still have my questions. The guy, he was a drunk. And early in his life, he actually blamed the Hoffa murder, on somebody else.

KAIAMA: Oh yea?

TZ: Yeah. Well, we've got to check out some other stuff.

KAIAMA: Ok

TZ: Supposedly, he killed some other big mob guy, Joey Gallow in 1972

KAIAMA: There's a reporter in Detroit who's checked out Sheeran's story, David Ashenfelter.

TUKUFU: Right.

KAIAMA: He has some serious questions I understand. So why don't I start there?

TZ: All right. Call me back.

KAIAMA: Yeah. You bet.

TZ: Alright. Bye.

KAIAMA: PULITZER PRIZE WINNING REPORTER DAVID ASHENFELTER HAS BEEN REPORTING THE STORY FOR YEARS. HE'S INTRIGUED BY CHARLIE BRANDT'S BOOK.

DAVID: Sheeran's telling of the story, which came out in....

KAIAMA: HE'S AGREED TO TAKE ME TO THE SUBURAN HOUSE WHERE FRANK SHEERAN SAYS HE TOOK HOFFA, AFTER PICKING HIM UP FROM THE RED FOX RESTAURANT.

KAIAMA: This is quite a story just imaging Hoffa sitting in this car with real friends, family.

DAVID: Right. You know

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

KAIAMA: As he's being driven to his death.

DAVID: They often say in these kinds of stories that it's the people you trust that take you to your death.

KAIAMA: So this could've been the spot?

DAVID: This is where it happened, according to Sheeran.

KAIAMA: Is this story credible? Do we believe Sheeran's account?

DAVID: Yes. Well, we believe it's possible. It's more credible than many of the other one's we've heard. It is possible that Sheeran was in the vehicle. It is possible that Sheeran walked in the house with him and that this is where Hoffa was killed. But all we really have is Sheeran's say so. We don't have any hard evidence to prove that any of this went down the way he said.

KAIAMA: Why would Frank Sheeran confess after all this time?

DAVID: Sheeran was Catholic. It was a deathbed confession, he wanted to clear his conscience. He always had felt badly about killing his friend.

KAIAMA: What happened with this house after Sheeran's book came out?

DAVID: They cut up the floorboards and sent it to the FBI lab for analysis. There was blood on the floor but it wasn't Hoffa's it was somebody else's. So, the media's general conclusion was this isn't the house where Hoffa was killed. My conclusion was just because his blood wasn't found on that floor, doesn't mean he wasn't killed in that house.

KAIAMA: DAVID SAYS THAT ALTHOUGH MANY BELIEVE SHEERAN, THE OFFICIAL VERDICT IS STILL OUT. HE'S NOT SURE SHEERAN WAS EVER A HITMAN FOR JIMMY HOFFA AND THE STORY THAT HE ALSO MURDERED JOEY GALLO IS ESPECIALLY QUESTIONED.

DAVID: I'm told that the FBI has serious doubts about whether Sheeran really killed Joey Gallo in New York. So I think the feds have some serious misgivings about Sheeran's story.

KAIAMA: They don't find him very reliable then?

DAVID: Well, it wasn't a sworn confession given to the FBI. The problem is w/ this story is which one of these mad dog killers do you want to believe.

KAIAMA: THE JOEY GALLO KILLING MAY BE A KEY TEST OF WHETHER FRANK SHEERAN WAS TELLING THE TRUTH. I'M BACK IN NEW YORK, IN LITTLE ITALY. CHARLIE BRANDT HAS PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH A SOURCE WHO MAY BE ABLE TO CONFIRM WHETHER FRANK SHEERAN WAS INVOLVED IN THAT HIT. IF SHEERAN KILLED GALLO, PERHAPS WE CAN BELIEVE HIM ON HOFFA.

KAIAMA: Gallo was killed here in Little Italy, in 1972 at a restaurant called Umberto's Clam House which used to be on this corner.

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

KAIAMA: THE ALLEGED EYEWITNESS WAS AT UMBERTOS THAT NIGHT. AFRAID OF BEING IDENTIFIED AS AN EYEWITNESS SHE'S NEVER SPOKEN PUBLICLY ABOUT WHAT SHE SAW, AND INSISTS ON REMAINING ANONYMOUS.

EYEWITNESS: I was 19; I was visiting New York with my best friend. We had gone to the theatre and we went down to Little Italy for dinner afterward.

KAIAMA: Okay, you know what actually I've got some photos from Umberto's 1972. Can you give me a sense of where everyone was situated in the restaurant that night?

EYEWITNESS: Yes. My friend's brother and his wife were facing into the restaurant, my friend and I were facing toward Mulberry Street. Next to us was the Gallo table. At one point a gentleman came in, he was tall, red hair wearing a corduroy jacket.

KAIAMA: Then what happened?

EYEWITNESS: The next thing I knew there was a – a sound a big sound and the party next to us I could see blood, I could see one of the gentlemen just sort of slump, then her brother just said run.

KAIAMA: Did you see who pulled the trigger on that gun?

EYEWITNESS: No. But her brother thought very strongly that it was the tall red haired guy.

KAIAMA: So is this the man you saw in the restaurant that night?

EYEWITNESS: Yes. Definitely. His face is heavier but it's the same shape, the eyebrows, and the wavy hair. It's the same man and it's the same look.

KAIAMA: So you think this is the man who shot Joe Gallo?

EYEWITNESS: Yes, I do.

WES: THERE'S LITTLE DOUBT THAT FRANK SHEERAN WAS A MAFIA KILLER WHO VERY POSSIBLY MURDERED JIMMY HOFFA TOO. THE QUESTION NOW IS WHY? I NEED TO UNDERSTAND HOFFA'S TIES TO THE MOB. WHY DID HIS GANGSTER FRIENDS TURN ON HIM? I'M IN WASHINGTON TO MEET INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER DAN MOLDEA, WHO HAS BEEN ON THE HOFFA BEAT SINCE BEFORE HE VANISHED. MOLDEA SAYS HOFFA'S TIES TO THE UNDERWORLD GO BACK TO PRE-WAR DETROIT, WHEN ORGANIZED LABOR STRUCK A DEAL WITH ORGANIZED CRIME.

DAN: Detroit was a pretty rough and tumble place. As Hoffa found himself in 1941 in a situation where he and the Teamsters were fighting a rival union that was threatening the Teamsters turf in Detroit. A CIO group, and so Hoffa hired some local mafia guys to come in and run the CIO raiders out of town.

WES: So I mean he hired these local mafia goons to help maintain his turf.

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

DAN: Once he did that this became his devils pact. He owed them. The myth about Hoffa is that he always kept the mob at arms distance when in fact the mafia owned Jimmy Hoffa they always did they always would.

WES: DAN SAYS THE MAFIA HAD INVESTED IN THE RIGHT MAN.

TEAMSTER: I give you, James Hoffa president of the Teamsters.

WES: IN THE 1950'S AND 60'S HOFFA'S AMBITION DROVE THE TEAMSTERS TO EVER GREATER HEIGHTS.

HOFFA: When we have a picket line, you have a right to refuse to go through our line, otherwise there is no union.

DAN: Jimmy Hoffa's dream was to consolidate the trucking industry. He wanted to control everything on wheels. Which he managed to do to a great extent. We're talking about goods that are in grocery stores, we're talking about goods that are in department stores, we're talking about gas and oil, steel.

WES: IN TURN, THE MOB WON KICKBACKS , SWEETHEART CONTRACTS , UNION JOBS WITH BLOATED PAYCHECKS AND ACCESS TO A SECURE NATIONWIDE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK. BUT PERHAPS THEIR MOST LUCRATIVE PARTNERSHIP WAS IN LAS VEGAS WHERE TEAMSTERS MEMBERS RETIREMENT MONEY BECAME A VIRTUAL PIGGY BANK FOR GANGSTER-OWNED CASINOS.

DAN: Las Vegas was essentially created through these, these loans that came from the Teamsters pension fund.

WES: THE TENTACLES OF THE TEAMSTERS- MAFIA ALLIANCE REACHED ALL THE WAY TO THE CARRIBEAN, WHERE DAN SAYS THE TEAMSTERS HELPED PROTECT THE MAFIA-OWNED CASINOS WHICH HAD FLORISHED IN THE 40'S AND 50'S

WES: You know I mean it seems like so far-fetched that Hoffa would be involved with Cuba. What's the connection there?

DAN: Hoffa had organizing efforts for transport workers throughout the Caribbean so Cuba was simply part of that.

WES: DURING THE 40'S AND 50'S MAFIA BOSSES SUCH AS RUSSELL BUFALINO SAW A BIG PAYDAY IN THEIR ALLIANCE WITH THE TEAMSTERS. BUT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SAW A CRIMINAL STRANGLEHOLD OVER THE NATION'S ECONOMY.

DAN: At this point Bobby Kennedy has decided that Jimmy Hoffa and his allies in the mafia have the power to stop everything that's going on in inter-state commerce. This guy has to be stopped.

WES VO: BOBBY WAS JOINED BY BROTHER JOHN ON A SENATE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING LABOR RACKETEERING AND THEY SQUARED OFF AGAINST HOFFA IN FRONT OF THE NATION.

JOHN F KENNEDY: People who hold responsible positions in your union come before this committee and take the fifth amendment because an honest answer might tend to incriminate them..

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

REPORTER: Jimmy, any comment today on the trial?

HOFFA: No comment whatsoever.

WES: DAN SAYS HOFFA WAS SO CLOSE TO THE MAFIA THAT WHEN FIDEL CASTRO SEIZED POWER IN 1959 AND THE CIA WANTED TO OVERTHROW HIM, THE TEAMSTER LEADER MAY HAVE PUT THE SPY AGENCY IN TOUCH WITH HIS MOBSTER FRIENDS.

DAN: The mafia was providing intelligence information to the CIA to destabilize the Cuban government,

NEWS ANCHOR: Assault has begun on the dictatorship of Fidel Castro

DAN: To plan for an invasion of Cuba, and to murder umm, uh, Fidel Castro. According this mafia guy, Chuck Crimaldi, the original liaison between CIA and the mob was Jimmy Hoffa.

WES: DAN SAYS JIMMY HOFFA WORKED HAND IN GLOVE WITH ORGANIZED CRIME THROUGH THE 1940'S AND 50'S. A MOB HIT ON HIM DURING THIS PERIOD WOULD HAVE BEEN INCONCEIVABLE. HE SAYS THAT HOFFA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ORGANIZED CRIME BEGAN TO CHANGE, HOWEVER, WHEN HE WAS CONVICTED OF JURY TAMPERING AND LABOR RACKETERING, AND FINALLY SENT TO PRISON IN 1967. ALTHOUGH HOFFA LEFT THE UNION IN THE HANDS OF WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A TRUSTED DEPUTY, FRANK FITZIMMONS, THE NEW TEAMSTERS PRESIDENT TURNED ON HIM. .

DAN: soon after Hoffa goes to jail there's a falling out between Hoffa and Frank Fitzsimmons

WES: TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE WORLD CHANGED FOR JIMMY HOFFA WHEN HE WAS IN PRISON, DAN SUGGESTS A VISIT TO LAS VEGAS, WHERE GANGSTERS SUCH AS RUSSEL BUFALINO FIRST REALIZED HOW A TEAMSTERS UNION WITHOUT JIMMY HOFFA MIGHT BE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.

DAN: I'll give you some papers to take along with you when you make that trip.

TUKUFU: Hey Wes.

WES: Hey Tukufu, listen, pack your bags. I'm sending you on a trip.

TUKUFU: Oh, really?

WES: Dan Moldea said when Hoffa went to prison, that's when his troubles with the mob started.

TUKUFU: Okay.

WES: And if we wanted to understand why, he has the place to start. You're heading to to Las Vegas.

TUKUFU: Las Vegas?

WES: That's right!

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

TUKUFU: Alright that's gonna be really rough.

WES: Yeah, yeah yeah yeah. Stop complaining. He gave me some documents that I want to send to you. So check your email.

TUKUFU: Okay, wait a minute.

WES: They're financial records.

TUKUFU: From Moldea right?

WES: Yeah.

TUKUFU: Alright. Yeah, yeah I'll take a look at these.

WES: Okay, see ya.

TUKUFU: Alright, bye.

TUKUFU: TODAY LAS VEGAS IS ONE OF THE LEADING TOURIST DESTINATIONS IN THE WORLD – A DRAW FOR FAMILIES AND TOP ENTERTAINERS. IT'S EXTRAORDINARY TO THINK HOW ITS ROOTS WERE ONCE TANGLED WITH ORGANIZED CRIME AND THE TEAMSTERS.

TUKUFU: This is the document Dan Moldea promised Wes. It's the Teamsters pension fund ledger from 1972.

TUKUFU VO: THE DOCUMENTS RECORD LOANS MADE BY THE CENTRAL STATES PENSION FUND, WHERE MANY TEAMSTERS KEPT THEIR RETIREMENT MONEY.

TUKUFU: A lot of it is going to real estate and gambling establishments here in Las Vegas.

TUKUFU: AND IT'S BIG MONEY. THE FREMONT HOTEL GOT \$4 MILLION FROM HOFFA'S TEAMSTERS IN 1962. THE PLAZA TOWERS: \$8 MILLION IN 1969.

TUKUFU: And this is a loan for Circus Circus in 1971 for over \$10 million. I mean, that's like \$60 million in today's terms.

TUKUFU: WHAT'S INTERESTING IS THAT THE LOANS SEEM TO GET BIGGER AFTER 1967 – THE YEAR HOFFA WAS SENT TO PRISON.

TUKUFU: Look at this.

TUKUFU: THE DESERT PALACE GOT LOANS TOTALING NEARLY \$18 MILLION.

TUKUFU: In 1966 they get a loan for \$800,000. But in 1967 – the year Hoffa was sent to prison – they get a loan for nearly \$2 million, then another couple loans for \$3 million each.

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

TUKUFU: I SENT THE RECORDS TO VEGAS HISTORIAN MICHAEL GREEN. HE CONFIRMS THE CASINOS WON MORE LOANS FROM THE TEAMSTERS WITH HOFFA IN PRISON.

MICHAEL: The number of loans and the size of the loans both increase once Frank Fitzsimmons is in charge.

TUKUFU: So they made more money under Fitzsimmons than they had under the earlier reign of Hoffa?

MICHAEL: It sure looks like it, Certainly they got bigger loans.

TUKUFU: MICHAEL SAYS THAT IN THE 50'S AND 60'S – VEGAS CASINOS WERE CLOSELY TIED TO ORGANIZED CRIME, AND PROTECTING PROFITS WAS A MAFIA PRIORITY.

MICHAEL: Casinos used to be a cash business entirely, you put money in the slot machine, you've got money going into get the chips. Like depicted in the movie "Casino," then it's got to go to the counting room and once it gets into the counting room who's to know just how much is in there. They're able to skim the money of the top.

TUKUFU: Why the mafia in Las Vegas? I mean, why come here. What is the connection? What's going on here?

MICHAEL: Las Vegas, was open. What's really attractive to the mob is that these guys can come out here, buy land pretty easily out on the strip. It was the highway from Las Vegas to LA there wasn't much on it.

TUKUFU: Why would Hoffa open up the penchant fund for these investments in these casinos, with these guys who you've said are involved in illegal activities?

Michael: Hoffa is opening up the coughers so to speak for a few reasons. These are people he's dealt with over the years. He's dealt with them in connection to the teamsters. Another thing is, he wants to get a good return on his investment.

TUKUFU: Was it considered a risky investment?

MICHAEL: From all reports they were great loans. The Teamsters did very well from them. So if he's making the Teamsters and the mob happy, what a deal.

TUKUFU: AFTER HOFFA WENT TO PRISON, THE MAFIA WAS DOING EVEN BETTER UNDER FRANK FITZIMMONS. BUT IN 1971 JIMMY HOFFA'S SENTENCE WAS COMMUTED BY PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON. AS SOON AS HE LEFT PRISON, HE STARTED TO MAKE NOISES ABOUT WANTING HIS OLD JOB BACK. MICHAEL SUGGETS THAT MAYBE, FOR THE MAFIA, THE EASY MONEY LOOKED LIKE IT MIGHT GET HARDER TO COME BY.

MICHAEL: Hoffa might have been a little more conservative with the money. These are guys who are used to taking risks, but at the same time do they need to risk letting Hoffa get back in?

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

TUKUFU: WAS JIMMY HOFFA MURDERED BECAUSE MOBSTERS SUCH AS RUSSELL BUFALINO WERE PROTECTING THEIR VEGAS INVESTMENTS? I'M HEADING TO PHILLY TO MEET WITH HOFFA BIOGRAPHER ARTHUR SLOANE. IN THE EARLY 1960'S AS A GRADUATE STUDENT SLOANE SPENT THREE MONTHS WITH HOFFA AND SAW HOW THE LABOR LEADER CONNECTED TO WORKING MEN AND WOMEN. HE SAYS THAT WHEN HOFFA WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON HE REMAINED A FAVORITE WITH MANY UNION MEMBERS.

SLOANE: This guy was like the messiah. He would walk down the streets of Detroit and be mobbed by people.

TUKUFU: I mean when most people think of Hoffa, they think of somebody who brought the mafia into the union and was stuffing his pockets in the process and you're telling me that he was a union man.

SLOANE: They loved him. A poll of the major truck driver magazine, in those days at least, um showed that 83% of the respondents would vote for Jimmy Hoffa immediately if he were able to run for the Presidency.

TUKUFU: SLOANE DOUBTS HOFFA WOULD HAVE SHUT DOWN MOB ACCESS TO TEAMSTER LOANS IF HE'D REGAINED THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNION. HE'D SIGNED OFF ON PLENTY OF THESE LOANS IN THE PAST. PERHAPS THE REASON THE MOB WANTED HIM OUT OF THE WAY HAD TO DO WITH THE TERMS OF HIS PRISON RELEASE, WHICH BANNED HIM FROM UNION ACTIVITY.

SLOANE: Hoffa can't do any Union business. Until 1980 and this was December, late December 1971.

WES: HOFFA SUSPECTED FRANK FITZIMMONS HAD ENGINEERED THAT RESTRICTION AND SLOANE SAYS THERE WAS FEAR THE FORMER TEAMSTER PRESIDENT WAS WILLING TO AIR SOME VERY DIRTY LAUNDRY IN ORDER TO WIN HIS OLD JOB BACK. HOFFA KNEW THE DETAILS OF MOB AND TEAMSTER DEALINGS GOING BACK TWENTY YEARS...

SLOANE: The mob uh felt that Hoffa in trying to uh succeed in getting that parole restriction waved was spilling the beans to the justice department.

WES: AS HE LEFT PRISON HE MADE HIS INTENTIONS CLEAR.

SLOANE: And somebody said Jim you want to be Union President again and he said, "Do you like to breathe?"

WES: HOFFA TOOK HIS FIGHT TO THE COURTS.

Hoffa: I will begin to move back in and put my system of operation back in this international union.

TUKUFU: How close was he to getting these restrictions removed?

ART: Well, there certainly were rumors, and that's all you can operate on, that he was getting close to it. He was desperate, he wanted to get back. The union was his whole life except for his family. The mob did not want him to come back b/c they couldn't control Hoffa. As I said he could say no to the mob and

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

yes to the mob. He was very unpredictable and very brave and firm in whatever he decided to do. Fitzsimmons could only say yes to mob.

TUKUFU: Did Hoffa fear repercussions?

SLOANE: He was a fearless guy, he had no bodyguard. He said what's does anybody wanna kill me for?

JERRY STANECKI: You win the 1980 restriction fight. You don't think someone will try to have you killed?

HOFFA: Hell no. Go out and ask any ten people you want... Ask 'em whether or not I was framed, whether or not I should have the right to be back in the union, and whether Fitzsimmons double crossed me. You'll get your answer.

JERRY STANECK : If he went so far as to double cross you, do you think he'd go so far as to try to eliminate you?

HOFFA: Hasn't got the guts

SLOANE: He was absolutely without fear and that was his undoing.

KAIAMA: Hey, Wes.

WES: Hey guys, how was Sloane?

TUKUFU: Sloane said that Hoffa was like a man possessed. You know, he wanted to know how the pardon had been fixed. And who was behind it.

WES: I wonder what Hoffa had learned?

KAIAMA: Oh you know I have an idea. You know how President Nixon taped all of his conversations. Maybe something about the pardon was on one of those tapes?

WES: Alright I can check those out. I'm in Washington in a couple of days anyway.

KAIAMA: Perfect. I'm going to head out to the Walter Reuther Memorial Library and they've got a lot of government documents on the Hoffa case. I'm gonna see if I can find some leads there.

Wes: Okay, great. Talk soon.

WES: HAD HOFFA DISCOVERED SECRET DETAILS ABOUT HOW THE MAFIA HAD INFLUENCED HIS RELEASE FROM PRISON. AND WAS HE ABOUT TO RAT TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT? IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE THAT A GUY, WHO HAD BEEN SO CLOSELY TIED TO ORGANIZED CRIME, WOULD RISK SUCH A STEP.

WES: I'm at the Miller Center in Washington DC where the University of Virginia curates almost thirty-seven hundred hours of remarkable tapes recorded in the Nixon White House.

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

KEN: It is a one of a kind historical resource because Nixon had this voice activated system so whenever anybody opened their mouth in the oval office for two and a half years –

WES: The tape came on.

KEN: The tape came on and we've got this uh incredibly comprehensive record.

WES: The commutation that Richard Nixon gave Jimmy Hoffa. Is this discussed anywhere on the Nixon tapes?

KEN: Let's listen.

Nixon: Been putting it up for three years, we can do a little longer...

WES: KEN PULLS SOME TAPES FROM THE PERIOD. AND I START SEARCHING FOR ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S DECISION TO FREE JIMMY HOFFA. AND IT'S NOT LONG BEFORE SOMETHING CATCHES MY ATTENTION. THE PRESIDENT IS TALKING TO HIS ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN MITCHELL. ODDLY, HOFFA'S RIVAL FRANK FITZSIMMONS APPEARS TO BE ASKING MITCHELL TO FREE THE FORMER UNION PRESIDENT.

John N. Mitchell: The other problem is uh Hoffa and Fitzsimmons. I've met with Fitzsimmons, that son of a bitch, uhh last week and tried to get

President Nixon: What's he want now, a pardon?

WES: I can't believe I'm listening to this!

Mitchell: He wants the clemency and the pardon.

Mitchell: You have two factors involved. One, of course, is campaign support, which is what you would want. But you wouldn't want the public to look at it that way.

President Nixon: No, sir.

WES: THE PRESIDENT AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL UNDERSTAND THAT USING A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON FOR POLITICAL GAIN IS CORRUPT. BUT NIXON FEARED A TOUGH RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN, AND GETTING HOFFA OUT WOULD PLAY WELL WITH BLUE COLLAR VOTERS.

Mitchell: Hoffa has more stroke with the members of that Teamsters than Fitzsimmons will ever have.

President Nixon: Oh, yes.

Mitchell: ...because he's just a tough, beer-drinking, no-good S.O.B. like most of them are.

President Nixon: That's right. A rowdy.

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

WES: NIXON WANTS TEAMSTERS VOTES IN THE COMING ELECTION AND SUPPORT FOR HIS LABOR POLICIES. BUT WHY DOES FRANK FITZSIMMONS, HOFFA'S RIVAL, ALSO WANT HIM PARDONED? IN ANOTHER TAPE I FIND, THE DEAL BECOMES CLEAR. IT'S A CANDID, SHOCKING CONVERSATION BETWEEN NIXON AND HIS SPECIAL COUNSEL CHUCK COLSON.

Colson: Fitz wants to get Hoffa out because that's the only way that he can keep control of the pro-Hoffa forces within the Teamsters.

President Nixon: All right.

Colson: He is shot down eventually if Hoffa doesn't get out.

President Nixon: Right...

Colson: ...So he wants him out, but he wants him out with strings.

KEN: Fitzsimmons wants to make sure that when Hoffa is released he can't run again.

Colson: Now Fitz was supposed to call me by the end of the day.

President Nixon: You just tell him.... that Mitchell will work out whatever is satisfactory...

President Nixon: ...Mitchell is going to handle it now. Fitz and Gee--"Fitz, believe us, play our game now, boy."

Colson: Well, he [chuckles] . . . yeah. ..

President Nixon: ... but tell him to tell Mitchell everything he wants, and that Mitchell will do it...

Colson: I think that'll pay enormous dividends.

President Nixon: Well, that's the way it goes.

Colson: We'll take a little heat, but—

President Nixon: Oh, the hell with heat.

WES: THERE HAD BEEN A DEAL, BETWEEN FRANK FITZIMMONS AND NIXON TO KEEP HOFFA AWAY FROM THE TEAMSTERS. BUT IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THAT GANGSTERS SUCH AS RUSSELL BUFALINO, HAD ENGINEERED IT?

WES: Do you ever hear him say anything about Hoffa and money and the mob?

KEN: There is a discussion of both money and the mafia in a later Watergate conversation.

WES: IN A TAPE FROM SEVERAL MONTHS LATER, AFTER THE WATERGATE BREAK IN, ITS CLEAR THAT NIXON AND HIS SPECIAL COUNCIL JOHN DEAN WERE VERSED IN THE WAYS OF THE UNDERWORLD.

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

KEN: John Dean starts laying out for the President the various problems that are starting to spin out of control and one of those problems is that the Watergate defendants want money.

WES: Okay, let's listen.

Dean: ... It'll cost money. It's dangerous. Nobody, nothing--people around here are not pros at this sort of thing. This is the sort of thing Mafia people can do: washing money, getting clean money, and things like that

President Nixon: How much money do you need?

Dean: I would say these people are going to cost a million dollars over the next two years.

President Nixon: We could get that.

WES: God, Nixon says we could get that.

Dean: Mm-hmm.

President Nixon: If you need the money, I mean, you could get the money fairly easily.

Dean: Well, I think that we're—

President Nixon: What I meant is you could get a million dollars. And you could get it in cash. I know where it could be gotten.

WES: BASED ON THE TAPES, IT'S NOT CLEAR THAT THE DEAL TO SPRING HOFFA FROM PRISON INVOLVED THE MOB. BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN: HOFFA WAS RIGHT ABOUT A BACK-DOOR ARRANGEMENT BARRING HIM FROM THE UNION.

WES: So just think about this. If Hoffa had had access to these tapes in any sort of legal proceeding the case would've been thrown out.

KEN: He was right and the proof is on Nixon's tapes.

KAIMA: You heard that?

WES: Yeah just now.

KAIMA: Right there on those tapes?!

Wes: Nixon did what Fitzimmons wanted.

Kaiama: So Wes you're telling me that Jimmy Hoffa was right about the condition on his pardon being illegal...

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

WES: That's what the tapes say. It's amazing.

KAIAMA: Yeah, it's just unbelievable....

WES: Question is: how much had Hoffa discovered?

KAIAMA: I'll see what I can found out....

KAIAMA: FRANK FITZIMMONS HAD CONSPIRED WITH THE NIXON TEAM TO KEEP HOFFA AWAY FROM THE TEAMSTERS. AND TENSION WAS CLEARLY GROWING BETWEEN HOFFA AND HIS FORMER MAFIA FRIENDS. BUT HAD HOFFA'S REFUSAL TO BACK DOWN LED TO HIS DEATH? I'M SEARCHING THROUGH A COLLECTION OF HOFFA INVESTIGATION FILES AT THE REUTHER LABOR LIBRARY AT WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY.... HAD FITZIMMONS BEEN ACTING ON DIRECT ORDERS FROM GANGSTERS WHEN HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO BLOCK HOFFA'S RETURN?

KAIAMA: According to this justice department document, the mobbed up Teamster Tony Provenzano, the guy Hoffa was meant to meet the day he disappeared well he also may have been a player in all this. AND, according to these documents, there were also large sums of money involved. Listen to this. It's based on the law enforcement interview with a protected source, so the name is redacted throughout the whole thing. We're gonna call him "Mr. X"

KAIAMA: "Sometime around late 1972, the problem of raising money in what he understood to be the context of "the Hoffa pardon" ...came to a head...

KAIAMA: THE DOCUMENT SUGGESTS THAT MONEY FROM ORGANIZED CRIME HAD FLOWED TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S REELECTION TEAM FOLLOWING HOFFA'S RELEASE. .

KAIAMA: Some weeks later, [Mr. X] and other members of the Provenzano Group were called upon to donate all available cash. This amounted to \$500,000 which Sal Briguglio – placed in an attaché case."

KAIAMA: THAT'S ONE OF THE THUGS WHO THE FBI FINGERED IN THE HOFFEX MEMO.

KAIAMA: "He then directed [Mr. X] to deliver the money to Charles Colson at a particular location in Las Vegas."

KAIAMA: Now imagine this. One of Provenzano's mafia lackeys shows up in Las Vegas with a case full of cash that he delivers to Charles Colson- none other than special counsel to President Richard Nixon. Now, that's close to \$3 million today. A suitcase full of cash delivered to Las Vegas.

KAIAMA: And this is just one example of money being funneled directly to Nixon from the mob. According to these government documents, total contributions to Nixon in exchange for Hoffa's restricted commutation came close to \$1 million. And let's think about the timing of all of this. The Watergate scandal was in full effect,

NIXON: I was assured by those charged with conducting and monitoring the investigations that no one in the White House was involved

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

KAIAMA: And this was right around the time of that notorious taped conversation with Nixon

NIXON: You could get a million dollars. And you can get it in cash. I know where it could be gotten.

KAIAMA: Hush money, for the Watergate burglars. And here's something that maybe brings the whole thing full circle....

KAIAMA: According this Department of Justice Memo: that money being funneled to Nixon may have been used for a Watergate cover-up.

KAIAMA: ALTHOUGH THOSE MOB PAYMENTS TO NIXON WERE NEVER CONFIRMED, THERE WAS CONCERN IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT THAT THE MAFIA AND FRANK FITZIMMONS HAD BOUGHT A PRESIDENTIAL INTERVENTION THAT KEPT JIMMY HOFFA AWAY FROM THE TEAMSTERS.

KAIAMA: And it suggests that Hoffa was on to the whole thing!

KAIAMA: WERE THESE THE SECRETS THAT JIMMY HOFFA WAS GETTING READY TO MAKE PUBLIC?

KAIAMA: If Hoffa was on to the contributions and about to expose them to fight off his own restriction, well you can imagine that certain guilty parties would have been more than a little bit nervous.

KAIAMA: DID RUSSELL BUFALINO FEAR HOFFA WAS GOING TO SPILL DETAILS OF MOB PAYOFFS TO RICHARD NIXON? I MAY HAVE MADE A BREAKTHROUGH. I'M HEADING TO WHAT WAS ONCE RUSSELL BUFALINO'S TURF IN NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TO MEET JOURNALIST MATT BIRKBECK. HE DEVELOPED SOURCES IN THE BUFALINO CRIME FAMILY WHILE REPORTING ON THE GAMBLING INDUSTRY FOR A LOCAL PAPER.

MATT: Even to this day, in reporting on this story, there are people who do not want to talk about Russell Bufalino.

KAIAMA: How did he manage to stay under the radar for so long?

MATT: He didn't speak to many people. And when he did, it was within very small groups, people that he knew. Actually, a perfect example of the way he was, was Marlon Brando in 'The Godfather'.

MARLON BRANDO in the Godfather: You have faith in my judgement?

CLEMENZA: Yes.

MARLON BRANDO: Do I have your loyalty?

CLEMENZA: Yes, always Godfather.

MATT: Well, this is one of the places that he would frequent. He would split his time in New York City. He'd spend half his time there, but this is where his home was.

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

KAIAMA: BUFALINO HID IN THE SHADOWS, LIKE A VAMPIRE. BUT MATT DISCOVERED ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MAFIA FIGURES IN THE HISTORY OF US ORGANIZED CRIME.

MATT: Russell Bufalino, he was no stranger to the mob families in New York. In fact, they respected him, and they looked up to him, and they paid deference to him. At the height of his power, he actually ran a territory that extended from Buffalo, New York, throughout New York State, into Pennsylvania, down to Philadelphia, and into New York City. So, he was an immensely, immensely powerful mobster.

KAIAMA: ONE OF THE BIGGEST SOURCES OF BUFALINO'S INFLUENCE, AND WEALTH, CAME FROM HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH JIMMY HOFFA

MATT: Russell had fueled his power in part through the Teamsters Union, A lot of the guys in New York, even though they were making money off the Teamsters, they did not have the kind of relationship that he had with Jimmy Hoffa.

KAIAMA: THAT SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER OF 1975 – AS JIMMY HOFFA FOUGHT TO WIN BACK HIS BELOVED UNION, MATT SAYS BUFALINO FOUND HIMSELF UNDER SEIGE.

MATT: Hoffa is making noise, which is making a lot of people nervous. And they were making big money, and they didn't want anything to rock that boat. And Jimmy Hoffa was rocking that boat.

KAIAMA: THERE WAS FEAR THAT HOFFA WAS TALKING TO THE GOVERNMENT. MOBSTERS SUCH AS TONY PROVENZANO WANTED HOFFA DEAD. BUT BUFALINO KNEW A HIT WOULD RISK INTENSE FBI SCRUTINY, SOMETHING HE'D SPENT HIS CAREER AVOIDING.

KAIAMA: So I'm wondering, do you think Russell Bufalino thought that Jimmy Hoffa was about to bring the house down that way?

MATT: I don't think he thought that Hoffa was going to talk...
And so, he held back on the, on what the other mob leaders wanted

KAIAMA: BUT MATT SAYS WHAT HAPPENED NEXT WOULD CHANGE EVERYTHING.

MATT: What turned the tables was when Bufalino had been identified in a 1975 TIME magazine article as being a recruit for the CIA.

KAIAMA: MATT EXPLAINS THAT SPRING OF 1975, CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS WERE PROBING WHAT THEY CONSIDERED ABUSES BY US INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.

SENATOR: It's the first detailed look at how that secret world worked.

KAIAMA: IT WAS AN HISTORIC MOMENT. MONTH AFTER MONTH NEW REVELATIONS APPEARED IN THE PRESS, INCLUDING DETAILS OF THE CIA'S DEALINGS WITH THE MAFIA IN CUBA. IN THE JUNE 9TH ISSUE OF TIME MAGAZINE, THE SPOTLIGHT SUDDENLY FELL ON AMERICA'S MOST SECRETIVE MOBSTER.

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

KAIAMA: You know, I heard something about those CIA mafia plots, but didn't know Russell Bufalino was involved.

MATT: Russell Bufalino had ties to Cuba that went back to the 1940s. He had been good friends with the Cuban dictator, Fulgencia Batista, and had ownership in various casinos in - in Cuba. He had other legitimate businesses. He owned a shrimping boat business. He owned a dog track. And so, he had a huge revenue stream coming from the island. Then Fidel Castro's revolution is about to tip the scales there. Bufalino leaves. He flees, actually and leaves behind nearly a million dollars buried in Cuba. CIA knows about this. They heard stories about this. Which is why they subsequently went to Jimmy Hoffa, to reach out to Bufalino, in their efforts to dispose of Castro.

KAIAMA: MATT SAYS WHEN THE TIME STORY APPEARED THAT JUNE OF 1975 CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS STILL DIDN'T KNOW THAT BUFALINO HAD BEEN A KEY PLAYER IN THOSE PLOTS.

MATT: Time Magazine outed Russell. Keep in mind; he's still maintaining old ties he had with the CIA. So, to see his name in Time Magazine—not just see his name, but now see that he's been identified as being one of the CIA recruits, I would say he was panicked.

KAIAMA: But how does that blow back on Jimmy Hoffa?

MATT: Once he saw his name, he put a plan in motion.....

KAIAMA: WHAT MATT TELLS ME NEXT, IS TRULY SHOCKING. IT'S TIME TO CHECK BACK WITH THE GUYS IN NEW YORK

KAIAMA: Hey guys!

WES: Hey, hey hey hey. So what'd you find out about Bufalino?

TUKUFU: And why did he finally order the killing?

KAIAMA: You know I got some pretty crazy information, I have to say. And I have something to show you guys. Time magazine 1975. What we have here is a report which is essentially detailing the mafia's involvement with the CIA in Cuba. And this is the first time that Russell Bufalino sees his name in print associated with all these things. This is a guy who made it his business to stay out of the media spotlight and he is mad.

TUKUFU: So how does this change the game?

MATT: Once he saw his name, he put a plan in motion to quickly and effectively eliminate anyone that had any ties to these plots.

KAIAMA: MATT SAID THAT A PATTERN STARTED TO EMERGE.

MATT: Sam Giancana, a mobster from Chicago, Johnny Roselli, a mobster from Los Angeles—and from what he understood—Jimmy Hoffa, were going to talk to the Church Committee that was investigating the CIA's involvement in the Cuban plots.

HDSI: WHO KILLED JIMMY HOFFA
Final Transcript

ARCHIVAL: Sam Momo Giancana was shot in a suburban Chicago home after Senate investigators tried to question him. And the hacked up body of John Roselli was found stuffed in a floating oil drum last summer near Miami.

KAIAMA: AND ON JULY 30, 1975, JIMMY HOFFA DISAPPEARED, NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN.

WES: So this is pretty amazing right?

KAIAMA: Well, that's the story that Matt Birkbeck tells.

TUKUFU: So Time Magazine was almost a death warrant for Haffa.

KAIAMA: That's right. I mean that basically said to Bufalino I gotta cut ties I can't afford to have this sort of heat generated around my dealings with the government, Nixon, the CIA, etc. That's what put the target on Hoffa's back

WES: And you believe Birkbeck?

KAIAMA: Well you know Wes, he among everyone has gotten the closest to Bufalino so I'm inclined to believe him.

TUKUFU: Given that, how do we know that the CIA was not also involved in ordering Hoffa's death?

WES: Exactly.

KAIAMA: What we can say with some certainty is that this is a very delicate moment for the CIA. The church committee is hearing testimonies about all sorts of secret and clandestine dealings, right? And some of these things were illegal.

SENATOR: And Castro was uh the first to know of these attempts. How long before the American people?

KAIAMA: The CIA was making use of the mob as hit men to assassinate foreign leaders. This is incredibly damaging information. And potentially very, very embarrassing for the agency. So if Jimmy Hoffa was close to that kind of information we can see how Russell Bufalino and others certainly would have wanted him to be, let's say, silenced.

WES: Yeah, yeah. Okay. So one last question.

KAIAMA: Sure?

WES: Where's Hoffa's body?

KAIAMA: I think we're going to leave that question to someone else. [laughs]