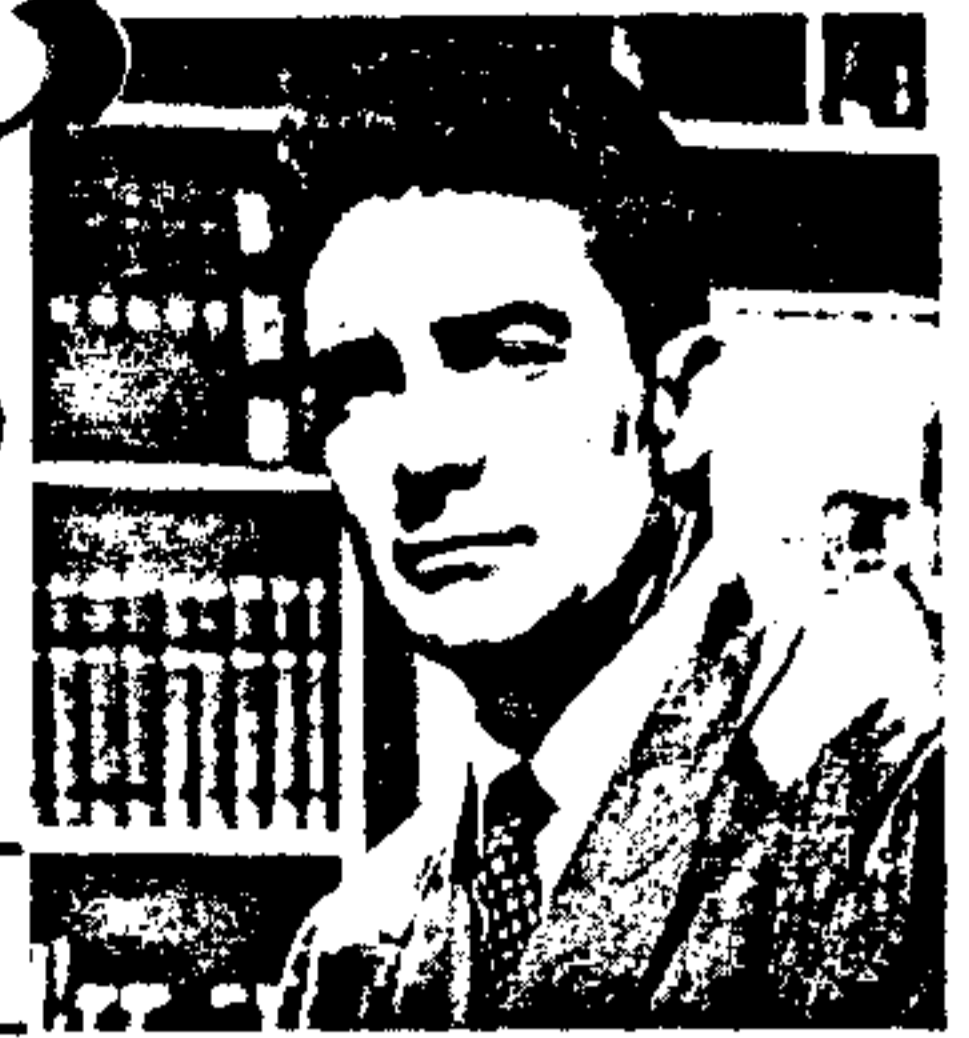


THE Dan Smoot Report



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A STRANGER IN THEIR MIDST

President John F. Kennedy was murdered by a communist in Dallas. Dallasites, both liberal and conservative, were more completely thunderstruck by the crime than any other people in the world, because many were actual eyewitnesses; all had a feeling of closeness to the deed. Yet, all over the world, Dallasites were accused of hate-mongering fanaticism, of having molded the twisted mind of Lee Harvey Oswald, a stranger in their midst.

Lee Harvey Oswald was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, October 18, 1939. His father died before he was born. His mother works as a practical nurse.⁽¹⁾

A part of his boyhood was spent in Fort Worth, Texas, where he went to public schools. In 1953, he and his mother moved to New York. Oswald attended a junior high school in the Bronx for a few weeks. He was arrested for truancy and given a psychiatric examination. Psychiatrists recommended that he be committed, saying he was a potentially dangerous schizophrenic. He was not committed. He and his mother also lived briefly in North Dakota.

Oswald said he became interested in marxism when he was 15, after reading a pamphlet about Julius and Ethel Rosenberg (American communists, executed as spies).

In 1956, at the age of 17, Oswald enrolled as a freshman in Arlington Heights High School, Fort Worth. He dropped out after 23 days, and joined the Marine Corps. In boot camp, he qualified as sharpshooter on the rifle range; but he never adjusted to life in the Marines, as he never adjusted to life anywhere else. He was forever in trouble. He served in the Philippines and in Japan as a radar operator, with the rank of Private First Class. He was twice court-martialed while in Japan: the first time for carrying an unregistered pistol; the second time, for swearing at a non-commissioned officer.

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