

Commission ask to examine the photos and X rays?

LANE: I don't know. Perhaps they thought that the evidence might confuse them. It might even interfere with their tidy preconceptions. When President Johnson was asked this at a press conference, he replied, "I think every American can understand the reasons why we wouldn't want to have the garments, the records and everything paraded out in every sewing circle in the country to be exploited and used without serving any good or official purpose." Well, no one has suggested that the evidence be utilized in that fashion—merely that the Commission should have *seen* the evidence before they signed their Report.

PLAYBOY: What did the doctors who conducted the autopsy say about the President's wounds?

LANE: At first, nothing—for the simple reason that the Government silenced them. Humes, who conducted the autopsy, told a *New York Times* reporter he "had been forbidden to talk" by agents of the FBI. Doctors at Parkland Hospital who originally said the throat wound was an entrance wound were similarly visited by the FBI and told to make no more public statements. In fact, if you turn to Volume 17 of the Warren Commission testimony, you'll find a most extraordinary certificate written by Dr. Humes. It reads: "I, James J. Humes, certify that I have destroyed by burning certain preliminary draft notes relating to Naval Medical School Autopsy Report A63-272 . . ." Think about this for a moment. Here we have a commander in the United States Navy, who is also a doctor, assigned to perform the autopsy on the assassinated President of the United States, burning his draft notes on the autopsy—really, *our* notes—and being silenced by the FBI. And we have crucial evidence, the X rays and photographs, never examined by the Commission. If Oswald was the lone assassin, if all the shots came from the Book Depository, if everything is as cut and dried as the Commission assures us it is, then why the mystery? Why the official suppression? Are we really 17 years from 1984? If you wonder why Dr. Humes burned his notes, I refer you to the statement of one of the most inventive of the Warren Commission lawyers, Arlen Specter, in that interview with *U.S. News & World Report*. Here Specter explains that Humes "had never performed an autopsy on a President" before. No doubt he was out on a house call when Roosevelt died, and therefore lacked the prerequisite experience that would have taught him that valuable Government documents are not to be destroyed.

PLAYBOY: Have you tried to reach Humes yourself to find out why he burned his notes?

LANE: I wrote to him but never received an answer.

PLAYBOY: Is there any physical evidence to support the Commission's conclusion that Oswald was the lone assassin?

LANE: Only Exhibit number 399.

PLAYBOY: Which is?

LANE: Exhibit 399 of the Warren Commission Report is a bullet that is the only substantial link between the assassination and the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle the Commission claims belonged to Oswald. There are some bullet fragments that the Commission also attempted to link to the Mannlicher-Carcano, but the whole body of ballistics literature demonstrates that they are valueless for purposes of identification. The significance of Exhibit 399, however, goes beyond the fact that it was used in an effort to tie Oswald to the murder. The Commission's whole single-assassin theory rests on the fact that this bullet hit *both* President Kennedy and Governor Connally.

PLAYBOY: Why?

LANE: Because the Zapruder film shows that the *maximum* time that could have separated the wounding of the President and of the governor was 1.8 seconds. The expert who tested the alleged assassination weapon for the Government said it required a minimum of 2.3 seconds simply to work the bolt of the Carcano rifle. This was the minimum interval between the two shots, not including the time necessary to aim; thus Oswald could not have fired twice in less than 2.3 seconds. But the Warren Commission was faced with the demonstrable fact that, at most, only 1.8 seconds elapsed between the time President Kennedy was shot and the time the governor, who was sitting on a jump-seat in front of Kennedy, was hit. This meant the shot that wounded Governor Connally was fired by somebody else. As the Commission's own counsel, J. Lee Rankin, put it: "To say that they were hit by separate bullets is synonymous with saying that there were two assassins." The Commission resolved this dilemma with an imaginative invention: that one bullet struck the President in the back of his neck, exited through the front of his throat, and then struck the governor, whose reaction to being wounded was delayed. The bullet passed into the governor's back, shattering his fifth rib into multiple fragments, exited through his chest, and passed through his right wrist, smashing the wristbone, struck his thighbone and lodged in his left thigh. The bullet that did all this, Exhibit 399, is an almost pure, pristine, undamaged bullet. If you look at its photograph in the Warren Report, you'll see that it isn't even dented!

PLAYBOY: You mean this bullet made seven wounds in two men, breaking three different bones, and wasn't materially damaged in the process?

LANE: I don't mean it—the Warren Commission means it! I think the suggestion

is preposterous—and so did several of the doctors who examined Connally and his X rays at Parkland and Bethesda.

PLAYBOY: Isn't it barely possible that a bullet could do everything the Commission says this one did and yet emerge unscathed?

LANE: Not even barely, I'm afraid. The Commission's own experts fired other bullets from the Carcano into a variety of substances, and in each case the bullet came out deformed. And the Commission *never* tried to have one bullet do everything that they claim number 399 did. One Commission expert, Dr. Alfred G. Olivier, a veterinarian, fired a bullet through a gelatin block supposedly representing the President's neck. He wasn't asked about the condition of the bullet when it emerged. He also fired a bullet through the carcass of a goat, supposedly simulating Governor Connally's back and chest. That bullet was "quite flattened," he testified. Then he fired a bullet into the wrist of a corpse, and testified with pride that he had created a fracture in the cadaver almost identical with the fracture suffered by Governor Connally. He also testified, however, that the spent bullet from the cadaver was not like number 399 at all. He said, "Commission Exhibit 399 is not flattened on the end. This one is very severely flattened on the end."

PLAYBOY: Did the bullet fragments found in the governor's wrist, rib and thigh match Exhibit 399?

LANE: Of course not. How do you put a jigsaw puzzle together if someone throws in a few extra pieces? Dr. Shaw, who examined Connally, testified that there seemed to be more than three grains of metal from the bullet lodged in the governor's wrist wound, and still more fragments were found in his thighbone. But according to FBI tests, less than three grains of metal all told are missing from Exhibit 399. *Time* magazine, on September 16, 1966, summed it up this way: "The bullet offered sufficient grounds to make the single-bullet theory suspect. . . . Medical men testified that it could not have done so much damage to Connally and emerged in such good shape."

PLAYBOY: The bullet in question, according to the Warren Report, was found on Governor Connally's stretcher at Parkland Hospital. If it didn't fall out of his body, where did it come from?

LANE: Who knows? First of all, the Warren Commission artfully distorted the testimony of the senior engineer at the hospital, Darrell C. Tomlinson, to conclude that the bullet was in fact discovered on Connally's stretcher. However, if you read Tomlinson's testimony for yourself, you'll find all he would ever say was that he saw it roll from a stretcher that was left in the hospital corridor. He didn't know if it was Governor Connally's stretcher, President Kennedy's stretcher