

# The Lee Harvey Oswald Connection! Fred Korth Connection!

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Now that Congress is back more about Lee Harvey Oswald may be revealed.

Sen. Richard Schweiker, R-Pa., who is investigating the Warren Commission report, is convinced that Oswald had Cuban connections. He was unable to get some Cubans Clare Luce knew to testify — anti-Castro Cubans who had firsthand information on Oswald but wouldn't testify for fear of being murdered by Castro terrorists. But the senator recently said he has lined up a Cuban who will testify.

One of the young Cubans Clare Luce knew once told her he had tailed Oswald to his Communist cell in New Orleans where Oswald was bragging that he "could shoot anyone, including the secretary of the Navy."

Why did the man who killed the President even consider killing the secretary of the Navy, of all people? At the time he was boasting of his lethal capabilities, Texan Fred Korth held that post. But why Korth?

At a recent Washington cocktail gathering Korth provided what may be the answer to that question. Back in 1948 in Fort Worth where he was practicing law, a retired engineer who had worked for the Electric Bond and Share Holding Company (Edward K. Ekdahl) asked Korth to get him a divorce "from that awful woman" he had been married to for three years. Korth got the divorce. The "awful woman" was Oswald's mother.

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# Justice Department Decides Against Prosecution in

By JOHN M. CREWASON  
Special to The New York Times

## Destruction of Note From Oswald

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21—The Justice Department has decided to bring charges against a group of individuals purportedly involved in the destruction, two days after the assassination of President Kennedy, of a threatening note previously delivered to the Dallas F.B.I. office by Lee Harvey Oswald, Mr. Kennedy's accused assassin.

The decision, made yesterday by Richard Thornburgh, who heads the department's Criminal Division, was disclosed today by James B. Adams, an official of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Adams provided a House subcommittee with a copy of a letter from Harold Tyler, the deputy attorney general, to Clarence M. Kelley, the F.B.I. director, that noted that the five-year statute of limitations on crimes that may have attended the letter's destruction had expired.

Mr. Tyler said in the letter that, although it was technically possible to pursue a prosecution under Federal perjury statutes in cases where some past and present F.B.I. agents had made conflicting statements under oath about their roles in the destruction of the letter, Mr. Thornburgh had decided against such a move.

**Jury Presentation Barred**  
Justice officials said today that Mr. Thornburgh's decision also precluded any possibility that the tangled record of assertions and denials compiled by F.B.I. investigators looking into the bizarre affair would be given to a Federal grand jury for further study.

But Mr. Adams, the bureau's deputy associate director, told the subcommittee that the destruction of the letter constituted a violation of the F.B.I.'s internal regulations and that administrative action against some of those allegedly involved was under consideration.

The chief confusion, Mr. Adams testified, involved attempts by the bureau to fix responsibility for the destruction of the note, which did not mention Mr. Kennedy but contained vague threats against the F.B.I. and local authorities in Dallas.

The New York Times reported last month that, according to a source familiar with events in the F.B.I. in the wake of the assassination, the decision to destroy the Oswald letter was made by the bureau

officials, probably including J. Edgar Hoover, the latter director.

But Mr. Adams said today that the internal inquiry into the matter, which is now complete, had not established that anyone except James P. Hosty Jr., the agent to whom the threatening letter was addressed, had any knowledge of its destruction.

In his testimony before the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on civil and constitutional rights, Mr. Adams provided an account of the events involving Mr. Oswald and the F.B.I. during November 1963, that, he said, had been gleaned from nearly 80 interviews, many of them under oath with individuals "who logically might be able to shed light on this matter."

The subcommittee, headed by Representative Don Edwards, a California Democrat and a former F.B.I. agent, is looking into the bureau's relationship with the Warren Commission, which was set up by President Johnson to investigate the Kennedy assassination and was never told of the existence of the Oswald letter.

According to Mr. Adams, some days before the assassination on Nov. 22 Oswald left with the receptionist at the Dallas F.B.I. office a note addressed to Mr. Hosty. The receptionist, he said, recalled that the note contained a threat to "blow up the F.B.I. and the Dallas Police Department" if the agent did not stop trying to interview Oswald's Russian-born wife, Marina.

Oswald was then under investigation by the F.B.I. because of his travels to the Soviet Union in 1959 and his renunciation of his American citizenship during the two years he lived there.

In November, 1972, Oswald was living in a rooming house in Dallas, where Mr. Kennedy was shot as he rode in a motorcade.

The receptionist told F.B.I. investigators that, in Mr. Hosty's absence, she had given the letter to the assistant head of the Dallas office, who read it, termed Oswald a "nut" and told her to save the note for Mr. Hosty.

The assistant head of the Dallas office has denied any knowledge of the matter, Mr. Adams said, as have other employees to whom the receptionist

card she had shown the letter.

Mr. Hosty recalled having eventually received the note, but denied that it had contained any threats or violent language. He told bureau investigators that he had simply placed it in his "workbox," where, Mr. Adams said, "it continued to reside on the day of the assassination."

In his F.B.I. interview, Mr. Hosty asserted that a few hours after the assassination J. Gordon Shanklin, the head of the Dallas office, and another official

confronted him with the letter and asked him to explain its contents.

Mr. Hosty maintained that Mr. Shanklin, who recently retired from the F.B.I. and now practices law in Dallas, had directed him to prepare a memorandum describing his effort to interview Marina Oswald, which he did.

About two hours after Oswald was shot and killed by Jack Ruby on Nov. 24, Mr. Hosty told the investigators, he was instructed by Mr. Shanklin to destroy both the Oswald note and the memorandum. He said that he had done so.

Mr. Shanklin, Mr. Adams said, has denied to bureau officials any knowledge of Oswald's visit to the Dallas office or of the note and "maintains that he did not issue any orders to destroy the note."

While the principal conflict over what happened to the Oswald letter appears to involve the testimony of Mr. Shanklin and Mr. Hosty, who is now with the F.B.I. office in Kansas City, Mo., the investigators uncovered other contradictions involving the source of the destruction order and the knowledge and involvement of F.B.I. executives in Washington.

According to Mr. Adams's testimony, one F.B.I. employee stated that she heard from "an unrecalled source" that a meeting was held to decide the disposition of the Oswald note and was attended by an F.B.I. inspector "from Washington." The unnamed inspector "unquivocally denied" having any knowledge of the matter, Mr. Adams said.

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# Panel Studies F.B.I. Links to Oswald and Ruby in '63

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13—A House committee has opened an investigation into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's relationship with Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby before President Kennedy's assassination, the committee's chairman said today.

This is the first official public inquiry by Congress into whether evidence was withheld from the Warren Commission since its report saying that Oswald was the sole assassin was issued in 1964.

Representative Don Edwards, chairman of the Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee, said that the purpose of his panel's investigation "is not to reopen the Warren Commission, others may later decide to do that, but to set the record straight on just what went on."

The California Democrat said that several recent disclosures about the F.B.I.'s role before the assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, had convinced members of the subcommittee that the matter required its scrutiny. Mr. Edwards's subcommittee has oversight responsibilities for the F.B.I. and has been conducting a long-term investigation into the bureau's operations.

He said that the subcommittee had scheduled public hearings for next Monday and Tuesday and had asked senior F.B.I. officials to testify under oath. It may later subpoena F.B.I. field agents involved in various phases of the case, he added.

He said that the committee would concentrate on the following three main areas in its initial investigation:

The disclosure that the F.B.I., presumably on orders from its then director, J. Edgar Hoover, destroyed a letter written by Oswald several days before the assassination in which he threatened to "blow up" a Dallas police station un-

less the bureau's agents stopped trying to interview him. Recently uncovered documents that indicated that Jack Ruby, the man who killed Oswald in the Dallas police headquarters, was a paid informant for the F.B.I.

The charge by William Walter, a former code clerk in the New Orleans F.B.I. field office, that the bureau warned its Southern field offices five days before President Kennedy's death that there would be an assassination attempt with a rifle in Dallas.

The House committee's investigation is only one of several reappraisals of Kennedy assassination evidence. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence appointed two of its members, Senators Richard S. Schweiker, Republican of Pennsylvania, and Gary Hart, Democrat of Colorado, to be an informal subcommittee and screen possible new evidence.

### A Broader Inquiry

The Senate committee has a broader mandate than does Mr. Edwards's panel. It can gather evidence on the Central Intelligence Agency's activities as well as F.B.I. materials. Based upon what Mr. Schweiker already learned as a member of the intelligence committee, he called last month for the Warren Commission's inquiry to be reopened.

Among the matters believed to warrant re-examination was the disclosure that the C.I.A. had never told the Warren Commission that it was involved in attempts to kill Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba. Considering Oswald's deep involvement with pro-Cuban elements, Mr. Schweiker has said that it would appear this information might be pertinent to the Warren inquiry.

The events surrounding the destruction of the Oswald letter by the F.B.I. are under investigation both within the bureau and by the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. Though the Oswald letter was delivered to the F.B.I. before President Kennedy was shot, law enforcement sources have said, the bureau apparently did not tell anyone about the threat.

After the President was killed, the Oswald letter was removed from the file and destroyed. Several sources have said that the destruction may have been on Mr. Hoover's orders, but this is still under investigation.

Despite the threat contained in the letter, both Mr. Hoover and James P. Hosty Jr., the special agent who was investigating Oswald at the time, told the Warren Commission that they had no reason, before the Kennedy shooting, to believe that Oswald was capable of violence.

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# The Doubt Still Exists

Congressmen, even some veterans, often show an investigative naivete that borders on the ridiculous.

There were cries of shocked disbelief and "How could you?" when testimony was educed before committees investigating intelligence activities that the FBI had infiltrated various extremist groups. Yet former FBI director J. Edgar Hoover testified to this effect time and time again before Congress over a long period of years.

Much of the same type of reaction is apparent in current "revelations" concerning the Warren Commission investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Some of these revelations are allegations heard by the Warren Commission itself and duly recorded in the voluminous report of that body.

There has been at least one significant change since that time, however. Congressmen, and just plain citizens, are no longer ready to accept what is said, or even testified to, at face value.

There has been too much deception uncovered in many facets of government. What people might have been willing to accept unquestionably in 1964, they would have reservations about accepting in 1975.

There are many who have lingering doubts that the assassination and its aftermath has been adequately explained.

The chain of circumstances itself strains credibility.

An ex-Marine (who spent part of his service time in Jacksonville) named Lee Harvey Oswald, goes to Russia; lives there three years, marries a Russian woman; returns to the United States; takes up the

cause of Fidel Castro openly; visits Mexico City and contacts the Cuban Embassy there in October, 1963; returns to the United States and, on Nov. 22, 1963 assassinates President Kennedy with a rifle smuggled into the Texas School Book Depository where Oswald is employed.

He is arrested and the very next day is shot to death by Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub operator, while surrounded by police officers and on national television. Oswald's lips are sealed forever.

Ruby insists he acted on his own, out of emotion and sympathy for the Kennedy family. He testifies before the Warren Commission, in a rambling manner. He dies some months later of cancer.

The Warren Commission compiled some 25 volumes of testimony and exhibits.

From it, one could reconstruct a circumstantial case for almost anything one fancied. Communist-Cuban plot, right-wing plot and other possibilities.

The Warren Commission went with the hard evidence it had and concluded that there was no conspiracy. It concluded that Oswald acted alone in the assassination and that Ruby acted alone in the Oswald slaying, both from their own individual motives.

But it is not an open and shut case that is nailed down beyond the possibility of a wider answer.

If Congress, or anyone else for that matter, could nail it down it would be performing a valuable service. But it would be a disservice to reopen the investigation from motives of publicity.

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Warren Appendix

# Oswald's FBI Bid Did Appear in Print

By Norman Kempster  
Washington Star Staff Writer

A Senate investigator relied on an incomplete list of documents obtained from the National Archives when he concluded that the Warren Commission did not publish an FBI report indicating Lee Harvey Oswald offered to provide information to the bureau.

The FBI accounts were published in Volume 17 of the appendix to the commission's report, although they were not referred to in the main text, which concluded that Oswald, acting alone, was the assassin of President John F. Kennedy. Sen. Richard S. Schweiker, R-Pa., said he plans to review the FBI reports in an effort to determine if the Warren Commission underestimated their significance. Schweiker and Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., have been named as a subcommittee of the Senate Intelligence Committee to investigate the role the FBI and the CIA played in supplying information to the commission.

Schweiker is attempting to determine the truth or falsity of recurring rumors that Oswald served as an informant for either the FBI or CIA.

A staff analysis prepared for Schweiker's use asserts, "The Warren Report did not mention Oswald's repeatedly expressed willingness to be (an) FBI informant, now revealed by FBI reports." That analysis, which indicated that key pages of the FBI account were omitted from the

Warren Report, formed the basis of a story in some editions of yesterday's Washington Star, that the information had been supplied to the commission but left out of the report.

A spokesman for Schweiker said the staff member who prepared the analysis relied on a list of documents supplied by the National Archives. He said the list did not include all documents published in the report.

The FBI documents indicate Oswald offered on at least two occasions to keep the bureau informed of any contacts he or his Russian-born wife might have with Soviet intelligence. There is no indication in the reports that Oswald ever supplied the promised information.

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# Oswald, alleged CIA plots linked

Charles Ashman is an investigative broadcast journalist in Los Angeles whose background reports on the Jimmy Hoffa disappearance were printed by The Dallas Morning News and other newspapers around the nation.

By CHARLES ASHMAN  
© 1975 by Charles Ashman

LOS ANGELES — Lee Harvey Oswald telephoned a friend at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City on or about Oct. 6, 1963, that another CIA attempt on Fidel Castro's life was scheduled. In exchange for more information Oswald requested an immediate visa permitting him to fly directly to Havana from Mexico. He also telephoned the Russian Embassy twice and asked their assistance in "pressuring local Cuban officials" to issue the visa and "pass his message to Castro."

He called the Cuban Embassy at least twice more in the next two days about the visa. The Central Intelligence Agency has confirmed that some of Oswald's calls to both embassies were taped by CIA agents but the agency refuses to comment on the total content of the calls or why the tapes were concealed for 12 years.

A FORMER CIA contact man who became an undercover agent by infiltrating the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in Mexico, Ernesto Rodriguez, has confirmed that Oswald made the calls and talked freely about sending a warning of an imminent CIA attempt to slay the Cuban premier. According to Rodriguez, Oswald "hung around the Cuba Committee and even talked with reporters that week about his calls to the Cuban Embassy."

Sources close to the CIA during the abortive at-

tempts on Castro's life confirm an effort made on Oct. 23, 1963, in Havana. The next day, Oct. 24, 1963, three anti-Castro Cuban Nationals were arrested, charged with treason and executed after allegedly admitting their involvement in a CIA plot.

The nature of Oswald's calls and the existence of the taped conversations were concealed by the CIA

Sen. Church says intelligence agencies ignored presidential order, Page 12A.

which downgraded Oswald's activities in Mexico City as "routine" in an informal report to the FBI made Oct. 10, 1963 in Washington, D.C. Because of the "routine" nature of that report, Oswald left Mexico and returned to the United States not under surveillance where the following month he allegedly assassinated President John F. Kennedy.

Prior to the Oct. 23 event in Havana there were at least nine known attempts on Castro's life organized by the CIA, five of which involved leaders of organized crime in the United States linked with the late Sam Giacana of Chicago and his now retired lieutenant, Johnny Rosselli.

ACCORDING to the former CIA contact agent Rodriguez, "a lot of people were embarrassed about the common knowledge in Mexico City of what the CIA was doing in Havana. It was discussed openly with foreign journalists at Fair Play for Cuba sessions."

Rodriguez left Mexico in 1968 after admittedly making "a great deal of money through intelligence." He will probably surface within a few days as a witness before the Senate committees headed by Sen. Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho.

Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

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"The Dallas Morning News"  
Dallas, Texas

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*Brainstorm*

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Editor: Tom J. Simmons

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investigating illegal CIA activities.

When the Warren Commission was formed to investigate the killing of the president, a trio of staff members were assigned to check out the Oswald trip to Mexico. They were California law professor W. David Slawson, a Justice Department lawyer, Howard T. Willens and President Ford's Secretary of Transportation, William D. Coleman.

Coleman and Willens were told about Oswald's activities in Mexico but the intelligence report listed his affairs as "routine," details concerning the CIA-monitored calls were never reviewed by the commission in either public or executive sessions. Coleman confirms that nothing was done because the routine information from Mexico did not seem contrary to the basic commission conclusion that

"Oswald killed Kennedy and a Dallas policeman."

FOR SEVERAL years, those urging a re-examination of the Dallas tragedies have suggested a link between Oswald and American intelligence. Oswald's apparent awareness of CIA activities in Cuba and the agency's reluctant admission of having monitored calls to both the Russian and Cuban embassys from Oswald have given overnight ammunition to those urging Congress to act favorably on the resolution from Congressman Henry Gonzales, Democrat from Texas, and nearly 50 other co-sponsoring congressmen from both parties.

Marguerite Oswald, 68-year-old mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, said this week "Lee was innocent. There was some involvement with American intelligence. He had deep feelings for Cuba and the Warren Commission ignored that."



Dallas News staff photo

Lee Harvey Oswald . . . allegedly warned embassy of attempt on Castro's life. . . .



# Report the CIA Taped Oswald On Soviet Call

● See Warren Commission Story Below

By Nicholas M. Horrock  
New York Times News Service

The Central Intelligence Agency secretly tape recorded two telephone conversations between Lee Harvey Oswald and the Cuban and Soviet embassies in Mexico City some eight weeks before President John F. Kennedy was shot to death Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, according to government sources familiar with the events.

The call to the Soviet Embassy, the sources said yesterday, alerted the CIA to the presence of Oswald in Mexico City, and on Oct. 10 the agency warned the FBI. There is no indication that the FBI, which was investigating Oswald for his pro-Castro activities, ever followed up on the information.

The call to the Cuban Embassy, the sources said, was not associated with Oswald until after Kennedy's death. A federal commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren found that Oswald, acting alone, had shot the President.

THE CALLS reportedly were placed by Oswald on a trip to Mexico City in late September and early October 1963. The events of this trip have never been fully made public and have been the subject of speculation for more than a decade.

The reports of the calls are the latest developments in the increasing speculation concerning the Warren Commission's conclusions. Evidence that the CIA and FBI may have been less than candid with the commission have added to the questions surrounding the assassination and have led to more calls for a reopening of the inquiry.

made arrangements to return to the United States with a Russian wife.

"This biographical data was based upon FBI reports provided to the CIA following Oswald's defection to the Soviet Union.

"THIS INFORMATION was also provided to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Navy, the U.S. ambassador and his staff in Mexico and to the representative of the FBI in Mexico.

See TAPES, A-5

The Mexico City trip was given only scant treatment in the Warren Commission report because publication of information about it might have exposed "sources and methods" of the CIA and impaired national security, intelligence officers and commission staff sources have said.

IN RESPONSE TO inquiries from the New York Times, the CIA issued an unusual public statement on the matter. It would not confirm that there were any tape recorded conversations, but said:

"On Oct. 9, 1963, CIA headquarters received information that a person named Lee Oswald contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City in late September or early October 1963. In transmitting the information on Oct. 10, 1963, CIA headquarters said Lee Oswald was probably identical to Lee Henry (sic) Oswald, a former radar operator in the U.S. Marine Corps, born Oct. 18, 1939, in New Orleans who defected to the Soviet Union in 1959 and who subsequently

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dy. CIA records revealed that a person believed to be Oswald was in contact with the Cuban Embassy on Sept. 27, 1963, for the purpose of receiving a transit visa for use en route to the USSR.

"In addition a number of photographs of individuals believed to be in contact with the Cuban and Soviet Embassies in Mexico City were received from the CIA station in Mexico and were compared with pictures of Oswald by CIA officers in Mexico City and CIA headquarters and by United States authorities in Dallas, Tex.

"It was determined that none of these photographs was the photograph of Oswald. Their determinations, and the raw data upon which they were based, along with the reports of his visit to the Soviet Embassy, were made to the Warren and Rockefeller commissions as were all other materials relevant to the investigation of President Kennedy's death."

**THREE STAFF MEMBERS** of the Warren Commission were assigned to investigate the Mexico City trip and other matters involving the CIA. They were William T. Coleman, now secretary of transportation, Howard P. Willens, a former Justice Department official now in private law practice, and W. David Slawson, a law professor in California.

Coleman said in an interview that he was "disturbed" about the possibility that United States security might be harmed by the recent disclosures, but he acknowledged that he and other staffers received information from the CIA on Oswald's activities in Mexico, and they did not run counter to the commission's conclusion that Oswald killed Kennedy and a Dallas police officer.

Coleman said he was sure that Lee Rankin, the Warren Commission chief counsel, was informed of the CIA Mexico data and that "at least two or three commission members" knew. He could not remember if the commission ever discussed the matter in executive session. Willens and Slawson declined to make public comment.

**SOURCES FAMILIAR** with the contents of the tapes said that Oswald was seeking a transit visa from Cuban officials and that he was "rebuffed." One source said that the call to the Soviet Embassy was an effort to get help from the Soviets in furthering his application at the Cuban Embassy.

These sources said there was no "conspiratorial" tone to the conversations and one source called them "benign." Moreover, the sources said, the CIA had information that the Cubans were suspicious of Oswald, because he returned to the United States and then asked to go back again to Russia.

Asked if anything said may have "triggered" Oswald, a Cuban supporter, to take "retaliation" against Kennedy, one source denied it, but said that Oswald was "frustrated" by the Cubans.

**A SURVEY OF** Warren Commission, Rockefeller Commission, intelligence and congressional sources, however, revealed that there are still two areas of suspicion concerning Kennedy's assassination. One is that Oswald received some sort of indirect support or inspiration in his

plot and, two, that the CIA and the FBI may not have been fully candid with the Warren Commission.

These doubts have deepened in the last nine months as the CIA's role in plots to kill foreign leaders came under scrutiny. Members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence have confirmed, for instance, that the CIA did not tell the Warren Commission of its efforts to kill Fidel Castro, premier of Cuba, during the early 1960s.

Sen. Richard Schweiker, R-Pa., has called for a reopening of the commission's inquiry on this and other issues.

**ANOTHER AREA** of unrest has arisen over the role of the FBI. Earlier this month it was revealed that the bureau did not inform the Warren Commission of a letter Oswald wrote threatening to blow up the Dallas police department.



# Oswald Calls to Embassies Reported Taped by C.I.A.

By **NICHOLAS M. HORROCK**  
Special to The New York Times



United Press International  
**Lee Harvey Oswald**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20—The Central Intelligence Agency secretly tape-recorded two telephone conversations between Lee Harvey Oswald and the Cuban and Soviet Embassies in Mexico City some eight weeks before President Kennedy was shot to death on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, Government sources familiar with the events said today.

The call to the Soviet Embassy, according to the sources, alerted the C.I.A., to the presence of Oswald in Mexico City, and on Oct. 10 the agency warned the Federal Bureau of Investigation. There is no indication that the F.B.I., which was investigating Oswald for his pro-Castro activities, ever followed up on the information.

The call to the Cuban Embassy the sources said, was not associated with Oswald until after the death of Mr. Kennedy. A Federal commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren found that Oswald, acting alone, had slain the President.

### To Avoid Publicity

The calls were reportedly placed by Oswald on a trip to Mexico City in late September and early October, 1963. The events of this trip have never been fully made public and have been the subject of speculation for more than a decade.

The reports of the calls are the latest developments in the increasing speculation about the Warren Commission's conclusions. Evidence that the C.I.A. and the F.B.I. may have been less than candid with the commission has added to the questions surrounding the assassination and has led to more calls for a reopening of the inquiry.

The Mexico City trip was given scant treatment in the Warren Commission report because publication of information about it might have exposed "sources and methods" of the C.I.A. and impaired national security, intelligence officers and commission staff

sources have said. In response to inquiries about the matter from The New York Times, the C.I.A. issued an unusual public statement on the matter. It would not confirm that there were any tape-recorded conversations but said:

"On October 9, 1963 Central Intelligence Agency headquarters received information that a person named Lee Oswald contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City in late September or early October, 1963. In transmitting the information on 10 October 1963 Central Intelligence Agency headquarters said Lee Oswald was probably identical to Lee Henry (sic) Oswald a former radar operator in the United States Marine Corps, born 18 October 1939 in New Orleans who defected to the Soviet Union in 1959 and who subsequently made arrangement to return to the United States with a Russian wife.

### From F.B.I. Reports

"This biographical data was based upon Federal Bureau of Investigation reports provided to Central Intelligence Agency following Oswald's defection to the Soviet Union.

"This information was also provided to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Department of the Navy, the United States Ambassador and his staff in Mexico and to the Representative of the F.B.I. in Mexico.

"Following the assassination of President Kennedy, Central Intelligence Agency records revealed that a person believed to be Oswald was in contact with the Cuban Embassy on 27 September 1963 for the purpose of receiving a transit visa for use enroute to the U.S.S.R.

"In addition a number of photographs of individuals believed to be in contact with the Cuban and Soviet Embassies in Mexico City were received from the Central Intelligence Agency station in Mexico and were compared with pictures of Lee Harvey Oswald by C.I.A. officers in Mexico City and C.I.A. headquarters and by United States authorities in Dallas, Texas.

"It was determined that none of these photographs was the

photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald. Their determinations, and the raw data upon which they were based, along with the reports of his visit to the Soviet Embassy, were made to the Warren and Rockefeller Commissions as were all other materials relevant to the investigation of President Kennedy's death."

Three staff members of the Warren Commission were assigned to investigate the Mexico City trip and other matters involving the C.I.A.—William T. Coleman, now Secretary of Transportation; Howard P. Willens, a former justice Department official now in private law practice, and W. David Slawson, a law professor in California.

Mr. Coleman said in a telephone interview that he was "disturbed" about the possibility that United States security might be harmed by recent disclosures of F.B.I. and C.I.A. activities. But he acknowledged that he and other staff members had received information from the C.I.A. on Oswald's activities in Mexico, and they did not run counter to the commission's conclusion that Oswald, acting alone, killed President Kennedy and a Dallas police officer, J. J. Tippitt.

### Sure Others Learned

Mr. Coleman said he was sure that J. Lee Rankin, the Warren Commission's chief counsel, had been informed of the C.I.A. Mexico City data and that "at least two or three commission members" knew. He could not remember if the commission had ever discussed the matter in executive session. Mr. Willens and Mr. Slawson declined to make public comment.

Sources familiar with the contents of the tapes said that Oswald had been seeking a transit visa from Cuban officials and that he had been rebuffed. One source said that the call to the Soviet Embassy had been an effort to get help in furthering his application at the Cuban Embassy.

These sources said there had

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- The National Observer —
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been no "conspiratorial" tone to the conversations and one source called them "benign." Moreover, the sources said, of the C.I.A. had information that the Cubans were suspicious of and unsympathetic to Oswald. One source said the Cubans regarded Oswald's behavior in returning to the United States from the Soviet Union and then asking to go back as "strange."

Asked if anything said might have "triggered" Oswald, a Castro supporter, to take "retaliation" against President Kennedy, one source said he thought not but said that he thought Oswald had been "frustrated" by the Cubans.

#### Known by F.B.I.

The F.B.I. acknowledged at the Warren Commission hearings that it had received information from the C.I.A. about Oswald's Mexican contact with the Soviet Embassy on Oct. 10, 1963. Former F.B.I. agents involved in the investigation said the bureau knew that Oswald had been trying to return to the Soviet Union.

Under bureau operating procedures at that time, the F.B.I. followed up on any unexplained visit by an American citizen to Communist embassies and consulates. It would have been particularly watchful in the case of Oswald, who had defected once.

The bureau jargon for such unexplained visits was "bogies" and agents were sent to interview the person on why he or she had been in contact with the Communists. The only reason this was not done in Oswald's case, these sources said, may have been because he was already under an F.B.I. security investigation in connection with pro-Castro activities.

The bureau's formal response to these questions was to refer to the Warren Commission report. In the report it was noted that James P. Hosty Jr., special agent of the Dallas field office, attempted to interview Oswald about his Cuban activities on Nov. 1.



**IN FOCUS**

# In Dallas They're

## Fed Up With JFK

# Assassination Talk

By James R. Dickenson  
Washington Star Staff Writer

DALLAS — People sure are tired of the talk and theories about the Kennedy assassination here in Dallas and none professes to be more tired

Second of two articles

of it than William Alexander, the flinty-eyed, acid-tongued former assistant district attorney who prosecuted Jack Ruby.

"I'd like to kick the — out of every fat-ass Yankee you see hanging around the Book Depository," he tells Yankee and non-Yankee visitors alike. "In shorts and with cameras looking up at: I getting the roofs

of their mouths sunburned. One asked a policeman where was Kennedy shot? He tapped the back of his head and said, 'Right here, friend, right here.'"

In the 12 years since John Kennedy's assassination, Texas hunters on their way home have tossed their empty rifle cartridge shells on the grass near the site and it's generally just minutes before they are gone. They figure there are more tourists with "souvenir" shells of the killing than there are religious pilgrims who have "genuine" splinters from the cross on which Christ was crucified.

People like Alexander tell of this to make the point that the area was

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## Empty cartridge shells drop J near site by hunters

searched and policed so stringently for everything, including brain tissue and skull fragments which were found as far as 100 feet away from the President's limousine, immediately after Kennedy's assassination that there is no chance that anyone got a genuine souvenir.

THIS IS BY way of making their final point: That nothing as far as they're concerned has ever turned up to make them doubt the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, fired the shots that killed President

Kennedy, that there were just three shots, the first one of which hit Kennedy in the throat and passed through to inflict the wounds of Gov. John B. Connally, the second of which missed completely, and the third which killed the President.

There is a growing number who disagree or at least think enough questions have been raised that the investigation should be reopened. There are a number of resolutions before the Congress, some of which call for a reopening of all the assassinations and assassination attempts

since 1963 — the two Kennedys, Martin Luther King Jr., George C. Wallace.

This is partly because of the fallout from governmental deception on Vietnam and Watergate and recent revelations about the FBI and CIA involvement in assassination attempts on leaders of other countries. It is also partly because a whole generation of young is growing up with no memory of public events that were not in the context of Vietnam and Watergate and they are far more inclined to conspiracy theories than their elders.

There were believers in a conspiracy 12 years ago. They included

President Lyndon B. Johnson, Connally, and such members of the Warren Commission as Gerald R. Ford, the late Sen. Richard Russell of Georgia and the late Rep. Hale Boggs of Louisiana.

They thought it was a Communist plot because of Oswald's leftist ties and his defection to Russia after his Marine Corps discharge in 1959. Johnson put the commission on a tight deadline — June of 1964 — which it was unable to meet. Its report was published in September.

THE REASON for the haste was the urge to reassure the American  
See DALLAS, A-10



# DALLAS

Continued From A-1

public and dispel doubts in the wake of the dreadful event. Critics now contend that reassurance rather than truth was the commission's goal but that its haste created the opposite. They contend that it has left too many questions open with a resulting increase in the public's cynicism.

They also argue that the commission's finding that Oswald was the lone assassin was dictated in advance by J. Edgar Hoover. Moderate critics who think the investigation should be reopened think the problem was that the commission was looking for a foreign conspiracy and that the idea of a domestic conspiracy didn't even occur to them.

Now the focus of criticism is switching to the possibility of Oswald's having ties with the FBI and CIA and to suspicions that the Mafia, tied to the CIA because of its interest in Cuba, was involved.

But the critics have questioned everything, starting not just with the argument that Oswald was innocent but that there were two or even more imposters using his name and identification.

This is because people had trouble identifying Oswald. In Mexico City, where he had gone to try to get a visa to Cuba in September 1963, the CIA reportedly released pictures purporting to be Oswald but which were actually someone else. Critics contend that his height varies from 5 feet 8 to 5 feet 11 on his service medical records. This has led one, Peter Dale Scott, a professor of literature at the University of California, to conclude there was not one Oswald or two, as Richard Popkin, a philosophy professor, has argued, but several.

Oswald couldn't drive but that a man identifying himself as Lee Harvey Oswald est-drove a used car he was talking about buying with a salesman at 70 miles per hour. There are allegations that the Life magazine photo of Oswald with a rifle and pistol is a composite with Oswald's head imposed on someone else's body and that the "Lee Harvey Oswald" who took target practice near Dallas before the assassination was someone other than the man the Warren Commission identified as the assassin.

Next is the question of his acting alone. The critics cite witnesses who claim they saw puffs of smoke and heard bullets coming from the grassy knoll by the Texas Book Depository, which was to the front and right of the limousine at the time of the shooting; Oswald's shots came from the left rear.

They also claim that witnesses saw an armed man by the knoll and that the films of the shooting show shadows that could be armed men. Defenders of the Warren Report say that the acoustics of rifle shots are misleading, that no other cartridge cases were ever found, that no other bullet holes were found in the car, that any frontal shots would have hit the windshield, and that no sounds were heard to go with the alleged smoke puffs.

"I talked to postal inspectors who were on the fifth floor of an annex building who are very sharp-eyed and they looked at the knoll when they saw some people look and start to move in that direction and they didn't see anything," says Alexander. "There are also railroad

detectives in the area because of attempts to hijack boxcars of valuable shipments, such as liquor, and I can't imagine they wouldn't have had some tough questions for any strangers who were armed and running around there."

THE CRITICS also refer to the famed Zapruder film, which shows Kennedy's head move forward under the impact of the shot and then jerk back. On Newton's third law of action and reaction they reason that this was the result of a hit from the front.

"A motorcycle officer who was riding at the right rear fender testified that he was almost knocked off his bike by the force of blood and brains from the fatal shot," says Mark Lane, the earliest of the Warren Report critics. "They also found skull fragments to the rear of the car."

Some answer this by theorizing that neuromuscular reactions account for it. Alexander thinks the sudden acceleration of the limousine could be the reason although Lane says the film sequence disputes this.

Time magazine reported last week that tests by Dr. John K. Lattimer of the Columbia University Medical School and Prof. Luis Alvarez, a physicist at the University of California, offer another conclusion. Lattimer has fired a similar rifle at human skulls filled with gelatin and found that they jerked forward and then fell back. Alvarez got the same result firing rifle bullets into melons.

Their explanation is that the material being blown out the exit wounds in front had a jet effect that snapped the skulls to the rear.



**OTHER CRITICS** contend that while there may not have been frontal shots, there was more than one rifleman firing from the rear and they fired more than three shots.

The critics also contend that the bullet holes in the rear of President Kennedy's jacket and shirt were too low to allow a trajectory that would have made it possible for the bullet, which hit him in the neck, to hit Connally. The Warren Commission determined that the bullet hit Connally in the back, broke a rib, came out his chest, went through his wrist and was embedded in his thigh.

It determined that the bullet began tumbling possibly after it struck bone, which would account for the shape of his wounds. The critics scoff that the nearly intact bullet found on one of the stretchers, presumably after falling out of Connally's thigh wound, couldn't have done all that damage and not fragmented.

Test firings into bone, cotton batting and other materials are inconclusive; some bullets fragment and some don't.

There are disagreements based on minute examination of the Zapruder film over whether Connally was in the right angle for the single bullet to hit both and whether the film shows he was hit too long after Kennedy for the single bullet theory to stand up. It all depends on whose analysis you believe, whose interpretations of Kennedy's and Connally's early moves you accept.

The critics also contend that there was barely time, according to the film sequence, for Oswald to work the rifle's bolt, let alone aim. They also contend that the telescopic sight was off, which caused expert riflemen to fire high at silhouette targets.

**THE COMMISSION'S** defenders reply that Oswald had been a rifle sharpshooter, the next to highest category, in the Marines and that if he was aiming at

the body, as a serious assassin should, the faulty sight could have caused him to accidentally shoot President Kennedy in the head instead.

There are contradictory claims about the autopsy report. The critics contend that the wound in his throat from the first shot is really an entrance wound from a frontal shot, not an exit wound as the report contends and that the matter has been fuzzed because doctors obliterated the wound performing a tracheotomy.

There are also questions as to Oswald's movements, whether there was time for him to leave the sixth story of the Book Depository before witnesses got onto the staircase and about his movement to the area of his rooming house where he shot Dallas policeman J.D. Tippit.

Tests by the authorities convince them that the commission's conclusions as to Oswald's movements are correct. "He even had the right bus transfer punched at the right time in his pocket," Alexander says.

Alexander scoffs at any conspiracy theory but he has one doubt that is connected with his notion that Oswald may have killed the President as an agent of the Soviets. That is why Oswald was heading back toward the scene of the crime when he was stopped by Tippit.

**ALEXANDER NOTES** that Oswald was near an expressway at the time. Could he have arranged for a pick-up that he missed and decided to head back toward downtown?

Alexander also contends that a map was found at Oswald's place with six

locations marked along the President's route, including the Book Depository. These are not dots, but short lines, he says, the one at the Depository approximating the direction of the shot.

Places for other assassins? Or alternate sites for his own effort? The map, Alexander contends, is in the hands of the FBI.

The questions go on and on and will continue to do so. There is still dispute over Abraham Lincoln's assassination 110 years ago and even an occasional call for an investigation of that.

More and more responsible people are calling for a reopening of the Kennedy assassination — particularly Oswald's possible intelligence connections. It might answer a lot of questions and silence a lot of critics. Or it might, as one investigator contends, just satisfy a small minority.

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# The JFK Case:

By Jacob Cohen

How can one explain the extraordinary degree of political distrust and, beyond that, the pervasive taste for mystery and conspiracy which is everywhere so conspicuous in America today? Old conspiracy theories (concerning Alger Hiss, the Rosen-

*Jacob Cohen, a member of the American Studies Department at Brandeis University, teaches a course on "The Idea of Conspiracy." That theme is the basis for his forthcoming book, The Limits of Distrust, examining allegations of government conspiracy made in connection with several famous cases in American history.*

*This article is adapted, by permission, from a longer version published in the October 1975 issue of Commentary magazine. © 1975 by Commentary.*

bergs, and the assassination of President Kennedy) are out of the dustbin and enjoying new life; there seem to be more than enough readers for five different treatments of that laugh-

able non-mystery, the Bermuda Triangle; the flying-saucer faithful are riding high; and a new species of high-class monster movie (*The Conversation, Chinatown, Night Moves, The Parallax View*) ends with the monster alive and still menacing. The message in these movies seems to be that we are surrounded by unconquerably complex and sinister forces; withdrawal and resignation are offered as appropriate responses.

The customary explanation is that recent revelations concerning Watergate, Vietnam, the CIA and FBI, et al., have caused and perhaps justify the present mood of distrust and that truthfulness and rectitude on high will one day dispel it. However, close examination of the cultural scene reveals that this is only part of the explanation and perhaps not the most important part. I believe we are deal-

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Living with these slight ambiguities should not prove an impossible burden for a citizen to carry through life as compared with the manifest impossibilities demanded by the critics' version of the shooting.

ing with habits of mind in the very center of our life and times which positively revel in mystification, which do not wish to know the truth and perhaps could not recognize it if they saw it.

Let me illustrate by reciting some of the facts in dispute with regard to the assassination of President Kennedy. I offer them not to dispose of the mystery which attaches (to me there is no mystery, the truth being quite clear) but as an example of how powerful feelings of distrust arise and breed upon themselves, powerfully resisting any efforts to dispel them.

[In his *Commentary* article, Cohen analyzes and dismisses arguments for a second assassin of President Kennedy. He reviews the findings of five doctors empaneled by Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark to study the autopsy

materials and the reports of nine doctors who have seen the X-rays and photographs of President Kennedy. Cohen argues that the Warren Commission findings have been competently reviewed and confirmed.]

\* \* \* \* \*

It is impossible to soothe every doubt generated by this veritable religion of suspicion, but let me try to deal with two lines of argument which for some indicate there must be fire behind all the smoke. One concerns the timing of the shot which struck Gov. Connally, and the other concerns the famous bullet, exhibit 399.

By now all agree that the single-assassin theory requires that one bullet strike Kennedy high in the back, exit from his throat, and then hit Gov. Connally, causing all of his five wounds and broken bones: (1) an entry wound in the back near the right armpit; (2) a shattered fifth rib and an exit wound below the right nipple and 25 degrees below the back wound; (3) an entry wound on the knuckle side of the right wrist about two inches up from the wrist joint and a broken wrist bone; (4) an exit wound on the palm side three-fourths of an inch above the wrist crease;

# The Demons Are All in Our Minds

The Washington Star

## Comment

• Editorials • Hobbies

SECTION H SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1975

and (5) a shallow puncture of the left thigh about 5 inches above the knee.

Connally was seated on the jump-seat directly in front and slightly to the left of Kennedy; it is difficult to see how a bullet exiting from the president's throat could miss him (which is one reason the first-generation critics strove so mightily to keep that bullet from coming through). If the bullet did miss Connally, it could not have missed the interior of the open car, and the absence of any damage to the car caused by a high-speed bullet, barely slowed by its passage through the president's neck, argues strongly that the bullet in fact struck Connally. The car was thoroughly examined by the FBI

within 48 hours of the assassination; one doubts that the FBI covered up evidence of bullet damage, not because that agency is incapable of fibbing but because the FBI could not have known what lies to tell that early. It seems logical to conclude that the bullet struck Connally in the back and precisely in the place he was actually hit.

The ambiguity fastened on by the critics arises because the famous Zapruder film of the motorcade seems to show Connally being hit well after Kennedy but too soon after to allow for the possibility that he was struck by a second shot from the

See DISTRUST, H4



same rifle. During frames 207-225 of the film, which was running at 18.3 frames a second, Kennedy is out of view, blocked by a sign. As he reemerges to view in frame 225 it is clear that he has already been hit: both hands are clutching at his throat (which, according to the critics, has not yet been wounded). However, Connally's reaction is not dramatically visible until frame 237, perhaps a second after Kennedy was struck. Prof. Josiah Thompson, whose book *Six Seconds in Dallas* deserves a graphics award, has dwelled lovingly on that and the ensuing three frames, directing the reader's attention to the sudden slump of Connally's right shoulder between frames 237-238 and the puff in his left cheek. Connally himself, reviewing the films frame by frame, thought he was hit somewhere between 231-234. He does not remember ever being aware of wounds to his wrists and thigh. Both men, let it be stressed, were hit from above and behind, not from the knoll. The question is, was it by one or two assassins?

Delayed reactions to a bullet hit are not uncommon; by dwelling on the Zapruder film frame by frame the critics distort the time values in the case. If, as to me seems obvious, Connally was struck by the same bullet as Kennedy, a reaction a second later does not present a major challenge to the credibility of the commission's reconstruction of the shooting. But there is one set of facts in the case — apart from the fact that the bullet which exited from Kennedy's throat could not have missed Connally or the car — which proves beyond honest doubt that they were hit by the same bullet, and that has to do with Gov. Connally's wrist wounds. No critic has ever disputed these basic facts or interpretations of fact: (1) that the wound of entry in Connally's wrist was on the knuckle (dorsal) side 1¼ inches further up the arm than the exit wound on the palm (volar) side; (2) that the bullet which struck Connally's wrist had already struck something else, blunting its impact; (3) that Connally had a shallow puncture wound in his left thigh caused by a large missile whose force was almost dissipated by the time it struck. As Howard Roffman, a third-generation critic who has shaken down and shaped up a decade of criticism, puts it in his book: "It is probable that one bullet caused all of Connally's injuries."

A careful perusal of the Zapruder film reveals that in frame 225, as Kennedy reemerges into view from behind the sign, Connally's torso is turned slightly to the right and his head is turned far to the right, per-



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Reality happens only one way, but that one way does not always follow the laws of maximum probability. Strange things happen, and accounts of strange happenings must sound strange.

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haps executing the look backward the governor vividly recalls making after the first shot. His right arm is over his lap, the wrist over the left thigh; his right hand, knuckles up, is grasping a wide-brimmed hat. At that point, a split second after Kennedy was hit, he is in perfect alignment to receive all his wounds. Assuming he was in something like this posture a moment before, that would be the only moment when the double hit was plausible: but then that is the only moment when the Warren Commission says it happened.

By frame 230, however, before the critics say he was struck, Connally has begun to turn to his right; he has raised his right hand, which is still clutching the hat; his knuckles are just above and facing his right shoulder, his elbow is at his side. All during the 230s, as he continues his turn to the right, Connally's knuckles are at least shoulder high, his elbow at his side. By frame 240, slightly more than a second after Kennedy was struck, he has turned 90 degrees to the right and is facing out the side of the car. A bullet striking Connally when the critics say he was hit then would have had to exit from the chest at a downward angle; to have taken at least two sharp turns upward, in midair — right and then left into the knuckle side of the wrist; and then, upon exiting on the palm side, further up in the air than the wound of entry, would have had to execute a very sharp U-turn into the thigh (also to avoid hitting the hat, which would have been struck if the bullet came straight out the palm side): plainly impossible. Indeed in order for a gunman to have wounded Connally in the wrist during those frames, he would have to have been firing from the floor of the car. ~~But~~ no gunman was noticed there.



To affirm the commission's version of the shooting, then, one need only live with the possibility that the governor *accurately* remembers his own thoughts and reactions at the time but that his reactions were slightly delayed. His failure to remember ever being hit in the wrist or thigh confirms that he is not the best witness to what happened, however well he remembers what he thought happened. As for the sudden slump of the right shoulder and the puff in the left cheek, they are clearly there in frames 237-238, but viewed in the context of the moving film are part of an earlier motion commencing in frame 230, when Connally begins a rapid turn to the right which is completed a little more than half a second later in frame 240. Living with these slight ambiguities should not prove an impossible burden for a citizen to carry through life as compared with the manifest impossibilities demanded by the critics' version of the shooting.

But significantly, the critics have no difficulty with the impossibilities of their own theories. One of the reasons I have dwelled on this matter in such detail is to demonstrate the