**EUROPĘ SUSPICIOUS** 

# Ruby Verdict Fails To Convince Skeptics

By CROSBY & NOYES

in Europe over the assassination of President Kennedy.

This skepticism has now the guilt of a man with admitrached the stage of detailed reconstructions, all tending to prove that Lee Harvey Oswald not much anti-Americanism, as the prove that the Presidents with the providents of the proventions. was not, in fact, the President's such, behind European doubts.

assassin. Nothing that came out If the same sequence of events is likely to shake the almost safe to say that everyone would universal belief in a sinister have assumed the existence of a

#### Not Anti-American

Indeed, the reporting of the related personal acts.
Ruby trial in Europe has served. There is some question, in to strengthen these suspicions. fact, whether the skepticism of

ecution would prevent the truth

PARIS, Mar. 17.—The one absolute certaint bout the conviction of Jack Ruby in Dallas is that it will do nothing to lessen the galloping suspicion. Europe over the association of the service of the serv

in the course of the Ruby trial had happened in France, it is plot to hide the real culprits political motive for the crimes and resisted just as firmly an official explanation of two un-

In almost every story there Europe or lack of it in the were hints that the real motive United States is the more rebehind the killing of Oswald markable phenomenon. Some of was being deliberately conthe questions raised by reconcealed by both sides. The two structions published here of the main objections to the death President's assassination are sentence handed down by the disturbing enough to demand Dallas jury is that Ruby's exclearer answers than have been provided so far.

### **Finds Case Contradictory**

Among the most recent of these is an article published by the London Spectator compiled by Mordecai Brienberg, a former Canadian Rhodes scholar and a lecturer in sociology at Berkeley, Calif. Reviewing the whole body of public evi-dence against Oswald from the time of the President's assassination until his own death in the Dallas police station, the author finds it inconsistent and con-tradictory on every vital point.

Pointing out discrepencies between statements by Dallas police and subsequent findings of the FBI, Mr. Brienberg ar-gues that there is no evidence proving that Oswald fired the murder weapon. Doctors who examined the President's wound at Parkland Memorial Hospital were at first convinced that he had been struck by a bullet which entered his throat catifig that it had been fired,

not from the warehouse where Oswald was stationed, but from railroad bridge ahead of the President's car. There reports of a mysterious bullet hole seen in the windshield of the car after the shooting and a total of five bullets or bullet fragments recovered, against the official version of three shots fired by Oswald.

Oswald's escape and subsequent capture are subjected to the same skeptical scrutiny. The official version of the sequence of events, the author suggests. could hardly have taken place in the alloted time. And why, he asks, has no evidence been produced to back up the allegedly "water-tight case" of Oswald's killing of Officer Tippit?

#### Agent for FBI or CIA

Like many other skeptics, Mr Brienberg suggests that Oswald may have been working for the FBI or CIA, citing the case with which he obtained passport and travel funds for his trip to Mexico. The fact that he was not under surveillance, in spite of being a known Communist sympathizer, is considered significant. Mr. Brienberg concludes:

"It might be agreed in defense of the investigating agencies that in the atmosphere of excitement that followed Mr. Kennedy's assassination contradictions and imprecisions were due to 'honest' confusion. Granted that confusion existed, why, then, should the officials be continuously certain of one thing: "Oswald's guilt! Why is Oswald's presumed guilt the constant in this sea of incomplete and conflicting evidence?

"Now, supposedly, the confusions have been clarified into a single, consistent and conis convincing and consistent, why should the witnesses refuse to comment to the press after ve they have been questioned by the FBI?"

## Ingenious Theory

Mr. Brienberg's questions and The Wall Street Journal \_ conclusions, it must be emphasized, are relatively conserv-The National Observer \_ ative in comparison to those of people's world a o me other European-based analysts of the Ostigid affair.

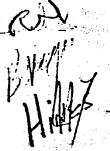
The prize for bolders and ingenuity undoubtedly goes to

the Paris liberal Weekly "I'-

Tolson Belmont Mohr. Callahan Conrad . e Loach & Trotter Tele Room Holmes . Gandy

Express," which for the last five week has run a highly dramatic series on "The Real Report on the Assassination." written by Thomas Buchanan, a former American newspaperman.

Buchanan, who now Mr. works in Paris as an electronics expert, has fashioned an elaborate reconstruction, charging that the real assassing of the Dallas Police



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who made use of Oswald as an accomplice and convenient fall guy for the crime. He also raises the possibility that Oswald may have been acting as a double agent, pointing out the improbability of a known former Communist being employed by the city administration of Dallas. In this matter, Mr. Buchanan speaks with considerable authority, since he was himself a member of the American Communist Party between 1948 and 1956.

## Editor's View

When the fact was brought to the attention of Jean Jacques Servan Schreiber, editor of the Express, by this reporter, he replied as follows: "The fact that Thomas Bu-

chanan may or may not have been a member of the Communist Party interests me only slightly. Either what he says is true or else certain elements of his presentation are false. This is all that concerns me.

"What interests us in all of this is obviously the truth. America has nothing to fear from the truth which, on the contrary, is its quality and its strength. As long as the assasination of Kennedy remains surrounded by mystery, many people in the world will draw painful conclusions and will continue to believe that there are complicities which one dares not expose. The truth, therefore, must be established beyond doubt.

"I fail to understand why so many ordinarily very incid

"I fail to understand why so many ordinarily very lucid Americans considered as an attack on the prestige of the United States the alightest incredulity in regard to the official thesis on the assassination when this theses, at least in our present state of knowledge, is improbable."

mprobable. Since the Express is a determinedly liberal publication and since there are many perfectly respectable former Communists in France, this reaction is not surprising. Whatever validity various "reconstructions" may have, there are clearly many questions that remain to be answered. The conclusion of the Ruby trial though it does not resolve them, would seem to remove any further justification for official secrect.