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Lie Test Expert Calls FBI Exam Of Ruby Invalid

BY HUGH McCANN
Free Press Staff Writer

The latest critic of the Warren Commission's investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy is a Wayne County Sheriff's Department lie detector expert.

Frank Gasdorf says the lie detector test given to Jack Ruby 11 years ago violated accepted testing standards. Because of this, he said, the FBI's conclusion that Ruby acted alone when he shot Lee Harvey Oswald, the president's alleged assassin, was not warranted.



Frank Gasdorf

"For the past 11 years," said Gasdorf, "it has been the private opinion of many polygraphists (lie detector experts) in the U.S. that the polygraph examination of Jack Ruby was a farce."

"If this is true, can we accept the conclusion formed as a result of that polygraph examination that Jack Ruby was not part of a conspiracy?"

TWO DAYS after Kennedy's assassination on Nov. 22, 1963, Ruby gunned down Oswald in a Dallas jail. Based on the Ruby polygraph test and other evidence, the Warren Commission concluded that both men had acted independently of each other and were not part of a conspiracy.

Through the years, however, the commission's findings have been criticized. Serious questioning has intensified recently with revelations of FBI and CIA activities.

Gasdorf, who said he has performed more than 200 polygraph tests, was trained in 1970 at the National Training Center for Polygraph Science in New York City.

"He questioned the validity of the lie detector test conducted by an FBI expert, Bell P. Herndon, on Ruby."

According to accepted practice, he said, at most one person is permitted to be present at a test — in addition to subject and tester. But Herndon allowed "no less than six." Gasdorf added, thus distracting Ruby and upsetting the rapport between subject and tester, necessary for a

In addition, he criticized Herndon for asking "no less than 90 questions," of which 56 were "crime" questions, during the six-hour test July 18, 1964.

Normal testing procedures call for at least three tests of perhaps four crime questions each," Gasdorf said. "Usually, not more than five tests are administered to any one individual on a given day." Ruby, he said, was given 13 tests that day.

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