

FBI FICTION OR COMMON SENSE FACT?

The leaked FBI report to the Warren Commission concerning the assassination of President Kennedy is said to state that Lee Oswald was the victim of a tortured psychopathic mind, and that it was this "psychiatric history, ranging from the streets of the Bronx through service in the Marine Corps and defection to the Soviet Union" which conditioned the violence of November, 1963.

On what exactly does the leaked FBI report base its implications of a "psychiatric history" in regard to Oswald?

On a single period of truancy in NY City at the age of 12?
On a single instance of disrespect (verbal) to a superior officer?
On the unauthorized possession of a pistol while in service?
On his defection to the Soviet Union?

Let us examine the period of truancy in NY City. Records from this time show the cause of Oswald's truancy to be the ridicule shown him by NY schoolmates because of his southwestern twang and blue jeans. (Oswald had no record of truancy prior to this in the southwest.) The social worker who visited the Oswald apartment in NY found it "neat, clean, and pleasant." "Lee was quiet, and friendly," the case-worker reported. Mr. Kievel states that the boy's mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, "displayed appreciation of the agency's interest, but felt that no additional help was necessary and that Lee had no serious problems." A juvenile court of this period refused to recommend Lee Oswald for commitment to psychiatric care.

It is important at this point (since we are following the FBI example which is to accent everything "psychological") to recognize the human antagonism which sprang up between the child psychologist (who was in contact with the Oswalds) and Mrs. Marguerite Oswald. It is evident Oswald received the weight of an "official" disdain that was in reality directed against his mother! A soft answer from the mother, a timorous acquiescence to male authority, and the incident would not have reached anywhere near the proportion which it did.

As a child, Lee Oswald received average to poor grades. However, once back in New Orleans, his grades climb. He is no longer truant. In one year, he rates a full year ahead of his classmates in reading and vocabulary. His grades in citizenship range from A to B.

In the Marine Corps, Oswald rates an IQ of 110 which qualifies him as officer material. Nor do the incidents of disrespect to a superior

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or the possession of an unauthorized gun or or until late in what had been until then an excellent service record. (In this regard, one is inclined to wonder about the "story-within-a-story" used so often in official espionage. Other facts indicate it may have been at this time Lee Oswald was approached by the CIA for service in their branch.)

At the close of his Marine Corps service, Oswald receives an honorable discharge. One wonders: Would the Marine Corps have given an honorable discharge to a "potential assassin?" How is it that in all the psychiatric examinations given him in service Oswald betrayed no hint of that "psychiatric history" with which the FBI now labels him? Are we to rate the testimony of an embittered psychologist in NY City above that of the United States Marine Corps? Why is the FBI expressing such an open and profound contempt for the psychological judgments of the military?

CHARACTER DEPENDABILITY HONOR

Finally, let us examine the application of Lee Oswald to the Albert Schweitzer College, Churwalden, Switzerland. Three reference-names were required from Oswald when he made application to this European school. One reference was required from a rabbi, priest, or preacher. Oswald gave the name of his Marine Corps chaplain. Here is a letter-excerpt from Dr. Robert H. Schacht, American admissions director, requesting reference:

"...the student body is small--thirty to forty--and housed as an intimate group under the directorship of Dr. Ernest Cassara and his faculty. I speak of this because any individual who attends would need to be able to adjust to this small community which is largely a world unto itself...individuals need to be those who can adjust to such an environment ... (I require) your estimate of the applicant's character, adaptability, cooperative spirit, honesty, and dependability."

In conclusion, Dr. Schacht asks that the applicant come "to the college roughly at the equivalent of sophomores in American colleges."

Since Lee Oswald had completed his high school education while in the Marines, three people complied with Dr. Schacht's request and gave him (Oswald) top recommendations for entry into the Albert Schweitzer College (where entering students are required to be at the level of "sophomores in American colleges"). One of the three writing recommendation was Lee Oswald's Marine Corps chaplain, a man of God. These three people (one of whom was a man of God) gave Lee Oswald top recommendations in regard to emotional maturity, cooperative spirit, and character. Yet, the FBI takes issue with all of this! The FBI challenges the Marine Corps, the man of God, and Oswald's Ft. Worth and New Orleans schoolteachers.

The FBI leak states flatly that Lee Oswald had a "psychiatric history." But so great are the dangers inherent in this kind of judgment that we include here for your information a brief childhood-digest of an-

other man with whom we are all familiar:

BARRY GOLDWATER

"By the time he was 12...he discovered a fascination with guns, became a crack shot and created an incident that is still recalled. One evening, to celebrate his mother's birthday, he took a home-made 10-gauge shotgun, mounted on wheels, to the second-floor porch of the family mansion, which faced the Central Methodist Church across the way. He loaded the piece with live ammunition and released the charge at the moment when vespers were over. The porch railing was demolished but fortunately none of the worshippers was hurt...The young man did not excel at scholarship...he got poor grades...He grew up in the style of a bourgeois Huck Finn; he never wore shoes regularly until high school, and amused himself by tossing pats of butter at the ceiling."

"There was a streak of meanness in him and it cropped out in occasional pranks designed to annoy or embarrass a playmate. More than once he appropriated bicycles...It took a bristling call to the Goldwater home to recover the missing property...When the ultimate weapon (rocks inside mudballs) was introduced, Barry's inventive (8 year-old) mind was behind the innovation...There were those who said young Goldwater was headed for juvenile delinquency...He was an expert at taking embarrassing photographs of people in embarrassing situations."

"Never an especially good student, he was content to get by...it was simply that so many things outside the schoolroom interested him more than his studies...studies were, in general, a bore...he was floundering helplessly in the academic seas. Nobody could have worried less about his scholastic deficiencies than he...Classmates recall the time he arrived 10 minutes late for a lecture in economic geography. As Barry tried to slip unobtrusively into his chair, Professor John Mez ...barked, "Goldwater! Where have you been?"

"Had a date, doc," answered Barry...By the end of the school term, Barry's grades were still so distressingly poor that the principle called Baron Goldwater in for a chat...(He suggested) "that I not come back to Phoenix Union in the fall," Goldwater relates. "So Dad started looking into military schools."

WHAT CONSTITUTES A "PSYCHIATRIC HISTORY?"

Using the leaked FBI report as a source of reasoning, are we to conclude:

- Mr. J. Edgar Hoover considers Barry Goldwater a possible paranoid?
- Mr. J. Edgar Hoover considers Barry Goldwater a possible assassin?
- Mr. J. Edgar Hoover considers himself a possible source of danger to the government? (Are there not some interesting psychological symbols extant in Mr. Hoover's life?)

If Oswald is to be proved guilty of the assassination of John F. Kennedy,

should this not be done on the basis of actual evidence? The leaked FBI attempt to pin the crime on Oswald on the basis of circumstantial evidence plus the innuendo of a "psychiatric history" would be laughable if it were not so horribly tragic. We would remind the gentlemen in Washington WHO SPEND SO MUCH OF THEIR TIME IN GLASS HOUSES that they are not in a position to be throwing "psychological" stones!

IS GOD ABLE OF THESE STONES TO RAISE UP ISSUE?

Because we are face-to-face with what appears to have been an obvious dereliction of duty on the part of the FBI in Dallas (Baughman, US NEWS & WORLD REPORT), it is not hard to understand the haste with which the FBI chooses to close the case. By the same token, the fact of the FBI leak to the press in regard to its report to the President and the Warren Commission makes it MANDATORY to the Warren Commission to bring in a verdict in line with the decision of the FBI. Can one imagine national newspaper headlines reading: "Warren Commission Says FBI in Error on Assassination?" We cannot.

But does the rest of America intend to stand still and let injustice go unchecked? Do we intend to abandon our Constitution (which says a man is innocent until proven guilty) to the whim of agency-image? Is a single agency's interpretation of justice to be the mass interpretation? We hope not.

For if the cornerstone of the new foundation is to be Lee Oswald, we may awake some morning to find the house down around our ears.

Mrs. Mark E. Martin and Children
Hominy, Oklahoma
3/17/64

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References to Barry Goldwater from: The Biography of a Conservative by Rob Wood and Dean Smith and The Extremists by Mark Sherwin