

CONSPIRACY

DAY LD

NEW CONSPIRACY THEORIES:
THE CIA, THE FBI AND JFK'S ASSASSINATION
BY ROBERT M. ANDREWS

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A GROWING WEB OF UNRELATED DISCLOSURES, EVENTS AND ALLEGATIONS COULD CAUSE A REOPENING OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO JOHN F. KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION.

THERE'S A SPREADING STAIN OF SUSPICION THAT KENNEDY MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF A PLOT INVOLVING THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

IT HAS AROUSED PRESIDENT FORD'S CURIOSITY AND STIRRED NEW EXCITEMENT AMONG ADVOCATES OF THE CONSPIRACY THEORY.

"IF I WERE A BETTING MAN," SAYS TRIAL LAWYER BERNARD J. FENSTERWALD, "I'D BET THE FULL STORY WILL BE KNOWN WITHIN A YEAR."

"A YEAR? I'M SURPRISED AT FENSTERWALD," SAID DR. RICHARD POPKIN, A PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS. "I'D MAKE IT SIX MONTHS."

BOTH MEN BELIEVE THE NEW FINDINGS WILL PROVOKE THE FIRST SERIOUS RE-EXAMINATION OF THE WARREN COMMISSION'S CONCLUSION THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD ACTED ALONE AS KENNEDY'S ASSASSIN IN DALLAS.

PRESIDENT FORD, WHO WAS A COMMISSION MEMBER, ALSO APPARENTLY NOTICED THE RESURGENCE OF INTEREST IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF KENNEDY'S DEATH, PARTICULARLY WHEN THE CIA WAS MENTIONED.

SOME TIME IN MARCH, THE WHITE HOUSE SAID, FORD LOOKED UP THE PRECISE LANGUAGE OF THE WARREN COMMISSION'S FINDINGS WHICH HE HAD HELPED WRITE. SO, WHEN HE GOT A SURPRISE QUESTION ABOUT THE MATTER APRIL 3 AT HIS SAN DIEGO, CALIF., NEWS CONFERENCE, FORD WAS PREPARED.

HE DEFENDED THE COMMISSION'S "VERY CAREFULLY DRAFTED" STATEMENT THAT "WE HAD FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF A CONSPIRACY, FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC," BUT HE DID NOT DISMISS THE POSSIBILITY. "SO FAR, I HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE THAT WOULD DISPUTE THE CONCLUSIONS TO WHICH WE CAME," HE SAID.

BUT "IF THE FACTS SEEM TO JUSTIFY IT," FORD SAID, THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION AND THE SPECIAL HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES INVESTIGATING CIA DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES MIGHT INVESTIGATE.

FENSTERWALD, A DAPPER LITTLE TENNESSEAN WHOSE CLIENTS HAVE INCLUDED WATERGATE BURGLAR JAMES W. MCCORD JR. AND JAMES EARL RAY, SAID HE BELIEVES SOMETHING BIG IS ABOUT TO BREAK IN THE KENNEDY CASE.

"I HAVE THE SAME FEELING I DID ABOUT WATERGATE, THE FEELING THE SAME WAS UP. THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH EVIDENCE AROUND THAT THE WARREN REPORT IS NOT CORRECT, THAT THE CIA AND THE FBI BOTH KNOW A HUGE AMOUNT THEY DIDN'T TELL THE WARREN COMMISSION," FENSTERWALD SAID.

BUT NEITHER THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION NOR CONGRESS SEEMS TO SHARE HIS SENSE OF URGENCY.

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THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION, DAVID M. BELLIN, IS A FORMER WARREN COMMISSION COUNSEL AND STANCH ~~NOT RECORDED~~ SUBMITTED TO INDICATE ANY CIA INVOLVEMENT. A SPOKESMAN SAID: "NO EVIDENCE WAS SUBMITTED TO INDICATE ANY CIA INVOLVEMENT." 191 WAS JUL 1975

THE SENATE COMMITTEE STAFF HAS ACKNOWLEDGED IT WILL STUDY THE QUESTION, BUT ONLY AS A PERIPHERAL CIA ISSUE.

FENSTERWALD BELIEVES THE TRIGGER FOR WHAT POPKIN CALLED THE "AMAZINGLY RAPID BUILD-UP" OF INTEREST IN THE KENNEDY CASE WAS DISCLOSURE OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN ASSASSINATION PLOTS AGAINST SEVERAL FOREIGN HEADS OF STATE, INCLUDING CUBA'S FIDEL CASTRO.

REP. HENRY D. GONZALEZ, D-TEX., WHO HAS CALLED FOR A NEW INQUIRY, SAYS HIS SUSPICIONS WERE AROUSED BY WATERGATE REVELATIONS OF CIA ACTIVITIES AND THE DAY OF PIGS.

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