

The Assassination No. 3

Reopen The Warren Commission

This editor has not finished reading the more than 15,000 pages of the Warren Commission Report, testimony and exhibits. There are so many distortions, variations, and failures, however, that it seems imperative to bring some of these matters before the public as soon as possible. Other writers are doing this quite well. I join them from near the scene to contribute as much as possible.

Members of the Warren Commission were so busy with their careers that they were unable to attend enough of the sessions to get a continuity of events. These men are all great in their fields, but they wandered in and out of the hearings like it was a cattle auction. Real work of the Commission was left to the practically anonymous assistants.

This inattention may be the cause for some of the shortcomings, but many of us feel that a reading of the testimony will show that the Commission fled from any indication of conspiracy.

Some witnesses were not called when conspiracy was indicated. Some witnesses were made out to be liars by other witnesses when conspiracy became an issue. In several instances the Commission simply failed to ask the next most obvious question when conspiracy was about to appear.

As soon as the computers have solved the power failure in the Northeast this writer would like to see a computer figure the odds on such an incident as the assassination taking place with so many strange and fearful coincidences happening before and continuing after the assassination with no conspiracy on the part of anyone.

Now we can add to that list of strange deaths that of Miss Dorothy Kilgallen. Miss Kilgallen joins Bill Hunter, Jim Koethe, Tom Howard and others. Miss Kilgallen is the only journalist who was granted a private interview with Jack Ruby since he killed Lee Oswald. Judge Joe B. Brown granted the interview during the course of the Ruby trial in Dallas—to the intense anger of the hundreds of other news people present.

Questioning in Dallas becomes increasingly difficult. Witnesses cannot be located and when located they are understandably reticent. It is important, however, to point out that pertinent questions were omitted by leading lawyers in our land. We will ask the questions in print during the coming weeks. Maybe, someone will have some of the answers which history deserves.

We will comment this week on one of the four witnesses established by the Commission to be either confused or lying when his testimony might indicate conspiracy.

SETH KANTOR

Seth Kantor, reporter in the Presidential parade press bus, was covering the story for the Scripps Howard chain of newspapers. He had worked in Dallas for two years for The Times Herald. Kantor testified that he met Ruby in Parkland Hospital before the President had been pronounced dead.

The Commission makes it appear that Kantor hardly knew Ruby: "Seth Kantor, a newspaperman who had previously met Ruby in Dallas, reported and later testified that Jack Ruby stopped him momentarily inside the main entrance to Parkland Hospital sometime between 1:30 and 2 p.m., Friday, November 22, 1963."

Ruby stayed in business in Dallas by licking the boots of the Police, and by playing it cosy with newsmen. He was in The Dallas News building at the time President Kennedy was shot. He was in the Herald building late that same night. Other witnesses have testified that he served free drinks to the police whenever they wanted drinks.

Kantor says he printed at least six feature stories furnished to him by Jack Ruby. Ruby's remarks to Kantor were in harmony with Ruby's statements to other people. Kantor says Ruby asked: "Should I close my places for the next three nights, do you think."

The Commission concluded that Kantor was mistaken because of the short time element. They said: "Kantor probably did not see Ruby at Parkland Hospital in the few minutes before or after 1:30 p.m., the only time it would have been possible for Kantor to have done so. If Ruby immediately returned to the Carousel Club after Kantor saw him, it would have been necessary for him to have covered the distance from Parkland in approximately 10 or 15 minutes in order to have arrived at the club before 1:45 p.m., when a telephone call was placed at Ruby's request to his entertainer, Karen Bennett Carlin. At a normal driving speed under normal conditions the trip can be made in 9 or 10 minutes. However, it is likely that congested traffic conditions on November 22, would have extended the driving time."

An impartial reading of the testimony of dozens of witnesses would convince most people that Jack Ruby was the one man in Dallas who could ride in a police car any time he wanted to do so. With sirens blowing a police car could have covered the distance in question in the 9 or 10 minutes claimed by the Commission.

But Ruby's presence at Parkland Hospital could have dark connotations, so the Commission said Seth Kantor was confused. The Commission used the records of a pay phone in Ruby's club with no assurance of who made the call, and the time estimates given by Ruby employee and ex-convict Andrew Armstrong as being more reliable than Kantor. In this way, they again, avoided the question of conspiracy between Ruby and others, particularly some employees or officers of the Dallas Police Department.