

## Reopen The Warren Commission

Bernard Weissman was a little man who did not realize when he started playing in the big league. Weissman did not know that the big league boys in Dallas will sacrifice anyone for the cause. Anyone, especially a Jew, will be thrown to the wolves when necessary, and Weissman filled the bill exactly for Dallas in November, 1963.

The lengthy testimony is given since it is a good picture of Dallas and lists twenty names the Warren Commission should have, but did not, call as witnesses.

MR. JENNER. Your full name is Bernard William Weissman?

MR. WEISSMAN. That is right.

JENNER. And you now reside in New York City, do you not?

WEISSMAN. Mount Vernon, N. Y.

JENNER. Would you give your address?

WEISSMAN. 439 South Columbus Avenue, Mount Vernon, N. Y.

JENNER. You were born November 1, 1937?

WEISSMAN. That is right.

JENNER. You are almost 27 years old?

WEISSMAN. Yes, sir.

JENNER. All right. I would like some vital statistics, if I may, Mr. Weissman. Are you presently employed?

WEISSMAN. Yes, sir.

JENNER. And where are you employed presently?

WEISSMAN. Carpet Corp. of America, 655 Clinton Avenue, Newark, N. J.

JENNER. I see. Is that connected in any fashion with the Carpet Co. by which you were employed in Dallas, Tex., last fall?

WEISSMAN. None whatsoever.

Some testimony omitted here.

JENNER. Now, are you acquainted with a gentleman by the name of Enrico Schmidt?

WEISSMAN. Yes, sir.

JENNER. When did you first meet him?

WEISSMAN. In Munich Germany, about July or August of 1962.

JENNER. His middle name is Henry. Are you aware of that?

WEISSMAN. No; I am not aware of that.

JENNER. Where does he reside?

WEISSMAN. Well, he was in Dallas. I understand he has dropped from sight. I don't know where he is now.

JENNER. Was he residing in Dallas in the fall of 1963 when you were there?

WEISSMAN. Yes.

JENNER. When did you arrive in Dallas?

WEISSMAN. In Dallas, on the 4th of November, 1963.

JENNER. And was Mr. Schmidt aware that you were about to come to Dallas?

WEISSMAN. Yes.

JENNER. And what was the purpose of your coming to Dallas?

WEISSMAN. I will be as brief as possible. It was simply to follow through on plans that we had made in Germany, in order to develop a conservative organization in Dallas, under our leadership.

JENNER. Did that conservative organization, or your purpose in going to Dallas, as well, have any business context in addition to politics?

WEISSMAN. I would say 50 percent of the purpose was business and the other 50 percent politics. We figured that only rich men can indulge full time in politics, so first we had to make some money before we could devote ourselves to the political end completely.

Some testimony omitted here.

JENNER. Please call on your best recollection and tell us what he said to you. You recall that he made that telephone call?

WEISSMAN. Yes.

JENNER. You recognized his voice?

WEISSMAN. Yes.

JENNER. You are clear it was Larrie Schmidt?

WEISSMAN. That is right.

JENNER. What did he say?

WEISSMAN. He said that big things are happening, and he went—this is before it hit the papers. He told me what had happened with Adlai Stevenson.

JENNER. What did he say?

WEISSMAN. Something like, "I think we are" he always speaks I this and I that. "I have made it, I have done it for us," something to this effect. In other words, this is not exactly his word. I don't recall his exact words. But this is essentially it. And that—

JENNER. Did you say to him, "What do you mean you have made it for us?"

WEISSMAN. When he said, "I have made it for us," meaning Larrie Schmidt—meaning me and Bill and whoever else was going to come down here—

JENNER. That was—

WEISSMAN. Bill Burley.

JENNER. What did you say when he made that remark?

WEISSMAN. I said "Great."

JENNER. What did it mean to you, sir?

WEISSMAN. What did it mean to me?

JENNER. It is a generalization.

WEISSMAN. That is it. In other words, I didn't really know what to think. I had to go along with him, because I didn't know anything about it, aside from what he told me.

And he said, "If we are going to take advantage of the situation, or if you are," meaning me, "you better hurry down here and take advantage of the publicity, and at least become known among these various rightwingers, because this is the chance we have been looking for to infiltrate some of these organizations and become known," in other words, go along with the philosophy we had developed in Munich.

JENNER. Could I go back a little bit, please. You received a telephone call from Mr. Schmidt.

WEISSMAN. Yes.

JENNER. At that moment, you knew nothing about the Adlai Stevenson incident, is that correct?

WEISSMAN. I had received a letter from him several weeks before saying that—if you will wait just a minute, I think I might have the letter with me.

Some testimony omitted here.

JENNER. You are looking at the envelope in which the letter was enclosed when you received it?

WEISSMAN. That is correct. And he states in the last paragraph of his letter in a postscript, "My brother has begun working as an aide to General Walker. He is being

paid full time, et cetera. Watch your newspapers for news of huge demonstrations here in Dallas on October 3 and 4 in connection with U.N.-day and Adlai Stevenson speech here. Plans already made, strategy being carried out."

This was the only advance notice I had of this. And I didn't give it too much thought, because he had said many things like it before, just to build something up, and nothing ever came of it.

See back of book for Midlothian Mirror editorial on Stevenson treatment in Dallas.

Some testimony omitted here.

JENNER. Had you finished your statement as to the general—the general statement as to the purpose of this organization which consisted of the two arms?

WEISSMAN. Not completely. I think what might bear directly is we had planned while in Munich that in order to accomplish our goals, to try to do it from scratch would be almost impossible, because it would be years before we could even get the funds to develop a powerful organization. So we had planned to infiltrate various rightwing organizations and by our own efforts become involved in the hierarchy of these various organizations and eventually get ourselves elected or appointed to various higher offices in these organizations, and by doing this bring in some of our own people, and eventually take over the leadership of these organizations, and at that time having our people in these various organizations, we would then, you might say, call a conference and have them unite, and while no one knew of the existence of CUSA aside from us, we would then bring them all together, unite them, and arrange to have it called CUSA.

JENNER. You never accomplished this, did you?

WEISSMAN. Almost. Here is as far as we did get.

Larrie had—and this was according to plan—the first organization we planned to infiltrate was the NIC, National Indignation Convention, headed by Frank McGee in Dallas. About a week or so after Larrie got to Dallas he got himself a job with the NIC, as one of the very few paid men.

This didn't last too long, because a few weeks after that the NIC went under. And we had also—in other words, we had planned to use these organizations as vehicles to accomplish—

JENNER. Keep going on those details of your infiltration.

WEISSMAN. All right. We had planned to infiltrate these various rightwing organizations.

JENNER. You mentioned one.

WEISSMAN. The NIC. The Young Americans for Freedom. We succeeded there.

JENNER. What organization is that?

WEISSMAN. The Young Americans for Freedom? This was an organization essentially of conservative youths, college students, and if I recall I think the most they ever accomplished was running around burning baskets from Yugoslavia.

JENNER. Where was it based?

WEISSMAN. This is southwest. Regional headquarters was in Dallas, Tex., Box 2364.

JENNER. And the earlier organization, the organization you mentioned a moment ago, NIC—where was that based?

WEISSMAN. Dallas.

JENNER. All right. What is the next one?

WEISSMAN. We had also discussed getting some people into the John Birch Society.

JENNER. Stick with General Walker for a moment. To what extent were you able to infiltrate, as you call it, General Walker's group?

WEISSMAN. Well, this was rather a fiasco. Larrie's

brother, as I mentioned in the letter—Larrie's brother went to work for General Walker.

JENNER What was his name?

WEISSMAN. I don't know his first name. But Larrie led me to believe his brother was some guy. His brother is about 29. And the only thing I ever heard from Larrie about his brother was good; and when he mentioned that his brother had joined the Walker organization, I figured this is another step in the right direction. In other words, he was solidifying his argument as to why I should come to Dallas.

JENNER. And this is what he told you?

WEISSMAN. Right. So when I got to Dallas, I found that Larrie's brother drank too much, and he had—well, I considered him a moron. He didn't have any sense at all. He was very happy with \$35 a week and room and board that General Walker was giving him as his chauffeur and general aide. And so I tossed that out the window that we would never get into the Walker organization this way.

JENNER. This man's name, by any chance, was not Volkmar?

WEISSMAN. This name is entirely unfamiliar to me. Never heard it before.

SENATOR COOPER. Could you identify the Walker organization? You keep speaking of the Walker organization.

WEISSMAN. General Edwin Walker.

Some testimony omitted here.

JENNER. Mr. Chairman; the document consists of two pages which have been identified as Commission Exhibit No. 1034. It is entitled "Corporate Structure of American Business, Inc.," naming as incorporators or partners, Larrie H. Schmidt, Larry C. Jones, Bernie Weissman, James L. Moseley, Norman F. Baker. It purports to be signed in those names as well on the second page.

(The document referred to was marked Commission Exhibit No. 1034 for identification.)

Some testimony omitted here.

SENATOR COOPER. May I ask, then—can he name from memory the organizations?

JENNER. Using your recollection, sir, and it appears to be very good, if I may compliment you —

WEISSMAN. Thank you.

JENNER. Would you do your best to respond to Senator Cooper's question by naming those various groups?

WEISSMAN. Yes, One was the NIC.

JENNER. When you use initials, will you spell out what the initials mean?

WEISSMAN. National Indignation Convention, headed by Frank McGee, in Dallas, Texas.

Young Americans for Freedom, which encompassed the southwest. The initials are YAF.

JENNER. Located in Dallas?

WEISSMAN. Regional headquarters in Dallas. John Birch Society.

JENNER. Where was the John Birch — was there a chapter or headquarters in Dallas?

WEISSMAN. There are several chapters in Dallas; yes. And as far as I can recollect, that is as far as we went.

Some testimony omitted here.

WEISSMAN. This is part of their program. And I can't see any use in it, frankly. In other words, it is just little things like this. Plus the fact that after I got to Dallas, I found that most of the people who are professing anti-communism, they were, they were definitely anti-Communists. But, at the same time, it seemed to me to be nothing but a conglomeration of racists, and bigots and so forth.

REPRESENTATIVE BOGGS. What do you mean by that—bigots?

WEISSMAN. They are anti-everything, it seems.

BOGGS. Are you Jewish?

WEISSMAN. Yes; I am.

BOGGS. Were they anti-Jewish?

WEISSMAN. Too many of them, yes. It was requested at one time that I change my name.

BOGGS. Is that right?

WEISSMAN. That is right.

BOGGS. What did you tell them?

WEISSMAN. Excuse me?

BOGGS. What did you tell them? Did you change your name?

WEISSMAN. No, sir.

BOGGS. Well, did you find this request unusual?

WEISSMAN. Yes; I did, as matter of fact, I got pretty mad.

BOGGS. When you were in Germany, did you find sometimes, particularly in Munich, as long as you opened this line of replies, that some of the Nazi-alleged anti-communism was also associated with their racist policies?

WEISSMAN. In what vein are you using Nazi?

BOGGS. Well, of course, you know they exterminated quite a few members of your religion in Germany.

WEISSMAN. Yes.

BOGGS. That is a fact; is it not?

WEISSMAN. Yes; it is.

BOGGS. I am using Nazi in the normal term of state dictatorship, with all that it implies. I am sure you have worked on foreign policy, you understand what I mean.

WEISSMAN. I think you are giving me a little too much credit. But I think I can answer your question.

BOGGS. I would like for you to.

WEISSMAN. At no time did I, and to my knowledge, in Germany, did we consider ourselves fascists or Nazis. As a matter of fact, in my every conversation, and everything I had written.

BOGGS. I didn't ask you whether you had considered yourself as a fascist—

WEISSMAN. Or any of my associates, sir.

BOGGS. Or any of your associates. I asked you if in your study of events in Germany, having been stationed there, that you didn't soon associate, or that you didn't see some association in your mind of the alleged so-called extreme right with nazism.

WEISSMAN. No. In fact, I never thought—I thought of the extremists as superpatriots. I had never really defined the term fascist or Nazi in my own mind—

BOGGS. Of course, you realize that members of your religion in Germany were described as traitors, treasonable, and Communists. And I presume that on the other side of the coin those making the accusation classified themselves as superpatriots.

WEISSMAN. This is quite true. But you are getting into a field right now that at the time—

BOGGS. Were you surprised when you discovered this anti-Jewish feeling? You must have been somewhat, shall I say, disappointed when one of your associates asked you to change your name. I would think that was right insulting.

WEISSMAN. It was downright insulting, as a matter of fact. No, I wasn't surprised. Now—

Some testimony omitted here.

WEISSMAN. I didn't refer to it directly. In other words, in the letter I received from Larrie, he said — he mentioned that the NIC, the leadership, Frank McGee, was anti-Jewish, and it might be best if I changed my name in

order to bring myself down to where I can associate with these people.

(At this point, Sen. Cooper reentered the hearing room)  
BOGGS. Do you have a copy of that letter?

WEISSMAN. Let me take a look here. With your permission, I would like to read into the record a paragraph.

JENNER. To what are you referring now, sir?

WEISSMAN. This is a letter sent by Larrie Schmidt to Larry Jones.

JENNER. And it is in longhand, is it?

WEISSMAN. Yes; it is.

JENNER. And do you recognize the handwriting?

WEISSMAN. It is Larrie's.

JENNER. It consists of seven pages, which we will mark Commission Exhibit No. 1036.

(The document referred to was marked Commission Exhibit Number 1036 for identification.)

JENNER. Before you read from the letter, how did you come into possession of the letter?

WEISSMAN. Larry Jones gave it to me.

JENNER. Over in Germany?

WEISSMAN. Over in Germany; yes, sir.

JENNER. And the envelope which I now have in my hand, from which you extracted the letter, is postmarked Dallas, Tex., November 5.

BOGGS. What year?

JENNER. 1962. Is that the envelope in which the letter, Commission Exhibit No. 1036, was received by Mr. Jones? I notice the letter is addressed to Mr. Jones, SP-4 Larry Jones.

WEISSMAN. Yes, sir.

JENNER. We will mark that as Commission Exhibit No. 1036-A—that is, the envelope.

(The document referred to was marked Commission Exhibit No. 1036-A for identification.)

WEISSMAN. On the third page, last paragraph, he has marked "One bad thing, though. Frank gives me the impression of being rather anti-Semitic. He is Catholic. Suggest Bernie convert to Christianity, and I mean it."

"We must all return to church. These people here are religious bugs. Also no liberal talk whatsoever — none." Larrie had a flare for the dramatic.

MR. DULLES. When he mentions "these people" who does he mean?

WEISSMAN. The NIC. And at this point I was ready to drop out of the organization completely, but thought better of it, because I am a perennial optimist. I felt once I got down there—it is like changing your wife after you marry her. You figure everything will work out.

Some testimony omitted here.

BOGGS. It has been established, I presume, who paid for this newspaper advertisement.

WEISSMAN. Well, this is something else. I am still not sure of who paid for it.

JENNER. The newspaper advertisement is Commission Exhibit No. 1031.

BOGGS. Did you bring the money to pay for it?

WEISSMAN. Yes; I did.

BOGGS. Do you know where you got it?

WEISSMAN. I know where I got it. But I don't know where he got it from. I got it from Joe Grinnan.

JENNER. Joseph P. Grinnan, Room 811, Wilson Building, Dallas, Tex., independent oil operator in Dallas.

BOGGS. How did you happen to get it from him?

WEISSMAN. Well, Joe was the volunteer coordinator for the John Birch Society.

BOGGS. And how did he hand it to you—in a check

or cash?

WEISSMAN. In cash.

BOGGS. How much was it?

WEISSMAN. It was a total of \$1,462, I believe. We had 10 \$100 bills one day, and the balance the following day. Now, as far as I know, Joe didn't put any of the money up personally, because I know it took him 2 days to collect it.

BOGGS. Do you think you know where he got it from?

WEISSMAN. I don't know. I really don't know.

BOGGS. He didn't tell you where he got it from?

WEISSMAN. No; he didn't.

BOGGS. But you are convinced in your own mind that it wasn't his money?

WEISSMAN. Yes; because he seemed to be—he didn't seem to be too solvent.

BOGGS. Did you solicit him for this money?

WEISSMAN. No; I didn't.

BOGGS. Who did?

WEISSMAN. I believe—well, I believe Larrie did. I think the idea for the ad originated with Larrie and Joe.

BOGGS. And Larrie solicited the money?

WEISSMAN. No; I don't think so. I think it was Joe who originally broached the subject.

BOGGS. How did you happen to end up with the money?

WEISSMAN. This was an expression of confidence, you might say, that Joe Grinnan had in me.

BOGGS. Did you write the copy?

WEISSMAN. I helped.

BOGGS. Who else?

WEISSMAN. Larrie.

BOGGS. So Joe Grinnan gave you the money, and you and Larrie wrote the copy?

WEISSMAN. We wrote the copy before that.

BOGGS. And then you paid for it. What was this committee? Are you the chairman of that committee?

WEISSMAN. Well, this is an ad hoc committee. I think we finally thought of the name—as a matter of fact, we decided on it the same morning I went down to place the original proof of the ad.

BOGGS. What do you mean an ad hoc committee?

WEISSMAN. It was formed strictly for the purpose of having a name to put in the paper.

BOGGS. Did you have many of these ad hoc committees?

WEISSMAN. This is the only one that I was involved in; that I know of.

BOGGS. Were there others?

WEISSMAN. Not that I know of.

BOGGS. Did you ever ask Joe where this money came from?

WEISSMAN. No; Joe was pretty secretive. I frankly didn't want to know. I was interested, but not that interested. And it didn't—it would have been a breach of etiquette to start questioning him, it seemed.

BOGGS. Have you ever heard of H. R. Bright, independent oil operator?

WEISSMAN. No.

BOGGS. Did you ever hear of Edgar Crissey?

WEISSMAN. No.

BOGGS. Did you ever hear of Nelson Bunker Hunt?

WEISSMAN. Yes; that is H. L. Hunt's son. I knew that he had gotten it from three or four different people, because he told me he had to get \$300 here and \$400 there, but he did not say where.

JENNER. The "he" is Mr. Grinnan?

WEISSMAN. Grinnan; right.

BOGGS. That is all, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DULLES. Did you suggest that this advertisement had been drafted before he collected the money?

bloodily exterminated?"

This was handed in at the last minute by one of the contributors. He would not contribute.

JENNER. By whom?

WEISSMAN. I have no idea. But he would not contribute the money.

JENNER. Was this one of the men who gave money to Mr. Grinnan?

WEISSMAN. Yes; this is my understanding.

JENNER. And did Mr. Grinnan tell you this?

WEISSMAN. Yes; he said "This has to go in."

JENNER. He said that to you in the presence of whom?

WEISSMAN. I believe Bill Burley was there, and Larrie Schmidt.

JENNER. Where was this?

WEISSMAN. In Joe Grinnan's office.

JENNER. In Dallas?

WEISSMAN. In Dallas; yes;

JENNER. That is room 811 of the Wilson Building?

WEISSMAN. Yes; and I was against this particular question, because I frankly agreed with the coup. But it is a question of having all or nothing.

Another question that was put in here—I forget exactly when—which I wasn't in favor of, which we put in after the proof was submitted to Joe Grinnan for his approval, is "Why have you ordered or permitted your brother Bobby, the Attorney General, to go soft on Communists, fellow travelers, and ultra-leftists in America, while permitting him to criticize loyal Americans, who criticize you, your administration, and your leadership?"

Now, this struck me as being a States rights plea, and as far as our domestic policy goes, I am a pretty liberal guy. So I didn't agree with that.

JENNER. Who suggested that question?

WEISSMAN. I don't remember. I just remember that it came up—I didn't like it. But the fact was that it had to be in there.

JENNER. I would like to keep you on that for a moment. Was it a suggestion that had come from a contributor, or did it originate in your group?

WEISSMAN. I really don't recall.

JENNER. Or Mr. Grinnan?

WEISSMAN. I don't recall if it originated with Larrie or Mr. Grinnan or with someone else. I really don't know.

JENNER. How old a man is Mr. Grinnan?

WEISSMAN. I would say in his very early thirties.

FORD. That suggestion, the last one, didn't come from you, however?

WEISSMAN. Which?

FORD. The one you just read.

WEISSMAN. Oh, no.

FORD. Because of your own liberal domestic philosophy?

WEISSMAN. Right. The only question in here that is entirely my own is the last one; and this is because I was pretty steamed up over the fiasco in Cuba and the lack of followup by the administration.

"Why have you scrapped the Monroe Doctrine in favor of the spirit of Moscow?" I will still stand by that question.

As far as the copy at the top of the letter, appearing before the questions, as far as I know, this was written by Larrie Schmidt. He showed it to me. I said, "It is a little rough, but if we are going to get our money's worth out of the ad, I guess it has to be."

JENNER. Mr. Chairman, may I stand over near the witness?

FORD. Surely.

JENNER. Thank you.

When you say the copy at the top of the ad, does that



include the banner, "Welcome, Mr. Kennedy, to Dallas"?

WEISSMAN. Yes.

JENNER. And you are referring to all that portion of the ad which is Commission Exhibit No. 1031, down to the first question?

WEISSMAN. Yes. The idea of the black border was mine.

JENNER. Yes. I was going to ask you that. Why did you suggest the black border?

WEISSMAN. Well, I saw a proof of the ad—drew a mockup, the advertising man at the newspaper office drew a mockup, and it was the sort of thing that you just turned the page and pass it by, unless you had something to bring it out. And I suggested a black border. He put a one-eighth inch black border around. I said try a little heavier one. He went to a quarter inch black border and I said, "That looks okay," and we had the black border.

JENNER. I take it from your present statement that you worked with a copywriter or advertising composer at the Dallas Morning News.

WEISSMAN. Yes. His name was Dick Houston.

JENNER. How many editions did this ad run for the \$1,463?

WEISSMAN. One edition. It came out on the evening edition, on the 21st, and the morning of the 22d.

JENNER. Just one paper?

WEISSMAN. One edition, one paper.

JENNER. That is only the Dallas Morning News?

WEISSMAN. That is right.

JENNER. It was not in the other Dallas papers?

WEISSMAN. No.

JENNER. The Times Herald?

WEISSMAN. No. We felt—we didn't even go to the Times Herald. We felt they would not even print it, because they are a very liberal paper, and we felt it would be a waste of time. We were convinced that the Morning News was conservative enough to print it. And they did.

JENNER. So the Dallas Morning News people were quite aware of the composition of the ad, and worked with you in putting it in final shape?

WEISSMAN. Yes; as a matter of fact, I had asked to show it to a Mr. Gray, who was the head of the advertising department, and they said no, that wouldn't be necessary; they just have to submit it to a judge or something or other, a retired judge who was their legal advisor, and who would look at the ad to see if there was anything libelous in it, so to speak, or anything that the Morning News could be sued for. And I assume they did this, because they didn't let me know right away whether or not they could print it.

When I came back that afternoon, or the following morning—I don't recall which—and they said everything was okay, that it would go.

DULLES. When you spoke of the head of the advertising department, that is the advertising department of the News?

WEISSMAN. Of the Dallas Morning News, yes, sir.

JENNER. Mr. Weissman, you have read two questions with which you disagreed.

WEISSMAN. Yes, sir.

JENNER. You have read a question, which is the last in the advertisement.

WEISSMAN. Yes.

JENNER. Of which you are the author, and you said you would still stand by that particular one.

WEISSMAN. A hundred percent; yes, sir.

JENNER. Now, are there any other with which you had a measure of disagreement, or any other which you now would not wish to support or, as you put it, stand back of?

WEISSMAN. There was one other than I thought was being a little rough on the President, but which I didn't particularly agree with a hundred percent.

JENNER. Identify it, please.

