

## Reopen The Warren Commission

At times this writer feels the entire investigation of President Kennedy's assassination is one of play acting—that the President was really not assassinated and that the investigators had no real purpose. How could experts in the law make so many obvious errors?

When Oswald was first informed by newsmen (according to Oswald) that he had been charged with the assassination of President Kennedy, Oswald showed fright for the first time and said: "I am just a patsy."

When newsmen asked Assistant District Attorney William F. Alexander on Friday night if there was anything else Alexander could tell them about Oswald, Alexander paused theatrically and screamed: "Yes, he is a God damned Communist."

Bill Alexander did not testify before the Warren Commission, but he certainly was in on the case at a very early hour. We would like to know just where Mr. Alexander was at the time of the assassination, and at what time he got to City Hall. Apparently he remained at City Hall almost all the time until Oswald was killed.

Even though Chief Curry, Captain Fritz, and Henry Wade repeatedly told the Commission that Bill Alexander was handling many points on which the three were questioned, Alexander was never put under oath by the Commission. We do get a few words from Alexander during the testimony of psychiatrist Dr. William Robert Beavers. Ruby's attorneys had asked Dr. Beavers why Ruby trusted Alexander more than anyone else. The testimony went like this in Vol. XIV page 575:

**TONAHILL.** Dr. Beavers, during the trial of Jack Ruby for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, Mr. Bill Alexander, the assistant district attorney, sought and obtained a death sentence for Jack Ruby for the murder of Oswald, and I along with other counsel sought far less—an acquittal or at least a number of years. You have noted, have you not, here that Mr. Ruby resents my presence. He says I'm not his attorney and then asked me to do him favors and this, that, and the other, and you have noticed he has tremendous faith and confidence in Mr. Alexander, who obviously is here to, in the event of another trial—and in the event of Mr. Fowler's efforts and mine to obtain another trial for him is successful—he is here to obtain information for the benefit and use of whatever information he can get to get another death penalty.

Have you an opinion as to what goes on with reference to Ruby's mental illness that causes him to put faith in Mr. Alexander and no faith in me.

Some testimony omitted here.

**TONAHILL.** Well, I was trying to do it, but I wanted to give you a little range and you could pinpoint yourself down to such as the episodes here today between the relationship of his own lawyers and his apparent partiality to Mr. Alexander here.

**DR. BEAVERS.** This is what I referred to earlier, and I will be glad to amplify it a bit. On the face of it, it seems to me that as far as an awareness and appreciation of reality, there was this jeopardy—that some of the behavior he had toward Mr. Alexander as far as wanting him very definitely to be in the room when he made certain

damaging statements concerning the amount of premeditation— this would not be the actions of a wise and prudent man in my opinion.

Ruby's lawyers seemed baffled that Ruby continued to insist that Alexander hear his lie detector test questions and answers as shown by the testimony reprinted below.

MR. FOWLER. Jack, let me make this request. I don't think Bill can read a polygraph test, but I would feel better as your attorney if Mr. Alexander were not present.

MR. RUBY. I don't mind everyone remaining here.

FOWLER. Well, of course, again—let me advise you that if Mr. Alexander remains—let me advise you of your rights—that if Mr. Alexander remains, he is a member of the district attorney's staff, the answers to these questions could be used against you at some later date, if they are adverse to your rights, and as your attorney, I advise you that it would be my suggestion to you and request to you that Mr. Alexander not be allowed to remain.

RUBY (addressing Mr. Alexander). Will you object?

MR. ALEXANDER. Not at all, Jack.

RUBY. All right.

MR. SPECTER. If Mr. Alexander is willing to abide by your request, Mr. Ruby, then your request will govern as far as the proceeding is concerned.

FOWLER. Now, Mr. Alexander and I—when it comes to me representing you or any other client—I represent one client and he represents the other. He, in my opinion, is a perfect gentleman, but in the courtroom he is a perfect prosecutor, and I like to be as near a perfect defense lawyer as I can, and I believe that by allowing him to stay here—

RUBY. No, Fowler—

FOWLER. Well, I'm thinking of you now. I'm asking you to do this, and again, this is entirely up to you, so it's your decision. I think I have fully explained to you the reason why we would not want him here.

RUBY. Now, I've got the monkey on my back now.

FOWLER. Well, you've got more than a monkey on your back, Jack. This is your decision.

(Conference between Fowler and Ruby out of hearing of this reporter and others in the room.)

RUBY. Well, whatever my attorney suggests, I guess I will have to follow through.

SPECTER. Your request then is that Mr. Alexander not be present?

RUBY. Yes.

Some testimony omitted here.

RUBY. Joe, I'd appreciate it if you weren't in the room. Can I ask you to leave, Joe?

MR. TONAHILL. I'll be glad to leave, if you want me to, Jack.

RUBY. As a matter of fact, I prefer Bill Alexander to you, you're supposed to be my friend.

TONAHILL. Let the record show that Mr. Ruby says he prefers Bill Alexander being here during this investigation, who is the assistant district attorney who asked that a jury give him the death sentence, to myself, who asked the jury to acquit him, his attorney.

Some testimony omitted here.

MR. HERNDON. In other words, I'm going to tell you what the question is going to be and you shall feel free to answer it "Yes" or "No."

FOWLER. Excuse me, sir.

HERNDON. Certainly.

FOWLER. At this time, Jack, I request that in view of the fact that you're not hooked up, that you do not answer the question and reserve those until such time as



you will be on the machine.

RUBY. That's fine.

HERNDON. Then we will just discuss the questions.

RUBY. Do it to your advantage, may I add.

HERNDON. I generally prefer in my practice with the polygraph to have the gentleman answer the question so that he knows he has already answered it, and as a matter of record, he knows that that question is coming along.

RUBY. Please let me do it, will you? (Addressing Fowler.)

FOWLER (no response).

HERNDON. I will bow to whatever Mr. Specter or counsel wants to do in this regard.

RUBY. Fowler, I hate to dispute with you, but let me do it this way?

FOWLER. Well, Jack, again, Mr. Alexander is here and again I tell you this — that the answers to some of these questions could be absolutely very detrimental to you.

RUBY. They can't be.

FOWLER. I'm talking about from a legal standpoint. Now, morally, I know how you feel and you want to do the best you can for the Commission.

RUBY. I will.

FOWLER. But by the same token, this gentleman over here (referring to Mr. Alexander) represents the State, who at this time is not representing you. Now, if we could allow Mr. Alexander to have the benefit of the nature of the questions, with the exception of the answers—if this is what Jack wants—but I do not want Mr. Alexander to have the benefit of the answers.

Some testimony omitted here.

FOWLER. Jack, do you have any objections to Mr. Tonahill being here?

RUBY. If Tonahill is going to be here—I don't believe he's— I know Bill Alexander is my friend, so he can stay, but Joe is supposed to be my friend.

FOWLER. Well, we're not putting it on that basis, Jack. This is just purely personal.

RUBY. Just let me tell you this, Fowler. I have nothing to gain by Joe being here, because— I have nothing to gain.

FOWLER. All right, all right. Then, we will ask Joe and Mr. Alexander to step out.

RUBY. You still want Alexander to step out?

FOWLER. I certainly think so, Jack.

RUBY (addressing Mr. Alexander who was standing in the doorway to the examining room). Now, Bill, don't say I didn't request you, now?

ALEXANDER. I know it, Jack.

Some testimony omitted here.

RUBY. Fowler, I beg you to get Bill Alexander and Joe Tonahill back in here. I tell you. Will you do it, please?

Some testimony omitted here.

FOWLER. Let's just direct our attention right now, Jack, to the things that are near to you. Why do you want Mr. Alexander here?

RUBY. I feel I don't want him to think I'm holding out on anything. I don't want him to have any idea that I'm reluctant to answer things in front of him, believe me.

FOWLER. Listen, at some future date—yes. Perhaps in a trial, another trial, yes. When you are on the witness stand, if you are able to go to the witness stand, perhaps these questions will be directed to you at that time, and you can make a full disclosure before a jury, but I respectfully request that you do not do it in the presence of a district attorney.

RUBY. But Clayton, they know all these questions already. Henry Wade, I spoke to, and I told him all this.

Some testimony omitted here.  
Although Alexander boasted that he knew more about the case than anyone, he was never called as a witness. Vol. XIV page 578:

MR. SPECTER. Mr. Alexander, do you have a question?

MR. ALEXANDER. Just one or two questions.

Do you recognize that late counsel for the defense, Mr. Fowler, did not participate in the Jack Ruby trial and is not as aware of the facts brought out in the investigation as perhaps I, who was in on it at the first, or Mr. Tonahill, who was in on the trial? You appreciate that, do you not?

DR. BEAVERS. You are saying that—

ALEXANDER. That Mr. Fowler got in so late on this thing that he probably doesn't know—that he is not as aware of the facts of the case as I am?

BEAVERS. I don't know how I would know that. I know when he came in, but how aware of the facts he is, I don't know that. How would I know that?

ALEXANDER. Did it appear to you that Ruby was looking to me for aid in framing some of these questions because of my peculiar knowledge of the case, in that I was in on it from the moment of the assassination of the President?

BEAVERS. I noticed that he did look to you in terms of getting some sort of support or information or possibly framing questions.

ALEXANDER. And you see nothing unusual in that, considering the fact that I am probably the one person that has possession of the most facts?

Yet the man with the most facts was never called by the Commission to make a single statement under oath.

Alexander boasted of his long-time friendship with Ruby as shown from this quote from the book DALLAS JUSTICE by Melvin Belli published by David McKay Co. Belli said:

... Despite the active interest of men of repute like Mr. Smith, this part of the Ruby case, too, rapidly became enmeshed in a certain tawdriness. Soon after taking on the Ruby defense, I learned that Bill Alexander, assistant District Attorney, had managed to take a psychiatrist into Ruby's cell for a quick look. The legal ethics of this action were abysmal.

What happened was this: the day after Ruby's arrest, Alexander and Dr. John Holbrook, a local psychiatrist,

appeared in his cell. Alexander said he had known Ruby for thirteen years and would not do anything to damage him or harm him, that, in words Dr. Holbrook recalled later, "he would not let their friendship go down the drain."

Alexander's recollection was even more detailed. At one point in a preliminary hearing, trying to show this action in all its viciousness, we summoned Alexander as a witness and he testified:

"I introduced Dr. Holbrook to Jack and told him that the doctor was there to do a psychiatric evaluation of him. And I said, 'Jack, all we want is a fair, square psychiatrist evaluation of you. If you're nuts, you ought to go to the state insane asylum; and if you are all right, we are going to have to prosecute you.' And he said, 'What would you do?' And I said, 'I would talk to the man.'"

"And then he wanted to know—I forget exactly how he phrased the question, but he wanted to know if he was getting into some kind of trap, doubling him off, and I said, 'No, Jack,' and I said, 'I've known you too long for that, I wouldn't'—as I recall, I said, 'I wouldn't let any friendship go down the drain just to mess you around.'"

In another place in DALLAS JUSTICE, Belli quotes



Ruby concerning the assistant District Attorney:

To the end he maintained that the people in the police department and the district attorney's office were his friends. After one particularly tough trial session, he (Ruby) stood in the jail visiting room, shook his head, and said to me, "I'll have to telephone my friend Bill Alexander in the DA's office and see if we can't straighten this out."

Alexander is a widely known right-winger in Dallas. He is alleged to have threatened to kill a man in the Court House by jamming a pistol to the man's head and saying: "You son of a bitch, I will kill you right here."

Alexander quickly informs even a casual dinner guest that he is an extremist on the right. He boasts of the number of men he has sent to the electric chair. Once Alexander told a new acquaintance that he never saw the man who did not deserve to be hanged. Alexander is in line to be the new Dallas District Attorney when Wade gets his new appointment.

Even the jury wheel is alleged to be rigged in Dallas County. The rigging is done by compiling a list of people noted for their stiff sentences called "hard jurymen." When the name of a "hard jurymen" comes out of the wheel the jurymen is called and notified and at the same time asked if the "hard" man had just as soon wait for some time later to serve. In such a way a file of noted "hard" men is always available for call to serve on a headline case. The system works well to provide a good record for the District Attorney and his staff, but does not hinder Dallas from being near the top of the list for murder per hundred thousand persons in the United States.

In view of the close friendship attested to by both Ruby and Alexander, and in view of a visit to Alexander's office by Ruby on the day before the assassination, we feel it is necessary to ask Alexander if he was the "officer Alex-

ander" making the periodic visits to the rooming house in which Oswald was living. Since the Commission did not ask Earlene Roberts what the "officer Alexander's" first name was, we also direct the question to policeman George Burnley for the first name of the officer Alexander who would periodically check by the rooming house on North Beckley with officer Burnley.

We expect no answer from either person, but for the benefit of history the question is presented.

**NOTICE:** This editor took pictures at Parkland Hospital in Dallas on the day President Kennedy was murdered. From these pictures, we know there were at least two women taking pictures before the President's body left the hospital. We urge these women to get in touch with the editor of The Midlothian Mirror. The pictures you took might be very important.