

Berkeley Barb

Reopening Demanded In JFK Death Probe

By Hal Verb

11/7/66

The minute I walked into the room at KCBS, Tuesday night, a short bespectacled man pointed in my direction and drawled: "There's my buddy. He's the one who helped me by reviewing my book."

the conspiracy - do you know their names?"

Jones leaned back in the chair. "No, I don't," he replied, "but if I ever learn it I'll shout it to the housetops!"

I do not doubt that he would do exactly that if necessary.

The comment came from Penn Jones, Jr., the spunky editor of the Midlothian (Texas) Mirror who is currently the talk of the nation for his article in the November issue of "Ramparts" on the Kennedy assassination. It was our first meeting. Jones' remark was a reference to a review I did for the BARB of his book, "Forgive My Grief." (BARB was the first newspaper in the country to carry the startling story of the "mystery deaths" of assassination witnesses. It ran on June 24, 1966).

Seated next to Jones was Bill Turner, former FBI agent and now of Ramparts staff. Turner's article in the November Ramparts ("I was a Burglar, Wiretapper, Bugger and Spy for the FBI") is also creating something of a stir across the country. The two are working together on different aspects of the assassination.

At a press conference the next day Jones joined with Ramparts publisher Ed Keating in demanding a new investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Keating urged the formation of a new three-man commission to be appointed by President Johnson. According to Keating the three-man panel should consist of a distinguished jurist, a pathologist, and a noted religious leader.

A committee tentatively called the "Citizen's Committee for Public Disclosure" is being formed, Keating said. It will meet with President Johnson in the future.

"It is an injustice to the American people and an injustice to the late American President for the truth not to come out," Keating stated.

On being asked about Ramparts' interest in Jones' investigation of the "mystery deaths," Keating replied that at first they didn't believe the story, but now, "we think he's absolutely right."

Jones then started to list eleven "questionable deaths" for the reporters present. One reporter in

162A

Barb by Barb
Class On JFK's Death 11/11/66

Penn Jones, Jr., was the workshop's first guest lecturer at the newest addition to the S.F. State Experimental College—a course entitled: "A WORKSHOP ON THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION".

According to the class's coordinator and a BARB reporter (Hal Verb) the Wednesday evening sessions at BSS 119 may become one of the most popular of the courses offered by the Experimental College.

Verb said that the class will aim at conducting "original research" and an intensive examination of the Warren Commission and its critics.

He said that guest lecturers already lined up would include Marjorie Lane, Harold Weisberg and "if they agree" to appear, members of the Warren Commission or defenders of the Warren Report.

The course outline prepared will examine previous Presidential Commissions, the basic facts and evidence introduced by the Warren Commission and materials not generally available to the general public.

Verb said that the emphasis will be placed on an intensive evaluation of the "new wave" of criticism.

END

Jackie and JFK's X-rays

OPINION BY LESLIE TIMAN

Nov-6, '68
Sunday Ramparts

The "release" by Mrs. Kennedy and her brothers-in-law of the 65 X-rays taken three years ago at the autopsy of President Kennedy was gratifying. Their action can only mean that the rash of books and articles criticizing and debunking the Warren Commission, particularly Edward Epstein's *Inquest* and Penn Jones, Jr.'s much publicized article in the November issue of Ramparts magazine have at last created a scandal and have amassed some embarrassing facts to awaken an apathetic public.

than five years." And for the press and other media, i.e., the public, read "throughout the lifetimes of Jacqueline Kennedy, the late President's parents, his brothers and sisters and his two children."

They're Secure

There really has been no "release" at all. Federal investigative agencies have always had access to, and have no restrictions placed upon the material in the Archives. The

Small Dent

However, this action, so late and limited in scope, is only a small dent in the safe-deposit trust than continues to lock up valuable evidence. Most of the Zapruder film, including mysteriously spliced frames, is still in the exclusive possession of Life magazine and federal agents.

Statements by key witnesses and more than one-third of the relevant documents are either under lock and key in the National Archives or have been confiscated by government agencies.

the still-missing evidence were to be "released" tomorrow, with the same limitations placed upon the X-rays, we would probably be no more enlightened than we are today.

The restrictions imposed by the Kennedys are like Mississippi's voting laws: on paper they look mild; in reality they are preclusive.

For the next five years, the Kennedys decreed, only federal investigative agencies can have access. For "scholars" and "unofficial investigators," it will be "much longer

ception of Chief Justice Earl Warren, have not bothered to view the X-rays, feeling perfectly secure in their evaluation of the autopsy doctor's drawings, which were originally submitted to the Commission and which were challenged by a totally contradictory FBI autopsy report.

The period of time that the Kennedys have placed as a restriction on the X-rays is tantamount to the lifetime of this generation. It might not be quite so oppressive if we could believe in Mrs. Kennedy's sincerity to make known all the facts of the assassination; if we could believe in her quest for the truth. But we have been given some intimations of her feeling, and these are truly shocking.

Enlightenment

If the aura of enlightenment pervading the Kennedy administration were still here, we might presume that many people — scholars, "sleuths," pathologists, etc., would

100

in the next "five" years, be given access. But if Mrs. Kennedy resorts to the sort of exclusionist and dictatorial policy that she imposed on serious and interested authors, we can expect that only Kennedy mouth-pieces, only William Manchesters and censored Manchesters at that, will be allowed to view the evidence.

The beautiful, cultured widow of the late President has shut everyone up. She commissioned Mr. Manchester to write the "official" history of the assassination, and she has tried to persuade all other authors not to write about the tragedy, seeking to restrict the facts to her authorized version. When persuasion failed, Senator Robert Kennedy came to her aid and put pressure on publishers.

Take the case of Jim Bishop, author of *The Day Lincoln Was Shot*, who tried in vain to elicit information from the Kennedys. He received a most unbelievable letter from Mrs. Kennedy begging him to refrain from writing his proposed *The Day Kennedy Was Shot*. She bluntly told Mr. Bishop, "I hired William Manchester to protect President Kennedy and the truth."

In a second letter to Mr. Bishop she reiterated her tyrannical point: "None of the people connected with November 22 will speak to anyone but Mr. Manchester. That is my wish and it is their's also. What I am dedicated to is the accurate history of those days and that will come from Mr. Manchester."

An "Accurate" History

Since when has one history alone ever been *the accurate history*, even when the author was uncensored and made totally objective by decades and centuries of time? As Mr. Bishop replied to Mrs. Kennedy, "To say that one man may write history but another may not amounts to a personal copyright."

We must also stress, although we have no desire to be cranks and evil-mongers, that if at the end of our waiting period we are finally allowed to see the X-rays and whatever other evidence has by then been "released," we cannot expect to rely on what we are shown. Contradictory reports must also be considered, critics respectfully be given an ear, and we must remember that eight years and much controversy will have passed.

The whole assassination and the mystery enshrouding it is so bizarre, so contradictory in the face of all available evidence, and the authorities so questionable and so contradictory, that any delay can only add confusion and incredulity to the significance of further evidence, when and if it appears.