Reopening Demanded In JFK Death Pr By Hal Verb

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-di The minute I walked into the room at KCBS, Tuesday night, a short bespectacled man pointed

ha my direction and drawled: "There's my buddy. He's the one who helped me by reviewing my book."

if The comment came from Penn. Mones, Jr., the spunky editor of the Midlothian (Texas) Mirror, who is currently the talk of the mation for his article in the No² amember issue of "Ramparts" oti to the Kennedy assassination.

vilt was our first meeting, Jones! pemark was a reference to a rea Niew 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 as pects of the assassination.

At a press conference the nex ay Jones joined with Ramparts publisher Ed Keating in demand ing a new investigation of the Ken nedy assassination.

a new three-man commission for appointed by President Johnson. According to Keating the three-man panel should consist of súdistinguished jurist, a patholo2 gist, and a noted religious lead eF. II A committee tentatively called

the "Citizen's Committee for Pub-lic Disclosure" is being formed. Keating said. It will meet with President Johnson in the future "It is an injustice to the Ameria

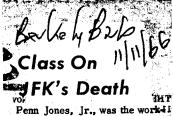
an people and an injustice to the late American President for the anyth not to come out," Keating asated.

inOn 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 thank he's absolutely right." indones then started to list eleven questionable deaths" for the re-

the conspiracy

names?" 8 Jones leaned back in the chain, "No, I don't," he replied, "put if I ever learn it I'll shout if ion the housetops !" toda I do not doubt that he would do

exactly that if necessary.



Penn Jones, Jr., was the work41 shop's first guest lecturer at the newest addition to the S.F. State) Experimental College--a course entitled: "A WORKSHOP ON THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION". JO According to the class's corroordinator and a BARB reporter (Hal Verb) the Wednesday evenning sessions at BSS 119 may become one of the most popular of) medicionaria fibred institute Bisson perimental Contents und based 102P

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Jackie and JFK's X-rays

OPINION BY LESLIE TIMAN

ſ 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 artcles enticizing and debunking the Warten 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.

Small Dent

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

Kennedys are like Mississippi's voting laws: on paper they look mild; in reality they are preclusive.

³¹⁶ For the next five years, the Ken-'hedys decreed, only federal inves-'tigative agencies can have access. For "scholars" and "unofficial investigators," it will be "much longer 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

> 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.

Sunda Rungar

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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,

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in the next "nve" 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 mouthpieces, 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. Kenne ly begging him to refrain from writing his proposed *The Day Kennedy Was Shot*. She bluntly told Mr. Bishop, "I hired William Man chester to protect "-sident K 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.