The Johnson Murder Charge

by Harold Feldman

T.M.O.-Dec-66



The Warren Report, sometimes known as the Earl Warren Jokebook, was really nothing but speculation about a hypothetical assassin called Lee Oswald. That speculation is now dying a merited death due to public exposure.

It is time for another speculation to be investigated and analyzed in the open. This rumor, about a supposed assassin called Lyndon Johnson, is also a product of ignorance and lives in America, for the most part, in the underground gossip of bars, health clubs and living rooms.

No factual basis exists for this rumor. But only reflex apologists would ask us, at this stage of our knowledge, to repudiate it absolutely in toto.

it absolutely in toto.

The odd rumor made its debut in print under the alleged auspices of Jack Ruby.
On January 31, 1966, a New York dealer in autographs, Charles Hamilton, put a letter allegedly written by Jack Ruby on sale at the Waldorf Astoria's Astor Gallery. It was bought by Penn Jones Jr., editor of the Mildothian Mirror (Texas), for \$950.

The sales catalogue described the letter this way:

"Astounding confession of international importance, pinpointing LYNDON B. JOHNSON as the real murderer of JOHN F. KENNEDY and the tool of a Fascist

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conspiracy to liquidate the Jews! Neatly written by Ruby to a fellow prisoner on slips torn from a memo pad, this letter was smuggled out of the Dallas jail and is unpublished in any form."

In his brave little book, Forgive My Grief, Editor Jones notes that the letter has not been reproduced nor even described by any American news source, a remarkable silence even if the letter's genuineness is doubtful. Here is part of the letter: ". I was used to silence Oswald. I walked into a

used to silence Oswald. I walked into a trap the moment I walked down that ramp Sunday morning . . . They alone had planned the killing, by they I mean Johnson and others . . . In all the history of the U.S., never has a president been elected that has the background of Johnson. Believe me compared to him I am a Saint . . ."

No matter what the final evaluation of this letter may be, the fact remains that it expresses the most popular, really folk-popular theory of the Kennedy assassina-tion. For two years this theory was a bastard unacknowledged by anybody, but carried around the world by the instinct of the common man, the popular instinct that created our images of King John, Macbeth, Lucrezia Borgia, and Herbert Hoover in full ignorance of historical data. A demonstration of hundreds of thousands No matter what the final evaluation of

A demonstration of hundreds of thousands in Paris about Vietnam flaunts a banner, "JOHNSON ASSASSIN!" Crowds in Athens, protesting the abuses of the Greek monarchy, raise the same cry: "Johnson Dol-ophonos!" In the United Nations a repre-sentative of Mali, talking about American



planes and pilots in the Congo, refers to those responsible for them as also being responsible for the murder of John F.

responsible for the murder of John F. Kennedy,
Based on our present knowledge, we can say with authority that the charge Johnson had Kennedy killed has not been proved. The suspicion cannot even be called well-founded. But neither has the rumor been disproved, nor can it be dismissed as "unthinkable." It must be analyzed and filed away for future disposition. away for future disposition.

For two years the theory was without a sponsor. Now times have changed.

a sponsor. Now times have changed.

From Berkeley, California, comes a play,
"Macbird," by Barbara Garson, unabashedly
pointing to Lyndon Johnson as the assassin.
Certainly, an art work need not be questioned for its historical assumptions. A play
is not evidence; what the characters say
is not testimony. That is why art so often
is a sanctuary for criticism and prophecy.
All we can say about Garson's play then,
is that it is skillful, moving, pointed and
funny. If Johnson's popularity continues
to decline and if the gendarmes do not
intervene, the play will find many stages
and larger audiences.

The murder charge against the President

The murder charge against the President was recently taken up by a more respectable source, this time not concealed in the costumsource, this time not concealed in the costum-ery of art but venturing out halfheartedly in the guise of a professor's hypothesis. Alan Wolle, teaching fellow in the political science department of the University of Pennsyl-vania, elaborated a "possible theory" that Johnson originated the plot to kill his ℓ_{ft_H}

assassin. In this murder case, agents of the (1) The White House, through the Commission and other channels, worked hard and long to traine Lee Oswald as the lone and long to train the configuration.

The so-called evidence against Lyndon Johnson in the Kennedy murder can be summed up in five points: one speculation.

and concealment of facts. How ironic that the Commission's work, intended to dispet immors and speculation, has resulted in more rumors and speculation, has resulted in discriments, more doubt, and has fostered hideous speculation. a product of the Warren Commission's lying pearance in print of the charge that Lyndon Johnson is the chief culprit is itself partly This much can be said: the repeated ap-

the Commission printed a long history of locetor's martial troubles and hinted at possible insanity, Joesten's new book seems to be, indirectly at least, a response to the Costapo methods of the Commission. of honcesty looking into the assertions made in his Fall Gwy book, the Commission's arsaft concentrated on the ugliest kind of scandal. Using the files of Hitler's Gestapo, Joesten's experience with the Warren Commission was sad and typical. Instead conspirators.

blunders.

After his book on Oswald and just alter the Coldwater debacte in the 1964 elections, the Coldwater debacte in the 1964 elections. Johnson to published a hos degraphy Prestdern gives no bint of the deadly charges be was to make two years later. In 1964, whas to make two years later. In 1964 his protegonist comings to Dallas on Black the protegonist comings to Dallas on Black to get an enormous raise in pay. On the contrary, he believed Johnson was truly worried that he was the next target of the worried that the was the next target of the contrapitation.

Only distinct persons are performance, we may expect that Joesten's data will be inconclusive and somewhat garbled. As a pioncer investigator, Joesten did valuable work in destroying the government's case against the publinders.

sections and costing \$200 per set, is available only by subscription and only to
"scholars, Congressmen, political leaders and
other quailfied persons." unning in Certainty.

We have not yet acen Joesten's new book.

The news release he sent to his friends in America says that it "accused Lyndon B. Johnson of having unuped presidential powert in November 1965 by backing the complicacy to assassinate his predecerson. Pres. John F. Kennedy." The book, in seven Pres. John F. Kennedy." The book, in seven seed costing \$200 per set, is savail-

lishing in Germany.

And now Joachim Joesten, who gave us the first expose of the assassination (Ostwald: Assassin or Fell Guy), has written a book on Johnson the Assassin, which he is publishing in Germann.

personanty.

Wolle also referred to the Warren Report of the should and piece of strategy." We should not make too much of Dr. Wolle's adventure in thought. He emphasized that his reflecting upon the hypothesis and its reflecting upon the hypothesis and its Analysis. The should be shou

present policy in Vietnam and his public predecessor. According to the Daily Penn-sylvania (4/21/1966), "The theory rests upon the assumption that Johnson has aptrological tendencies, as evidenced by his present polive in Viennam and his nublic

-Mary Graham Lund

We were . . . potato-chippish men! We danced the Jingo's dance. Shed tears Around some hero's bier. How stale To ponder over with the beer,

That made us brave and jolly men.

(Dull winted, tool) There were the flags!

Saluting red and white and blue,

We danced the Jingo's dance. Shed tears

Was like a stale potato-chip:

Too hong expeace, too long a truth
Of course, there were the songs we sang.
Of course, there were the songs we sang.
To sonder over with the Deer,
To sonder over with the Deer,

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esting a namounged and listening swallowing a capsule, and listening Oh where are the people of any year? eating a hamburger, downing a coke

they are racing their motors or guiding their gliders or changing the oil in a pet machine

the current goddess of Love and Beauty.
Where are the heroes of this afternoon? or gaiverq to tuods gaibsor

they are practicing how to walk and sit and smile—sitting under machines Where are the pin-up girls of tomorrow?

on strictly geometric lines . . . they are playing war games on green cement behind the school counting out with mystic rhymes

Where are the soldiers of a future year? bright with synthetic howers . . .

Where are the grandmass of yeater year?
they are the grandmass of yeater year
with quick-stepping grandpas
or knitting bootees for fatherless children
whose moubers work in high-rise buildings
highly with vital they was problematic flower.

What Lost Generation?

(5) The illegal removal of Kennedy's body from Dallas to Betheeds, carried out against the protests of the Dallas Medical Examiner at Parkland Hospital.

(4) A recent news item, that read like an echo of the MacBird play, namely, Kennedy, according to his family's official biographs, according to his family's official biographs. William Mancheter, only went to Dallas refuciently after insistent urgings by Danison.

(3) Clitton Carter, Johnson's executive aid, had Governor Connally's clothes taken out of the hospital and laundered before residuce, blood spatter, etc.; they were thus residuce, blood spatter, etc.; they were thus rendered useless as evidence.

car had the doors open and were moving into action at the very moment. Kennedy was shot, that is, before any of the Kennedy bodyguards apparently were aware of what was happerening. This is very time evidence was happened than sinster interpretations. (3) Cilifon Garter, lohrson's executive (3) Cilifon Garter, lohrson's executive book Whitewash, from close examination of the famous Altgens photograph, that Secret Service agents in the Vice President's Secret bad the Along and write many that the past past has the Along and write many that the past past he are morning.

Harold Weisberg's finding, in suspect, certainly an accessory after the fact. Executive Department committed lorgery, perjury, subornation of perjury and suppression of crucial evidence. Consequently, the Executive becomes, if not a murder executive regression after the fact.

than the framed case against Lee Oswald. It is worth remembering, however, that it the evidence against Johnson is too weak to stand on its own feet, it is still stronger

of Kennedy today, we would have to vote for acquittal. If Johnson were arrested for the murder

lawyers say, non liquet, not enough to make' Still, this alone, unsupported by evidence, would be an irresponsible reason for a murder charge. What can we conclude about the evidence so lat in this case? As the progresses are not inner the evidence of the property of

pim to the office of president. nave saved Johnson's career from destruction, out what it certainly did was to promote the facts to propositions.

It is true that, as we are able to see the facts today, nobody gained as much from Kennedy's death as did Johnson. The day to report Kennedy's murder, were also reporting the same day the contribution that the contribution and the contribution and the contribution and the contribution and the may not have eased Johnson's career from destruction.

nonisodord suoidul Silted on tact.

The popular suspicion is based on two elements. One is the universal feeling, accurate or not, fast the whole direction took American policy has 'changed to the road of war, terror, dictatorship and proficering. The other is expressed in that man who benefits most from a muder is most likely to be the muderies who will the proposition.

shreds of fact. assassin are totally unaware of even these The five points are not strong evidence. Moreover, it should be clear that most of the people who suspect Johnson as the

was reponable. It is bound in the featmony of Lawrence O'Brien, now Poemaster (Cenced), and (Haerings and Exhibits, VII, 468-470).
O'Brien says that Remnedy's alder, kern O'Donnell, went into the room at Pathland Hospital where Johnson was waiting and resident: (I) Johnson would leave at once for Washington, and (2) Kennedy's body was to be flown to Bethesda "Jorthwith."

The five flown to Bethesda "Jorthwith." From my studies thus far, there is only one piece of evidence that Lyndon Johnson was responsible. It is found in the testimony

the person responsible for the illegal removal reasonably may be regarded as a suspect in the assassination. The big problem, then, is this Is there a connection between the illegal removal of Kennedy's body from Dallas and the there is, the filters are the control of the control

wounds, four witnesses and the FBI reports contradict the Commission. In general, the Watten Commission gave us an autopsy report of lacunae and lies. The X-rays and films of Kennedy's wounds were suppressed. The autopsy notes were burned. On the location and depth of

a fraudulent suropsy in Bethesda Naval Hospital. dition, were it not for some contradictory evidence about her condition at the time and the fact that the body was flown to We could accept the Commission's state-ment that the body was removed hastily and illegally because of Mrs. Kennedy's con-dition

-Robert W. Harper

GOVERNOR CONNALLY AND ASSASSINATION INQUIRY

If the satisfaction to be found in ardent pursuit of the truth has not been reward enough for the continuing series of articles The Minority of One has featured on the Kennedy assassination, surely the increasing evidence that more and more people are becoming highly suspicious of the Warren Commission whitewash will be incentive enough for you to keep on with this work. I think it will not be long before we shall see a more threatening attitude taken by the government towards those who actively and intelligently question the Commission report, and, in so doing, give those who can be bothered with thinking in our land something to consider.

The remarks, on November 23rd in Austin, Texas, of Governor John B. Connally, Jr. seem to me to be the type of which we can expect more in the near future. If not actually threatening, they suggest that the Governor (and I'm sure he is not alone in this) would like to see those raising objections against the Report at least "researched" or investigated, probably in the manner which the House Committee on Un-American Activities "investigates" wrongdoings.

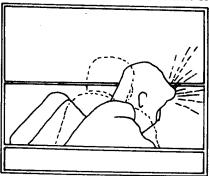
The fine piece by Sylvia Meagher on Oswald's dealings with the State Department during and after his residence in the Soviet Union is immensely interesting. Although she mentions it briefly, I wonder why no one has previously remarked about the fact that the ostensibly super-evil Soviets would not go near Oswald with a ten-foot pole. Is it not obvious, I wonder, that the Russians spotted the hapless Oswald in his clumsy role as a "plant," and refused to get involved with him?

Durham, N.H.

J. B. GIBSON

WHO KILLED KENNEDY?

John F. Kennedy was shot to death on November 22, 1963 by more than one assassin. The fact that Kennedy was shot from the front is dramatically obvious upon viewing films of the assassination, and is graphically demonstrated by the superimposition of frame 316 onto frame 313 of Abraham Zapruder's film of the assassination as presented on page 44 of the August issue of Greater Philadelphia Magazine in an article by Gaeton Fronzi. The superimposition of these two frames shows that John Kennedy's head and body were snapped leftward and backward by a bullet which the Warren Commission claims "struck the President from be-



hind." We feel that all the physical evidence of the assassination (not to mention the witnesses) proves that Kennedy was shot from in front and behind. From this we conclude two things: there was a conspiracy to assassinate the President; the Warren Commission has collaborated in an attempt to deprive the American people of the knowledge of who killed Kennedy and why.

Earl Warren told the American people in advance of the investigation by the Commission that matters involving national security and relating to the assassination would be kept from the American people. Much testimony has been hidden away and will not be released to the public for seventy-five years. Edward J. Epstein quotes Commission member John J. McCloy as saying that it was of paramount importance for the Commission to "show the world that America is not a banana republic, where a government can be changed by conspiracy." Thus, the intent of the Commission

was clear: if the facts pointed to a conspiracy, it would hide these facts and lie to the world.

Why would the Commission not wish to expose the assassins? Who could they be that they are able to get men like Earl Warren to cover for them?

The Warren Commission's role is an extremely important one. Since the Commission was appointed by the President and reflected a broad spectrum of the political scene, anyone who is seriously interested in knowing the whole truth of John Kennedy's assassination must now cease to rely on the United States government as its sole source of information. All new evidence must be carefully examined, for a government that would distribute a document as patently false as the Warren Report would not blink at forging such documents as X-rays and photographs in order to bolster its case. To know the truth each of us must examine the evidence for himself and rely on his own critical judgement.

As students, we have one obligation: to study. Let us do that. Let us ask: who killed John Kennedy? Let us ask: how he was killed? Let us ask: why he was killed? If we can raise these questions, answer them truthfully for ourselves, and then force the truth before the American public, we may well lay a foundation for true democracy in America; for the basis of a democratic system is a critical and well-informed public.

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