

## The Johnson Murder Charge

by Harold Feldman

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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.

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 *Midlothian 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

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by Ruby to a fellow prisoner on slips torn from a memo pad, this letter was smuggled out of the Dallas jail and is unpublished in any form."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 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 assassination. 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 in Paris about Vietnam flaunts a banner, "JOHNSON ASSASSIN!" Crowds in Athens, protesting the abuses of the Greek monarchy, raise the same cry: "Johnson Dolophonos!" In the United Nations a representative 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. 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.

For two years the theory was without 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 was recently taken up by a more respectable source, this time not concealed in the costumery of art but venturing out halfheartedly in the guise of a professor's hypothesis. Alan Wolfe, teaching fellow in the political science department of the University of Pennsylvania, elaborated a "possible theory" that Johnson originated the plot to kill his

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**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?

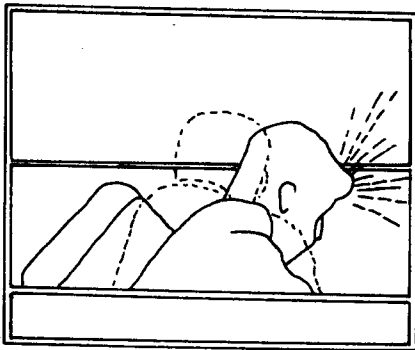
Durham, N.H.

J. B. GIBSON

me

## 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 Fonzi. 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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