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The Passing Scene  
**The Fine Edge  
Of Believability**

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VINCENT SALANDRIA was almost finished with his talk. There were about 50 people in the room and all of them were listening very hard. It was a meeting of UNICO, a service club, at the Barclay on Wednesday night.

He had been telling them for an hour that the Warren Commission had lied about the Kennedy assassination and now he was telling them why.



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"It was all part of the conspiracy," Vincent Salandria said. "This was a political assassination and there was a lot of power behind it. A lot of power. If you want to find the men behind it you have to raise your sights. You have to screw your courage way up high. You have to look even higher than J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI."

At the different tables around the room men leaned over to each other and whispered. "It was Johnson," one of them said. "He's saying Johnson did it." And some of the men who had been whispered to leaned back across the tables and nodded their heads and one of them said, "It sure makes sense."

And when the talk was over they went up to Vincent Salandria and crowded around him and told him what a terrific talk it had been. They said how terrible this conspiracy was and how important it was that they do something about it.

"We've got to form an organization," one of them said and the others shook their heads up and down to agree. And when they walked out of the room they were buzzing.

It is like this for Vincent Salandria almost every-

where he goes. "People know what happened," he said. "They've always known. They just needed someone to bring it out into the open. That's what I'm trying to do. I'm trying to be a catalyst, to get other people to work."

VINCENT SALANDRIA is a lawyer with a house on Delancey st. in center city. He is 38 years old and he has a pleasant wife and a son in second grade and there are a lot of things he could do in his spare time besides run around the country preaching about conspiracies.

"But my Government lied to me," he said, "and I'll spend every bit of my energy for the rest of my life hunting down that lie and exposing it."

The work he has done in Dallas and with the assassination films in Washington has made him one of the big people in the country in this field. It also has convinced him that the Warren Report is a fairy tale.

It was after midnight now and he was sitting in his kitchen, drinking lemonade and talking more about his theories.

"The Report is completely ridiculous and all of them know it," he said. "There are so many ways it can be proven false. Just take the condition of the bullet they said hit two men. No bullet of that type can do the damage they said that one did and emerge in that condition. That bullet could not have been fired into anything more than cotton.

"Or take the Zapruder films. Everyone who sees them jumps up at the same point and knows the commission has lied. It's so obvious that the big head hit came from the front. The President was thrown sideways to the left and back against the seat. Then he bounced off into Mrs. Kennedy's lap. It's so obvious that if they showed those films in theaters around the country they'd have 10 million people in Washington the next day screaming. Those films destroy the Warren Report.

"There was no single assassin. There were at least three and probably four and they were all in contact by radio. And Oswald was not one of them. He was standing on the front steps of the Depository when the shooting took place. The CIA had set him up as the perfect patsy."

**T**HE CIA is very big in Vincent Salandria's theory. He thinks it was a group of CIA and military leaders that had President Kennedy killed. They were afraid he was getting so friendly with Russia that the cold war would end and they would lose their power.

They knew they could handle Lyndon Johnson. He would give them a free hand in Asia. All they had to do was get him in power quick.

Johnson did not know about this in advance but he was told by a CIA man in Dallas as soon as it happened and he decided to go along. He forced Earl Warren to slap together a case against Oswald and he put on the commission only men he knew would not object.

This is Vincent Salandria's theory. It is crazy and horrible and when he talks about it you can't help but think that maybe he has been working too hard.

"No," he said. "I'm not a nut. One of my great strengths is that I know myself very well and I know I'm not a nut. I arrived at this scientifically. It's not crazy. It makes a lot of sense.

"The Kennedys know all about it. They were getting ready to expose the whole thing, then somebody made a deal. Somebody told them that Johnson would step down in '68 and Bobby could move right in."

Vincent Salandria looked very sad when he talked about this part. "The Kennedys should never have done it," he said. "They should realize that these men won't give up their power. Sure, Johnson will step down and Bobby will move in but how long will he stay?"

"This was a bad deal. They'll get Bobby killed and they'll get us all killed. Those people in power want to bring us right into China. They keep building up the Army every year. They're turning this into a closed, totalitarian, military society.

"The assassination was just the start. We have to worry about what's going on now. It doesn't matter who the actual assassins were. We have to get at the people in charge. They're the ones we have to expose."

And the sad part was that Vincent Salandria really believed in everything he said.

*Another "The Passing Scene" column will appear in this space Monday.*