

Conspiracies do occur in history

Let's be honest and admit there are serious problems with the 9/11 Commission's report and it hardly brings us closer to some clarification of these troublesome areas by lashing out at citizens who insist on considering all the evidence with a fresh and open mind.

A working axiom is that history is not all conspiracies but we have to allow that conspiracies do occur in history. If serious and open democratic questioning of 9/11 raises suspicions about conspiracy and this inquiry is dismissed out of hand and the questioner's motives are suspect, then we are not living in 2010 but in Orwell's 1984.

For example, it was national policy that the Federal Aviation Administration and the military had worked out a procedure in the event any airplane in the U.S. reporting in-flight emergency is normally intercepted within 10 minutes. This system mysteriously failed on the fateful day in regard to all four planes.

The official explanation was that the FAA notified the military about the troubles being experienced by all four airliners but not in time. No one was ever punished for this failure. But this official explanation was so lame that even the co-

chairmen of the 9/11 Commission, Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton, noted in their "inside story" book in 2006 that "it was hard to figure out how they had failed to

Jerry McKnight

shoot down one of the planes" (p. 15). Is it possible that someone high up in the Bush administration had issued a stand-down order allowing the attacks to occur?

Then there was the rush to judgment by the 9/11 Commission and the mockery that was the final report. The person who essentially ran the 9/11 Commission was the executive director, Philip D. Zelikow, a close colleague of Condoleezza Rice (they had co-authored a book) and a member of President George W. Bush's transition team in 2001 and later named to a position on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and worked with other task forces as well.

New York Times reporter Philip Shenon, who was assigned by the paper to cover the 9/11 Commission, later wrote a book titled "The Commission: The Uncensored History of the 9/11 Investigation."

Shenon revealed that before the commission staff

began its investigation, Zelikow, the consummate insider, had already written a detailed outline of what would end up being the commission's final report, "complete with chapter headings, sub-headings, and sub-sub-headings and

then conspired with Hamilton and Kean to keep this outline secret from the staff."

As Shenon summarized in his study: "Zelikow controlled what the final report would say" before the staff investigators plugged in the Xerox machines. Those who are familiar with the Warren Commission's inquiry into the Kennedy assassination will recognize that this is the same general modus operandi the commission employed in its alleged investigation into the murder of America's 35th president.

Finally, kudos to *The FNP* for opening its editorial pages for a spirited exchange of views on one of the great historic transforming events of the early 21st century. Would that the mainstream press were so publicly spirited to copy this example.

Jerry McKnight writes from Frederick.