

Chapter 18 "The Best Liar I Have Ever Talked to"

Opens w/ Hal's refutation re: That Oswald was in contact w/ KOSTIKOV AT SOVIET EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY. . HAL SAYS NEVER HAPPENED. . . (292). HE CITES ALVARADO'S STATEMENT THAT HE SAW OSWALD RECEIVE \$1,500 FOR EXPENSES. . .

I STONEWALLED THIS CHAPTER. IT DEALS WITH OSWALD IN MEXICO CITY IN GREAT DETAIL I MAY RETURN IF NECESSARY. . .

CHAPTER 19 "THE "WET JOB" ON HOSTY

HAL REVEALS ALVARADO AS A LIAR. . . HE NOTES OSWALD'S ASSASSINATION RIFLE COST \$20.00. AMBASSADOR MANN "HAS FEELING IN HIS GUTS" THAT CASTRO HIRED OSWALD TO KILL JFK. . . (P.322) P. 323 HAL NOTES THAT CIA IN MEXICO CITY BELIEVED THAT OSWALD MET WITH YATSKOV AND NOT KOSTIKOV. I QUESTION WHETHER THIS CHAPTER WILL BE NEEDED. . .

CHAPTER 20 A BOMBSHELL NOT HOSTY'S.

CHAPTER 21 THE MEANING OF HONOR" (THIS IS A KEY CHAPTER FOR ME)

PP. 349-350 KEY MATERIAL. . . . COPIED. SPECTER WAS IN CHARGE OF THAT AREA OF WORK THE WC REPORT IS MORE THAN 900 WORDS. . . THE 26 VOLUMES ARE ABOUT TEN MILLION WORDS BUT THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THE CERTIFICATE OF DEATH. . . BY CONTRAST WHAT WAS IMPORTANT TO THE COMMISSION WAS OSWALD'S BLANKET CONTAINING HIS PUBLIC HAIRS. . . THE ATTENTION GIVEN TO OSWALD'S BLANKET AND THE HAIRS FOUND ON THE BLANKET. . . . BUT NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT THE CAUSE OF JFK'S DEATH FOUND IN THE COMMISSION'S REPORT OR THE 26 VOLUMES. . . (p. 252).

HE THEN SHIFTS TO 11/22 WHEN OSWALD CAME TO GET A RIDE TO WORK WITH FRAZIER. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE BAG IS DISCUSSED. . . MRS RANDLE'S DESCRIPTION OF HOW OSWALD WAS CARRYING THE BAG. . . (p. 353). WHEN JACK DOUGHTERY, THE ONLY ONE WHO SAW OSWALD ENTER THE TSBD HE TESTIFIED THAT OSWALD HAD NOTHING IN HIS HANDS. DOUGHTERY USED THE WORD "POSITIVE" HE DID NOT HAVE ANYTHING IN HIS HANDS. EUGENE TROY WEST IS CITED. . . . THAT OSWALD DID NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE TAPE MACHINE. . . SOME OF THIS IN WW I BEGINNING ON P. 15. HAL NOTES THAT OSWALD DOUBTLESSLY LEFT HIS PACKAGE IN THE LARGE SHED NEXT TO THE TSBD

THE FBI DESCRIBED THE RIFLE AS "WELL OILED." OSWALD'S BLANKET FOUND IN RUTH PAINE'S GARAGE . THERE WAS NO OIL FROM THE "WELL-OILED" RIFLE ON THE BLANKET OR ON THE BAG IN

CHAPTER 21 MEANING OF HONOR, P. 2

WHICH IT WAS ALLEGED HE USED TO SECRET THE RIFLE INTO THE TSBD. ALL OF THIS WAS BRUSHED ASIDE. . . COMMISSION LAWYERS INSISTED THAT THERE WAS A RIFLE IN THE PACKAGE AND NOT CURTAIN RODS. . . KEY: NO MYSTERY THAT OSWALD'S ROOM NEEDED CURTAIN RODS. HAL HAS PIX FROM THE BLACK STAR AGENCY (CHECK W/ HAL'S RECORDS. . . (P. 354). THE AGENCY HAS A STRIP OF 35 MM PIXS OF OSWALD'S ROOMING HOUSE OWNER ON A BED W/ HAMMER IN HAND PUTTING UP CURTAIN RODS. . . (HAL SAYS HE HAS 6 PIXS OF THIS). . . (P 354)

P. 355 I COPIED. . . DEALS WITH DESTROYING WC CASE OF LHO ON 6TH FLOOR AT TIME OF THE SHOOTING. . . I MADE A COPY OF THIS PAGE & THE NEXT. . .

P. 358 MORE GOOD STUFF ON THE RIFLE HIDDEN BEHIND BOXES. . . INACCESSIBILITY TO THE HIDDEN RIFLE. . . AND TIE OSWALD WOULD HAVE TO TAKE TO VAULT THE BOXES. . . AND NO OSWALD PRINTS ON SAID BOXES. . . DID NOT COPY BUT CITE P. 359 HAL NOTES THAT HE HAS PIC OF THIS IN NEVER AGAIN (NO P. CITED).

P. 359 HAL NOTES RE: PICS OF JFK'S ALLEGED WOUNDS. . . THESE ARE REPRESENTED BY THE DEPICTION OF OFFICIAL STORY OF THE SHOOTING. . . P. 359. . . HAL RESPONDS TO THIS FAKERY IN POST MORTEM (PP. 597-598) & AGAIN IN NEVER AGAIN ON PP. 244, 245-247. (P. 359). THE DAMAGE TO JFK'S COLLAR —THE SLITS IN THE FRONT OF THE COLLAR WERE MADE BY NURSES AT PARKLAND IN HASTE TO FREE JFK FROM HIS CLOTHES. . . CUT OFF W/ SCALPEL. . . HE NOTES THAT DR. CARRICO TESTIFIED TWICE THAT THE BULLET HOLE WAS HIGHER ON JFK'S NECK, ABOVE THE COLLAR. . . DR. PERRY WHO MADE THE INCISION THRU THE NECK WOUND NOTED ALL 3 TIMES HE WAS QUESTIONED THAT THE WOUND IN JFK'S NECK WAS AN ENTRY WOUND. . . P. 360). THIS WAS REAFFIRMED BY DR. KEMP CLARK, CHIEF OF NEUROSURGERY AT PARKLAND HOSP. (P. 360)

P. 360 NOTES THE HOLE IN THE CURBSTONE IN NEVER AGAIN. . . PGS 329, 332 AND 333. . . HAL HAS MORE ON THE CURBSTONE AND ITS PATCHING THAT I DID NOT COPY. . . HE SHIFTS TO SPECTER'S ABSURDITIES. . . SO SPECTER AFTER CONSULTING W/ THE PARKLAND DOCTORS AND EVEN W/ THE AUTOPSY DRS AT BETHESDA NAVAL HOSP THAT THE S/B THEORY WAS WACKO AND NOT POSSIBLE. . . WILL CONCLUDE IN WCR 95 THAT "ALL EVIDENCE INDICATED THAT THE BULLET FOUND ON THE GOVERNOR'S STRETCHER COULD HAVE CAUSED ALL HIS WOUNDS" NOTY POSSIBLE. IT WAS AN UNTRUE STATEMENT AND YET THE VERACITY OF THE WCR HANGS ON THIS. . .

ON THE ALLEGED RIFLE. SEE HAL'S NEVER AGAIN (PP. 301-305) P. 365 ON THE SUPPRESSION OF . . . DOLCI'S TESTS RUN ON THE RIFLE AND AMMUNITION . . .

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SEE P. 365. . . .FOR MATERIAL ON SUPPRESSION OF DOLCI'S RESULTS. SEE POSTMORTEM (501-02)ALSO PAGES DEALING WITH HUMES AND THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS AUTOPSY NOTES. BECAUSE THEY HAD BLOOD ON THEM. . . P. 366 HAL NOTES THAT HE OBTAINED FROM COMMISSION FILES RECEIPTS FOR THOSE NOTES TO THE NAVY HOSP. BY THE SECRET SERVICE WHICH GAVE THEM TO THE WHITE HOUSE PHYSICIAN . . .(P. 366). SEE HAL'S NEVER AGAIN PP. 133-150 ON THIS. . .HE NOTES HE ASKED ROFFMAN TO MAKE STUDY OF THE AUTOPSY PROTOCOL . . . OF THE 88 STATEMENTS OF FACT HOWARD FOUND IN AUTOPSY SOME 64 HAVE NO SOURCE. SURE THIS DOCUMENT IS IN HAL'S FILES. . .(PM 255). . . .IF THERE WAS A NEED TO VALIDATE THE JFK AUTOPSY TODAY IT COULD NOT BE DONE. . . (P. 366).

P. 367 HAL EXAMINES THE TIPPIT SHOOTING PP. 367-370 HE DEVOTES TO THE TIPPIT SHOOTING. . .CASE HE MAKES IS THAT OSWALD COLD NOT HAVE BEEN THE SHOOTER. . .(I MAY WANT TOREVIEW).

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*16215
Hon. Men*

Chapter 21 The Meaning of "Honor"

The Commission concluded with the conclusion with which it began, that Oswald was the lone assassin.

Because three empty shells and a rifle were found on the Texas School Book Depository's sixth floor, it decided that Oswald did all the firing with that rifle from the easternmost window on that floor.

It had to limit itself to his having fired three shots not only because of the finding of those shells but because the very best professional shooters, under vastly improved conditions could not duplicate the shooting attributed to Oswald in the time he could have had. The impossibility of that shooting with three shots ruled out the possibility of admitting any more than three shots.

It said that the first of those three shots inflicted all seven non-fatal injuries on the President and on Texas Governor John B. Connally.

It said that the second shot missed and that a spray of concrete from its impact on a curbstone at the opposite end of Dealey Plaza is what slightly wounded James T. Tague.

It said third shot, to the President's head, was fatal.

All the support for this, where there was any support and was not just made up because it was needed, was developed by the staff. It also did the making-up of alleged evidence.

The made-up history of that first shots is that it entered the President from the back and a little to the right of the neck; that it exited the front of his neck through his shirt collar and the knot of his tie; that it thereafter entered Governor Connally's chest under his right armpit and smashed five inches of his fourth rib before exiting near his right nipple; that it then smashed his right wrist, entering it from above or its dorsal side; and that it then entered his left thigh and lurked there until the propitious moment for its emergence, at hospital. Because this is a history like nothing in science or in mythology it came to be known as "the magic bullet."

*the SPB
Theory*

Meaning of Honor

That's Honorable men

Not a word of this is true. It is not possible. The Commission and its counsels knew it was not possible.

As we have seen, Russell and Cooper refused to agree with this and Boggs had his doubts about it. We also saw how that problem was handled.

But without it no lone-assassin/no conspiracy Report was possible.

So, the staff arranged for the impossible to appear to be possible enough for the major media and the politicians to accept it. Whatever this required of the staff it did. That includes writing the Report.

The fact is that virtually nothing in the Report that is relevant stacks.

None of the claimed evidence of the shooting, and of Oswald's guilt stacks.

By this I mean with the Commission's own evidence, if that word can be used.

The staff, which developed this supposed evidence, knew this.

Separate from this is the evidence it avoided.

It even avoided what it could not avoid having.

This includes what is basic in any murder case, the certificate of death.

Aside from not mentioning the official certificate of death in the Report it wrote or the twenty-six appended volumes which the staff assembled, the staff hid it where I got it only by accident, as I set forth in *Post Mortem* in the chapter called "An Original and Six Pink Copies," *Post Mortem*, pages 302-311), with both sides of that certificate of death in facsimile on pages 308-309.

When the staff transferred the Commission's records to the National Archives that certificate of death, along, with other suppressed evidence, was where it would never be looked for. It was filed with what was sent to the Government Printing Office to be printed. It was not printed so there was no reason to look for it there.

If this had been the trial of one accused of killing an unknown, who had no family or friends, the courts would have insisted that the death certificate be presented and included in the evidence.

What was required for an unknown was not required for a President.

He's archive
CHP-21

Meaning of Honor
Honorable Men

Once they got the rifle into the building, which they did not do, they then had to have Oswald in a position to use it. That also they could not and did not do. If one goes over the evidence they adduced it is clear tha that not only was Oswald not at that window at that time- he could not have been.

And they have no other evidence on this, only what they made up.

A few samples involve the police interview of Oswald and the FBI's interviews of Carolyn Arnold, who worked in that building.

For understanding of the meaning, the motorcade was due to pass that building at 12:25 P.M.. With the rifle disassembled, the Commission had an FBI agent time how long it took him to reassemble the rifle. It took him six minutes. If we agree that Oswald could to it that rapidly he then had to have been at that window at least eleven minutes before the motorcade was due to pass. And that does not give him time to build the alleged sniper's nest of cartooned books the Commission said he hid behind.

When questioned by the FBI Oswald said he was on the first floor eating his lunch when he saw two employees one of whom is named "Junior" walk past. Junior Barman testified that he did walk through the first floor about 12:15 p.m. (*Whitewash*, pages 71, 73).

Provable Oswald

If he had not been there he could not have seen it.

In March, 1964 the Commission sent the FBI to ask all Texas School Book Depository employees five questions. One of them was Carolyn Arnold. She had been interviewed on November 26. That FBI report is reproduced in facsimile in *Photographic Whitewash* on page 210. Her statement taken March 18, is on the facing page. She did not see the November report. It quotes her as saying that at "a few minutes before 12:15 P.M." she "caught a fleeting glimpse of LEE Harvey OSWALD standing in the hallway between the front door and the double doors leading to the warehouse, located on the first floor."

That FBI report says she was then leaving the building.

That alone presented serious problems to having Oswald ready to shoot away at 12:25.

*on MacNeil's
Wal's
archive*

The way the FBI worked its signed witness statement as for the agent to talk to them write what he close of what they said for the witnesses to sign.

From this signed statement it is clear that Arnold did not tell FBI SA Richard Harrison that she left the building about 12:15.

The statement that the two other FBI agents, E. J. Robertson and Thomas T. Trettis, took from her in March says, "I left the Texas School Book Depository Building at about 12:25 P.M." This is not what they tried to get her to sign.

I also have a copy of the original statement they wrote out for her to sign. She would not sign it until she made corrections. One was to change the time the agents had written down from 12:25 A.M. to 12:25 P.M.

The November statement changed the time she said she saw Oswald from the moment the motorcade was due to make it ten minutes earlier. That would have given Oswald time to get to the sixth floor, if for little else.

As the agents wrote it out for her to sign it also could not have been used to exculpate Oswald or to endanger the official mythology. They merely made it for a little after midnight instead of a little after noon.

The Commission lawyers knew, this. The copies of those FBI records I published came from their files.

There is more like this. Two others place Oswald immediately after the assassination where it contradicts the official account.

Robert MacNeil, then of NBC-TV and later of the MacNeil-Lehrer Report on PBS, said at the time of the assassination that when he left the motorcade, it was Oswald who directed him to a phone inside the Texas School Book Depository. He repeated this on the PBS 1993 special marking the thirtieth assassination anniversary.

A Commission record certainly known to its lawyers identifies the second line. It is a Dallas Secret Service report that in the Commission's files is identified as CD 354. It quotes Oswald as having told the police in their first interview of him of having been asked by two men as he left the Texas School Book Depository "for the location of a telephone." Oswald believed they had identified themselves as of the Secret Service. It then had no men there. The synopsis reads,

Pierce Allman (person believed to be the one mentioned by Lee Harvey Oswald as identifying himself as Secret Service Agent at Texas School Book Depository immediately following assassination) interviewed 1/2 1-19-64.

Allman, who meets the description Oswald gave the police, including to his crew-cut brown hair, told Agent Roger Warner, that he had been standing at the corner of Elm and Houston when the shots were fired. He saw people who had fallen to the ground. He ran over to see if they were all right after a brief look around "ran full speed into the Texas School Book Depository Building with the intention of locating a phone and calling his television station WFAA. . . . in a hallway . . . he met a white male whom he could not further identify" who "pointed out a phone."

Allman was Terrance Ford, radio promotions director of the sister radio station.

The Secret Service believed it was Oswald who directed Allman to the phone.

Dallas motorcycle policeman Marrion Baker rushed into the building as soon as he heard the shots. Running with him was the building manager, Roy Truly. Truly was ahead of Baker as they ran up the back stairs when Baker said he saw a man through a door and rushed into the lunchroom. There was Oswald with a coke. Truly identified Oswald. Baker and Truly then ran upstairs.

In the Commission's own time reconstructions, Truly, who was ahead of Baker on the stairs and saw nobody coming down -- he returned to join Baker when he realized Baker was no longer with him -- got to the lunchroom before Oswald could have. The Commission itself proved that and then just ignored it. They even phoned some of it up and still could not make it work.

Walt *Hon. Men*
Honorable Men

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to

Report of: ROBERT P. GEMBERLING Office: DALLAS
Date: 0/5/64
Field Office File No: DL 100-10461 Bureau File No: 105-82555
Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA - CUBA

Synopsis

CLOTILE WILLIAMS heard assassination shots while standing on northwest corner of Houston and Elm Streets, Dallas, Texas, but did not see anything that aroused her suspicion and did not know from where the shots came. Supplemental listing of exhibits by item number and description prepared. Additional investigation conducted concerning mark on curb on south side of Main Street near triple underpass, which it is alleged was possibly caused by bullet fired during assassination. No evidence of mark or nick on curb now visible. Photographs taken of location where mark once appeared, together with other photographs reflecting angle of such location in relation to the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository (TSBD) from which assassination shots fired. Photographs also taken from inside sixth floor of TSBD southeast corner window from which assassination shots fired, showing distance between floor and window sill and height of opening in the window when window half open. Photographs taken of person approximate height of OSWALD showing relative position of window ledge and window to such person. Photographs taken at Methodist Hospital of Dallas of bone specimen allegedly from skull of President KENNEDY obtained. Additional investigation conducted with negative results concerning claim by Mrs. EDITH WILKINSON that she directed OSWALD family to Irving Sports Shop, Irving, Texas, in early November 1963, which investigation consisted of interviews of certain parents of female babies born 10/20/63, in the Irving and Dallas, Texas, area to determine if they were the individuals

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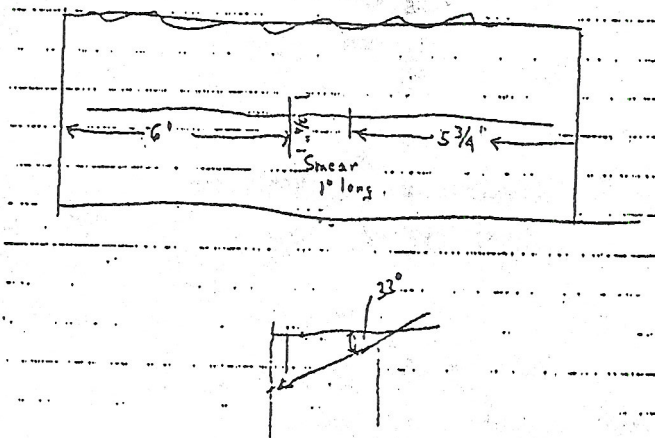
Those lawyers were supposed to be investigating the assassination, including whether or not there had been a conspiracy. With the absolute impossibility of Oswald having patched that curbstone, who but the actual conspirators had any motive for patching it? And in patching it destroy forever the traces of bullet that could have been recovered and identified by the FBI's lab. Or any competent lab.

Harold Weisberg

If those traces coincided with the ammunition Oswald was said to have used, there was no motive for eliminating them. They were eliminated only to prevent their recovery for analysis and comparison with the so-called called Oswald bullets.

Earlier I published some of those pictures in *Post Mortem* (pages 608-609). In that book I also reproduced in facsimile the FBI's lab work. It did not file the usual formal report. What the spectrographer, John F. Gallagher said he detected in that test that is fine to one in a million particles I reproduced in his own handwriting:

Small foreign metal smears (see attached for location, were spectrographically (quartz-lish) & found to be essentially lead with a trace of antimony - could be bullet metal. No copper observed.



The sketch he refers to, which I reproduced [above] along with his writing in *Post Mortem* has two parts. One locates it on the piece of curbstone dug up and the other shows the direction of the

Hal's Hangman
S-B Team

first went into this in *Whitewash* in two related chapters, "The Number of Shots" and "The Doctors and the Autopsy" (*Whitewash*, pages 155-187).

When all the doctors testified that the single-bullet explanation was impossible, Specter asked then a hypothetical question instead about "not this bullet." His question boiled down to whether one bullet could wound two men. They agreed that was possible. But they did not agree it was possible for what was attributed to that bullet. Quite the opposite. Even the autopsy doctors testified that was not possible. But as Specter wrote the Report, quoted in *Whitewash* on page 177, this is what he said:

All the evidence indicated that the bullet found on the Governor's stretcher could have caused all his wounds (R95).

This is an untrue statement that was known to be untrue, yet the entire Report hangs on it.

Other Commission lawyers were involved with that evidence and those doctors and they all had that testimony.

Tests were performed for the Commission at the Army's Aberdeen Proving Grounds to determine whether the shooting attributed to Oswald was possible. Those professional shooters, the best in the country, had vastly improved conditions and the rifle overhauled before they used it. Shims were also placed under the telescopic sight so it would not be as inaccurate. I first reported this, from the Commission's own evidence, in *Whitewash*. I went into it in great detail in *NEVER AGAIN!* (pages 301-305).

Not one of the best shots in the country could duplicate the shooting attributed the Oswald who was officially rated by the Marines as a rather poor 'shot'." The official marines report to the Commission is reproduced in facsimile in *Whitewash* on page 30.

Those lawyers knew this, too.

The army's top consultant on wounds and the doctor who was to have been called in on all woundings of VIPs was Dr. Joseph Dolce. When he told Specter and others of the Commission staff that

Sub
Dolce

Had
Honorable Men

the history attributed to that magic bullet was impossible, with the proofs going back to the Civil War, he was asked to return to Aberdeen and perform tests for the Commission. He did, but he was never called again. Not by Specter to any other conference, not to testify, not to produce the results of those tests.

Those tests proved fact that the impact with Governor Connally's wrist alone was enough to deform the bullet and did that with each and every one test fire. That is why Specter did not want to see or hear from him again, and still again, Specter was far from the only Commission lawyer involved in this.

When he was preparing his prize-winning documentary *Reasonable Doubt*, I suggested to my friend "Chip" Selby that he interview Dolce. I knew that in retirement he was in Palm Beach, Florida. Chip did, on videotape. He allowed me to use the transcript. It and the rest of the Dolce story are in *NEVER AGAIN!* (pages 291-306).

Dolce then reported that he was to have been called in on all ballistic wounds of VIPs and when the President was assassinated was not.

The conference at which Dolce informed the Commission's lawyers and quite a few others was on April 14, 1964. The memo on it was written by Melvin Eisenberg on April 22. The copy I reproduced in facsimile in *POST MORTEM* (pages 501-502) is from the Commission files. Eisenberg, Specter and Redlich were at that conference. Copies of the Eisenberg memo on that conference were directed to seven of the Commission lawyers.

There is no innocence. They all knew and wrote the exact opposite in their Report.

This could be carried on indefinitely. There is so much bearing on the integrity of those lawyers. One that I merely mention because it is in such great detail in *Post Mortem* is the absolutely prohibited burning of the original holograph of the autopsy (*Post Mortem*, pages 37-38, 103, 134, 144-145, 160, 253-254, 257, 261, 268, 524, 599). He did this as soon as he knew Oswald was killed and there would be no trial. When he testified before the House assassins committee the chief autopsy prosecutor, Commander James J. Humes, testified that it was his notes that he burned. The fact is that I obtained

Harold Weisberg

my copy
"Honorable
Man"

Russell was the first critic of the Warren Report. I wrote the first book about it. After its Preface and Introductions, I wrote a chapter titled, "A Word Investigations."

Most people had no idea how they really work. The advent of TV coverage did not inform them about this. TV had other interests, particularly scandals and other sensations. Most people knew nothing about Commissions in general or how this one went about doing its work, supposedly meeting its assigned and accepted responsibilities. Much of the criticism Campbell referred to in his memo to Russell is there. This, then, is the first major criticism of the Commission and its Report in the first book on them. Here is an excerpt:

Who evolved the philosophy and procedures by which the Commission would conduct its inquiry is not recorded and of little import since, even if the staff evolved the general approach, the Commission had to approve it, and, therefore, the method of the inquiry is the responsibility of the Commission, regardless of its origin. The Federal Bureau of Investigation had prepared a voluminous statement of its own findings following the assassination and presented it to the Commission. It was this FBI report that guided the Commission and from the outset it became clear that the main, if not exclusive, effort of the Commission would be to validate this FBI report and not-itself to make-a report on the crime, although this ostensibly was the purpose of creating such a Commission.

There is in neither the Commission's Report nor in any of the 26 printed volumes of its hearings and exhibits any sign that the Commission considered this assassination as a political crime, an unvarying characteristic of all assassinations. Likewise, despite the great amount of space devoted to the subject of conspiracy, there is no sign of any real quest for evidence of conspiracy in the broad or political sense. Both the FBI and the Commission decided, as had the police before them, that Oswald was their legitimate prey. Nowhere in the Report is there any evidence that any other assassin or assassins were ever sought or considered. Can anything be logically concluded other than that nobody wanted to find a different assassin or any additional assassin?

Yet there were abundant and obvious indications of both suspicion of a conspiracy and of its existence (page x).

The staff, of course, included J. Lee Rankin,, the general counsel. He ran the Commission. He was alive at the time of the Stone movie was shown. Rankin had been in the Department of Justice for nine years. For eight of those years he had been the solicitor General of the United States. That means he was the government's lawyer before the Supreme Court, among other things.

Copy -
Hedy
HONORABLE
Merrill

After more than two decades I find this more, not less "stupefying." It is absolutely stupefying that in government, on such a body, with its mandate to learn and tell the people the truth about the assassination of the President, a deeply subversive crime and one that, turned the country and the world around, the rigidly-held belief of two of the Members which made the Report a false report, the belief held but less firmly by a third Member, does not appear in the Report. It is more, not less stupefying that the record all three members were making for our history in accord with the agreed Commission procedures, that there would be a record of all their meetings, was not only violated – it was violated with deliberate deception. Along with this unprecedented dishonesty in fabricating the official truth, the typed, prepared statement Russell made and used at that meeting was not available in the Commission's records at the Archives when I looked into this. Most stupefying of all, in retrospect, is that our free press, our major media of unprecedented wealth, ignored all of this and more it could have learned that I could not. In this the majority of the Commission and those of its staff who knew in effect became part of the conspiracy to assassinate the President, which means in effect part of the coup d'etat, in being silent in the face of so unprecedented a subversion, and a fake "solution," joined by the abdicating major media.

The major media more than I could have followed up on my first lead. That Russell and Cooper were determined not to sign a Report based on the single-bullet theory -- which means a Report stating there had not been any conspiracy -- was barely mentioned in Epstein's *Inquest* (pages 149-50). Epstein also reported that as Russell had told me, Boggs told him he was also opposed to it but not a firmly. If any reporter had done what I did, checked the Commission's executive sessions and then spoken to Russell, he would have had one of the major sensations of the era, if it were published.

That no reporter did does not reflect on the competence of reporters. Rather does it reflect what they believe their editors will accept and publish.

my copy

Chpt. 2

Gallagher, with all the histrionics except tears, testified under oath to world-class memory failure. He agonized about allegedly not being able to remember details of his work and their results. He did, however, testify that to perform spectrographic examinations, which consist of burning a specimen, photographing the flame and then analyzing the flame, only "postage stamp" weights were required of the specimen and that it can be as small as a single millimeter in size.

Although that lawsuit was for the results of those scientific tests, the FBI steadfastly refused to deliver them to the court and to me. However, because I had enjoined the AEC's successor (Energy Research and Development Agency [ERDA]) in that lawsuit and it did deliver some copies of those records.

As an afterthought Gallagher was, belatedly, called as a witness by the Commission. He was deposed briefly after the Report had been set in type, on September 15, 1964. That was 9 nine days before the Report was delivered to the President. He was the Commission's last witness when he should have been one of the first. His is the last testimony in its last volume of testimony, Volume 15, pages 746-752. the real purpose of that testimony was to close a gap in the contrived case against Oswald.

The Dallas police did what was the usual practice, made paraffin casts of Oswald's hand and face. Those paraffin casts pick up traces of chemicals deposited on the hand and face. Firing a weapon causes deposits of the by-products of firing to be deposited on the face and hand. The casts pick them up. Other common substances can cause the same or similar chemical deposits. Among these other substances are some soaps and printed matter. The Commission kept secret the fact that the casts made of Oswald's face by the Dallas police disclose no such traces on his face. That is exculpatory evidence. It is evidence that Oswald did not fire that rifle that day.

Which alone destroyed the entire Report.

So, Gallagher was called to testify and he testified that those casts are not dependable and cannot be trusted.

Give this to Belmont's admission to J. Edgar Hoover

Oswald did not fire a weapon on 11/22

Harold Weisberg

Chpt. 2
H.M. Men

my copy

available until the first of the Commission's records were available at the Archives late in 1965 and early 1966, when I saw it. I then read it and copied those pages I used in facsimile in *Whitewash*. Only to have that ignored by the media.

All lawyers know that testimony is required to be first-person when those of personal knowledge are available to testify. Otherwise it is hearsay. Yet most of the testimony the Commission obtained from the FBI was hearsay when competent, first-person testimony was readily available.

To illustrate this with respect to the FBI's handling of important scientific examinations of the basic evidence, SA John F. Gallagher did the spectrographic examinations in the FBI laboratory. Yet the FBI sent SA Robert Frazier and Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt to testify about those tests and their results and that is the only testimony the Commission had on those tests.

When Paul Aebersold, an Atomic Energy Commission expert in the more advanced tests known as neutron activation analysis (NAA) urged the Department of Justice to see to it that NAAs were done on all the appropriate specimens and recommended the country's outstanding expert, Dr. Vincent P. Guinn to perform them, the FBI kept that secret kept secret from the Commission that because of the AEC's recommendation it had Gallagher proceed to have them done in secret by a government contractor at Oak Ridge. There is no mention of any of this in the Report or in any of those twenty-six large volumes because the Commission did not know about it.

When the Commission, through Assistant Counsel Melvin Eisenberg, asked the FBI about NAAs, the lab wrote the letter, that Hoover signed, dismissing it all in saying that the NAAs would not add to what was known.

In CA 75-226 I was able to depose four of those lab agents. Three resigned immediately. The FBI then took the position that because they were no longer FBI employees they could not be called on to testify. First I had to litigate that cock-and-bull story and then we did get to depose them. We then learned the truth about what Sanford Unger wrote in his 1976 FBI-assisted book, *FBI*, (The Atlantic Monthly Press) that those lab agents are trained to frustrate examination in the courts.

appointed them can do little. An example is a commission on crime. They can come up with recommendations for more stringent penalties and they do and crime rather than decreasing, increases.

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If presidents could solve all the problems they face they would have no need for commissions.

Lyndon Johnson faced several problems. One that is not talked about is the legitimacy of his succession. There was widespread belief that he was behind the assassination or that those behind it did it to make him president.

There were a number of committees of each House of Congress that had jurisdiction to conduct investigations. There would be no way of controlling them.

There also was no way of knowing what any committee or committee member might believe or might be told or might go into, publicly. They could be irresponsible and they could add to the national trauma and concern. They could also embarrass the Johnson administration.

And, with nobody knowing what or who was behind the assassination, there was always the possibility that what could be seriously embarrassing might surface, before the Congress whether true or not true.

There was also the real concern that the assassination had been the end product of a conspiracy. Going with this is the fact that there was no real information about the crime. The government acted and spoke as though it had investigated the crime thoroughly but the government also knew that it had not investigated the crime itself at all. Thus, there was the possibility that what could be embarrassing, whether true or not, could spring from the Congress. If true it could end the no-conspiracy fix that was in place as soon as Oswald was killed. That would be an embarrassment beyond exaggeration for the White House and for the government.

With the only official candidate for assassin dead there was no case to take to court so the system of justice could not work as usually it does in murders.

So, his Commission was the ideal solution for Johnson regardless of who had that idea first.

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Chap. 2
of Hon. Men

Harold Weisberg

Chpt. 4
The Secret
Report . My copy

conclusion; there was no evidence to show both men were hit by the same bullet.' Boggs said, 'I had strong doubts about it' and he added that he felt the question was never resolved" (*Inquest*, pages 149-150).

Honorable
men

His sources for this are given (*Inquest*, page 218) as interviews with Ford, Goldberg, Cooper and Boggs.

Epstein says no more about that revolt inside the Commission other than to quote the supposed "compromise" he says were proposed by McCloy (*Inquest*, page 150). He follows quotation of this altered language saying what is not true, "The question was left open by the Commission" (*Inquest*, page 151).

This change in language, despite the impression given, still has the entire Report depend on the single-bullet theory.

The first words of this changed language are what deceived those who refused to agree with the "theory." They are:

Although it is not necessary to any essential findings of the Commission to determine which shot hit Governor Connally . . .

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It is absolutely "essential" to the Commission's "findings" that the first shot and it alone of the admitted three hit Connally. The second is the one that missed and the third of the officially-admitted shots exploded in the President's head and hit nobody else. This leaves only the first shot to have inflicted all of Connally's and all the President's nonfatal wounds.

Epstein's
language

Or, it is the single-bullet theory rephrased but still the single-bullet theory.

Supposed Scholar that he is, in this, he supported the official assassination mythology when with any thought at all he had to know what he was doing and saying.

He also made no effort to follow this up, which is what I did. He has no mention of any executive session on it.