

nd of October, some unknown factor seems to have abated Johnson's concern
d to the Baker scandal.

's motivation for proactively suppressing any serious investigation of conspiracy
dy assassination is a matter of personal opinion. While his motive remains in
tions are now quite clear. Thanks to transcripts and records that have become
in the last few years, we at least have a detailed view of exactly how the new
ured that history would portray the murder in Dallas as the act of single "lone
of that feat are discussed in the following chapter.

CHAPTER 17

"WE CAN'T CHECK EVERY
SHOOTING SCRAPE IN THE
COUNTRY"

17

my position on
the case

check
harry
on
this

The creation of the "lone nut" historical record (following Oswald's capture and his
extremely risky elimination by Jack Ruby) can be viewed as a three step program. The first
step was to ensure that there was no conspiracy charges filed in Texas and to close down any
proactive effort by the FBI to turn up suspects beyond Oswald. The second step was to ensure
that none of the primary evidence entering the record would unambiguously demonstrate
that multiple shooters had fired at the president. That effort involved consolidating and
controlling the crime scene evidence and ensuring that the final autopsy report would
support the lone gunman scenario, exclusively implicating the only individual in custody.
The third step involved the actual management of the official investigations, engineering a
process through which a potential criminal investigation became nothing more than a series
of reports demonstrating the guilt of a single individual. The chronology of that process, as
it can now be reconstructed, was as follows.

From Investigation to Report

NOVEMBER 22, 1963

The Johnson diary records a brief visit Friday evening with McGeorge Bundy (Special
Assistant for National Security Affairs) in the Executive Office Building. The visit began at
6:45 p.m., lasting less than five minutes. This was the first recorded meeting after Johnson's
return to the Capitol. The existing official diary shows no contact between Johnson and
Hoover, who apparently had gone home at the end of the workday. William Manchester
gives details and a specific time for an evening call from Johnson to Hoover.¹ With Hoover's
support, several items of key evidence were removed from Dallas and DPD possession before
midnight. Also several calls from Johnson's aide, Cliff Carter, were made to Texas; these calls
preempted any charges or discussion of conspiracy in the assassination. In spite of that,
Dallas police continued to detain and question possible suspects.