

they admitted as “evidence” to support the official story, but, rather, what they left out.

Essay II.

A Dark Observation:

Some Similarities in the JFK and MLK Assassinations

The assassinations of JFK and MLK are seen by many as random acts by lone wolves who were just crazy or violent. In reading the Warren Commission case against Oswald, especially, Oswald is portrayed as a troubled criminal. In examining the events surrounding both assassinations, it is evident that there are many parallels including a lack of security present at the time of the assassination and little evidence incriminating the supposed assassins. With the amount of reading I was able to cover concerning both these tragic assassinations, I find it very troubling how so many of our government officials did not examine the evidence further; instead, an official story was given soon after both assassinations; both cases appeared to have closed quickly, allowing no new evidence to be admitted.

First, the security that was suppose to be protecting both men were conspicuously absent minutes before the assassinations. In regards to MLK, he was not even notified by the FBI concerning the many threats on his life prior to his assassination. On the afternoon of April 4, a black Memphis Police Department detective, Ed Redditt, was removed from his surveillance post, where he had been watching King and his friends across the street. The reason given for this seemingly random action was the fact that

Holloman, the head of the Memphis field office, told Redditt that a secret service agent had just flown in from Washington with information about a threat on Redditt's life. Holloman ordered him to go home, despite Redditt's objections. When they arrived at Redditt's house, the car radio broadcasted that King had just recently been assassinated at the Lorraine Motel. Redditt "testified that nothing further was ever said to him by the authorities about the threat on his life" (Douglass). In addition, Williams, another officer who had been "responsible for forming a security unit of black officers whenever King came to Memphis" was abruptly called off duty (Douglass). For King's April 3 arrival, "Williams was not asked to form that bodyguard. He was told that someone in King's entourage had asked for no security" (Douglass). There is no such evidence that backs up this official claim. The blame is laid on King and his entourage who supposedly did not want a security detail that day—the day King happened to get shot.

There is a same pattern when examining the JFK security detail. Given that JFK was entering a city full of many violent elements, he would need to have a beefed up security much more than if he was driving in Nantucket, one would presume. Yet, he had little reliable security minutes before his assassination. The official story is that Kennedy wanted the Secret Service to be removed from the limousine and that the limousine's top be taken off so that the crowd could see him. However, testimony from the Secret Service proved otherwise. For example, Godfrey, a member of JFK's Secret Security stated that "[JFK] never ordered us to do anything. He was a very nice man ... cooperative. He never asked me to have my shift leave the limo when we were working it" (Lancer). There are also questions about the reliability of some within the Secret Service.

Before the politics of Dallas
took control of the investigation

Something wrong?
O'Neill
Substantial misrepresentation,
deep denial, and
awkward deception
The investigation → reprinted
What was figured as a
searching examination
was in reality an
exercise intended to
force close & unexamined
conclusions