

## Gemberling Confounds Conspiracy Theorists

by Hillary M. Robinette

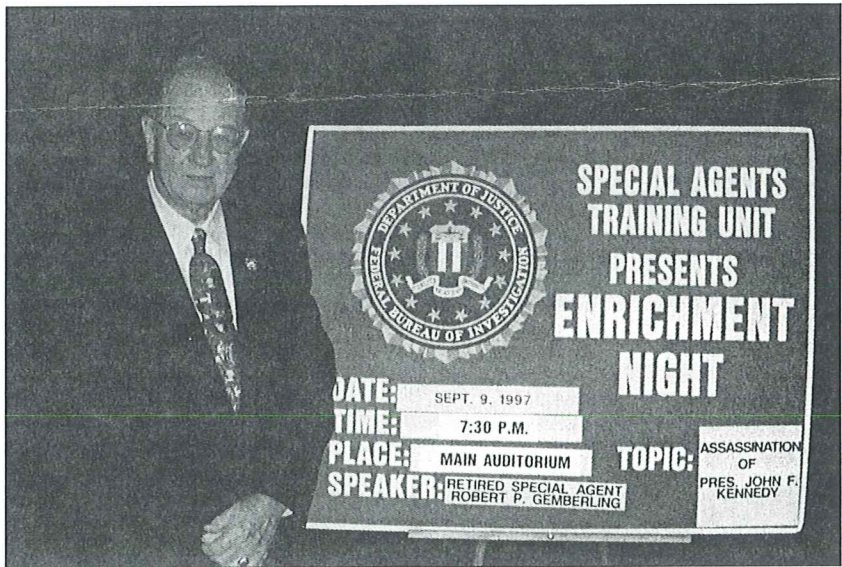
**"S**o, you want to know, who killed the President and connived in the cover-up? Everybody! High officials in the CIA, the FBI, the Dallas constabulary, all three armed services, Big Business and the White House.

Everybody done it—everybody but Lee Harvey Oswald. Oh, Oswald was probably a double agent during his 'defection' to the U.S.S.R., where he may have provided information that helped the Soviets gun down Francis Gary Powers' spy plane. He may also have been in cahoots with anti-Castro Cubans. But he didn't shoot J.F.K.; he didn't even shoot Dallas police officer J.D. Tippit. The one man charged with the Kennedy assassination was precisely what he said he was: 'a patsy.' (*Time Magazine*, December 23, 1991).

Dallas Chapter member Robert P. Gemberling (1941-76) was the featured speaker at the FBI Academy Enrichment Night program on September 9, 1997. Gemberling, a well-known expert in the FBI investigation following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963 was jointly sponsored for the event by the FBI New Agents Training Unit and the Society of Former Special Agents. His presentation destroys the several conspiracy theories—especially that presented in the goofy Oliver Stone movie described in the quote above from *Time*.

Gemberling spoke in the main auditorium at the FBI Academy in Quantico to an audience of some 260 New Agent FBI and DEA trainees, National Academy students, in-service Agents and Support Personnel.

the most closely scrutinized investigations in US history." He presented an overwhelming cascade of facts about the killings "so that your opinions can be based on facts and not theory. It is my sincere belief that we owe



▲ Dallas Chapter member Bob Gemberling is the featured speaker at the FBI Academy Enrichment Night on September 9, 1997.

The audience was riveted by the 70-minute lecture followed by an extended Q & A session. The trainees, many of whom were not yet born on that fateful day in Dallas, displayed by their questions, an enthusiasm for the truth of matters associated with the investigation.

Gemberling opened by saying that the FBI investigation of the JFK assassination by lone gunman Lee Harvey Oswald, the killing of Dallas Officer J.D. Tippit, and the killing of Oswald by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby was "one of

future generations the truth about the Kennedy assassination," he said. He spoke about the jurisdictions that prevailed at the time saying that, "it has been a violation of federal law since 1917 to threaten to kill the President of the United States, but it was not a violation of federal law, if you went ahead and killed him in 1963." Legal research at the time by the US Attorney's office determined that "there was no federal law covering the killing of the President in 1963. It was a state violation of murder in Texas.



The FBI had no jurisdiction, “but by Presidential Order, immediately after the assassination, the FBI was directed ‘to coordinate the investigation and take custody of the evidence’.”

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In the world-wide publicity blitz that followed the killings “very little credit was given to the good police work of the Dallas Police Department whose officers arrested Oswald at the Texas Theater 80 minutes after he shot the President and 35 minutes after he killed Dallas Officer J. D. Tippit,” he said.

Bob Gemberling was the supervisor who managed the post-killing investigations by hundreds of Agents and other investigators—immediately after the crime, and for 11 years thereafter by responding to various congressional, senate and other governmental commissions with his personal testimony. He describes the continuing interest in the assassination as “conspiracy hysteria,” and asks “How do you combat conspiracy hysteria? For 34 years now the public has been fed a steady diet of conspiracy theories. Perhaps those of us who knew the true facts should have been more outspoken. The ‘no comment’ era which existed throughout my FBI career

is over; it won’t cut the mustard in this day and time. A 1992 announcement by the American Medical Association supported doctors at Parkland Hospital and at Bethesda Naval Hospital where [the President] was taken for the autopsy. They stated that Kennedy was struck by two bullets fired from above and behind. Such an announcement indicated to me that other professional people were tired of their work being questioned by people trying to make a buck. The March 24, 1993 edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association quoted a Dr. Robert Artwall, an emergency medical physician at University Memorial Hospital in Baltimore as saying, ‘If God and Kennedy came down from heaven and stood on a mountaintop and said ‘There was no conspiracy,’ the conspiracy theorist response would be ‘My gosh, this conspiracy is bigger than we thought.’”

Gemberling concluded his lecture by saying, “It was my privilege to work with some of the best-trained, extremely dedicated, thorough and meticulous investigators in the law enforcement profession whose integrity was and still is highly respected . . .

For anyone to believe these fine people, along with the heads of numerous local, state, county, and other federal agencies, as well as the White House, were part of a conspiracy to commit or cover up the assassination is absolutely ridiculous.”

The Society has duplicated the video record of Bob Gemberling’s lecture at the FBI Academy. A copy of the VHS tape will be sent to each Society Chapter. Members may make personal copies and are encouraged to give screenings to as wide an audience as possible, with the caution that it may not be used for any commercial purpose; must be shown in its entirety, and may not be altered in any way. †



▲ FBI Academy New Agents Training Unit SSA Jacqueline Carrico thanks Bob Gemberling for his lecture “The JFK Assassination Investigation—Then and Now.”