

Book

John F. Kelly & Phillip K. Wearne, Tainting Evidence: Inside Scandals at the FBI Crime Lab(Free Press, NY, 1998)

Notes for ms.

term turf wars (between FBI/SS) See this from the outset and make point about Hoover plans to take over the functions of the SS.

p. 130: Speaks of the IG's 1994 audit spurred by Ruby Ridge. Among other things the audit in the hands of the Senate subcommittee concluded that the FBI investigations were "run backwards" to reach predetermined conclusions. (Site here is Chris Kerr's piece in the Washington Times, 9/15/'1995.

p. 133 relate to FBI's failure to collect Connally's clothes. the gunshot residue or bullet wiper surrounding a wound or clothes would be needed for reconstruction of the shooting.

p. 134 a bullet that hits something as relatively soft as human tissue or bone or cloth may have its shape altered radically. Or at least mark the projectile.

With autopsy at Bethesda could make a good forensic science textbook case study of how not to do it.

p. 143-145 Makes point that bullet wipe or residue on clothes could help to determine the caliber of the bullet used. The "bullet wipe" is the residue around the blood in the cloth or flesh. CE # 399 Scientifically sound testing of the bullet (before it was wiped by Frazier) could have been tested for fibers that came from Connally's clothes.

p. 152: On Hosty's punishment by FBI was tailoring the punishment to circumstance, not his dereliction of responsibility.

p. 153: On Shanklin's escaping being charged for perjury. The action by Thornburgh in not "bootstrapping" the case was designed to cover up the responsibility of higher level FBI officials at SOG.

Same can be said for James Adams testimony. In the fiercely hierarchical FBI the Hosty note would not have been destroyed without higher orders from FBIHQ.

p. 159 Orwellian world of institutional bias and image obsession made it impossible to try self-examination. Use a variety of this when discussing Hoover's refusal to admit any Bureau shortcomings in presidential protection. To learn any thing from this tragedy.

p. 159: Quoting Christopher Kerr again. Kerr was a veteran FBI agent and in 1995 an executive board member of the FBI Agents Association. He writes that "It has been an open secret for years that . . . internal investigations are generally run backwards." He goes on "the facts are often 'developed' to support a predetermined outcome. In the perhaps apocryphal exhortation

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attributed to J. Edgar Hoover, 'Fire that man! No. Get the facts. Then fire him!'"

Kerr went on to describe how probes were run by officials in the career path, "a relatively insular, 'close-knit' group . . . beholders to an 'Old Boy Network' that takes care of its own in matters large and small."

p. 164: On FBI dismissing neutron activation tests. To submit nonscientific misinterpretations of the data.

Evidence that might exculpate or disprove the lone assassin was brushed under the smothering carpet of internal investigation. See Bronson film, etc.

p. 184 WC tactics in framing LHO. Overwhelm the reader of the Report with details of circumstantial evidence and wrap it in emotion generated imagery, etc. . . .