

8. Prime Source: Litton

Gary Aguilar is a busy man, a very busy man. He is a ~~do~~ medical doctor with a private practise, in San Francisco. He is also head of the division of ophthalmology at St. Francis Memorial <sup>hospital</sup> in San Francisco. He is assistant director, <sup>hospital</sup> division of oculoplastic surgery of the University of California at San Francisco. He is Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, also at the University of California <sup>hospital</sup> at San Francisco. And he is Assistant Professor of <sup>the</sup> Ophthalmology at Stanford University Medical Center.

He also writes about the investigations of the assassination of President Kennedy. His article in this volume of Fetzter's collections runs from page 175 through 217. This includes 167 source notes that take up more ~~of~~ than four pages.

David Mantik is also a doctor, in southern California. Besides that he is also a physicist, with a Ph.D. in that science. His specialty is ~~co~~ oncology. He apparently finds more ~~the~~ time that Aguilar. From him, for this collection, Fetzter got three essays of a total of 165 pages. <sup>however,</sup> This is more than a third of this entire Fetzter collection.

Both physicians ought be the most able of commentators or critics of the medical evidence in the JFK assassination.

We'll see.

Both were in touch with me until I suggested to them what they <sup>apparently</sup> did not want to hear about their work, <sup>I told them</sup> about problems ~~they~~ <sup>they</sup> were ~~assuring~~ they would have to face <sup>N.Y.</sup> and that they had not faced in their work. Both broke off correspondence at that point. I did not hear from either for several years, until I wrote and asked them what ~~the~~ their objective was in the essays Fetzter published.

146 A follows

146 X

Of Mantik Fetzter says that <sup>"of</sup> he is <sup>"</sup> Rancho Miragem CA. He received his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Wisconsin and his M.D from the University of Michigan.. A Board Certified radiation oncologist, he had done pioneering work studying the autopsy X-rays with densitometry, a type of investigation never before performed, and has conducted <sup>Fetzter says</sup> the most extensive studies of the Zapruder film ever undertaken. (I wonder how Fetzter knew of other, particularly decades earlier, studies so he could say this.) His important studies of the X-rays and of the alteration of the film appear <sup>Fetzter's</sup> in Assassination Science." (page ~~448~~ 466).

147 follows.

I wrote Aguilar, with copies to Mantik and to Fetzner,

Aguilar responded March 28 with a friendly letter in which, as I told him under date of April 6, in the second sentence, "But you did not answer my question," In a page and a half, single spaced. I also cautioned <sup>had</sup> them about some of their sources. Particular <sup>Michael Kurtz</sup> David Lifton, and Harrison Livingstone. Aguilar assured me they were aware that Lifton's book was ~~a~~ a fraud but he explained his use of Lifton as their only ~~source~~ source of medical evidence. <sup>then</sup> I said no more and I did not remind him that I had published two large books on the medical evidence, with much in several earlier books, and had sued the government under FOIA at least a dozen time, obtaining about a quarter of a million <sup>assassination</sup> pages that included medical evidence.

In their essays they are high on ~~the~~ the Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) and the House Select Committee on ~~ASSASSINATIONS~~.

Assassinations, (HSCA).

My specific warnings included that they lacked knowledge and understanding of <sup>available</sup> background information that was really controlling, particularly in the medical evidence.

<sup>4</sup> But, as with all else, they believe that they knew all they had to know and that their work <sup>was</sup> as, as Fetzner had bragged, "pioneering." Or, they knew more <sup>and</sup> they knew better. All from both their ~~professions~~ professions and from their work. Their work that they believed nobody else had done, leading to what nobody else knew or understood. Perhaps it was this attitude that led both of them not to respond to my caution about some <sup>of</sup> of their sources.

As ~~do not~~ medical doctors they were more qualified than any others to understand and report on the medical evidence but their ability to do that accurately and understandingly also required that

*may* know and understand all that related to the medical evidence, and in this particular murder case, ~~which~~ which is what the assassination is, the complications are both many, very many, and unusual. <sup>On</sup> ~~On~~ What are not normal in medicine or in physics.

If in this case they are not equipped to understand and to be well informed about those complications, some so unusual it is not easy to believe them, then they handicap themselves and limit the value of their work, if not more than that.

This may sound personal, that I am offended because they did not heed my cautions, but that is not so. *at my age I have no time to spare.*

That was never a problem except when some of those who came either to consult with with me, to use my files or both, were personally obnoxious and then, particularly when I was old and feeble. (I am 88 as I write this.)

I really never gave it any thought because of several beliefs. One is that in this country, with our system of government, all views should be available, to the degree possible, to all people. That is a basic and a traditional American view that, when it was made the ~~rule~~ rule, it was unique. It also was unique in the protection from government retaliation that was made the law by those greatest of political thinkers, our founding fathers.

The other is the belief that ~~the most American~~ <sup>the most American</sup> ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ of laws, the Freedom of Information Act, does not make the requester the owner of the information obtained by use of ~~the~~ that Act, which required the disclosure of all government information relating to the assassination of the President. I believe the use that the requester makes of the information obtained, <sup>which</sup> but that the information itself belongs to all the people.

I have practised these beliefs from the first time I <sup>was</sup> asked

to see those records. I did not even occur to me to decline anyone. Most of those who ~~xxxx~~ had unsupervised <sup>access</sup> to our ~~records~~ and unsupervised access to our copies believed as I did not believe and I knew would write what I did not believe.

Often, too often, how some behaved <sup>for</sup> was a real disappointment: when they had <sup>h</sup> this ~~freedom~~ and could copy anything they wanted, many stole. When I first discovered that I did not deny anyone <sup>cc</sup> access to prevent further ~~the~~ stealing. Some I could pinpoint, <sup>however</sup> but most I could not. But even after large scale thefts, mostly when I was hospitalized or in a nursing home, ~~there~~ there have been no denials of access.

<sup>In all</sup> I did obtain about a third of a million pages of once-withheld ~~assassination~~ records and quite a few did use them. Including many of the media, and those of the media ranged from The National Enquirer to The New York Times, with a generous number from the media abroad, mostly from Europe, ~~and~~ Even the counsel for a foreign government used them and innumerable reporters, newspaper, radio and TV, from all across the country. Plus, of course, some who just wanted to see them and not a few who were, in a sense, my competitors, those who wrote or were writing their own books. ~~The~~ Even graduate students, about six working on their doctorates.

A few disgusted me but they still had ~~a~~ free and unsupervised access.

So, being abused and having ~~a~~ guests with whom I did not agree was not unusual and was, for the most part, not any kind of problem to me. The one exception is that when they had free access to all and they knew how difficult and costly it was to obtain all those ~~our~~ records, and when they had copies available,

Some stole.

This stealing led to my giving most of my work, including <sup>4</sup> ~~all~~ all I obtained by FOIA, to the college where they will be the largest part of a permanent archive to which all will again have access when the archives will be secure against this dismaying thievery.

I had all those FOIA records and a large volume of my own work in our <sup>a</sup> basement and now, for about a decade, ~~going~~ going down there has not been safe for me. After I fell on the <sup>steps</sup> steps the second time I did not again go down them. The last time was in early 1993.

<sup>4</sup> But since then nobody has been denied access.

The volume is so great that moving them required two trips <sup>for</sup> to of an interstate moving van.

So, that Aguilar and Mantik did not ~~xxxxxxx~~ respond to cautions was no problem to me. However, I was disappointed that men with their skills ~~we~~ would certainly produce what would <sup>at best</sup> be less valuable than they could <sup>have</sup> been if their egos did not ~~for~~ control them and ~~we~~ what they could and would do.

Examining all their views and all they say of their work is not practical, nor is it for our present purposes necessary. Likewise is it ~~not possible~~ possible or necessary to examine and <sup>at</sup> report on all all their ~~cited~~ <sup>However,</sup> sources. However, making it clear that they depended on sources in whom dependence and unquestion- <sup>were</sup> ~~inf~~ <sup>this,</sup> ~~ing~~ trust was not warranted, with some illustrations, will make it clear that they trusted and depended on those they should have had nothing to do with, from their records alone.

~~They~~ They had reason not to take the word or the work of several government agencies, not without question, but instead of

having and asking questions, they were ~~ex~~ ecstatic over what ~~as~~  
 was not true and, aside from those who know nothing about this  
 assassination and its investigation, they should have known was  
 not true.

They had (but did not use) my books that held the truth.

We will come to a few illustrations.

Then, too, they faced the problem faced by all ~~h~~ who come to  
 have an idea that leads them to believe they are Sherlock Holmes  
 returned. Then all I've know<sup>n</sup>/believe they are infallible and  
 that they need not do what authentic inquiry requires, ask the  
 questions they do not want to ask.

Of ~~these~~ ~~of~~ their ~~so~~ the sources who I believed meant  
 most problems to them, two were men and two were agencies of  
 government. The men were ~~David Lifton~~ <sup>and Garrison Livingston</sup> and the agencies were the  
 HSCA and the ARRB.

-This is series of books in which I seek to perfect the  
~~re~~ record for our history. They may never be used in the future  
 but unless they ~~ex~~ exist they cannot be used in the future. I now do  
 not know how many there are because many were stolen. But there  
 remain more than twenty-five and ~~several~~ <sup>of</sup> more than 200,000  
 words. It also happened that on these <sup>c</sup> ~~fur~~ dubious sources I had  
 written <sup>a</sup> at length. I put it this way when I had written books  
 on all because all warra<sup>n</sup>ted a longer and a closer look <sup>c</sup> because  
 the research intended for one of them was stolen.

That was a book about the most indecent of all the many  
 assassination frauds, and far and away the most <sup>†</sup> successful, meaning  
 the most profitable - and which did more damage to history and  
 deceived and misled more people - what I had written about Lifton

and his mistitled <sup>2</sup> Best Evidence when it is neither.

What Lifton wanted, obviously, was for nobody, including me, to have that *exposure of him and his fraudulent book.*

However, more than enough remains in my now-secure files so that the fraud and its indecency, its impossibility and its just plain ~~dirty~~ <sup>rotteness</sup> are still recorded. To the degree that I do not believe it is necessary to repeat the longer version.

At the time of that theft, and there is no question about the theft, as we see, Lifton and Livingstone were, ~~as~~ according to Livingstone, blood enemies. Yet the thief was a Baltimore policeman who worked for Livingstone in his free time, Rock Waybright.

The story I was told by one in a position to know but also a story for which I have no proof, is that when Lifton learned what Waybright ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> doing what he should not do with police ~~capabilities~~ <sup>Waybright</sup>, he blackmailed ~~the~~ <sup>Waybright</sup> ~~person~~ into working for him. He told ~~him~~ <sup>Waybright</sup> that he had a friend in the state ~~district~~ attorney general's office to whom they would report the transgressions and that a firing would follow.

Before long this strange corruption developed to where <sup>W</sup>aybright was giving Livingstone a written report on what Lifton was asking of him. I have a copy of one, in Waybright's handwriting.

This is not the only thievery for Lifton, which is Lifton ~~xxxixxxxx~~ thievery. He bragged about another and in the course of that Lifton description of Lifton, he behaved badly in other ways.

I was on the border of this one, about which Lifton actually bragged to ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Willate~~ Sylvia Meagher. Roger Feinman, who was close to Meagher, knew about it and when he considered that Lifton had maligned her when she was not able to defend herself, the only condition under which Lifton



would have dared malign her. Feinman decided to write a book exposing Lifton. For it he wanted, from the Meagher deposit here <sup>where</sup> mine also is, and I arranged for a student, who I paid for it, to search the <sup>the</sup> ~~Myagher~~ ~~deest~~ deposit and get a copy of that <sup>Lifton</sup> stupidity. Feinman included it in his book manuscript. It is titled Between the Signal and the Noise. In it Feinman detailed how a good print of the Zapruder film was stolen for Lifton in Lifton's presence and as arranged <sup>by</sup> fr by Lifton.

Lifton first threatened to sue the college. It spent, in lawyer's fees, enough ~~to~~ to pay for the education, including living expenses, of a poor student for a year. before the lawyer reported there was no basis for any such suit.

Lifton ~~alt~~ also threatened to sue Feinman. His <sup>his</sup> lawyer wrote Feinman a threatening letter. Feinman, a lawyer himself, replied that Lifton wasn't a man enough. That ended that.

This is merely Lifton's <sup>a</sup> ~~portar~~ portrait of himself as a bully. It is also one <sup>his</sup> of <sup>his</sup> "research."

Lifton's indecent ~~fraud~~ fraud, which reflects on a number of Kennedy's <sup>a</sup> closest associates and even on his widow, was a fiction he made up, allegedly based ~~on~~ on what for years before his book appeared <sup>as</sup> <sup>his</sup> great <sup>disc</sup> "discovery." When it was seen in his book ~~even~~ Lifton's claim that it was his <sup>discovery</sup> was false.

What ~~happened~~ <sup>but in 1966</sup> happened is that as soon as the college ~~year~~ year ended, Paul Hoch, <sup>from</sup> <sup>a</sup> graduate student in the University of California at Berkeley came to the Archives, where I had been working, we met and showed each other what we came on and believed interesting. When I came on what is now and for years had been known as "the Sibert-O'Neill report" I showed it to Hoch. That pair of FBI

agents had been sent to Andrews Air Force base in Maryland near the District of Columbia line to be with the President's body through the autopsy. Their report includes their assistant <sup>NCE</sup> at in taking the corpse <sup>c</sup> from the casket and in a layman's account of the autopsy. There was one paragraph in that contained an obvious error. It is that error that Lifton exploited by making up a nonexistent meaning for it. In fact, that same paragraph proves ~~that~~ <sup>what</sup> that was an absolute essential in this entirely made up outrage by Lifton was also false. So, knowing that it disproved what he had fabricated from that Sibert-O'Neill report, *Lifton suppressed it.*

With this one Sibert-O'Neill report the most important single item in the Lifton fabrication, the key to his fame and wealth in addition to being the only thing new in his large book, and with all the space the size of that book gave him, Lifton omitted it from his book.

I printed it in facsimile long before Lifton's book appeared. It is in Post Mortem, pages 1531-6. Not long at all and Lifton had plenty of space for it. The fact is that even if it had meant omitting something else to make space for it, which was not necessary, this one document, which is the very basis of this Lifton fabrication, under normal conditions, had to be in full in Lifton's book.

He had a real problem with that and, as usual with him, some form of dishonesty, some kind of ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> crookedness, was always at hand and useful to him.

First, he left it out, in its entirety. Then he used only a few word from it. Of the six pages of this report, few words that Lifton misused made him his fame and his fortune and <sup>five</sup> they are all

he quoted from that report. Those four words are part of a long sentence. It is four typed lines long.

That complete sentence, which Lifton dare not include in his ripoff of the public mind while he also ripped the public pocket off is:

*indent  
single  
space*

Following the removal of the wrapping (off the President's head), it was ascertained that the President's clothing had been removed and it was also apparent that a tracheotomy had been performed as well as surgery of the head area, namely, in the top of the skull (Post Mortem, page 534).

This is about a third of that paragraph. No source is given by the FBI agents other than their own observation.

"Surgery of the head area" are the key words.

No doctor is quoted. Nor do they say that it was not a question, had there been surgery of the head area. These and other questions are important because there was no such surgery on the President when he was at Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

There was a large, gaping hole in his head going back from his ear, but that was not from any surgery. It was what killed the President.

And this mistake, when a mistake was expectable under the prevailing condition, is what made Lifton rich and famous.

Aside from the emotion, which was great, the President having been first murdered and then, before their very eyes, he was cut up in the autopsy; aside from all else they had been sent to observe and report, and they were with the body from the time it landed until it was taken away by the undertaker; they did not dictate their report for four days. Four of the most hectic days. Turbulent days. Days in which they were involved in much. Four days unlike any in our history.

Now Lifton goes ~~to~~ into great detail about his time at that Bethesda Navy hospital and about his inquiries, including of the ~~the~~ doctors. But because he knew very well that there had not been any surgery of the head, he reports no ~~queation~~ <sup>question</sup> that he asked about it.

There is more in this one paragraph that destroys Lifton's fabrication, so for those additional ~~reasons~~ <sup>reasons</sup> he stays far away from this report, save for those ~~few~~ <sup>five</sup> wrong words that he exploited so successfully, if also so ~~incredibly~~ <sup>incredibly</sup> dishonestly.

Basic in his fabrication is it that the body was, as he knew he made up, encased in a plastic bag. This report makes ~~it~~ <sup>not in plastic. It</sup> quite specific, the body was wrapped in sheets, as it was when it left Dallas, <sup>it was</sup> ~~no~~ not in any body bag.

But Lifton had to have it in a body bag or the body ~~fluids~~ would have been obvious in the plane and the ambulances.

Also essential is Lifton's ~~fabric~~ <sup>get</sup> invention of what he could and did <sup>rich</sup> and famous from is it that it was allegedly removed from the casket in which it had been transported when it was, in Lifton's fabrication, at Walter Reed Hospital, where it never was, and left there is a <sup>cheap</sup> shipping casket, in which it also never was. This report is quite specific: ~~they w~~ those agents were there and helped remove the body from the casket in which it had been transported.

There is ~~more~~ <sup>e</sup> but this is enough to indicate that nobody who wants to be honest, nobody who cares about his reputation - or about his country - would dream of using this ~~king-size~~ <sup>king-size</sup> liar and crook as a source for anything, even the time.

There is much more that is wrong, very wrong, about Lifton and his book. That is <sup>w</sup> why he had what I had written about his

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transportation of the President's body back to the White House. CAPTAIN CHESTER H. BOYERS, U. S. Navy, visited the autopsy room during the final stages of such to type receipts given by FBI and Secret Service for items obtained.

At the termination of the autopsy, the following personnel from Gawler's Funeral Home entered the autopsy room to prepare the President's body for burial:

JOHN VAN HAESEN  
EDWIN STROBLE  
THOMAS ROBINSON  
Mr. HAGEN

Brigadier General GODFREY McHUGH, Air Force Military Aide to the President, was also present, as was Dr. GEORGE BILLMAN, U. S. Navy.

Arrangements were made for the performance of the autopsy by the U. S. Navy and Secret Service.

The President's body was removed from the casket in which it had been transported and was placed on the autopsy table, at which time the complete body was wrapped in a sheet and the head area contained an additional wrapping which was saturated with blood. Following the removal of the wrapping, it was ascertained that the President's clothing had been removed and it was also apparent that a tracheotomy had been performed, as well as surgery of the head area, namely, in the top of the skull. All personnel with the exception of medical officers needed in the taking of photographs and X-Rays were requested to leave the autopsy room and remain in an adjacent room.

Upon completion of X-Rays and photographs, the first incision was made at 8:15 p.m. X-Rays of the brain area which were developed and returned to the autopsy room disclosed a path of a missile which appeared to enter the back of the skull and the path of the disintegrated fragments could be observed along the right side of the skull. The largest section of this missile as portrayed by X-Ray appeared to be behind the right frontal sinus. The next largest fragment appeared to be at the rear of the skull at the juncture of the skull bone.

The Chief Pathologist advised approximately 40 particles of disintegrated bullet and smudges indicated that the projectile had fragmentized while passing through the skull region.

During the autopsy two fragments from the right metal measuring area, both of black metal and following by Bureau agent

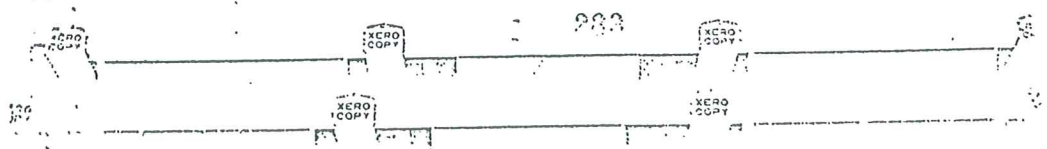
During the 1 an opening w the shoulder of the spine

This opening time it was entering at 45 to 60 degrees travelled by end of the

Inasmuch as the brain a back or any body X-Rays exit, the 1 to explain

.. call was the FBI let that the Lt Agent RICH on a stretcher Dallas, Tex and pair of Laboratory this was 5 body of 20 this bullet would be a concided

Immediately made avail this acco



Nowhere is there an explanation of why it was "apparent" that "surgery of the head area" had occurred, a falsehood. The Commission sought no explanation. Nor was the Commission interested in ascertaining how these FBI agents could know it was "apparent that a tracheotomy had been performed" when Kumes' story is that he had to wait until the following day to learn that.

Sibert and O'Neill, I first reported it was doctors were later to autopsy is character opening reported to the wound?

fraud of a book but this is more than enough to indicate why no self-respecting person, no caring professional man, would think of using him as a source, not even on the weather. *156 A follows*

Livingstone is a Lift n or a different kind and a partly different mind. When I first heard from him I thought he was crazy and after many years to say and believe that now is a kindness to him, given his public record of which Fetzer and those he whose essays he collected had to know if they were doing any work in the field at all.

My first recollection of hearing from him was an excite, an obviously worried phone call I got from him, he said, as I recall, from Maine. He then told me that he wanted me to know because "they," who they were never mentioned, were about to kill him.

Well, "they" didn't.

My next recollection is of his giving me the medical chapters of his High Treason manuscript. He asked me to go over them and make suggestions, particularly of mistakes, for him.

When I looked at those chapters, they were on continuous computer paper. I did not know whether they could be separated so I did not. Reading and annotating so long a continuous length of paper was awkward, cumbersome, but I did it. Every place I saw a mistake, and there were many, every place I would make a suggestion, I placed a paperclip. There were many, many paperclips in the margin of the paper holding those chapters.

Time went by and I heard nothing from him. He lives in Baltimore, about an hour or so from here, but he did not come to go over the mistakes I'd found and the constrictive