

Chapter Summaries

151
Drum

Chapter One: See sample chapter

Chapter Two:

- Discusses the domestic and foreign policy pressures that forced LBJ to accede, to what he initially strenuously opposed, the establishment of the Warren Commission to investigate and report on the JFK assassination.
- How and why FBI Director Hoover sabotaged Chief Justice Earl Warren's choice of Warren Olney for the post of Commission general counsel for his own man, J. Lee Rankin. (Hoover and Rankin were on first-name basis, "Edgar" and "Lee.") How Hoover's underhanded interference in blocking Olney critically affected the work of the Commission.
- Congressman Gerald Ford's role as the FBI's secret informer on the Commission.
- FBI's leaking to "cooperative" newspapers the results of its report on the JFK assassination before the report was sent to the White House and the Commission. The purpose: to box in the Commission to force it to endorse the "official truth" agreed upon by LBJ, Katzenbach, and Hoover: Oswald was the lone assassin and there was no conspiracy. This blunt ploy was not lost on the Commissioners.
- Finally, how evidence was manipulated and witnesses ignored to establish that Oswald was the assailant in the shooting attempt on General Edwin A. Walker on April 10, 1963, in Dallas. The Commission used Oswald's alleged attempt on Walker's life to validate its case that he was capable of the careful planned killing of another human being.

Chapter Three:

Despite suspicious events and untoward developments, the Warren Commission concluded that Oswald's trip to Mexico had no bearing on the subsequent events in Dallas. Using FBI and CIA documents this chapter raises still unanswered questions and explores lingering dark areas surrounding the assassination. Not the least of these, for instance, is the revelation that someone was impersonating Oswald while he was in Mexico City. This "false Oswald" (still unidentified) was visiting and making phone calls to the Soviet Embassy and Cuban Consulate in Mexico City in what can only be interpreted as an attempt to link Oswald with a Kremlin-Havana plot to assassinate JFK when no connection existed. **American Counterfeit** is the first full-length attempt to open this Pandora's box.

Chapter Four:

- Deals with the Commission's stunned reaction to the FBI's 833-page report on the assassination. Acting Attorney General Katzenbach's assurances that the report was the end product of an "exhaustive investigation" would ring hollow once the Commissioners had the FBI Report in hand. Warren's characterization of it as "skeletal," was the consensual view of all the Commissioners.
- This chapter deals with some of these glaring inadequacies of the FBI Report and FBI "tender spots" in its investigation. For example, the failure of the FBI to consult the official JFK autopsy before writing its report.
- Rankin even toyed with the idea of establishing the Commission's own independent investigative staff. When Hoover learned about this through a source on the Commission (Allen Dulles) he threatened to order his agents in the field to sit on their hands. Rankin dropped the idea of an independent investigative staff.
- Very shortly, relations between the FBI and the Commission were secretly downgraded within the Bureau from a "Lee" and "Edgar" status to "adversarial," the FBI's own characterization.

Chapters 5 & 6

- These two chapters deal in some detail with the FBI and the Commission's treatment of the evidence in its prosecution case against the dead Oswald.
 - Short of violating the rules of evidence and accepting corrupted witness testimony, the Commission was never able to place Oswald on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository—the so-called "sniper's nest"—with a rifle at the time Kennedy was assassinated.
 - The FBI's laboratory's forensic testing proved that no shot or shots could have come from the Commission-designated "sniper's nest,"
 - As late as July, when the Commission was preparing the first draft of its report, a dismayed assistant counsel Norman Redlich lamented to Commissioner Dulles that based on the FBI's authorized highly sophisticated neutron activation tests that it was doubtful that Oswald had fired a rifle on the day of the assassination. These neutron activation test results do not appear in the Commission's Report or in the 26 volumes of Hearings and Exhibits!
- The FBI's own records indicate that at least four shots, not the three that the Commission settled upon in its Report, were fired at the presidential motorcade. Four or more shots strongly indicated that there was more than one gunman in Dealey Plaza.

Chapter 7:

The 22-year-old Marina, the widow of the accused assassin, was the Commission's strongest witness in the government's case against Lee Harvey Oswald.

- The purpose of this chapter is to reveal how government authorities abused Marina and pressured her, threatening to deport her and her two infant daughters back to the Soviet Union if she did not "cooperate."
- Rankin and the Commissioners relied on her to help them construct a convincing case to bridge the gap from allegation to verification. Or, as Rankin summarized the Commission's task: "To tell the story and to show why it is reasonable to assume that he [Oswald] did what the Commission concludes that he did do."
- For three months the Secret Service had Marina under protective custody and after she was released the FBI placed her under physical and electronic surveillance. The Bureau even went so far as to ~~illegally~~ tap her phone and bug her house. *illegally*

Chapter 8:

During January the Commission met three times. During these executive sessions the Commissioners were forced to confront the troubling question that they could no longer ignore—was Oswald an agent or informer for a U.S. government agency?

In the end, after much discussion, the Commission adopted the Rankin solution to their quandary: They acquiesced to permitting the FBI and the CIA to investigate themselves on this "Agent Oswald" question knowing in advance that this would be a meaningless exercise in official denials. *In May* Both agency heads testified before the Commission and went on record denying any association with JFK's charged assassin and assuring the Commission that there was no evidence of a conspiracy in the assassination.

Two days after the assassination the CIA secretly *acquired a* submitted a copy of Abraham Zapruder's historic six-foot strip of a film of the assassination for photo analysis by the Agency's National Photographic Intelligence Center (NPIC). NPIC was the finest photo interpretation center in the world. The Center's analysis of the film concluded (1) that the first shot could not have come from the so-called "sniper's nest;" (2) that there was more than one gunman in Dealey Plaza shooting at the presidential limousine. No other mainstream book on the JFK assassination has uncovered this development or discussed its suppression.

Chapter Nine: The high points of this chapter on the Kennedy autopsy are covered in the 5-page summary.

Chapters Ten and Eleven:

If there is a Rosetta stone for the JFK assassination that exposes the deception of the government's investigation into the crime it is, what in time came to be referred to, as the "single-bullet" theory.

The purpose of these two chapters is to present a detailed deconstruction of the "single-bullet" hypothesis and expose it for what it was: an ad hoc invention and politically determined fabrication to meet the Commission's requirements for a lone assassin, no conspiracy explanation for the Kennedy assassination.

When the Commission's own medical and forensic experts, as well as Governor Connally's own surgeons, asserted that the medical and physical evidence was inconsistent with this single bullet invention the Commission ignored them.

Chapter Twelve:

Inarguably, the FBI's most colossal blunder in the entire matter of the JFK assassination occurred before President Kennedy ever arrived in Dallas. By any stretch of the imagination, based on the information in its pre-assassination file on Oswald the FBI should have placed his name on its Security Index. In addition to Oswald's defection to the Soviet Union, his pro-Castro activities in New Orleans after he re-defected to the United States, his trip to Mexico to get a visa to travel to Cuba, was the threatening note he left at FBI headquarters in Dallas several weeks before the assassination. Angered by the FBI's attempts to question his pregnant wife, Oswald wrote a note to the offending FBI agent, James P. Hosty, threatening to blow up the FBI building if Hosty did not leave his wife alone!

intelligence standards

The Index contained names of uncontrolled and potentially violent persons who might pose a threat to the president, vice-president or their families. All names on the Index were to be submitted to the Secret Service before the president made a visit to any city in the United States.

Oswald's name was not on the FBI's Security Index and therefore failed to show up on the Dallas Secret Service's "alert list." When Kennedy arrived in Dallas neither the Secret Service nor the Dallas police ever heard of Oswald or were aware that he worked in a building overlooking the route of the presidential motorcade.

Had Oswald been on the Secret Service's "alert list" he would have had no access to the president. In short, being under Secret Service surveillance he would have had an unimpeachable alibi. Kennedy might still have been assassinated, but the official history of Dallas would not have been a near carbon copy of the politically preordained Warren Report.

This chapter deals with this monumental FBI error and the Bureau's cover-up of its dereliction that went into place the day Oswald was himself assassinated and remained in place for the next twelve years.

the day Oswald himself was assassinated. The Commission never was informed about the note and this cover-up remained in place for the next twelve years.

Chapter Thirteen:

When the Warren Commission Report came out in September it mildly criticized the FBI for not bringing Oswald's name to the attention of the Secret Service. There was nothing in the Report's detailed contention about the FBI's "unduly restrictive role in preventive intelligence" that was not already anticipated in the FBI's own secret in-house investigation about this failure that Hoover ordered back in December 1963. The FBI was wrong and it knew it was wrong. Seventeen FBI agents from assistant directors to street agents were secretly censured for being derelict in their responsibilities.

There is nothing, however, in the disclosed public record to indicate whether the Hoover Bureau made any effort to learn from the Commission's justified criticism and improve itself by heeding that criticism.

Instead, Hoover and his executive officers launched a "counterattack" on the Commission for publicly criticizing the agency. The Hoover vendetta went so far as ordering the preparation of dossiers, searching for derogatory material, on *MLL* Commission members and the staff after the Warren report was published and the Commission disbanded.

Chapter Fourteen:

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- Congressman Gerald Ford's role as the FBI's secret informer on the Commission.
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- The FBI's laboratory's forensic testing proved that no shot or shots could have come from the Commission-designated "sniper's nest," ✓
- As late as July, when the Commission was preparing the first draft of its report, a dismayed assistant counsel Norman Redlich lamented to Commissioner Dulles that based on the FBI's authorized highly sophisticated neutron activation tests that it was doubtful that Oswald had fired a rifle on the day of the assassination. These neutron activation test results do not appear in the Commission's Report or in the 26 volumes of Hearings and Exhibits! ✓
- Paraffin tests on Oswald's cheeks, the test for gunpowder residues, conducted by the Dallas police's forensic unit, also proved negative.
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