

Thoughts on "JFK"

My own personal reaction--that came as a surprise to myself--was creeping boredom. That was true w/ the first half of the film.

I? have to admit that I was captivated with Donald Sutherland's performance. Most of this was based on E. Fletcher Prouty and possibly rounded out w/ Michael Mewman and Peter Dale Scott's ideas. Especially as they related to Vietnam.

Style was sledgehammer-like.

The sclae of the conspiracy. It included virtually everyone except the Eskimoes. Left out the idea of a disgruntled and cuckolded husband or conspiracy of husbands.

Some specifics--Stone/Garrison taking libertmies w/ the facts:

Bannister/ Oswald connection. There is nothing solid by way of evidence on this. Same as Oswald connected w/ Ferry or with Clay Shaw.

Did Helms ever admit Clay Shaw was a CIA operative? Answer "no." Shaw's rirole as "Civilian Contact" program. Shaw's politics wewre if anythign liberal not fascist.

The early point made about the joining of the Lafayette St. and Camp street offices. See Harold on this.

Oswald did use the 544 Camp St. address of Guy Bannister. But there is nothing to connect him w/ Bannister. Bannister, right-wing politics and anti-Castro activities is true. Connection with Cubans is probably true to some degree.

Oswald was in the CAP but at that time Ferry was not attached to the CAP.

Deal w/ NSC # 273. This is Peter Dale Scott. Does not prove what Stone asserts. (But there is evidence that LBJ planned early on to escalate war w/ provocative actions--DeSota missions/Oplan-34.

What role did Oswald play? I may have missed it but I left theatre uncertain of his alleged role in the coup on Nov, 22. He was a patsy of some kind.

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Check w/ Harold on overall approach.

Since there never was a legitimate investigation into the Kennedy assassination there are no real leads for private people like Stone to follow and solve this crime of the century. All that he can come up with are theories. And so he turns to Garrison. Garrison's investigation was a non-investigation; totally incompetent and that is why his case against Clay Shaw was dismissed by a jury in less than one hour.

As a detective story it is perhaps good stuff. But it is not history and to pretend otherwise is to falsify history.

Sutherland's character--raises the question of the whys of Dallas. Cui bono--this provides Stone with his entree for the Vietnam War thesis. The purpose of the film is to allow Stone to go full-bore on Vietnam. His film is a metaphor for the 1960s. . . .and VN is his idee fixe.

Some things are obscene: LBJ and the generals: get me elected and I'll give you your damn war. LBJ ordering the press, limousine washed out. All nonsense.

Cui bono--who did benefit. JFK had made plenty of enemies who might want to see him dead. List here and reasons.

Other falsifications: Stone exercises license here. OK.

Beverly Oliver. She is the blonde bar-hopper who connects Ruby w/ Oswald. Claimed she slept with both. Beverly Oliver never surfaced until after the Clay Shaw trial. She is the "babushka" Lady. (Check on here).

The little colloquy btw Senator Long (Mattaheu) and Garrison in the plane never took place according to Lardner ACCORDING to Senator Long.

The 1st half of the film - Stone makes a ^{Promiscuous} connection in New Orleans - Shaw, Ferris, Oswald,
- all disputed. Bovine Scatology

Some Thoughts on "JFK"
Page two

Oswald and the letter he delivered to Agent Hosty. Stone version of this letter that was destroyed was that Oswald was telling the FBI something about the planned attempt on JFK. Incidentally Oswald liked JFK.

The version of the Hosty letter that has some support/ was destroyed and has critical bearing on Dallas.

All the teams of shooters in the film seemed to be using Mannlich er/Carcanos!!!!!!! That is they were bolt-action rifles similar to Oswald's.

Central comments:

Conceptual problem from my view: Stone confabulates in that he ties together in one package the assassination of the govt. Instead of sticking with what can be demonstrated with documentary precision. That is the two-stages of Dallas. The assassination and the govt. cover-up of the investigation/the WC Report.

OPoint hewre: Especially w/ the Garrisonian peroration or chargew to the jury in the Clay case: We are firmly planted in reality--the hard surfaces, the dirt, the horror of it all, then we pass through a invisible veil and find ourselves in some suerealistic landscape of nutty conjecturing. . . .and themn back to hard cased reality.

Reoccurring episodes of veiled reality. . then Grarison drops a veil of conspiratorial fantasizing drops over Garrison and we are back i cloud-cuckoo land; or twinty. or the a veil that clouds the reality

The shadow of veil clouds remain walking — shadow play with comparisons looking in any sense of this veiled world.

Includes the umbrella man in film/ and military intelligence personel in Dallas that day. (Expand on this).

Expand on the hobos or "winos" from the box cars. FBI reported on them. Did not suppress this as contended.

(Surreal and)
asks the public question — who perpetrated Pa
✓ the conspiracy (Factor in let us see how)
✓ JFK had made enemies — study of them.