

March 20, 1965

KENNEDY ASSASSINATION EVIDENCE AT ODDS WITH THEORY

Warren Report veils data on shots

"No credible evidence suggests that the shots were fired from . . . any place other than the Texas School Book Depository Building."

Warren Report, Page 61.

OF THE 121 witnesses to President Kennedy's assassination who are quoted in the 26 volumes of hearings published by the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy—the source material for the Warren Report—a majority of those able to give any opinion at all testified that they believed the shots issued not from the Texas School Book Depository (TSBD) but from a grassy knoll to the right of the presidential motorcade.

In an article appearing in the March issue of *Minority of One*, Harold Feldman, a freelance writer, stated that the transcript of the hearings showed that "on the question of where the shots that killed the President came from, 38 [of the 121 eyewitnesses] could give no clear opinion and 32 thought they came from the TSBD. Fifty-one held the shots sounded as if they came from west of the Depository, the area of the grassy knoll on Elm Street . . ."

Feldman confined his computation only to the hearings and did not include the witnesses quoted in newspapers who declared they thought the shots came from the direction of the knoll, which is in front of the railroad overpass toward which Kennedy's limosine was heading.

Noting that Secret Service agents and officials were in the third, fourth and fifth cars of the motorcade—which were adjacent to the Depository at the moment Lee Oswald was alleged to have fired three shots from the sixth floor—Feldman wrote: ". . . the most striking aspect of the individual reports made by the Secret Service drivers and passengers of these three cars is certainly this—that, having a better view of the TSBD at the time of the assassination than anyone else in the motorcade, not one, writing memoranda within hours or days of the event or testifying about it months afterward, not one pointed to the TSBD as the source of the shots as they heard them."

ALTHOUGH the Warren Report quoted Mrs. Earle Cabell, wife of the Dallas Mayor, who was riding in the motorcade, as stating that she saw a "rather long-looking" object protruding from the sixth-floor window, it did not also include her testimony (volume 7 of the transcripts) that she was "acutely aware of the odor of gunpowder." Feldman pointed out that gunpowder odor "is

not likely to have been perceptible from a source high up and inside a building. She noticed the odor after all the shots were fired and therefore possibly when [her] car was turning down hill into Elm St., approaching the knoll." The author also quoted Sen. Ralph Yarborough, in an article soon after the assassination, as stating that "he smelled gunpowder as the car drove away through the underpass." Rep. Ray Roberts, riding in the



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same car with Mrs. Cabell, also said he smelled gunpowder in the same location.

Other witnesses testified to having seen smoke from a group of trees near the knoll, including S. M. Holland, a signal supervisor for the Union Terminal Railroad, who testified (volume 6):

"A puff of smoke came out about 6 or 8 feet above the ground right out from under those trees. And at just about this location from where I was standing you could see that puff of smoke, like someone had thrown a firecracker, or something out, and that is just about the way it sounded . . . I definitely saw the puff of smoke and heard the report from under those trees."

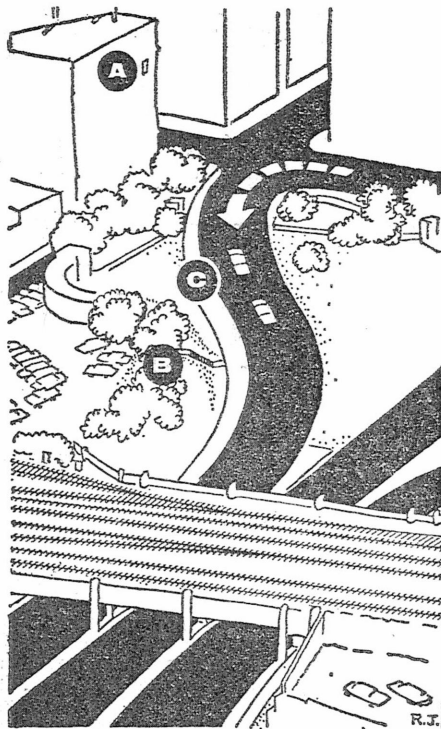
THE WARREN REPORT made refer-

ence to "many people" who thought that the shots issued from near the railroad bridge and the knoll and that "some" ran to that location—to which Feldman commented: "It requires a patient culling of the 26 volumes appended to the Report to learn that here and elsewhere the Report is a not unskillful deception. We would not learn from the Report itself, for example, that the many people were in fact most people, the overwhelming majority. We are drawn a picture of bystanders rushing westward of the TSBD, 'some' to find the assassin, 'others' to escape him. But we are not told that practically none of the witnesses belonged to the second category, and that the 'some' who looked for the assassin in the vicinity of the grassy knoll included almost every deputy sheriff on duty in the area that day and most of the policemen.

"The list of witnesses for the grassy knoll as a sniper's post is decreased because the Warren Report and its appendices contain no evidence from many persons who are mentioned and quoted in the reports of other witnesses and in newspaper accounts. We have found ten deputies of the sheriff's office who were on assignment at the assassination scene who were not called on for evidence. Most of them would, probably, have felt and reacted like the 20 recorded deputies. Of these twenty, only one decided the shots came from the TSBD, three gave no opinion, and 16 thought the assassin had fired from the area of the grassy knoll."

Regarding the widely publicized theory that the sounds emanating from the knoll were actually echoes of the shots from the Depository, Feldman declared: "If echoes influenced the witnesses at the assassination scene, it is clear that those who thought the shots came from the TSBD would be more likely to be misled than those who thought the sounds came from the grassy knoll. The Depository was the last tall building of the Dallas business district as the motorcade moved west. The surfaces of buildings like this produce stronger echoes than would a low, convex slope covered by a rug-like grassy surface."

READERS FAMILIAR with the Warren Report will recall that Deputy Constable Seymour Weitzman at first identified the alleged murder rifle—an Italian Mannlicher-Carcano, according to the Report—as a German Mauser. Omitted from the Report, however, is the fact (as recorded in volume 19 of the testimony and uncovered by Feldman) that Deputy Sheriff Eugene Boon, the man who actually discovered the rifle, like-



Guardian map by Robert Joyce
MAP OF THE ASSASSINATION SCENE
 (A) marks window in book depository;
 (B) grassy knoll; (C) positions of
 Kennedy car at beginning and end of
 assassination

wise identified it as a Mauser.

In conclusion, referring to the excerpt from the Warren Report heading this article that there is "no credible evidence" to suggest the bullets issued from any location but the Depository, Feldman stated: "It is clear how the commission reached this absurd conclusion. Once it was committed to the thesis that there could be only one assassin and no accomplices, it readily accepted the clues pointing to Lee Oswald in the TSBD. Now that the assassin and his place were identified, it became 'incredible' that any other assassin or any other source of shots could exist. Ergo, any evidence that there was another assassin and another shot source is not 'credible'.

"In what other murder case would the testimony of 51 sworn and many other unheard witnesses be dismissed so cavalierly as 'no credible evidence'?

"We submit, on the contrary, that the ear-witness evidence is quite credible. Taken together with the ballistic and medical evidence analyzed by Mr. Salandria [see GUARDIAN March 13 for a report on Vincent Salandria's article in the March Liberation], it is not only credible; it is convincing. There was at least one other assassin firing at President Kennedy from the vicinity of the grassy knoll."