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THE EDITOR SPEAKS HIS MIND -

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Truly, truly, a lot has happened since our last issue. Three persons who were conspicuously connected to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy have passed beyond this particular vale of tears. Two - George S. DeMohrenschildt and former Cuban president Carlos Prío Socarras, were allegedly suicides. Another, Charles Nicoletti, caught a bullet in the head from an unknown assailant on March 30, the day after DeMohrenschildt blew his own brains out. An editorial in this issue, "And The Hits Just Keep On Coming", and a feature story by R.B. Cutler, "Murder by Suicide", deal with the deaths of Prío and DeMohrenschildt, respectively.

For his part, Nicoletti had for some time been linked with the CIA/Mob plots on the life of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. Two of Nicoletti's close associates (as a matter of fact, his bosses), Sam "Momo" Giancana and John Roselli, had long since met untimely ends as a result of this unholy alliance between the Central Intelligence Agency and the Mafia. Giancana had a midnight snack interrupted by bullets on the eve of his testimony before the Church Committee. He didn't even get a chance to put the cheese on the pastrami. Roselli later foolishly went water-skiing in an oil drum in lovely Biscayne Bay, and somehow the barrel became entangled in a bunch of chains some litterer had left behind. Bebe, you've gotta be more careful.

Another important item to take note of is mobster Santo Trafficante's refusal to testify recently before the House Assassinations Committee. Trafficante politely invoked the Fifth, the Fourteenth, and a slew of other amendments in response to questions about his involvement and/or foreknowledge of the plot to kill JFK.

Now, just for a moment, let's put mere legalities aside. The law is A-OK and we all just love it, but let's forget all that for a moment. Okay - just suppose you're a kid of 5 or 6 again, and you've been harboring some doubts and suspicions about Santa Claus for some time now. So at the appropriate time (after Christmas, when you've already got the presents) you decide to pop the big question. So you set up the microphones, and the lights, maybe call in some of the other kids in the neighborhood, and you ask THE QUESTION: "Is there a Santa Claus?" Mom 'n' Pop start sweating and stuttering, they shuffle papers nervously around. And then they start taking the 5th Amendment, the 14th, and gosh knows what else. What does it all mean, you wonder, so you ask Susie, who's 7 already and smart as all heck. "It's simple," says Susie, "there ain't no Santa Claus."

And there ain't no escape clause, either, 'cause nice as the law can be, it's clear to all who will so much as take a look just what Trafficante means when he says that to answer "might tend to incriminate" him.

Eyes of a child, and all that.

All of these fast-breaking developments only tend to emphasize the futility of trying to keep you abreast of all this in a quarterly newsletter. The fact is, we'd very much like to go bi-monthly, but we just don't have the subscribers to make it feasible right now. So, we'll stay quarterly for the remainder of this year, but we'd like to hear from you how you'd feel about paying \$6.00 or maybe \$7.00 for a bimonthly roughly half the size of this one. Think it over. THE EDITOR

IN THE NEWS

Sorry about that, Richard A. Sprague. In our March issue, we did some musing about whether Sprague, then the General Counsel to the House Committee on Assassinations, was really out to subtly muck up the investigation. As a result of this stance, we got a bit of feedback from our readers, most of it favorable to Sprague. Furthermore, we were assured by several researchers close to all the assassination action on Capitol Hill at the time that Sprague was "all right"; and we were told that what really happened was that "somebody got to Henry (Gonzalez)."

This editor/writer is inclined to take those researchers at their word. It is indeed a fact that Henry behaved very bizarrely. Worse - he managed to make a damn fool of himself in front of the press (and thus the world) with all that crapola about "stomping rattlesnakes" and so forth. Predictably, the press lapped it all up like hungry dogs, ignoring the more important news.

Anyway, Sprague sure hushed our mouths. On March 31 he resigned as the General Counsel to the Committee; all our musings are rendered inoperative. In doing so, he very likely spared the life of the Committee. We owe him our thanks and our apology.

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused of murdering Robert F. Kennedy and convicted of same announced, through his attorney, Godfrey Isaac, that he would like to talk with L.A. County Supervisors Baxter Ward and Kenneth Hahn about the killing. At the time (May 18), the County Board of Supervisors had just opened hearings on the unsolved aspects of the case.

The County Supervisors also heard testimony from Robert Joling, a respected forensic scientist and an outspoken critic of the official "verdict" for several years now. Joling told the supervisors that at least 10 bullets could be accounted for in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel. Sirhan's gun could have held no more than 8. The only other possibility which would preclude a "second gun" is that Sirhan stopped to reload with Roosevelt Grier trying to sack him; no way.

A UPI story dated May 6, the day after former President Nixon's first "Frost interview", relates that convicted Watergate bungler Frank Sturgis (aka Fiorini) stated in a televised interview in Dallas on May 5 that the CIA carried out the Watergate break-in to frame Mr. Nixon and thus depose him.

Sturgis said that the CIA wanted to get rid of Nixon because he was becoming too powerful, and because he was getting "too interested in the assassination of John F. Kennedy."

A CIA spokesman labelled the Sturgis charge "ludicrous".

In a recently uncovered CIA memo (dated 6 September 1975) from then CIA director William Colby to Agency staff, Colby relates how he fooled CBS reporter Dan Rather and Les Midgeley, the producer of the 1975 CBS special, "The Assassinations", into believing that he (Colby) would inform Rather and Midgeley of any new information turned up which would cast any doubt on Colby's assertion that there was no "Oswald-CIA connection".

Colby's final comment reads: "From their attitude, I believe there is a chance that the program will indicate that there is no CIA connection with Oswald beyond that noted above. This could make a contribution to knocking down the paranoid belief to the contrary. We must, however, insure that Mr.

Rather does (sic) learn anything which would cause the slightest doubt on the above account before he produces the programs in November."

The document is reproduced, in part, in the April/May issue of Reliable Source magazine (36 West 22nd St., N.Y. N.Y. 10010 - \$8.00 a year).

No Oswald - CIA link, huh, Mr. Colby? Well, a recent document released in response to a Freedom of Information suit against the CIA by noted "garbologist" A.J. Weberman reveals that the CIA had a "201" file on Oswald. A number of former CIA official have alleged that the CIA kept "201" files on agents or contract employees only.

Victor Marchetti, former executive assistant to the deputy director, CIA, said, "Basically, if Oswald had a 201 file, he was an agent." Marchetti is the author of The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence.

Another former agent, Patrick McGarvey, said, "If a guy has a 201 file, that means he's a professional staff employee of the organization."

The full story on this intriguing development can be found in the April 26 issue of the National Enquirer and also the April/May issue of Reliable Source.

We heard from a trusted source recently that a researcher looking through the National Archives for some bit of information was startled to see a shelf which contained films on JFK which were produced by the Army, Navy, Air Force, and possibly other sectors of the military.

Of course we can only conjecture, but it seems there just might be something of interest in those films.

In a recent article which ran in the Sunday magazine supplement of the Baltimore Sun, "Gun Expert Reasons Oswald Didn't Fire Fatal Shot", we see the insidious hand of disinformation hard at work again.

The story, by "Ralph Reppert", is about the theory related by "gun expert" Howard Donahue, who was a member of a rifle team assembled by CBS for their 1967 documentary on the assassination of JFK. Mr. Donahue had the best record among the marksmen: he scored 3 hits within the 6.5 seconds allowed. A marksman he may be, but a theorist he ain't. Mr. Donahue's thesis is that all the cover-up action resulted from a horrible accident.

Donahue believes, or says he does, that Oswald was trying to nail JFK from the infamous "sniper's perch", but before he could squeeze off the fatal coup-de-grace, a nervous SS agent in the follow-up car, the "Queen Mary", accidentally pressed the trigger of his M-16 and killed the President.

Now the logistics of this is all wrong; to make it better, the staff artist had to re-position the Queen Mary a good 8 to 10 feet to the left of its real position at 12:30 PM CST, November 22, 1963. The artist has also taken liberties and re-designed Dealey Plaza.

Move over, George C. Thomson, you've got some competition!

An article by Jeff Cohen and David S. Lifton in the April issue of New Times, "A Man He Calls Raoul", relates the authors' thesis that the evasions and inconsistencies in James Earl Ray's account of his meetings with the mysterious Raoul can be explained by the fact that Raoul is really Ray's brother, Jerry.

Cohen and Lifton have a track record as careful researchers, and for no other reason this story deserves closer scrutiny. We are not in a position to evaluate it at this early date. We urge you to get a copy if you haven't yet seen it and study it for yourself.

Norman Mailer has joined forces with the Assassination Information Bureau in Massachusetts. It's gonna be one hell of an alliance, we think. Mr. Mailer said he would be "more of an uncle" than a central figure around the AIB offices. "I'm a dilettante in these matters. I'll be popping in from time to time.", Mailer was quoted as saying in the March 25 Washington Star. "I'll write about it, help get funding. Maybe I'll throw a party."

We think this is good for the AIB, and of course it's good to see Norman Mailer taking a more active role among the critics and researchers. We need him.

The AIB publishes a bimonthly free newsletter. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for each issue you want, or, better still, send them a contribution: AIB, 63 Inman St., Cambridge, Mass. 02139.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

We got some very interesting mail in the wake of our last issue.

I was disappointed in your first issue of THE GRASSY KNOLL GAZETTE. Same old rehash and insinuation.

First, you mention a recent AP story about a bullet found in Dealey Plaza. Then you say no mention is made of the location where the bullet was found and no mention of FBI tests. Why don't you call the man who found the bullet and ask him? Why not call the FBI and ask them? Then publish the results instead of the implication that the AP and FBI are concealing something.

Second, the story of A. Bolden is well known. Why not locate Bolden now and talk to him? Why not ask the Secret Service for more information?

My point is bring things up to date. Talk to people now, not what happened years ago.

J. HEYER
North Wales, PA.

My very good friend, Bob Cutler, sent me the first issue of your GAZETTE, and by golly, it's good. I hope these green things (US dollars--ED.) will get me a year's subscription... Dollars I do not have, nor can get as they are worth their weight in gold here... to me, who buys everything of value from US of A...

Michael Eddowes is one BIG liar. On TV here he had a lot of coverage about that idiotic thing he calls a book. He said he spent "eleven years in research and 15,000 pounds" on the thing. Jesus...

I am happy to report that I have spent every day (almost) since 22 Nov. 1963, disbelieving LHO killed JFK. I loved JFK... still do, and have a society dedicated to him. I push hard for publicity; bash my head against the media, and have eventually broken through & am having some articles published... One day, we'll get the truth. One day.

HAZEL HALE
Assassination Committee for the Truth
Leeds, England

...I tried a newsletter myself in 1968, but didn't get very far. I was getting the material all right, but there was very little interest. The British press has put a blanket on all reporting of the new Congressional investigation, but the DeMohrenschildt did get through in one or two places. Did he fall or was he pushed?

PETER DAWNAY
London, England

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Dawnay is the publisher of several of Joachim Joesten's important books, among them OSWALD: ASSASSIN OR FALL GUY? and THE DARK SIDE OF LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON.

The following two editorials originally appeared in *THE VCU REPORTER*.

JOHN CONNALLY

John Connally is a skunk.

John Connally is worse than a skunk. He is a rat.

Crucial to the Warren Commission Report's finding of a "lone assassin" is Arlen Specter's now infamous "single bullet theory". Simply put, the same bullet that first hit JFK also had to cause all the wounds in Connally. If that first shot did not do all this, then the Commission's "lone assassin" theory crumbles into dust.

We now quote from a statement issued by Governor Connally in November, 1966:

"I am convinced, beyond any doubt, that I was not struck by the first bullet. I know that I heard the first shot, that I turned to see what happened and that I was struck by a second shot. The third shot struck the President and not me.

As I said earlier, this testimony was presented to the Warren Commission. They chose to disagree, which is their privilege. I maintain my original view, and always shall.

I want to make it very clear, however, that simply because I disagree with the Warren Commission on this one detail does not mean that I disagree with the substance of their over-all findings.

I think the Commission did an outstanding job under difficult circumstances. Each of the members of that commission, Chief Justice Earl Warren, Senator Richard B. Russell, Senator John Sherman Cooper, Representative Hale Boggs, Representative Gerald Ford, Mr. Allen Dulles, and Mr. John J. McCloy, are men of unquestioned integrity; of long and devoted service to their nation, men whose dedication to the task of seeking truth in these circumstances I would never question, and men whose patriotism has been manifested so many times in so many ways over such a long period that it is now somewhat shocking to me that in the backlash of tragedy, journalistic scavengers such as Mark Lane, attempting to impugn the motives of the members individually, cast doubts upon the Commission as a whole and question the credibility of the Government itself."

"This one detail."

Well, who are we to quibble with "this one detail"?

No problem, Governor!

'AND THE HITS JUST KEEP ON COMING'

This is not the editorial we had originally intended to write.

No, we got distracted yesterday by a short item that ran in the afternoon newspaper. It didn't merit much attention. It rated only a couple of inches and, although it got bottom front page play, it only made the first edition. It was pulled from all three later editions. So we guess not too many people noticed it.

What we found so interesting was the notice of the death of one Carlos Prio Socarras, age 74. We'll just call him Prio.

As of this writing, Prio is the latest victim in a long series of strange, mysterious deaths of individuals who were, in some way, connected with the death of President John F. Kennedy. We suspect the total reaches into at least three figures by now.

Yesterday it was Prio. Last week it was George DeMohrenschildt. The year before, Sam "Momo" Giancana. In November, 1965, it was reporter Dorothy Kilgallen. On Nov. 22, 1963, the name was J.D. Tippit. The list is long.

Police have termed Prio's death "self-inflicted". That's also what they said about DeMohrenschildt. Sure-- and Roselli and Giancana were suicides too. Roselli was found trussed up in chains, sealed inside a floating oil drum. Giancana had six slugs in him.

Prio was an interesting guy. In 1948, he was the last constitutional president elected in Cuba. Apparently he was pretty corrupt and in 1952 he was overthrown by Fulgencio Batista. Prio fled to the United States, where he set up a government-in-exile. From Florida he exported arms and material intended for use against the Batista regime.

While Castro was in the hills, Prio helped fund Castro's movement by sending "an enormous amount of cash," in hopes of a triumphant return to his homeland once the revolution had succeeded. Only one problem-- Castro double-crossed him.

We have read a report linking Prio with Frank Sturgis, of Watergate and plumbing fame, indicating that, from 1955 to 1957, Sturgis was "running clandestine night flights into Cuba for Prio, who had made a deal with Castro." As of this point, we can neither confirm nor refute this connection, for we have seen no other evidence on the matter.

There is also evidence that Jack Ruby, too, was doing a little work at that time running guns and jeeps into Cuba. There is, however, a stronger case for Ruby engaging in this type of activity than Sturgis, in that we have seen it mentioned in several sources.

Several of Prio's lieutenants while he was in power (specifically, Justo Carillo, President of the Bank for Industrial Development; Aureliano Sanchez Arango, Foreign Minister; and Tony Varona, Prime Minister) were also involved in the Cuban Revolutionary Front, later to evolve into the Cuban Revolutionary Council, which also included leftist anti-Castroites. What is interesting about the CRF is that it was set up by none other than E. Howard Hunt in 1960 to foment unrest inside Cuba and, later, to actually invade Cuba.

What we're trying to come to is this. We hope by now we all realize that there were anti-Castro Cubans involved in this caper up to their beady little black eyes. We wonder how many "coincidences" and "suicides" it will take before we get this matter cleared up. With the passing of each day, witnesses die and memories fade.

THE ARTICLE BELOW IS REPRINTED WITH THE PERMISSION OF RELIABLE SOURCE.

HOW THE CIA WON THE PULITZER PRIZE

by MICHAEL CONRAD

In March 1963, journalist Harold V. "Hal" Hendrix was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting for his coverage of the Cuban missile crisis the year before. Hendrix was cited for his early disclosure of the presence of Soviet MIG-21 fighter planes and missile launching pads in Cuba.

It is now apparent, more than a decade later, that journalism's top honor in 1963 was actually won by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Background: Hal Hendrix was forty-one years old in 1963. Born in Ray County, Missouri, he attended public schools and Rockhurst College before joining the Kansas City *Star* as a reporter in 1944. Three years later, he was assigned to the Latin American Affairs desk. In 1957, Hendrix became Latin American Affairs Editor for the *Miami News*, in charge of a two-man bureau. The *New York Times*, in its profiles of the 1963 Pulitzer winners, described Hendrix as, "tall, thin, and reserved . . . married with one daughter . . . does plenty of traveling himself."

He left journalism in 1965 for a position with ITT. His title: Latin American Public Relations Director.

In November 1976, criminal charges were filed in U.S. District Court against Hal Hendrix for his testimony before a Senate subcommittee investigating the role played by ITT in the downfall of Salvador Allende in Chile. Hendrix admitted his testimony had been false. He plea-bargained his way to a misdemeanor charge of "withholding information," and was sentenced by Federal Judge James L. King in Miami to a fine of \$100 and three months' nonreporting probation.

The plea-bargain pledged Hendrix to cooperate with Government prosecutors. Now, he must tell them all he knows about the intricate relationships that existed among ITT, the Nixon regime, the junta that toppled Allende, and the CIA. It is known that testimony offered by former U.S. Ambassador to Chile Edward M. Korry implicated Hendrix. The investigators are reportedly hoping that Hendrix's testimony will help them nail ex-CIA director Richard Helms.

Evidently, Hal Hendrix was a CIA "friend" within ITT's South American operations. His testimony may yet reveal his personal role in the coup against Allende's freely-elected government. But was Hal Hendrix also the CIA's "friend" during his career as a journalist?

Item: Hendrix's reporting on Cuba for the *Miami News* shows a compulsive tendency toward what the CIA likes to call disinformation. On April 16, 1961, while Miami was flooded with rumors of the imminent Bay of Pigs invasion, Hendrix

penned a story declaring: "It has been clearly established now that there will be no mass invasion against Cuba by the anti-Castro forces gathered at bases in Central America and in this country. The *News* has stated this for several months." A couple of days later, a story under Hendrix's byline related that the Cuban Isle of Pines had been shelled from sea and bombed, and that Fidel's brother, Raul Castro, had been taken prisoner. These "facts" proved to be totally false.

Item: A review of Hal Hendrix's prize reporting on the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 shows an extraordinary number of quotes attributed to "intelligence sources," in addition to highly-detailed descriptions of the Russian missile emplacements in Cuba.

Item: Detroit *News* reporter Seth Kantor states that in 1963 he was in Dallas, working for the Scripps-Howard news service, when President Kennedy was shot. Calling in to his managing editor in Washington, Kantor was told that another Scripps-Howard reporter in Miami had information on the man who had been caught and charged with the crime. Despite the fact that Oswald had been arrested only a few hours before, the Miami newsman supplied Kantor with a complete run-down on him, with special emphasis on Oswald's alleged links to Communist causes and Fidel Castro. The Miami newsman's name was Hal Hendrix.

The fact that such detailed information was made available to the press immediately after the assassination raises the possibility, according to conspiracy researchers, that the material had been prepared in advance for release.

Item: A conversation with *Miami News* veteran reporter William Tucker, who knew Hendrix, reveals that it was not unusual in the early Sixties for *News* reporters to have close ties with the CIA. "Heck, one woman reporter here, she had a husband that was CIA, a radio man on Swan Island. [The CIA listening post in the Caribbean for gathering South American intelligence.]" Tucker points out that the editor of the *News* at that time, the late William C. Baggs, was also "pretty close" to CIA sources and to the Miami anti-Castro Cuban community.

That the CIA had enlisted journalists to carry out intelligence work is well-known. But the actual effects of this practice have barely been measured. The cases of some reporter/informants, such as one-time ABC-TV man Sam Jaffe, have resulted in little more than a certain compromising of journalistic ethics. However, looking over the activities of Hal Hendrix, one might conclude that "The Company" had succeeded in influencing important events by manipulating the press: Hendrix's stories helped disguise the Bay of Pigs operation, and he may possibly have helped in the cover-up of a conspiracy to assassinate JFK. Adding insult to injury is the decoration of the CIA's mantelpiece with the Pulitzer Prize. ■

Michael Conrad is a journalist whose current research on the CIA's covert use of the media should soon send a lot of people scurrying for cover.

MURDER by SUICIDE by R.B. Cutler

OF ALL THE STRANGE DEATHS THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THE THIRTEEN YEARS AND MORE SINCE THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY, THAT OF GEORGE DEMOHRENSCHILDT IS ONE OF THE STRANGEST. PENN JONES, JR., CHRONICLER OF THESE UNSOLVED MURDERS, PEGGED MARY JO KOPECHNE'S "DROWNING", UNTIL NOW THE MOST PERFECT OF THESE CRIMES, AS #66. IT'S A SAFE BET THAT DEMOHRENSCHILDT'S NUMBER WILL SHOW AN INCREASE OF ALMOST 100 SINCE THAT JULY 1969 NIGHT ON CHAPPAQUIDDICK ISLAND....

On April 5, a West Palm Beach coroner's jury of five men and two women deliberated 91 minutes before reaching a verdict of "death by a self-inflicted gunshot wound". The story of the how and the why of that wound is so contaminated with contradictions of time and space, fact and fiction, that it demands scrutiny.

According to most newspaper accounts, DeMohrenschildt was terrified at having to testify before the House Select Committee on Assassinations, for fear of further implicating himself in a conspiracy to assassinate. Recalling the final hours of mobsters Giancana and Roselli yields a better insight into why anyone willing to tell the truth might be apprehensive. DeMohrenschildt's daughter, Alexandra, tried to strengthen this weak motive for suicide by an intelligent, swashbuckling *BON-VIVANT* by telling the press that her father was terrified of Willem Oltmans, despite the fact that the Dutch TV journalist had been her father's friend for twelve years.

Compounding this contradiction from Alexandra is the fact that Jeanne, his wife, aided by her Dallas attorney, Pat S. Russell, had brought divorce proceedings against DeMohrenschildt, and in October 1976 had persuaded him to seek psychiatric help at Parkland Hospital. There he underwent electric shock treatment for his "failing" memory. A story in the National Enquirer, dated April 26, indicates these treatments not only changed DeMohrenschildt's mind, but also modified his behavior to a mode not previously observed. His roommate at Parkland, Clifford Wilson, told the Enquirer that DeMohrenschildt told him of watching the presidential motorcade with Oswald on a downtown street. Oswald split after the shooting, but DeMohrenschildt hung around to watch the aftermath.

This is in direct contradiction to his sworn testimony of April 1964 (Vol. IX, Warren Commission Hearings). He testified he last saw the Oswalds in April, 1963, as he was preparing to leave for Haiti. He and Jeanne arrived there June 2, and were still living there at the time of their testimonies taken in Washington, D.C. It is apparent that, having smelled the ongoing conspiracy to assassinate, DeMohrenschildt took a business trip to escape further contamination. When a man of his intellect comes up with two such divergent stories there has to be a logical explanation. Unnatural contradiction points directly to the electric shock treatments for "loss of memory".

Apparently they were successful enough for his release the last week of 1976. He immediately contacted his friend, Oltmans, who flew to Dallas and eventually returned to Holland with DeMohrenschildt in tow. In Amsterdam, DeMohrenschildt was interviewed on Dutch TV, and found a publisher for his recently completed book, I Am a Patsy, I Am a Patsy. His insistence on publishing this exoneration of Oswald, whom he felt had been unjustly condemned by society, was the basis for Jeanne's divorce proceedings as well as his subsequent commitment to psychiatric care. Because the book named too many of the assassination conspirators, the conspiracy to cover up, faced with exposure, countered with a re-arrangement of DeMohrenschildt's mind, suggesting to him that he commit suicide. A similar suggestion from J. Edgar Hoover to Dr. King

was sent direct mail; we've come a long way in ten years.

There is a two-week void in DeMohrenschildt's stay abroad; apparently the shock treatment required reinforcement apart from the distraction of friendship. He disappeared March 5, after lunch in Brussels, and Oltmans never heard from him again until he turned up in Manalapan, Florida, with Alexandra about March 20, where they were visiting Mrs. Nancy Tilton, Alexandra's foster mother and aunt.

By March 27, E.J. Epstein, a contract writer for Reader's Digest, had found DeMohrenschildt and arranged to interview him morning and afternoon, gathering material for another Kennedy assassination book. (Note: Epstein is the author of INQUEST --ED.) On Tuesday, March 29, they agreed to break for lunch about 1 P.M., and to return to Epstein's room at "The Breakers" in Palm Beach, at 3 P.M. When DeMohrenschildt did not show up, Epstein called the Tilton house and was told by Mrs. Tilton that DeMohrenschildt had taken his life.

There are three major contradictions to this story:

- (1) Alexandra's inquest testimony says she talked to her father "a little after noon" in the Tiltons' kitchen.
- (2) Martin Nolan, writing in the Boston Globe of April 1, has DeMohrenschildt returning and talking with Mrs. Tilton, who then went shopping at 2:45 P.M.
- (3) Six collaborating reporters are by-lined for the lead story on the front page of the Palm Beach Post for March 30. Palm Beach Sheriff Richard Wille is quoted as saying that DeMohrenschildt returned to the house about 2:45 P.M. ... "it appears that at about 3:45 P.M. DeMohrenschildt put a 20-gauge shotgun in his mouth and pulled the trigger. We're 99 per cent sure he killed himself."

Next day, "a source close to the suicide investigation" informs us that the police found Mrs. Tilton's tape recorder, which had monitored her favorite soap opera, The Doctors, (Tuesdays 2-3:00 P.M.), while she was out. The sound of the gunshot, when placed alongside WPTV's station log, pinpointed the time of death at 15 seconds, modified at inquest to 3 seconds, after 2:21 P.M.

Alexandra, Marty Nolan, and the Sheriff are all left hanging, twisting in the wind; the 3:45 time of death is never mentioned again. Inquest testimony does show Alexandra going shopping with a friend, Catherine Loomis, after talking with her father in the kitchen. When she returned at 2:35, a maid suggested she should check her father's room. He had heard scratching and thought it was the cat. Alexandra's call and subsequent screams are captured on the taping of The Doctors.

Suspicion being nine points of the law, according to Walt Kelley's Albert, a telephone call about half past three that afternoon could have triggered DeMohrenschildt's mind into searching for the shotgun, the shell, and the necessary Hemingway-type rig to activate the out-of-reach trigger. With The Doctors in evidence, everything else is blocked off; the logical questions were not even asked. The answers will not be found in the copy of I Am a Patsy, I Am a Patsy which the Dallas attorney sent to the Select Committee. All other copies have been "destroyed by the family".

Only the 1968-69 Oltmans-DeMohrenschildt tapes remain. These are the

basic considerations: The first-hand knowledge and the factual developments which flow from DeMohrenschildt's decision to write a book exonerating Oswald. These tapes from the author's clear, non-shock-treated memory should provide us with the JFK/Patsy/Oswald segment of Murder by Suicide... but only if the conspiracy to cover-up can be successfully outmanoevered.

Lt. Sheets of the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office has sung an all too familiar song:

"That ends it. As far as we're concerned the case is closed."

The JFK, MLK, RFK, MJK, and GCW cases have been closed for years: GSdeM can now be added to the list.

THANKS DUE R.E. SPRAGUE'S RESEARCH AS FRIEND OF W. OLTMANS;
OTHER SOURCES AS NOTED.

R.B. Cutler
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Manchester, MA. 01944

SON OF ROOTS by Ralph Holmes, Jr.

"The TIME INC. organization let LIFE magazine establish its editorial policy while TIME published more or less standard TIME-LIFE stories. LIFE became directly involved in the assassination action and evidence suppression from the very beginning on November 22, 1963." -- RICHARD E. SPRAGUE

Roots, roots, roots.

In as much as 1977 seems to be going down as the year of "roots", a "roots" piece seemed appropriate.

This article is spawned, in part, from a piece by Richard E. Sprague-- "American News Media and the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: Accessories After the Fact."¹ In it he described how Time Inc. had suppressed not only the Z-film but also numerous other photographs collected by the author and others.²

So, it might be interesting to check into the background of some of the corporate executives at Time Inc. -- just to see what sort of circles they travelled in.

C.D. JACKSON -- Charles Douglas Jackson started at Time Inc. in 1931.³ By August 1940 he had become vice-president.⁴

In 1943 he was appointed head of the Office of War Information for North Africa, the Middle East, and Turkey. OWI was the propaganda arm of the government during World War II.⁵ Jackson's title was "Deputy Chief of Psychological Warfare Branch of Allied Force Headquarters."⁶ (I hope we all recognize the value of good propaganda. Just last week I was watching "Keeper of the Flame" [1943] on the late night movie. Katherine Hepburn had just caught a bullet fired by a lousy Fascist and lay there dying in Spencer Tracy's arms. Her last words to him were, "Write your story Steve. Tell the truth." I choked back the tears.)

In January 1944 Jackson went to England where he became the Deputy Chief of the Psychological Warfare Division of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force.⁷ In July 1944 he went to France as head of the Allied

Information Service, the section of PWD concerned with liberated areas.⁸

After the war he returned to Time Inc. where he was first managing director of Time-Life International, which handled the overseas market.⁹ In 1949, Jackson was named publisher of Fortune (published by Time Inc.)¹⁰

In February 1951 he obtained leave from Fortune to accept the presidency of the National Committee for a Free Europe, Inc. "He had begun his connection with the group as a member of the Committee for Radio Free Europe, which is operated by the N.C.F.F."¹¹ In 1971 we learned that RFE had received most of its funding from the Central Intelligence Agency for the past 20 years.¹²

Jackson was appointed to a "psychological strategy board" in 1953.¹³ Two years before, Lieutenant General Walker Bedell Smith, director of the CIA, was acting chairman of the board.¹⁴ Smith appears to have exited, though, before Jackson's arrival.

A month after Jackson had been appointed to the board, Ike tapped him to be his "special assistant in charge of cold war planning."¹⁵ As such, he "would serve as a liason between the various government departments and agencies active in psychological warfare strategy."¹⁶

After a brief stint as a delegate to the United Nations,¹⁷ Jackson returned to Time Inc. where, in April 1960, he was made publisher of Life.¹⁸ He served in that position until his death on September 18, 1964.¹⁹

HEDLEY DONOVAN -- Hedley Williams Donovan came to the Time organization in December 1945 as a writer "specializing in political subjects" for Fortune.²⁰

During the Second World War he was called to active duty with the United States Naval Reserve, where he worked for Naval intelligence.²¹ The Office of Naval Intelligence, it should be noted, was where the scheme was hatched to ease off Lucky Luciano by transferring him out of Dannemora to a "less austere state penitentiary near Albany, where he was regularly visited by military officers and underworld leaders such as Meyer Lansky."²² In return, Luciano promised Mafia help in combatting sabotage on the New York waterfront.²³

In 1951 Donovan became an associate managing editor with Fortune.²⁴ In 1953, when C.D. Jackson left his post as publisher of Fortune to accept a position as special counselor to President Eisenhower, Ralph D. Paine, Jr., the managing editor, assumed Jackson's post, and Donovan moved up to fill the vacancy left by Paine.²⁵

Henry R. Luce, editor-in-chief of Time Inc., appointed Donovan "second in command with the title of editorial director of Time Inc." in 1959.²⁶ His duties were not only general editorial supervision of Fortune, Architectural Forum, House and Home, Time, Life, and Sports Illustrated, but managing directorship of the last three.²⁷

Luce retired as editor-in-chief in April 1964 and announced his "hand-picked heir" to the throne was Donovan.²⁸

The masthead of the current issue of Time lists Donovan as still being editor-in-chief.²⁹

CHARLES J.V. MURPHY -- The first time I stumbled across Charles Joseph Vincent Murphy was in the April issue of The Continuing Inquiry in the article by Col. Davies, "JFK: THE CLOAK AND DAGGER MUTINY."³⁰ Murphy is mentioned as having written a piece "highly critical" of Kennedy's handling of the Cuban situation.³¹

Not a whole lot has been written about Murphy. So far, he has managed to elude Who's Who, Current Biography, and the New York Times Index.

He joined Time Inc. in 1938 as a writer for Fortune.³² Later he was a staff writer on Life, then rejoined Fortune's board of editors in 1952.³³

I ran across an Associated Press wirephoto of Murphy issued after he had returned from a visit to Vietnam in 1965.³⁴ The caption says he was "'distressed and shocked' over American management of the war there." The caption goes on to list him as a "onetime special assistant to the late Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg."³⁵

Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg. Now there's an interesting guy. Such an outstanding flyboy that he was "tapped by the Air Corps when a hot pilot was needed to double for the movie actor, Richard Arlen, in 'Wings'."³⁶

By August 1944, Vandenberg took command of the 9th (Tactical) Air Force, "which, numerically, was the largest Air Force in the world."³⁷ (I have long been a fan of the 9th -- ever since our milkman when I was a kid, Mr. Patterson, first exposed me to it. Thank you, Mr. Patterson.)

After the war, he was "'borrowed' from the Air Force to reorganize G-2 (Military Intelligence)."³⁸

He was there only a few months, however, when "President Truman wanted him to head the new Central Intelligence Group that was being set up as a successor to the wartime Office of Strategic Services."³⁹

The CIG evolved into the CIA and Vandenberg served as director for a year.⁴⁰ In 1948 he was named chief of staff of the Air Force.⁴¹

Re-enter Murphy. In the May 1953 Fortune, Murphy wrote an article which "raised some disquieting, and controversial, questions about (J. Robert) Oppenheimer."⁴² The article was titled "The Hidden Struggle for the H-Bomb: The Story of Dr. Oppenheimer's Persistent Campaign to Reverse U.S. Military Strategy."⁴³ "Murphy had just returned from active duty with the Air Force as chief of staff. He charged that Oppenheimer, known as the 'father of the atomic bomb', was attempting to use his influence to the detriment of military policy and the nation's security through his opposition to the development of thermonuclear weapons."⁴⁴

I found one other mention of Murphy -- as a "good friend" of Allen Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency.⁴⁵

JAMES R. SHEPLEY -- In the current issue of Time, James Robinson Shepley is listed on the masthead as "President."⁴⁶

Shepley joined Time's Washington bureau in 1942.⁴⁷ In 1944 he was commissioned a captain and "assigned to the office of Army Chief of Staff (Gen. George C.) Marshall."⁴⁸ In 1946 Shepley was an "attache to the special presidential envoy to China."⁴⁹

Gen. Marshall was the "special presidential envoy" to China.⁵⁰ His mission was to somehow unify China by getting the Nationalists and the Communists to get along and cooperate. Admittedly, it was an impossible task. The Richmond Times-Dispatch ran an interesting passage about Marshall's mission: "(4) Some of the moderate members of the Communist group who appear to have favored unification with the nationalists and who might include the Communists' principal peace negotiator, General Chou En Lai, who worked very closely with General Marshall for many months."⁵¹

In 1954, Shepley co-authored (with Clay Blair, Jr.) a book called The Hydrogen Bomb.⁵² The reviewer for the New York Times wrote: "The authors are staunch advocates of the Air Force's strategic air bombardment

mission. They warn that 'the inhabited aircraft seems on the very edge of obsolescence as the decisive military weapon' and they predict that the guided missile is 'certainly just ahead.' Therefore, they conclude, we cannot afford a delay comparable to the 'four years' delay in building the H-bomb."⁵³

From 1964 to 1967 Shepley served as publisher of Fortune⁵⁴; 1967 to 1969, publisher of Time.⁵⁵ In 1969 he was made president of Time Inc.⁵⁶ At present, Shepley also serves as a major in the United States Air Force Reserve.⁵⁷

HENRY R. LUCE -- Henry Robinson Luce has been omitted on purpose. He is already the subject of several biographies. Suffice it to say that he owned and controlled a magazine which named Adolph Hitler "Man of the Year" for 1938.⁵⁸ Such bad taste.

RALPH HOLMES, JR. IS ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF THE GRASSY KNOLL GAZETTE

Footnotes

- (1,2) Computers and Automation, June 1973, pp. 38-39
- (3,4,6-11) Current Biography 1951 (H.W. Wilson Co., N.Y., N.Y., pp.299-300)
- (5) Richmond Times-Dispatch, Nov. 7, 1943
- (12) R-TD, Jan. 24, 1971
- (13) R-TD, Jan. 27, 1953
- (14) R-TD, June 21, 1951
- (15,16) Richmond News-Leader, Feb. 16, 1953
- (17) Who Was Who in America, Vol. IV, 1961-68, p. 486
- (18) Robert T. Elson, The World of Time Inc. (Time Inc. 1973) p.458
- (19) New York Times, Sept. 20, 1964, p. 88
- (20,21, 24-28) Current Biography 1965, pp. 123-124
- (22,23) Alfred J. McCoy, The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia, (Harper and Row, N.Y. N.Y. 1972) p. 20
- (29) Time, May 23, 1977, p. 2
- (30,31) The Continuing Inquiry, Vol. II, No. 4, p. 4
- (32,33) The World of Time Inc., p. 148n
- (34,35) Associated Press wirephoto, July 25, 1965, gww 12030ho
- (36-39) Saturday Evening Post, May 29, 1948, pp. 136-139
- (40,41) AP Biographical Sketch #3480, issued Nov. 15, 1948
- (42-44) The World of Time Inc., p. 380
- (45) The World of Time Inc., p. 392
- (46) Time, May 23, 1977
- (47,48) The World of Time Inc., p. 149n
- (49,50,54-57) Who's Who in America, 39th ed., p. 2854
- (51) Richmond Times-Dispatch, Jan. 8, 1947
- (52) The Hydrogen Bomb: The Men, the Menace, the Mechanism (N.Y., N.Y., Dana McKay Co. Inc., 1954)
- (53) New York Times, Oct. 3, 1954, VII, p. 7
- (58) Time, Jan. 2, 1939

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CULINARY ARTS by Harker Goody, Esq.

HARKER GOODY'S REAL TEXAS CROSS-FIRE CHILI

INGREDIENTS -

2 LBS. STEW BEEF (OR GROUND BEEF)	LA. HOT SAUCE (7-8 TSP.)
2 12-OZ. CANS TOMATOES (OR 1 28-OZ. CAN)	BLACK PEPPER (2-3 TSP.)
1 CAN DARK RED KIDNEY BEANS (COOKED)	JALAPENO PEPPERS (HANDFULL)
1 CAN PINTO BEANS (COOKED)	SALT (2-3 TSP.)
1 CAN GARBANZO BEANS (COOKED) [OPTIONAL]	CUMIN (OR CHILI POWDER) (1½ TSP)
2 LARGE SPANISH ONIONS	GARLIC (2 CLOVES)
3 OR 4 GREEN PEPPERS	ROSEMARY (PINCH)

COLD BEER (PLENTY)

No doubt about it. When the thermometer climbs up towards the 100 mark, well, that's the time for some good hot chili. A bowl or two of that wonderful stuff in real hot weather can SET YOU FREE! Provided you got plenty cold beer on hand. (SEE ABOVE--ED.) Chili is as American as murder, even if the Mexicans did invent it. In fact, chili is one of the reasons that the late H. Allen Smith, my psychic mentor, moved down to Texas.

Now let's make some. First thing you have to do is get yourself a cold beer. Hope you didn't buy any of that cheap swill, the kind that's always on sale at the Big Star. Next, chop the onions & the green peppers up fairly fine, but don't waste a whole lot of time. They'll cook down; at least the onions will. By the way, it's OK to buy those green peppers that are kind of wrinkly and wilted-looking, if your supermarket has them on sale cheap. Here's a little tip from Harker -- they're an excellent value for chili. Next, saute the onions & peppers in about 3 TSPD butter, oleo, or, if you're a real Texan, oil. Saute 'em, stirring frequently, for about 8 minutes over medium-high heat, until the onions get all limp, delicate-like, and translucent-looking.

Now, chop up the stew beef into bullet-size pieces. If you're in a hurry or just plain shiftless, ground beef is okay, but not as good. I do this myself sometimes. Add the meat to the vegetables and cook 'till brown, about 6-9 minutes.

Next, in a large pot, add the onions, meat, and peppers, the tomatoes, the spices, and ½ can or bottle of beer--it don't have to be cold. Have a cold one yourself--you deserve it! Cook 2-3 hours over LOW heat. Stir a lot.

Now a word about beans. Some folks like to use the dried kind, soaked overnight. Other folks like 'em served as a side dish (purists). The controversy is virtually endless. I like 'em canned, added 10 minutes before the stuff is served. Try it my way and see. Serves a hungry team of six.

This chili will be HOT, son, as in fire, but with a myriad of delightful flavors. I know some of you guys will be skeptical, but like they say, "If you ain't tried it, don't knock it."

Or, as the old Texas song says it:

"...IF YOUR HOUSE CATCHES AFIRE
AND THERE AIN'T NO WATER 'ROUND,
THROW YOUR CHILI OUT THE WINDOW
AND LET THE DAD-BURNED SHACK BURN DOWN."

(Harker Goody, who wasn't born yesterday, is a former president of the House Rock Mountain Society, an organization promoting the study of heavenly bodies, a member in good standing of the Mystics Club, and the self-proclaimed "chili champeen of the Mid-Atlantic States." -- ED.)

BOOK REVIEWS

COINCIDENCE OR CONSPIRACY? BY BERNARD FENSTERWALD JR.; NEW YORK: ZEBRA BOOKS, APRIL 1977. OVER 200 PHOTOGRAPHS. 592 PAGES. \$2.50.

It will take some time to fairly evaluate this book; I kind of like the way it's organized into people and personalities associated in some way with the JFK assassination, and also grouped according to their affiliation with one another. A useful approach.

As it says on the cover, there are "over 200 photos", but they're all head shots of the various people profiled, so their value to researchers will be negligible, at best. One error I spotted right off the bat was on page 441, where the picture reputedly of Roger Craig is really Igor 'Turk' Vaganov.

In his closing word, Fensterwald says: "a recent Gallup poll indicated that 80% of the American public disbelieves the conclusions of the Warren Commission...and many of them care who killed their President and why. SOME DAY SOON THEY WILL KNOW THE TRUTH."

Jeez, Bud, we sure hope so. --J.W. Burke, Jr.

CRIME AND COVER-UP: THE CIA, THE MAFIA, AND THE DALLAS-WATERGATE CONNECTION BY PETER DALE SCOTT; BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA: WESTWORKS, 1977. 80 PAGES. \$3.00.

Available from AIB, this one's a bona-fide blockbuster. A must for all serious students of the JFK assassination, Watergate, Nixon, and the political climate in the U.S. the past two decades. The nexus is there for all who are brave enough to take a look, and Scott throws a lot of light into the murky places where the clammy creatures like to congregate... Watergate...

Don't pass this book up. The next time somebody scoffs at your assertion that Ruby (or Nixon, for that matter) was connected with Organized Crime, or that Oswald was tied to the CIA, etc., it would be useful to have this little book to quote as your authority. It's all there, meticulously documented and well-organized.

All in all, it's one hell of a book. --J.W. Burke, Jr.

Because of space limitations, DEALEY PLAZA BREAKDOWN DID NOT APPEAR THIS ISSUE.

OBITUARY PAGE

CE 399-- (1963-1977)

CE 399, the key figure in both the Magic Bullet Theory and the Oswald-as-Lone-Nut hypothesis, expired today after a lifelong and consistently downhill struggle with Terminal Unbelievability.

CE 399, a child of necessity, was born during the first weeks of deliberation by the Warren Commission. After its debut in the Warren Commission Report, many critics attacked it on such grounds as the angle of its passage through JFK's neck varied significantly from its angle of passage through Connally's chest, the time lag between when it hit Kennedy and when it hit Connally, and the amount of fragments it is said to have left behind in Connally.

Even Dr. Robert Shaw, the man who operated on Connally on the 22nd, doubted the bullet's story. 399 "just didn't seem to have lost enough of its metallic substance", Shaw told a reporter in a recent interview in the DALLAS MORNING NEWS.

The good doctor may lay his doubts about the lack of fragments to rest. House Assassination Committee investigators interviewed two witnesses who said they saw more fragments taken from Connally than the Warren Commission admitted came from the ex-Democrat or were missing from the nearly intact bullet, CE 399.

Audrey N. Bell, head nurse of the operating room Connally was taken to after the assassination, stated that she was given four or five fragments from Connally's right wrist to put in an envelope, which she turned over to the FBI. Miss Bell's statement to the House investigators was augmented by the testimony of Texas State Highway officer Charles W. Harbison. He told investigators that on November 25 or 26, while Connally was being transferred to a private room, he turned over to an FBI agent three more fragments that fell from Connally's leg.

When informed of these developments at its residence in the National Archives, CE 399, according to those present, became agitated, rolled around, then disintegrated.

Commander J.J. Humes will perform the autopsy.

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