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Manchester Ignored Oswald's Red Record

IN LOOK'S first extract from "The Death of a President" William Manchester is guilty of the most distorted picture of Lee Harvey Oswald I ever read—utterly inexcusable if you respect the truth.

Manchester relies absolutely on the public's ignorance. Can I, for one, expect that not to be the pattern of this whole commissioned opus?

Let me start with an example and tell you what I mean.

Manchester pictures Oswald on the eve of the assassination: "We know that the fire storm in Lee Oswald's head ignited on the evening of November 21." We know nothing of the kind. "... He was going mad . . . the total eclipse of his reason occurred shortly before 9 p.m. that evening." On the record, this is completely false. Manchester has no proof of this—exactly the reverse.

I recently wrote three documented articles about Oswald, two from New Orleans, one from Dallas. And if I could get the truth, so could Manchester.

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OSWALD'S long and unremitting Communist record in New Orleans continues to the end in Dallas, documented not by opinion, not by debatable testimony, but by Oswald himself.

By Oswald's own written declarations during the fall that he killed the president, the fact sheet he provided (September 27) Castro's Mexico City Embassy, his memorandum to "Comrade Kostin" at the Soviet Embassy there, his letters to the Soviet Embassy in Washington as late as November 9, the forgeries and innumerable incriminating documents in Oswald's own handwriting—this assassin was a drilled,

dedicated, obedient, cool and canny Communist.

Yet Manchester has the unmitigated gall to pass up all the evidence and call Oswald crazy!

In order to create that false picture, and also to blame Oswald on Dallas, Manchester has some trouble with known dates. He'd painted himself into a corner. Let me show you how Manchester gets out of it. No wonder he had to work so hard on his book.

Obviously, Oswald wasn't crazy in New Orleans in August. Chief of Police Joseph I. Giarrusso, who reopened Oswald's August 8 arrest file there for me, would simply laugh off Manchester as Baron Munchausen. And, obviously, Oswald was not crazy at the time of his WDSU radio debate in New Orleans August 21, fully recorded and easily available from the Information Council of the Americas by writing P. O. Box 53371.

So Manchester contrives a neat little picture of "paranoia," of which he says "madness does not strike you all at once" and then elects to have it strike Oswald on the eve of the assassination.

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THAT LEAVES Manchester faced by the evidence of Oswald's condition after—after—the assassination. Remember, Oswald was quizzed day and night after he allegedly killed the president. Manchester fixes that by completely ignoring the testimony of the U.S. Postal Inspector, FBI, CIA, Secret Service, etc., interrogators.

U.S. Postal Inspector Harry D. Holmes' words summarize the interrogators' statements, not alone those I talked with but the rest whose official testimony is in the appendices of the Warren Report:

"Oswald had a disciplined mind and reflexes. He unhesitatingly answered questions he wanted to, skillfully parried the others, and lied instantly whenever cornered."

Here we have Manchester's so-called research revealed to be utterly phony and selected to serve his purpose.

More than 100 times Manchester cribs minutely and at length out of the Warren Report without attributing the detailed pretense of his text to the Report. He knows the public has not read the immense record with its 17 appendices and surely has not encountered the testimony of Holmes, et al. That typifies what I mean by Manchester relying on the ignorance of the public.

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