THE CONSPIRACY TO KILL J. F. K. -- ITS MEANING

By:

Thomas Katen Vincent J. Salandria Gary Schoener

Thomas Katen is a Professor at the Community College of Phila. Vincent J. Salandria is a Philadelphia lawyer. Gary Schoener is a Graduate assistant and Ph.D. candidate in clinical psychology at the Medical School, Department of Psychiatry and Neurology, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

This book is designed to explore the meaning of the Kennedy assassination. We examine preliminarily the Federal government's over reaction to the concept of Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone assassin even before evidence developed in support of this official thesis. Also, we trace the Federal government's consistent refusal to entertain conspiracy evidence. We demonstrate how the Federal authorities remained married to an untenable single assassin theory, although conspiracy evidence poured into them immediately after the assassination.

Dallas police behavior, in terms of initially gathering evidence in support of conspiracy, and only later conforming to the federally originated concept of Oswald as the lone assassin, we deal with only briefly. Let it suffice to say that the Dallas police behavior has been documented in other critical assassination studies. Paramilitary operations as well as military operations always provide for alternatives. The very inconsistency of the Dallas police, as counterposed to the deadly consistency of the federal authorities, indicates a short lapse of time before orders as to which preplanned alternative was to be used.

The latter portion of this article states a model of explanation for the assassination. The model explains the assassination in terms of motivation. We conclude that the evidence supports the concept that the assassination was used to militarize foreign policy and perpetuate the Cold War against the underdeveloped peoples. To take seriously Warren Commission conclusions concerning physical evidence relevant to the assassination of President Kennedy one need only refuse to take seriously Newtonian laws of the physical universe. We are told by the Warren Commission that the fatal shot which struck Kennedy's skull came from the School Depository Building, or from in BACK of him. Yet, Kennedy was not driven forward by this bullet smashing him from behind. In defiance of laws of physics, he instead was driven to the side, leftward, and backward, and was slammed off the back seat of the Presidential limousine, into his wife's arms. Such propulsion of the Kennedy body and head was consistent only with a shot aimed from the right and in front of him.

The Commission's straining of logic and its blatant evasion of evidence in order to support a lone assassin theory represents consistent official behavior from the very onset. Indeed, if certain Commission conclusions were in violation of Newtonian laws of physics, a variation on the theme of those laws governing behavioral patterns of officials may be clearly detected.

Wherever evidence of a conspiracy with respect to the assassination has surfaced, the federal government, from the very first, refused to act. Wherever any suggestion of evidence supported the concept of Oswald as the assassin, the Federal governinent overly reacted in deeming such data veraccious. Analysis of this pattern of official inaction and over reaction leads one to a compelling conclusion of official guilt. The pattern is too studied, too consistent and too persistent to be compatible with mere bureaucratic stupidity or accident. If the assassination had been a script for the Theater of the Absurd, perhaps it could be understood, but it was reality- a tragic reality.

Amid the shock, grief and horror of the first reactions to Kennedy's brutal murder a question which had to weigh heavily upon us all concerned who killed him, and why. An amazingly quick solution was in the possession of the military- too quick! If one wishes to see lightning quick action where is fact no actiion is justified, the scene is Air Force One en route from Dallas to Washington.

Pulitzer prize winner, Theodore H. White, in his

book, THE MAKING OF THE PRESIDENT 1964, (1) has recorded the making of history for us, and in so doing makes us raise some crucially important questions. He informs us:

"There is a tape-recording in the archives of the government which best recaptures the sound of the horrors as it waited for leadership. It is a recording of all the conversations in the air, monitored by the Signal Corps Midwestern center "Liberty," between Air Force One in Dallas, the Cabinet plane over the Pacific, the Joint Chiefs Communications center in Washington. The voices were superbly flat, calm, controlled. . . one receives the ETA- 6:00 P.M. Washington. It is a meshing of emotionless voices in the air, performing with mechanical perfection. . ." (p.20)

Later we are further illuminated by White with the following statement:

"On the flight the party learned that there was no conspiracy, learned of the identity of Oswald and his arrest; and the President's mind turned to the duties of consoling the stricken and guiding the quick." (p. 48)

On the contrary, it would seem the quick were guiding the President. "Flat, calm, controlled, emotionless voices" knowing before six o'clock on November 22, 1963 there was no conspiracy! That's a bit too much. Are we to believe it was already known Oswald was the lone assassin? If so, that would surely have been an impressive understanding of what happened since Oswald was not even charged with assassinating the President until 1:30 A.M. the next morning. Indeed, at a press conference held at midnight on the 22nd, Oswald upon being asked if he had killed the President, responded that he had not even ben charged with that. (2)

On November 23, 1963, the Dallas Morning News informed us that according to Henry Wade: "... preliminary reports indicated more than one person was involved in the shooting... the electric chair is too good for the killers." If preliminary reports indicated more than one person was involved, how could the military have been so certain so early there had been no conspiracy? In volume one of the 26 volumes of Hearings and Exhibits, Mrs. Oswald is quoted as asserting: "So we waited quite a while. One of the men came by and said, 'I am sorry that we are going to be delayed in letting you see Lee, but we have picked up another suspect." (3) This was on Saturday at noon.

Can there be any doubt that for any taken by surprise by the assassination, and legitimately seeking the truth concerning this, sometime prior to six o'clock on the day of the assassination was

too soon to KNOW there was no conspiracy. Unless White is wrong in what he relates to us concerning this, and he failed to acknowledge error in a note to Salandria, the notification of "no conspiracy" assumes a major importance, coming as early as it did. What is startling about this tape is that it represents the first memoralization of the lone assassination myth. This premature birth of the Oswald myth came sans benefit of sufficient gestation period to have been the product of any legitimate intercourse between the American military (the author's of the tape and apparently of the myth) and the assassination evidence. Its importance caused Salandria to expend much effort in trying to procure the transcript.

- 1. White, Theodore H., THE MAKING OF THE PRESI-DENT, 1964, p. 20. New York; Antheneum, 1965. 2. Lane, Mark, RUSH TO JUDGEMENT, p. 81, Conn:
- Fawcett Publications Inc., 1966.
- 3. Hearings before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy, Vol. 1, p. 149. United States Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 1964. References to the Hearing Notes and the Commission Exhibits are designated by the volume number, an "H," followed by a page number.