

WATCHMAN WAKETH

BUT IN VAIN

By:

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BACK IN DEALEY PLAZA THE EVIDENCE SPELLS OUT CONSPIRACY

Not only did the shots seem to emanate from the grassy knoll area by virtue of the auditory clues, but puffs of smoke were reported as seen in the area of the knoll at the time of the firing. (6) In addition to puffs of smoke being seen in the grassy knoll locale, gunpowder was smelled in the same area. Such evidence at least, at the time, should have aroused suspicions of a conspiracy, and should have caused the most intensive man-hunt, rather than satisfaction with a single assassin concept.

Surely, eye or ear-witness testimony can never constitute the most solid foundation for reconstruction of an event. And although the majority of witnesses did not testify as to hearing more than three shots, still this was the murder of the President, and eyewitness testimony should have roused questions about the direction and number of shots. The result of those unanswered questions should have been to have set in action a search for a person or persons other than Oswald who may have been involved alone or in conjunction with him. Instead of action directed at discovering what happened, there was federal action directed at entertaining only the evidence consistent with a lone-assassin theory.

In addition to testimony concerning direction

and number of shots, that evidence concerning "bunching" of shots should have sufficed to shock officials into action. An amateur photographer, Abraham Zapruder, took a film of the assassination, and based upon it, the time of the assassination has been established by the government as taking place between 4.8 seconds and 5.6 seconds. The Zapruder motion picture camera operates at an average speed of 18.2 frames per second. The very shortest time one can work that bolt-action rifle alleged to have been used by Oswald is 2.3 seconds. That 2.3 seconds is equivalent to about 42 frames of the Zapruder film. If there were only one assassin, it therefore mathematically follows, between each shot there must have been a minimum of 42 frames. If one shot were fired and then another in a shorter interval than 42 frames, that would add up to two assassins. For there to have been but one assassin there would have had to have been an even spacing of the shots with a minimum of 42 frames between each shot. As a matter of fact, the Warren Report

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 1968

informs us, a majority of the witnesses stated the shots were not evenly fired, but that the second and third shots were "bunched" together. Indeed, even Secret Service agent Roy H. Kellerman testified that shots were "bunched." He was in the President's car and stated ". . . a flurry of shells came into the car." Kellerman described these shots as so bunched as to be like ". . . a plane breaking the sound barrier, bang, bang." (II H 74,76) With the unfortunately slow firing weapon of Oswald's in their possession, and testimony concerning "bunching," immediate action should have ensued aimed at finding two or more assassins and other weapons. What the government was really saying was that, irrespective of what its honest agents such as Roy H. Kellerman concluded, there was to be one assassin and he was to be Oswald.

No Governmental Response to the Unwanted Conspiracy Evidence

Still, evidence of more than one assassin having been involved in the assassination continued to pour into the Dallas police authorities. Whether two assassins or many, it seemed clear that the escape had been well planned. Local police agencies and

the FBI normally respond to bank robberies and other crimes by setting up road blocks and by mobilizing dragnets. But, in this case, which involved the assassination of a President and the wounding of a governor, NO ACTION OF ANY SORT was taken to seal off any part of Dallas or the entire city itself. Bus terminals, airports and trains were not watched. Private planes were not grounded. Roadblocks were not set up. The city was not swarming with local and federal investigators. Not only was the attack on the President not treated as an act directed against the government of the U.S., it was not even treated as important a crime as the robbing of a bank. Such neglect on the part of the federal police agencies constituted nothing short of malfeasance. The question arises--how can one assassin induce those in command of federal police agencies to commit malfeasance of such incredible proportions?

An argument might be made for the innocence of the Dallas police on the basis of paralysis and gross incompetence, shock, confusion, and the fact that they were besieged by both press and public, but the failure of federal agencies remains suspect of being criminal in nature.

The widespread confusion and panic following the Lincoln assassination did not prevent the mobilization of the full resources of the federal government to seal off the city of Washington and to begin a massive investigation. But the almost complete failure of federal intelligence agencies following the Kennedy assassination occurred in a circumstance lacking in widespread hysteria. Their malfeasance was represented in their failure to follow up on any and all leads thrusting in the direction of conspiracy. There is no evidence to support the proposition that federal government agents had been thrown into a panic which might possibly have provided a weak rationale for their initial inaction. There is, on the contrary, substantial evidence of government response, but never to evidence of conspiracy.

An unidentified CIA agent showed up at the Parkland Hospital shortly after the assassination. (XVIII H 795) FBI agents who interviewed Lee Harvey Oswald after his arrest were apparently calm enough to carefully avoid asking any key

questions or dropping any hints to the accused that he was a suspect in the Kennedy assassination.

The failure of police agencies to seal off the city of Dallas was soon confounded by another seemingly inexplicable failure. Once the assassins had escaped from the scene, it would seem reasonable, in the absence of clues to their identity, that they would be searched for among J. F. K.'s self-proclaimed enemies in Dallas. If federal agencies were unsure of where to begin, they could have asked the man on the street. Less than a month before the assassination, Adlai Stevenson had been physically attacked and spat on by an angry Dallas mob. The morning of the assassination there was a black-bordered full page ad in the DALLAS MORNING NEWS which attacked the President. (W-294) Handbills entitled "Wanted for Treason" bearing the President's profile were handed out on the streets one or two days before President Kennedy's arrival. (W-298) The author of this handbill was Robert A. Surrey, who is and was then closely associated with General Edwin Walker. (W-298) General Walker was flying the flag outside his house at half-staff and upside down--an international symbol of distress. Walker flew it properly after Kennedy's death had been announced. (UPI Dispatch, Dallas, Dec. 19, 1963.)