

THE ASSASSINATION OF

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

By DAVID R. WRONE

WRITING an historical account of a violent and emotion-laden contemporary event presents a number of difficult problems, some of which cannot be solved. The November 22, 1963, assassination of President John F. Kennedy is such an event. Scholars of these crises must gather the widely scattered evidence, analyze it, and write a lucid account for both the scholarly community and the public. Their role in a social crisis is no different from their role at any other time. In fact, the emergency provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the practical use of scholarship.

Obtaining a solid base in the facts requires careful attention to the types of evidentiary materials immediately available and an awareness that many will be from federal, state, and local governmental agencies, which always leave an imprint upon them. When there is a possibility of foreign intrigue in the crisis, as in the John F. Kennedy assassination, the pressure for knowledge of its basic outline increases. The emotional urge to proceed hastily with the first available documents is often irresistible. The first picture of events is usually distorted because the evidence becomes public in such an erratic manner that minor facts are emphasized while important ones remain obscure. In the investigation of John F. Kennedy's death, background from the federal files on the alleged assassin, Lee H. Oswald, was known in great detail almost immediately after the event. Information on

Oswald's murderer, Jack Ruby, remains scanty and murky to this day.¹

In addition, much of the documentary evidence comes from faceless institutional sources which are not easily accessible to most scholars. Historians cannot push into archives of busy agencies such as the Central Intelligence Agency or the Federal Bureau of Investigation to poke around for material. Nor can historians question the agents who typed crucial documents. Both critics and supporters of the Warren Commission report have asked why federal security agents were not covering the buildings overlooking the assassination site. According to many informed persons this was a most unusual lapse in security arrangements. Historians will probably never know what happened precisely, because the answer must be sought within the operating procedures and methods of complex federal agencies. There may be a logical reason for this fatal error, but historians must

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¹Information on Lee Harvey Oswald, including photographs in dress suits, marriage details, history of his trips to Russia and New Orleans, was known almost immediately. The recently declassified CD 355 (Commission Documents) in the National Archives reveals that one thousand persons were interviewed concerning their acquaintance with or knowledge of Jack Ruby. The letters Ruby wrote in jail have never been collected. Penn Jones, Jr., Midlothian, Texas, owns one.

be eternal skeptics of evidence whose origin cannot be probed.

The clamor for information frequently leads public and private sources to supply a number of facts that appeal to the emotions but which cannot be used to build a clear and distinct account of the event. The very existence of these facts requires perusal of them before they can be properly classified and the main investigation resumed. For example, the FBI supplied the Warren Commission staff with Jack Ruby's mother's dental chart, Lee Harvey Oswald's grade school attendance sheets, and other impressive irrelevancies, but not the spectrographic analyses of the bullets and the data upon which they were based.

Further, as investigators assemble data they encounter possible contradictions of fact, but because evidence has been destroyed they have no way to check authenticity. The allegation by critics that a shot went through President Kennedy's limousine windshield from the front, thus proving a conspiracy, can never be checked since in the stress of the moment the car was flown immediately to Detroit, cleaned, and renovated.²

A third problem is the handling of documentary evidence that often is related to rank charges and sensational revelations. Scholars have the difficult job of approaching them with the detachment necessary to judge the facts properly. Historians have long been aware that federal inquiries into American crises have been subjected to emotional, truth-twisting pressures, and the documents surrounding the John F. Kennedy murder are no exception. Examples of similar instances include the probe into the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the recent Senate hearings on the Tonkin Gulf Resolution.

Several investigators of the Dallas tragedy have charged that high government figures were indirectly linked to the President's death. Spectacular charges are hard to evaluate, almost requiring inside knowledge. Scholars have been exposed to similar claims delivered in the white heat of emotion, and know the necessity of calm examination of the docu-

ments. These include the treason charge levied against Daniel Boone, the suspicion roused against Alexander Hamilton's connections with Great Britain, and the charges that Robert M. La Follette was pro-German during World War I. In Boone's case the accusation was apparently false, in Hamilton's case the charges were true, and in La Follette's case they were outrageously and deliberately false slurs.³

Students also confront the possibility that there are fraudulent documents among the evidence they have to use. Complex analysis must be performed before some of the critical evidence in an emotionally charged incident can be used. Forgeries are fairly common in history, and tend to appear at moments of social crisis. Recent examples from European history include the Czarist, French, and Nazi use of the forged *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* against the Jews and Freemasons, and the British right-wing manufacture of the Zinoviev letter.⁴ In America the Whalen forgeries and the possibility of a counterfeited typewriter in the Alger Hiss case stand out.⁵ Critics of the Warren Commission findings allege the existence of several faked facts. These include the possibility that the entire evidence linking Lee Harvey Oswald to the actual shooting is false,⁶ and that the third bullet, identified as Commission Exhibit 399, of the three

² Boone was tried for the alleged betrayal of Kentucky to the Shawnee Indians; he was acquitted. Reuben Gold Thwaites, *Daniel Boone* (New York, 1902), 166-169. In the 1780's Boone did take gold from Spain to repudiate the United States. Julian P. Boyd, *Number 7: Alexander Hamilton's Secret Attempts to Control American Foreign Policy with supporting documents* (Princeton, 1964); Belle Case and Fola La Follette, *Robert M. La Follette, June 14, 1855-June 18, 1925* (New York, 1953).

³ Norman Rufus Colin Cohn, *Warrant for Genocide: The Myth of the Jewish World-Conspiracy and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (New York, 1967); Lewis Chester et al., *The Zinoviev Letter* (Philadelphia, 1968).

⁴ John L. Spivak, *A Man in his Time* (New York, 1967); Allen Weinstein, "The Alger Hiss Case Revisited," in *The American Scholar*, XLI: 121-132 (Winter, 1971-1972).

⁵ Each alleged fact used by the Warren Commission to link Oswald to the actual shooting of the President is held to be false, i.e., that he carried a rifle into the building, that the recovered rifle functioned, that Oswald was on the sixth floor at the time of the shooting, that the shot fired from the building came from the east window of the building, and so forth.

⁶ Josiah Thompson, *Six Seconds in Dallas: A Micro-Study of the Kennedy Assassination* (New York, 1967), 113-114.

the Warren Commission claims Oswald fired, was planted in the hospital.⁷

The handling of what appears to be minor pieces of evidence that stand contrary to the overwhelming mass of facts is critical. A fact must fit with the rest of the facts and cannot be ignored when it does not. One fact can be the key to understanding an entire tragedy as was the *bordereau* paper in the French Dreyfus Affair.⁸

Many documents first appear to be simple statements but later turn out to be complex. The historical record abounds with instances of this type, such as Abraham Lincoln's purported Wadsworth letter espousing equality of the races.⁹ In the documentary base built during the inquiry into John F. Kennedy's murder, numerous pieces of evidence appeared to be obvious and simple detail but later proved to be extremely complicated, requiring elaborate analysis before being used. These include accounts of the transit of Oswald from the sixth to the first floor of the Texas School Book Depository.¹⁰

Another problem is the presentation of conclusions which run counter to the popular and official versions of what happened. Those studying the Kennedy murder are aware of the difficulties scholars faced in previous years with similar issues, and realize they must be able to maintain an objective calm both

when hunting a publisher and later when reading reviews of their work. The revisionist historians, who explained that World War I developed partly out of tensions created by allied pressure upon the expanding German nation and not solely in unprovoked German militarism, came under heavy censure from their colleagues until the late 1920's.¹¹ The publication of German and Russian documents supported the revisionists' position and helped dispel criticism. Later, historians divided over the background of the American entry into World War II, some claiming there had been a conspiracy between American civilian and military officials to provoke the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The lack of complete documentary sources played a major role in the swirling controversy. The anticonspiracy school of historians silenced the conspiracy school in a seldom-recalled, bitter struggle, frequently using shoddy methods that displayed a lapse in academic objectivity.¹²

The question of a conspiracy lurking behind an event of key national importance is commonly encountered in a crisis. Its constant appearance in the writings critical of the Warren Commission findings is not an unusual historical phenomenon, but it is one that is as difficult to answer as it is serious in its implications. A conspiracy means that several persons planned, perpetrated, or attempted to perpetrate an unlawful act. European, American, and Wisconsin history contain well-documented instances. European conspiracies are the Dreyfus Affair in France and the murder of Leon Trotsky in Mexico by Soviet agents.¹³ In America conspiracies were part of the Ku Klux Klan of the 1860's, the night riders of Kentucky, 1900-1910, the American Protective League during World War I, and the plundering and destruction of

⁷ Raymond Marcus, *The Bastard Bullet: A Search for Legitimacy for Commission Exhibit 399* (Los Angeles, 1966). CE 399 is the bullet the Warren Commission alleges entered the back of the President's neck, transited the neck, entered Connally's body, causing five wounds, smashing two bones, and mysteriously appeared in the hospital in pristine shape.

⁸ Nicolas Halasz, *Captain Dreyfus: The Story of a Mass Hysteria* (New York, 1955).

⁹ Ludwell H. Johnson, "Lincoln and Equal Rights: The Authenticity of the Wadsworth Letter," in the *Journal of Southern History*, XXXII: 83-87 (February, 1966); Harold M. Hyman, "Lincoln and Equal Rights for Negroes: The Irrelevancy of the Wadsworth Letter," in *Civil War History*, XII: 258-266 (September, 1966); Ludwell H. Johnson, "Lincoln and Equal Rights: A Reply," in *Civil War History*, XIII: 66-73 (March, 1967).

¹⁰ Three witnesses were on the stairs which Oswald allegedly used to descend from the sixth floor. Two were not called to testify; Virginia Adams did give a statement, but it was ignored. See *Hearings Before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy* (Washington, D.C., 1964), VI: 392.

¹¹ Warren I. Cohen, *The American Revisionists: The Lessons of Intervention in World War I* (Chicago, 1967); interviews with Professor Fred Albert Shannon, Urbana, Illinois, 1961; Bessie Louise Pierce, *Public Opinion and the Teaching of History* (New York, 1926).

¹² Harry Elmer Barnes (ed.), *Perpetual War for Perpetual Peace: A Critical Examination of the Foreign Policy of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and its Aftermath* (New York, 1969 edition).

¹³ Isaac Deutscher, *Stalin: A Political Biography* (New York, 1960).

the Indian tribes of Oklahoma.¹⁴ In Wisconsin there was the bribing of almost all the members of the Wisconsin government by business interests in 1856 and the post-Civil War scheme of timber interests to take the Stockbridge Indian reservation.¹⁵

Throughout American history numerous claims of the existence of a conspiracy have been proven false, though historians have had a difficult time refuting some of them. There were the false claims that Abraham Lincoln conspired to cause the outbreak of the Civil War, that the railroad workers who struck in 1894 were in conspiracy against democratic government, that radicals were conspiring in 1919 to take over the country, and that the Cold War emerged out of an international communist conspiracy.¹⁶ False conspiracy scares often appear during crises in American life and sweep public opinion and federal officials into reactionary stances so severe at times that the national life is twisted with tension, bitterness, and fear.

The impact of false conspiracy charges is one of two principal reasons scholars are reluctant to tackle contemporary emotion-charged and violent events. This is especially true of President Kennedy's death since the murder has been proclaimed the work of a lone, psychologically disturbed, itinerant janitor. It is, however, precisely in the realm of controversial social problems that historical methods in the hands of scholars ought to perform better than any other method.

¹⁴ Allen W. Trelease, *White Terror: The Ku Klux Klan Conspiracy and Southern Reconstruction* (New York, 1971); Harry Harrison Kroll, *Riders in the Night* (Philadelphia, 1965); Joan M. Jensen, *The Price of Vigilance* (Chicago, 1968); Arrell Gibson, *The Kickapoos* (Norman, Oklahoma, 1968).

¹⁵ *Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to investigate into alleged frauds and corruption in the disposition of the land grant by the Legislature of 1856, and for other purposes* (Madison, 1858); John C. Adams Papers, Archives-Manuscripts Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

¹⁶ Richard N. Current, *Lincoln and the First Shot* (Philadelphia, 1963); Almont Lindsey, *The Pullman Strike: The Story of a Unique Experiment and of a Great Labor Upheaval* (Chicago, 1964 edition); Robert K. Murray, *Red Scare: A Study in National Hysteria, 1919-1920* (Minneapolis, 1955); Gabriel Kolko, *The Politics of War, 1943-1945* (New York, 1969). Kolko's book is representative of many recent volumes on the Cold War both here in the United States and in Europe.

The second reason why scholars hesitate derives from American historians' strong acceptance of the theory of relativity, which holds that an event ought not to be examined until forty years or more after its occurrence, when its outline will have become distinct and clear. Only then will the manuscript sources be suitably stored and properly arranged for work. The event can then be seen through the critical eye of a broad perspective and the inhibiting emotions of the present will have faded sufficiently to permit objective research. Such considerations help account for the failure of professional historians, acting under scholarly conditions, to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. The difficulty in using relativism is that the facts are never all obtained; events one thousand years old are still unclear and still being researched. The theory serves as a built-in, permanent functional disability. It is undergoing very effective criticism.¹⁷ Like so many other theories, such as evolution, pragmatism, and psychic idealism, that have periodically emerged to dominate the doctrinaire approaches to historical inquiry and have then fallen into disuse, relativity also appears to be on the decline. Its present sway is regrettable, since the study of the assassination provides an opportunity to demonstrate the relevance to the public good of the scholarly abilities developed by the historical profession.

As a consequence of the dominance of these two factors over historians, the nonofficial investigation of the assassination has been left to citizen-scholars, opportunists, and eccentrics who have given us a rather unique literature, as voluminous as its quality is mixed. Some have produced outright fiction, others have suffused modest scholarly techniques with distorting emotions, and a few have reached conclusions through such careful evaluation of the evidence that their work should be recommended to scholars everywhere.

¹⁷ The criticism of relativity is voluminous and can be approached from several systems of thought, e.g., evolution, Christianity, determinism. These are all unsatisfactory for various reasons: the philosophical criticism is, perhaps, best. Its clearest statement is Elijah Jordan's *Forms of Individuality: An Inquiry into the Grounds of Order in Human Relations* (Indianapolis, 1927). One does not embrace totalitarianism or absolutism by rejecting relativism.

IT IS CUSTOMARY in dealing with contemporary history for the scholar to make his viewpoint explicit. This reviewer believes that there was a conspiracy to murder President Kennedy, and that it can be shown by the evidence in the following public documents: the physical evidence—especially bullet CE 399 and the autopsy reports—seems incontrovertible that there was more than one assassin; on the other hand, no evidence—the entire sequence of events, the curtain rod, the sixth floor position, the transit to the first floor—links Oswald to the actual shooting. Other considerations which are not conclusive by themselves do bolster the conspiracy theory. These include the evidence brought out by Jim Garrison, as reported verbatim in the New Orleans press; eyewitnesses and photographs of the scene in Dallas; and the Zapruder movie film.

This reviewer found no evidence in the published material that would link the conspiracy to the institutional acts of the military, business, or intelligence bodies of America, France, or Russia. Nor is there evidence linking the conspiracy to a left-wing group.

THIS REVIEW examines the articles and books that reflect objective procedures and attempts to provide some rudimentary assessment of their conclusions. In passing, a few works that have achieved popular success or should be more widely available will be noted. Five authors stand out either for their public acceptance or thorough work; a brief sketch of their background follows.

Columnist Jim Bishop has long specialized in writing about popular subjects. His *The Day Kennedy Was Shot* is one of the best sellers on the assassination. It is also one of the most error-laden and misinformed volumes. Bishop approached his study by clipping and pasting all the evidence found in the Warren Commission's twenty-six volumes of testimony and exhibits into scrapbooks which were arranged chronologically. His book uses this material, supplemented by interviews of key witnesses such as several with President Lyndon Johnson. Having blindly taken as his working base the official findings of the Warren Commission, he uses history to defend them. His basic fallacy is the use of docu-

ments and testimony without even a suspicion that many are complex and full of contradictions.

Mark Lane is a New York attorney who early questioned the official version of the Kennedy assassination. With his legal background it is perhaps understandable why he would select as his approach a criticism of the Warren Commission, its evidence, and conclusion. From his analysis of the witness testimony and some of the physical evidence he concludes that the Commission rendered a hasty and improper judgment. Having basically restricted his study to the Warren Commission evidence and procedures and having reached the conclusion of its failure, Lane had two choices: either to find the vast institutional framework of the law a failure or to find a person in it who failed. He chose Chief Justice Earl Warren as a whipping boy but failed to support the accusation with evidence. His concentration on the legal framework and procedures overlooked a third area for criticism—the investigative federal agencies upon whom the Commission had to rely and whose slipshod methods and clumsy procedures merited discussion.

Harold Weisberg had experience as an investigative reporter in the 1930's probing the activities of American fascist groups, and also served as an intelligence officer during World War II. Although he is a tireless worker who has done massive research on the Kennedy assassination, he has been ignored by the academic and general media reviewers. Many balk at reading books that have been privately printed and whose conclusions are forthrightly used as titles. They have erred because his efforts are excellent examples of document analysis and testimony scrutiny. With careful procedure a document is studied; he uncovers flaws, errors, conflicts with other documents, and sometimes deliberate misstatements of facts. In no other source can one gain an understanding of the method by which the evidence emerged for the Warren Commission staff to write the *Report's* conclusion. Weisberg attributes motive to no one, for "the whitewashing was done on the working level, not the level of policy. Policy was wrong and was inhibited. It was safer to be for sin and against motherhood than to deny the successful

Communist scare of the Dallas police."¹⁸ The majority of public officials had declared Oswald to be the lone, mad sniper before the investigation got under way, and Weisberg provides scores of instances where investigators for the Commission tended to restrict their research to agree.

Weisberg's weaknesses as an author are, first, he does not consistently organize his material along conventional lines. He analyses a document to support an argument in one chapter and then elsewhere presents additional criticism that adds even more weight to the initial comment. This scatters the attention of readers. Second, he tends to employ expressive language such as "liar," "fraud," and "censor," particularly when he strikes at the arrogance of a witness.

Sylvia Meagher (pronounced Marr), a research librarian for the United Nations, wrote *Accessories After the Fact*, which is the best book on the assassination but which is seldom found in public libraries. Her numerous articles and constant research have established her as one of the top authorities on the subject, but the learned journals have declined to use her excellent abilities for reviewing books on the assassination.

¹⁸ Harold Weisberg, *Whitewash II: The FBI-Secret Service Cover-up* (Hyattstown, Maryland, 1966), 234.

Penn Jones, Jr., is the editor of a weekly newspaper in a small town near Dallas, Texas. A decorated combat veteran and officer of World War II, he has published his newspaper since 1948, often in the midst of extremist attempts to stifle the paper. His resistance to censorship has earned him top national awards. An indefatigable worker, he is well informed about the details of the murder and an excellent and willing guide of the Texas murder site. When analysing facts he places them in a framework of a military conspiracy operating in conjunction with right-wing elements. Many of his statements and assertions of fact are not supported by reference to the evidentiary base; his conclusions are presented in the form of essays and editorials.

THE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY which follows is arranged into five categories. First, the bibliographical materials are listed. At present there is no adequate bibliography for the study of the assassination. Second, some of the major documentary sources are briefly surveyed. A comprehensive guide would be book length. Third, a few selected critical or controversial articles are included. Fourth—the main body of the review—are the books. Fifth, is a miscellaneous list that merely suggests the type of materials available, but touches on some key items also.

Bibliographical Works

Crown, James Tracy. *The Kennedy Literature: A Bibliographical Essay on John F. Kennedy*. (New York University Press, New York, 1968.)

An incomplete attempt to assemble books that is marred by a pro-Warren Commission bias.

[Fensterwald, Bernard, Jr., et al.]. "Selective Bibliography on Assassination." (The Committee to Investigate Assassinations, 927 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Washington, 1969.)

An eight-page, mimeographed, double-column listing of books on the deaths of numerous American and world leaders compiled for committee members' use.

Sable, Martin H. *A Bio-Bibliography of the Kennedy Family*. (The Scarecrow Press, New York, 1969.)

An excellent but incomplete guide to articles and books on all facets of the assassination and its aftermath.

Thompson, William Clifton. *A Bibliography of Literature Relating to the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy*. (Carleton Printing Company, San Antonio, 1968. Revised edition with 1971 supplement printed by Jiffy Press. Distributed by W. C. Thompson & Son, 731 Riverside Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78223.)

A listing of 283 entries, excluding magazine and newspaper articles. An excellent source

compiled by a private citizen, listing distributors and prices of several indispensable mo-

tion pictures and still photos by Abraham Zapruder, O. O. Nix, and others.

Basic Sources

AMERICAN PUBLIC

[The Committee to Investigate Assassinations.] [Cross List Reference for Commission Exhibits and Commission Documents]. (The Committee to Investigate Assassinations, 927 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Washington. Typescript. 40 pages.)

A privately prepared cross-reference to the National Archives' Warren Commission holdings, indispensable to their use.

[Jaworski, Leon]. *Files of Evidence Connected with the Investigation of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy*. (N.p., n.d. Twenty-one volumes, in two-reel microfilm edition. Washington, D. C., Microcard Editions, 901 Twenty-sixth Street, N.W., [1967].)

The little-known files of the biased assassination investigation compiled by the attorney general of Texas that runs to about 5,500 pages in twenty-one volumes. It contains Dallas police radio transmissions, data on the area, plans and photos of the scenes, and so forth. The two-reel microfilm was prepared for the Library of Congress.

Johnson, Marion M. (compiler). "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy." (National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, Washington, 1970. 28 pages.)

Lifton, David S. (compiler). *Document Addendum to the Warren Report*. (Sightext Publications, El Segundo, California, 1968).

A necessary addition that contains the declassified transcripts of the proceedings of the executive sessions of the Warren Commission; CD (Commission Document) 344, transcript of a tape recording of the first interrogation of Marina Oswald, November 24; and, the Liebler Memorandum of September 6, 1964, on "Galley proofs of Chapter IV of the Report."

Meagher, Sylvia. *Subject Index to the Warren Report and Hearings & Exhibits*. (Scarecrow Press, New York, 1966.)

Prepared by a private citizen, this is an absolutely indispensable index issued in a limited edition.

—. *Subject Index to the Warren Report and Hearings & Exhibits*. (University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, 1971.)

Updated and slightly expanded edition now available permanently in cloth or paper covers.

U. S. Congress, Senate. *Authorizing the Commission established to report upon the assassination of President John F. Kennedy to compel the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence*. Public Law 88-202, 88 Congress, 1 Session, December 13, 1963. Senate Joint Resolution 137.

U. S. [National Archives]. *Index of Basic Source Materials*. . . . (National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, Washington, 1970. 185 pages.)

The archives lists the 1,555 CD's and indicates the agency which prepared the report, the name of the investigating agent, the subject matter of the report, and city where the investigation originated. It fails to cross-reference to CE's (Commission Exhibits) and is of limited usefulness.

U. S. President. Executive Order No. 11130, "Appointing a Commission to report upon the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy." *Code of Federal Regulation. Title 3 The President*. 1959-1963 compilation. (Office of the Federal Register, Washington, 1964.)

Executive fiat created the Warren Commission. The order is also printed in the *Warren Commission Report*, p. 471.

[U. S. Warren Commission]. *Investigation of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: Hearings Before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy*. (Government Printing Office, Washington, 1964, 26 vols.)

A 20,000-page, 10,400,000-word selection from the unpublished evidence collected by

commission staff. Fifteen volumes contain testimony by witnesses and eleven volumes are exhibits. Volume XV contains one list of names and one of exhibits. There is no subject index. Nothing is in chronological or subject order and the material appears to have been randomly selected. The volumes contain interesting information if one has the endurance to read it all. For example, on pages 799-800 of Volume XXVI the ineptness of the investigation is suggested by a letter from the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the staff of the commission informing them that they cannot identify one of the finger prints found on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository and that the firm renting the building refused to have all the persons in the building fingerprinted. Nothing was done. Thousands of pages in the volumes are useless, trivial, or tangential, such as the reprinting of scores of pages of emotional ultra-right-wing articles from the public press, and function as diversionary data. Eight thousand copies of the set were printed.

[U. S. Warren Commission]. *Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy*. (Government Printing Office, Washington, 1964.)

The study prepared by the clerks and staff of the Warren Commission

AMERICAN PRIVATE

Several private collections of documents exist that are uncataloged. These include

the substantial holdings assembled by investigators such as Penn Jones, Jr., Midlothian, Texas. The original Zapruder film is privately held; however, many good copies of the bootleg edition are available at modest prices. The film, *Rush to Judgment*, by Mark Lane, distributed by Rogosin of New York, is an excellent and clear presentation of the critic's view. It includes eyewitness testimony and a visual perspective that is not obtainable any place else. There are other films.

Georgetown University Archives.

Contains the complete files of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, including its collection of books. This unique research center is open to scholars.

AMERICAN SECRET

Some materials collected by the staff of the Warren Commission are held in the archives under security classification and restrictions and will be unavailable for many years. Much of the classified material, however, should never be made public since it is irrelevant and contains personal information, such as the medical records of Marina Oswald's pregnancy. Other documents, such as the x-ray data and the spectrographic analysis and data it is based upon, which are vital to any objective investigation, are suppressed. They belong to the people of the United States, and the very existence of suppressed documents on an officially declared nonconspiracy is the negation of the principles of a constitutional democracy.

Articles

Belin, David. "Truth was my only goal." *The Texas Observer* (August 13, 1971), 13-15.

A reply to Sylvia Meagher's article of the same date and in the same newspaper by the Commission lawyer whose questioning helped witness Charles Givens to change his testimony. Givens' testimony placed Oswald on the sixth floor. Meagher demonstrates how he originally placed Oswald on the first floor and then, under pressure, four months later placed Oswald on the sixth floor. Using an ancient ploy, Belin ignores the specific charges levied against him by Mrs. Meagher and with numerous errors of fact discusses side issues.

Cook, Fred J. "Assassination Investigations: The Irregulars Take the Field." *The Nation* (July 19, 1971), 40-46.

A liberal journalist describes the composition, purpose, and activities of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations. The CTIA is a loosely grouped, varying number of non-academic men who come from diverse political backgrounds including right-wing, left-wing, center liberal, and nonaligned segments.

Graham, Fred P. "Doctor Inspects Kennedy X-Rays." *New York Times*, January 9, 1972.

In this widely hailed report on a private viewing of federal secret documents, the New

York urologist, Dr. John K. Lattimer, states that Oswald alone shot the President. Lattimer succumbs to one of the most alluring enticements that an emotional national event presents to the nonacademic researcher—attempting to evaluate technical evidence beyond one's professional expertise. He also fails to relate what he calls his findings to the multitude of other equally pertinent facts. Assuming Lattimer did in fact examine x-rays and also assuming they were in fact the x-rays of President Kennedy, the x-rays in themselves do not tell who pulled the trigger. Perhaps his reliance on a devil theory of history distorts the alleged study since he has long felt Oswald to be a "modern-day, traitorous guerrilla . . . working with religious-type conviction." All facts are trimmed to fit his distorting bed of assertions, which tends to preclude objectivity.

One of Lattimer's errors relates to his description of the back wound. Since the hole in the President's shirt and coat is about six inches *below* the back neckline, and Lattimer puts the bullet about two inches *above* the neckline, he must claim the Zapruder film shows the coat "bunched up" as the President waves to the crowd in order to account for the eight-inch difference. This is absolutely contrary to the fact. At the moment of impact the President was shielded from Abraham Zapruder's camera by a road sign and as he emerges (z-225) his coat is not bunched. It is a physical impossibility for the well-tailored coat to bunch eight inches, though if it did the overlap would produce *two* holes in the fabric. Lattimer also maintains that the bullet which entered President Kennedy's neck transited downward at so steep an angle that had it been a frontal shot which caused the wound (as many critics have charged), the second assassin would have had to have been on the car floor. But this proves a conspiracy, not the reverse, for the neck bullet (CE 399) could not have followed the path Lattimer suggests and still have hit Governor Connally. There would have to have been a second assassin who shot Connally.

The article is diversionary. It is curious that the two writers, Lattimer and Belin, whose articles are the least competent, are the *New York Times* authorities on the assassination.

Kaplan, John. "The Assassins." *The American Scholar*, VIII: 271-306 (July, 1963).

An error-ridden and emotionally suffused attempt by a law professor to attack critics of the Warren Commission findings who he sees

as assassins of truth. Why this article would establish him, as it did, as a national authority on the Warren Commission is incomprehensible. Apparently Kaplan worked in the Justice Department from 1957-1961.

———. "The Assassins." *Stanford Law Review*, XIX: 1110-1151 (1967).

The same article as above with a few errors corrected.

Lattimer, John K. "Factors in the Death of President Kennedy." *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 198: 327-333 (October 24, 1966).

A urologist's opinion upholding the Warren Commission findings while completely ignoring testimony and evidence contrary to his desired argument. For example, he stipulates that the defective scope on the rifle allegedly used by Oswald actually helped him hit the President by compensating for poor marksmanship. He produces no unbiased figures and calculations to prove this. He ignores testimony and evidence of a defective bolt, a defective trigger, an apparent absence of an ammunition clip, and a cartridge case with a dent too deep to hold a bullet.

———. "Similarities in Fatal Woundings of John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald." *New York State Journal of Medicine* (July 1, 1966), 1782-1794.

A sensationalized treatment of the two deaths that lacks accurate and complete documentation. The author accepts the unfounded and outrageous view that the federal military-intelligence service killed Lincoln.

———. "The Kennedy-Connally Single Bullet Theory: A Feasibility Study." *International Surgery*, 50:524-532 (December, 1968).

A simplistic effort to show that bullet CE 399 did do what it was supposed to do: transit President Kennedy's neck in a zig-yaw-and-zag path, wounding Governor Connally five times, and smash two bones before emerging unmarred. The author fails to substantiate his assertions with reference to photographs or to evidence. He claims to have obtained a secret viewing of CE 399 in the public archives and found it to be flattened "severely" on the side away from the official photographs that show it to be round. This gives him a point from which to argue and marshal "facts" to sustain the single-bullet theory. However, the person who discovered the bullet on a stretcher in the Dallas hospital testified that it "rolled out" from under the stretcher equip-

ment and pathologists and medical men who gave it a minute and exhaustive study testified that it was "without distortion." CE 399 is public; photographs of all sides can be readily obtained. Josiah Thompson, in *Six Seconds in Dallas*, offers a photograph of one side of the bullet on page 45, and one of the other side on page 146, clearly distinguished by a mark made during a federal examination. The bullet is in pristine condition. Lattimer not only must produce the "severely flattened" bullet for public scrutiny, but also must prove that it is in fact CE 399 before his amateur attempts can be taken seriously.

Meagher, Sylvia. "After the Battle, the Book." *The Minority of One*, IX: 25-27 (June, 1967).

An informed critic provides an excellent article-length review of William Manchester's *The Death of a President*.

———. "The curious testimony of Mr. Givens." *The Texas Observer* (August 13, 1971), 11-12.

A superb article by one of the most knowledgeable individuals working on the Kennedy assassination. She gives a chronological account of the conflicting statements and testimony of Charles Givens. The Warren Commission used Givens as a key witness to Oswald's presence near the alleged sixth-floor sniper window about 11:45 A.M. Meagher, however, shows that on November 22, 1963 Givens testified to the FBI that Oswald was on the first floor playing dominoes at 11:50. Then Meagher traces the changes in his testimony during questioning by the Commission staff until on April 8, 1964, Givens placed Oswald on the sixth floor.

———. "On 'Closing Doors, Not Opening Them' or, The Limit of the Warren Investigation." *The Minority of One*, VIII: 29-32 (July-August, 1966).

An article-length review of Edward J. Epstein's *Inquest: The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth*.

———. "Post-assassination Credibility Chasm." *The Minority of One*, IX:21-22 (March, 1967).

A critical analysis of the public comments of members of the Warren Commission staff.

———. "A Psychiatrist's Retroactive 'Clairvoyance.'" *The Minority of One*, VIII: 25-27 (June, 1966).

A long and scathing discussion of Renatus Hertogs and Lucy Freeman's *The Two Assassins* given by an informed critic. She is too charitable.

———. "Wheels with Deals: How the Kennedy 'Investigation' was Organized." *The Minority of One*, X: 23-27 (July-August, 1968).

The excellent, and the only, account of the Texas attorney general's investigation of the assassination. This article is essential reading on the background to the Warren Commission.

Rothchild, John. "Finding the Facts Bureaucrats Hide." *The Washington Monthly* (January, 1972), 15-27.

The author summarizes the problems of using the Freedom of Information Act and includes some material on the attempts of critics to obtain secret information.

Sagatelyan, Mikhail. "Dallas: Who? How? Why?" *Sputnik Monthly Digest*. Translated by Monica Whyte. VII: 111-130. 98-120, 109-130 (June, July, August, 1971).

A Soviet journalist speculates on the motive behind the conspiracy to kill Kennedy. Sagatelyan thinks that reactionary elements murdered the President to halt his move to stop the cold war. Lyndon B. Johnson allegedly participated in the assassination in order to squelch a Kennedy investigation of massive corruption in which the Vice President was involved. The author draws many of the actual details from critical works by Americans. There is, however, no evidence to support his allegations. There is neither fact nor document of any kind that in any way links President Johnson to the assassination.

Sprague, Richard E. "The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: The Application of Computers to the Photographic Evidence." *Computers and Automation*, XIX: 29-60 (May, 1970).

A computer specialist lists and assigns numbers to all 510 known photographs of the murder scene and immediate events taken by seventy-five photographers. Both a single still photo and a movie sequence of ten to 500 frames are counted as one each. A total of 25,000 frames exist. The Warren Commission staff examined only twenty-six photographs, about 5 per cent of the 510, omitting, for example, the photographs of a scopeless rifle being examined at the Texas School Book Depository immediately after the murder, the

unarranged boxes of the alleged sniper's nest, and of several men, probably common tramps, being taken into custody by law enforcement officials in the nearby railroad yards. This is an indispensable article in spite of the

minor factual errors (which have been corrected in subsequent issues of the magazine). Outside the realm of photography and the analysis of the photos, the author uses vague statements.

Books

Bishop, Jim. *The Day Kennedy was Shot*. (Funk & Wagnalls, New York, 1968.)

The most error-laden and factually distorted book on the assassination. After locating one hundred instances of major factual error, acute distortion of evidence, and omission of facts contrary to the author's argument in three chapters, this reviewer stopped counting. For example, Bishop accepts the Warren Commission conclusion that Oswald killed Kennedy from the sixth-floor book depository's eastern window and presents several eyewitnesses to sustain the assertion. He centers his narrative on Howard Brennan who stated that he saw Oswald shoot. Bishop omits entirely that Brennan had poor eyesight, did not wear his eyeglasses that day, contradicted his testimony, and testified to a physical impossibility—that the man leaned against the window frame while shooting. Bishop also uses Arnold Rowland's testimony but omits that portion where Rowland swore to seeing two men in adjacent windows on the sixth floor, an unarmed Negro in the sniper window and the sniper in the western window. To Bishop, Amos Euins's "man" "with a bald spot" is "Oswald in the window." Bishop ignores photographs which show that the sixth-floor sniper window was empty seconds before the murder and does not include comments from the report of Mr. Powell, the Army intelligence agent "trapped" in the depository when it was sealed by police. A trained observer's report might have added considerably to the credence of the narrative. There are scores of similar difficulties.

Brener, Milton E. *The Garrison Case: A Study in the Abuse of Power*. (Clarkson N. Potter, New York, 1969.)

An emotional criticism of Mr. Garrison that centers on his irregularities and eccentricities and his apparent abuse of office. It ignores the evidence brought out in the trial which related to the autopsy of President Kennedy, the release of the Zapruder film, and other material.

Bringuier, Carlos. *Red Friday: November 22d, 1963*. (Chas. Hallberg & Company, Chicago, 1969.)

A disorganized and confused attempt to analyse the assassination without using scholarly apparatus.

Buchanan, Thomas. *Who Killed Kennedy?* (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1964.)

A journalist criticizes the Warren Commission in a book that is too brief and which is largely speculative concerning the reasons behind the murder.

Chapman, Gil and Ann. *Was Oswald Alone?* (Publishers Export Company, Post Office Box 20127, San Diego, 1967.)

The authors give a brief overview by using other critical books, and make a major point in locating Ruby's home address—two blocks from the scene of officer Tippit's murder.

Curry, Jesse. *Personal JFK File*. (Limited Collectors, Dallas, 1969.)

The Dallas Police Chief makes an attempt to present Dallas material. He prints the police log report of November 22 with several crucial omissions, adds three vital minutes to the time of officer J. D. Tippit's murder, and prints a picture containing evidence refuting some police testimony before the Warren Commission.

Cutler, Robert Bradley. *The Flight of CE 399: Evidence of Conspiracy*. (Printed by Omni-Print, Beverly, Massachusetts, 1969.)

Cutler, an architect, gives an excellent analysis of CE 399's course.

———. *Two Flightpaths: Evidence of Conspiracy*. (Mirror Press, Danvers, Massachusetts, 1971. Distributed by Cutler Designs, 38 Union Street, Manchester, Massachusetts 01944.)

This brief volume contains a summary of Cutler's *The Flight of CE 399* and a study of the "Traverse Thoracial". Charts and draw-

ings of the flightpaths and an analysis of the sixth-floor windows are given. This is the best scholarly study of a fragment of the Warren Commission findings and is a model for any work of a similar nature.

Epstein, Edward Jay. *Counterplot*. (The Viking Press, New York, 1969.)

Examining the ineptness of the investigation conducted by the New Orleans' District Attorney, a professor adds his own misinformation to construct a conspiracy in the D. A.'s office to prove there is no such thing as a conspiracy.

———. *Inquest: The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth*. (The Viking Press, New York, 1966.)

A good, concise criticism of the Warren Commission's findings. Epstein utilized the files of only one segment of the Commission staff; therefore, his argument is deflected away from vital areas.

Flammonde, Paris. *The Kennedy Conspiracy: An Uncommissioned Report on the Jim Garrison Investigation*. (Meredith Press, New York, 1969.)

A free-lance writer provides a sympathetic appraisal of the New Orleans inquiry.

Ford, Gerald R., and Stiles, John R. *Portrait of the Assassin*. (Simon & Schuster, New York, 1965.)

This volume is misnamed. It is really a portrait of Representative Ford, a Commission member.

Fox, Sylvan. *The Unanswered Questions about President Kennedy's Assassination*. (Award Books, New York, 1965.)

A reporter gives an informed and brief critical statement.

Garrison, Jim. *A Heritage of Stone*. (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1970.)

The New Orleans district attorney focuses on the Dallas assassination, excluding discussion of his controversial trial. Profoundly informed and based on extensive investigation, the attorney's book provides strong but not conclusive evidence of a conspiracy. He presents his explanation within a political framework of military-business efforts to silence a critic of the cold war expansion into Southeast Asia. This requires him to argue that President Kennedy was antiexpansion and radical. The framework, also, distorts Garrison's insight into the documents, requiring

him at times to force connections between facts. The documentary evidence, the testimony of witnesses, and the analysis of physical material, at least as they are presented, are not sufficient to carry his argument of a political conspiracy aided and abetted by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Gershenson, Alvin. *Kennedy and Big Business*. (Book Company of America, Beverly Hills, California, 1964.)

Big business killed the President. Gershenson provides no evidence, just jumbled theory.

Goldberg, Arthur. *Conspiracy Interpretations of the Assassination of President Kennedy: International and Domestic*. (University of California Security Studies Project, Security Studies Paper Number 16, Los Angeles, University of California, 1968.)

The author, an Air Force historian and a member of the Commission staff, summarizes his study of the critical literature but does not utilize footnotes or bibliography. In his concluding remarks he first employs Freud to exorcise what he calls the demonologists who have criticized the conclusion of the *Report* and includes the following denial of a conspiracy: "There is no evidence, there are no eyewitnesses, no one talked or betrayed the conspiracy." This reviewer feels Dr. Goldberg's argument is not valid.

Hepburn, James [Pseudonym?]. *Farwell America*. (Frontiers Company, Vaduz, Liechtenstein, 1968.)

This is the most curious work on the assassination. Published in Liechtenstein, printed in Belgium, and distributed in Canada, the book is rare in the United States but available in Europe, apparently in several languages. The bulk of its 387 pages develops the alleged motives for the assassination of the President by ultra-right-wing elements in the United States. According to the author or authors, most major reactionary American forces were involved, but the principal one was the Texas oil interests. About three pages touch on the murder itself with a map showing the location of the alleged assassins and the trajectories of the several bullets. Many statements are not supported by known facts; the map is even contrary in some spots to known and established fact. Linking the murder to Texas oil interests and charging that the Dallas police were implicated are absolutely without any base in fact. The sources used are allegedly taken from foreign intelligence files that are impossible to locate. This

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should more properly be classified as fiction.

Hertogs, Renatus, and Freeman, Lucy. *The Two Assassins*. (Thomas Y. Crowell, New York, 1965.)

A psychological analysis of Ruby and Oswald by two professors that belongs in a fiction category of assassination literature.

Kirkwood, James. *American Grotesque: An Account of the Clay Shaw-Jim Garrison Affair in the City of New Orleans*. (Simon and Schuster, New York, 1970.)

An emotional, journalistic critique of Garrison that contains much interesting information, but does not relate the Garrison evidence to the Dallas tragedy.

Joesten, Joachim. *The Case Against Lyndon B. Johnson in the Assassination of President Kennedy*. (Selbstverlag, Munich, 1968-1969, 2 vols.)

A journalist speculates about the role of President Johnson.

———. *The Case Against the Kennedy Clan*. (Selbstverlag, Munich, 1967.)

This is a poor book based on idle rumors.

———. *The Dark Side of Lyndon Baines Johnson*. (Dawnay Ltd., London, 1968.)

Joesten popularizes information on Johnson's Texas background and spices it with speculation.

———. *The Garrison Inquiry: Truth & Consequences*. (Dawnay, London, 1967.)

A journalist speculates on the background of the inquiry.

———. *How Kennedy was Killed: The Full Appalling Story*. (Dawnay, London, 1968.)

This is a summary of other works and does not provide the answer it claims.

———. *Marina Oswald*. (Dawnay, London, 1967.)

This is heavily speculative.

———. *Oswald: Assassin or Fall Guy?* (Marzani & Munsell, New York, 1964.)

Joesten's first and best book is full of information, all twisted by an assumption of a right-wing plot.

———. *Oswald: The Truth*. (Dawnay, London, 1967.)

A summary of rumors about Oswald.

James, Rosemary, and Wardlaw, Jack. *Plot or Politics? The Garrison Case and Its Cast*. (Pelican Publishing House, New Orleans, 1967.)

The authors assemble factual background material.

Jones, Penn, Jr. *Forgive My Grief*. (Midlothian Mirror, Midlothian, Texas, 1966-1969, 3 vols.)

Three slim volumes of essays and analysis of Warren Commission witness testimony drawn from intensive research. Steeped in the political climate of his Texas homeland, Jones provides illuminating insights, e.g., the night of the murder some wealthy Texans held parties to celebrate the death of the President. He also delves extensively into President Johnson's economic and political background, establishing myriad relationships between Kennedy's successor and Texas reactionaries. The basic weakness is the author's tendency, when reaching conclusions upon the national background to the murder, to omit references to evidence that would provide a wider acceptance of his argument.

Lane, Mark. *A Citizen's Dissent: Mark Lane Replies*. (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York, 1968.)

An attorney replies to those who criticized his book, *Rush to Judgment*. The first portion, containing several pages on the problems of presenting studies on the Kennedy assassination to the public, is awkward to use and detracts from the remainder of the work. Lane fails to document some facts presented in this segment, such as the British Broadcasting Company's position during his London tour, and thus they cannot be considered in the same category as the information in the excellent last three-quarters of the book. One substantial segment examines the role played by Walter Cronkite and the Columbia Broadcasting System during a four-hour television review of the Warren Commission's conclusions. By superb use of documentary evidence Lane shows that Cronkite and CBS presented views considerably at variance with known facts and proves that one must be fully conversant with the factual base for the study of the assassination before venturing to become a public authority on the validity of the one-sniper theory.

———. *Rush to Judgment: A Critique of the Warren Commission's Inquiry into the Murders of President John F. Kennedy, Officer J. D. Tippit and Lee Harvey Os-*

wald. With an introduction by Professor Hugh Trevor-Roper. (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York, 1966.)

The first major study to receive widespread publicity, it establishes a basis in the evidence for refusing to accept the conclusion of the Warren Commission. Unfortunately, Lane places a second thesis alongside the first and finds Chief Justice Earl Warren to be responsible for the inquiry's failure. The first thesis is sustained by excellent scholarly analysis; the second is not supported from the evidence. In addition to the repugnancy of the preposterous accusation against Warren, it shifts the reader's focus away from the monumental ineptness of the federal investigative agencies to a defense of the Chief Justice.

Lawrence, Lincoln [Pseudonym]. *Were We Controlled?* (University Books, New Hyde Park, New York, 1967.)

In a strictly speculative book the author argues that the stock market was manipulated heavily before and after the assassination. No figures and statistics are given, but a bizarre element of RHIC (Radio-Hypnotic Intracerebral Control) is added.

Lewis, Richard Warren, and Schiller, Lawrence. *The Scavengers and Critics of the Warren Report: The Endless Paradox.* (Dell Publishing Company, New York, 1967.)

Two journalists make a superficial and fanciful effort to uphold the efforts of the Warren Commission by attacking those who criticized its findings. Much of this thin, rambling volume lacks documentation or even a grasp of the subject.

Manchester, William. *The Death of a President.* (Harper & Row, New York, 1967.)

A book that represents a commercial point of view, not the evidence.

Marcus, Raymond. *The Bastard Bullet: A Search for Legitimacy for Commission Exhibit 399.* With an introduction by Mark Lane. (Rendell Publications, Los Angeles, 1966. Distributed by Rendell Publications, Post Office Box 35363 Preuss Station, Los Angeles, California 90035.)

A thin volume which is an excellent scholarly study of a single aspect of the investigation by the Warren Commission.

Matteo, Pat. *This Captive Land.* (Privately printed, 44 Elinor Place, Yonkers, New York, 1968.)

This unfathomable book belongs in a fiction category of assassination literature.

Meagher, Sylvia. *Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, the Authorities, and the Report.* With an introduction by Léo Sauvage. (Bobbs-Merrill, Indianapolis, 1967.)

This is the most scholarly investigation of the assassination and the only volume that fulfills the demands of objectivity in every detail. Meagher's method is her strength. Each topic is treated separately. Typically, she gives the conclusion from the *Report*, followed by the evidence and testimony of all witnesses with reference to each aspect of the problem. Finally, she appraises the facts on the basis of the documentary evidence as given by the Commission. She concludes that the Commission did not prove Oswald killed John F. Kennedy and that the assassins are still free. She states that a new investigation by researchers independent of the government is required.

Morin, Relman. *Assassination: The Death of President John F. Kennedy.* (The New American Library, New York, 1968.)

This volume lacks even the rudimentary framework for a scholarly book.

Newman, Albert H. *The Assassination of John F. Kennedy: The Reasons Why.* (Clarkson N. Potter, New York, 1970.)

A strong supporter of the Warren Commission findings, Newman expends his energies describing the mental states of the dead Oswald by inferences from conveniently kept old diaries, stray snapshots, used order blanks, and speeches of Fidel Castro printed in various leftist journals. He then imposes motives on Oswald's actions. It is an impressive effort but falls on the same logical grounds as did the Medieval scholastic argument on how to count angels on the head of a pin. Newman assumes that his device of mental states is valid and that it gives expression to reality. In addition, he assumes Oswald was a Marxist, albeit slightly mad. All facts subsequently encountered in his investigations are placed upon this Procrustean bed of assumptions and brushed aside if they do not fit. He thus ignores all physical facts, logical problems of photographic analysis, and the entire body of critical literature.

Oswald, Robert. *Lee: A Portrait of Lee Harvey Oswald.* (Coward, New York, 1967.)

A book by Lee Oswald's brother, whose printed remarks differ considerably from his initial comments published in the public press.

Popkin, Richard H. *The Second Oswald*. With an introduction by Murray Kempton. (Avon Library—New York Review Book, New York, 1966.)

This is a good presentation of the probability that a fake Oswald functioned to divert investigators. However, it is too brief.

Roberts, Charles. *The Truth About the Assassination*. With a foreword by Pierre Salinger. (Grosset & Dunlap, New York, 1967.)

A 118-page effort to uphold the findings of the Warren Commission by attacking the character and motives of those who wrote against the official conclusion. It is full of errors, lacks documentation, uses emotional language, and completely fails to fulfill the promise given in its title. Why Salinger would be informed about the assassination evidence is not revealed.

Smith, Bill [William R.]. *Assassination by Consensus: The Story Behind the Kennedy Assassination*. (L'Avant Garde Books, Washington, D.C., 1966.)

A rambling, footnote-free volume on "behavior engineering" that makes no contribution whatsoever.

———. *A Hog Story from the Aftermath of the Kennedy Assassination*. (L'Avant Garde Books, Washington, 1968.)

Apparently Smith argues that insiders on the alleged right-wing conspiracy played the stock and hog markets and by selling short made a fortune. The thesis is impossible to follow.

Sauvage, Léo. *The Oswald Affair: An Examination of the Contradictions and Omissions of the Warren Report*. (World Publishing Company, Cleveland, 1966.)

A journalist disputes the Warren Commission findings and does what the title states, but in a rather superficial way.

Sparrow, John. *After the Assassination: A Positive Appraisal of the Warren Report*. (Chilmark Press, New York, 1967.)

This thin volume by a renowned professor proves that academic qualifications are no substitute for knowledge of the documents.

Thompson, Josiah. *Six Seconds in Dallas: A Micro-Study of the Kennedy Assassination*. (Bernard Geis Associates, New York, 1967.)

A study of the witnesses and physical evidence—the shots, shell casings, bullet fragments, and so forth—used by the Warren Commission. Thompson concludes that at least three gunmen participated in the murder. The argument is carefully reasoned, the evidence is assessed with all the detachment of a first-rate scholar, and the conclusion closely follows the facts as he presents them. Perhaps the book's most important point for future research is the "Dealey Plaza Chart: Location of Witnesses" wherein the author numbers, names, locates, and gives information on the individual testimonies. Further references when applicable are provided on the 268 witnesses.

Thomson, George C. *The Quest for Truth: A Quizzical Look at the Warren Report; or, How President Kennedy Really Was Assassinated*. (G. C. Thomson Engineering Company, Glendale, California, 1964.)

This brief critical examination of the physical evidence is a good early effort, marred by a political bias.

Weisberg, Harold. *Oswald in New Orleans: Case of Conspiracy with the C.I.A.* Foreword by Jim Garrison. (Canyon Books, New York, 1967.)

An informative and exhaustive treatment of the background of the New Orleans investigation, told from the perspective of its relationship to the Warren Commission's investigation.

———. *Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report*. (Harold Weisberg, Route 7, Hyattstown, Maryland, 1965.)

This was the first book which established a basis in fact for rejecting the conclusions of the Warren Commission. It was not publicized.

———. *Whitewash II: The FBI-Secret Service Cover-up*. (Harold Weisberg, Route 7, Hyattstown, Maryland, 1966.)

Weisberg examines the methods used by the federal investigative agencies to assemble, analyze, and present the evidence they were charged with procuring. He demonstrates with exhaustive detail the procedures used to clip photographs, misprint documents, and omit key portions of the evidence to provide the conclusion sought—a lone assassin. The

reproduction of many unpublished documents is an added feature.

———. *Photographic Whitewash: Suppressed Kennedy Assassination Pictures*. (Harold Weisberg, Route 7, Hyattstown, Maryland, 1967.)

The photographs used to support the charge of a lone assassin are examined and shown to have been handled with a lack of objective standards. The 140 pages of documents photo-

graphically reproduced alone make the volume a necessary addition to the critical literature.

White, Stephen. *Should We Now Believe the Warren Report?* Preface by Walter Cronkite. (Macmillan Company, New York, 1968.)

White proves the answer is no. This book contains the error-laced text of the CBS documentary (which is commented upon above under Mark Lane's *Citizen's Dissent*).

Miscellaneous

CHARTS AND MAPS

Spatial Chart of the Northern Half of Dealey Plaza. (Cutler Designs, Manchester, Massachusetts, 38 Union Street, 1970.)

A superb architectural drawing of the assassination site, it is absolutely necessary for checking, measuring, and evaluating information concerning the physical evidence. The maps and charts of the Warren Commission study are too inaccurate for good research.

NEWSLETTERS AND NEWSPAPERS

Computers and Automation. (Monthly.)

Beginning in 1970, almost every issue has carried a critical article on the assassination. While some of them are not of the best quality, many are excellent and a few are among the best available.

CTIA Newsletter. (Quarterly.)

The Committee to Investigate Assassinations, 927 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., issues this information sheet to all members and interested parties. It summarizes their legal cases, provides a progress report on their fight to have pertinent evidence released, and gives notices of books and other items of general information.

Midlothian Mirror. (Weekly.)

Penn Jones, Jr., the editor of this Texas weekly, began printing critical information immediately after the assassination. Much of his work is published in the three volumes of *Forgive My Grief*. The *Midlothian Mirror* of August 13, 1970, reprints all his work since volume III; one must consult his weekly edi-

tions since then for his evaluation of new evidence. He is extremely well informed.

Truth Letter. (Bi-weekly.)

This is, apparently, published by Joachim Joesten from his home, P.O. 7890, Gutenberg, Germany. The reviewer has only seen one issue and cannot judge it.

LEGAL CASES

Brief for Plaintiff-Appellant and Joint Appendix. In the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. No. 71-1026. Harold Weisberg v. U.S. Department of Justice. (Byron S. Adams Printing, Washington, 1971.)

No. 71-1026, *Brief for the Appellee*. Type-script.

Reply Brief for Plaintiff-Appellant. Type-script.

These three related documents involve the question of freedom of information. Weisberg asked to examine the spectrographic analyses reports and the raw data—bullets, fragments of bullets, and objects such as garments and curbstones said to have been struck by bullets—upon which the reports were based. His request was denied in court on the curious grounds of national interest. The written refusals which were given to Weisberg state that the evidence is part of an "investigative file compiled for law enforcement purposes." Since all persons involved are dead, this ground is equally curious. If the Warren Commission findings are valid and if the spectrographic tests were completely and properly performed, such texts should substantiate the Commission findings.