

ED JOYCE program CBS radio Friday 3:15 p.m. 20 November 1964

Guests: Thomas Buchanan and Dick Shott, assoc editor NY Herald-Tribune

TB...asked to give short synopsis, says he feels whole truth not revealed in WR altho the data on which it is based is contained in the report. Conclusions reached not warranted on basis evidence it gives. Case vs WR conclusions: feels LHO was not innocent but not guilty alone, had accomplices, and feels this is present position of at least 1/3 American people. Feels he represents at last 1/2 people in feeling he was not guilty alone, and they are not represented in press and comment. Does not pretend he knows all the answers but he has asked questions.

Joyce...you suggest various members Dallas police involved, right-wing plot, oil millionaires...?

TB...first I explore the theory that one unbalanced man responsible for the assassination and show not so in any previous assassination...then discuss how an insane man might behave if guilty...my feeling is that the psychology of the WC totally false...an insane man would have behaved completely differently from LHO, would not have denied his guilt, that is not the pattern in political assassinations (more per the book)...then I discuss the reasons that lead me to believe that no one man could have done it.

Shott...asked his opinion of book...says he finds contradictions, i.e., TB says LHO not insane because previous assassins not insane...then you say an insane man would have admitted his guilt...the men who killed Lincoln Garfield and MacKinley did want people to know they did it... He finds TB tends to build on a premise which a few pages later has become a fact...even to point of specific dialogue attributed to conspirators... not what might have been said...but giving impression was actually said in so many words...TB objects to use of qualifying phrases by WC but he should have used some in his book.

Shott...I don't want to pretend to judge whether he was insane...does not agree with TB reasoning that WC calls LHO insane because its investigation was a failure...nor would he be willing to say without some evidence over and above speculation that a policeman was in a conspiracy to kill the President of the USA...

Joyce...let's move into some other areas...discuss the accomplices TB describes...what reason for thinking there were accomplices?

TB...much the same reasons as most people...refers to the Harris poll in October 1964 showing only 45 % US public feels full story is in WC report ...45% think still unanswered questions about who killed JFK and how it was done (gives more figures from poll)...2 percent thought he had nothing to do with it...TB agrees with center position, that LHO was incriminated but did not do it alone...questions if any one man could have fired the rifle as fast as it is said

Shott...you are just in disagreement with WC which has based itself on report from military people...does not think it fair for TB to associate himself with the 31% who feel he did not do it alone...does not feel that 31% would agree with TB thesis LHO and Ruby in plot together with other people

The book gets dangerous when you go into specifics, postulating who the accomplices were, without any facts to back it up, or contradictory facts ie in British version you claim Tippit LHO and Ruby all lived near each other ...thathas been taken out of the US edition now...I am not criticizing you for changing their stories...your story has changed also

TB...that is true but I have not the same responsibility to the public that police investigators have...my resp is to analyze what they say is the truth ...their resp is to make sure what they say is true before they release it

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That was not done by Curry Wade etc. Much of what they said turned out to be false...in many instances, his errors stem from their false statements... in other instances, his premises turned out to be true....re direction of the shots...true it is hard to place direction, but in this case it is easier than normally...no buildings, nothing except the one building on the corner...plaza is empty...so relatively easy to place source of shots heard...not typical downtown area with tall buildings...maybe not easy place the first shot, which was not expected, but subsequent shots could be placed

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Shott...you do not consider that the WC might be right...you just refuse to accept it...you claim an "understanding" to prevent airing of any information that would make any responsible agencies or officials look "bad"

TBx...there is still some mystery, the complete truth is not in the WC report and they don't pretend it is...they had FBI, CIA, etc. plus TB and other books, and we can't pretend to know more...they are reasonable and honest men...

TB...so much is contradictory we have to choose which to believe...on one vital point, especially, i e did LHO know Ruby before the assassination.... WC disregards evidence or discredits it which suggests they did know each other, but chooses to believe Ruby and his friends when they say LHO and Ruby did not know each other...TB does not consider Ruby testimony more credible than that of other witnesses

EJ or Shott...since most reporters agree with the WC, are you not discrediting them?

TB...no, feels many base their views on national security considerations, may not accept the findings of the WC as genuinely as they seem to but do not wish to rock the boat (so tox speak)...

TB...quotes a morning newspaper of today...WC testimony 26 volumes 24 lbs will be released 30 Nov...but even that won't be complete story...Rankin told Herald-Trib classified material involving national security is being withheld...What is this mystery??? What is being withheld????

Shott...we will never get the full, whole truth, some being withheld fr national security, some just not known...we will never know what went thru LHO mind on 22 Nov...but not essential to the finding that LHO did it alone...and Ruby then shot him, whether he knew him or not, that is not why he shot him...

TB...replying to qu re Ruby capability patriotism, agrees, he does not credit him with any such emotion, per suggestions by his friends (tears and grief) ...on contrary, smiling and laughing per reporters present at time, handing out cards and invitations see strip tease show....

Shott...if you were the Mr X in your book, would you include a man like Ruby on your team?

TB...my impression from people who knew Ruby is that he was not a man transported by patriotic fervor but a cold killer...(Shott brings up money order, lack of premeditation)...I explain that in my book...and Belli made the point (missed a passage)...

Shott...one of our reporters flew down to Dallas, stayed there a few weeks, after the assassination, and learned that Ruby definitely did not leave Dallas Morning News building at all during the assassination

TB...then Belli should have called those witnesses...to clear up whether or not he (Ruby) was involved in the killing JFK...Kilgallen says there was agreement between Dept of Justice and Ruby defense to leave that period out of the trial...

Final comments

Shott...objects to last part of TB book and the specifics, the accusations, which are unfounded against people who cannot defend themselves

TB...rests his case on the Herald-Trib's own story that material is being withheld.

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