

Bitter Thoughts After
the 22nd of November

— about 30 Nov 1963

Assassination as an Instrument of Foreign Policy

Since the beginning of 1961 we have seen the liquidation of Patrice Lumumba, Trujillo, Diem and Nhu in coups widely considered to be USA-inspired or supported. We have seen also the mysterious death of a UN Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, during an attempt to settle the Katanga rebellion, which was ardently and consistently supported by the American ultra-right faction both within and without officialdom.

Murder at Home

This year alone we have seen the murder of Medgar Evers and the murder of six innocent children in Birmingham; the use of dogs against human beings; and the savage beating of a young man participating in a drug-store lunch counter sit-in, among other appalling and nightmarish scenes of disgusting brutality towards Negroes and their White comrades in their fight for civil rights. The murderers, bombers, and brutes guilty of these crimes have been neither apprehended nor tried nor sentenced. Sometimes the loathsome acts have actually been committed by the police themselves, who in some communities have become an institutionalized anti-social and criminal force.

If there had been a three-day state funeral and a national day of mourning for the Birmingham children, perhaps the President of the United States, John F. Kennedy, would be alive today. No Washington dignitary came to mourn at the funeral of the Birmingham children; and Jacqueline Kennedy, after losing her own infant, went yachting on the Onassis luxury-ship, not yet aware of true horror and tragedy. Today she must know, perhaps for the first time, the anguish of Mrs. Medgar Evers and the agony of the parents of the Birmingham children. She can still ally herself with them and with their cause and by so doing help to avert more loss of innocent life and more slaughter of the brave and fine people martyred beside her husband.

The Unrestrained Ultra-Right

The murderers of children are still at large. Major-General Walker, who incited to sedition and violence on the streets of Dixie in full view of the nation, is free and unrestricted in his poisonous activities. The human scum who assaulted Adlai Stevenson in Dallas and Earl Warren in New York are at large, though identified or easily identifiable, and were never hampered or apprehended by the authorities responsible for law and order. Lee Harvey Oswald, however, was arrested for distributing pro-Castro leaflets on a street corner after he was physically assaulted by anti-Castro hoodlums who were not even citizens of this country.

The law is in collusion with the ultra-right. It has perverted its duty, of giving equal protection to all, to one of complicity with the lawless ultra-right and punitive hostility against the left and the civil rights movement. The law has therefore become the enemy of the people wherever police agencies have been the active or tacit accomplices of the "patriots."

Was Lee Harvey Oswald Guilty?

He has been under surveillance by a federal agency or agencies, probably since his re-defection from the Soviet Union. His whereabouts, place of employment, and general activities must be presumed to have been known continually or at frequent intervals to that agency or those agencies. Certainly his surveillance, if it had been discontinued, resumed in September when he went to Mexico City and visited the Soviet and Cuban consulates.

The Dallas police found Communist literature in his rented room, which his landlady had never seen there, and cited this to buttress the impression that Oswald was a Communist agent. But the public library in New Orleans has revealed that Oswald borrowed a number of anti-Communist books. By that token, is he not an anti-Communist? Or did he perhaps read both kinds of books, in a search for a doctrine or philosophy which he could accept after informing himself fully? If so, he was no fanatic. His impulses towards the Soviet Union and Cuba were balanced in each case by angry denunciation—he left the Soviet Union after he was refused citizenship; he tried to join an anti-Castro group before distributing pro-Castro literature; and he flung out of the Cuban consulate in Mexico City enraged because a visa was not immediately forthcoming. Is this the reception a Communist agent would receive, or his reaction?

Was Oswald living in Texas when the mail-order rifle was delivered to his post-office box? Did he personally apply for that box? What character references did he give? Is there objective expert testimony to show beyond doubt

that the handwriting in the letter ordering the rifle is identical with Oswald's known handwriting?

Marksmanship: the Marine Corps graded Oswald as average or below in marksmanship. The bullets that killed John F. Kennedy were sent with deadly accuracy and speed to their target. Oswald was fired from a non-skilled job because he was unable to make accurate size photostatic copies. His employment was always in menial jobs. Neither at school nor in his jobs did he ever show evidence of a high level of intelligence or efficiency. Even his personal life was characterized by improvisation and inability to plan or pursue a course of action towards a definite objective. Did Oswald have the endowments of brain, nerve, skill and foresight to plan and execute an assassination single-handedly and with brilliant effectiveness?

How did he get from the sixth floor to the cafeteria within seconds of the shooting? If he worked in the building, why did he have to stake out with food and cigarettes? Did he, in fact, smoke?

The paraffin tests: the Dallas police announced that tests would be made of Oswald's cheek as well as his hands but they announced only the positive results for the hands. Was the paraffin test of the cheek negative? If so, why was this not announced to the public at the same time as the positive results? The only possible inference is that the Dallas police deliberately withheld all evidence favourable to Oswald while flooding the media with every bit of evidence that would convince the public of his guilt.

The palmprints: the first announcement was that no prints were found on the murder weapon. Later, the Dallas authorities claimed that a palmerprint had been found and matched with Oswald's. How did he manage to leave a palmerprint but not fingerprints? If he wiped the weapon, he was suicidally careless--and the very act of wiping it reduced still further the available seconds of time in which he got to the cafeteria. A policeman rushed in there and drew a gun on him but was told by a supervisor that Oswald was all right, that he worked there. Would the supervisor have vouched for him if he had come rushing in, out of breath and excited, a few seconds before? Or did he vouch for him because he had been sitting there for some time?

Oswald then went to his furnished room to get a jacket. Why, if he had just assassinated the President, did he leave behind him to be found by the Dallas police incriminating photographs and a diagram of the motorcade route? Or were these planted afterwards by party or parties unknown?

Did the Dallas Police Lynch Oswald?

They certainly trampled on his right to due process. They fed the press a stream of information which could only create a public certainty of his guilt and arouse the most violent public thirst for vengeance. Then he was murdered, inside police quarters and after maximum security precautions had been taken, by a man known to be a police "buff" and errand-boy. The Dallas police are morally responsible for Oswald's murder, at the very least, and the possibility exists of actual complicity in a pre-arranged murder to silence him before he could prove his innocence and reopen the search for the actual assassins.

What will happen to Jack Ruby?

Most people will put money on it, he will never die in the electric chair for this murder. He may hang himself in a fit of despondency; he may be shot while trying to escape; or he may get a light sentence (and a heavy wad of money to be picked up on release). And he may get a medal, from the very Dallas citizenry that accused the President of treason and whose children cheered the news of his death. Why were they so anxious to punish the ^{murderer of a} President they had called a traitor and taught their children to hate? Why no medal for that assassin?

Something is rotten in Dallas and the smell reached all the way to Denmark.

28 Sept 1964

- (A) ~~(1)~~ Was he actually, legally arraigned for the assassination of the President? Joesten (page 60) says he was not, and has never been, formally charged with that crime. See also page 62, indicating that Wade confirmed after a formal press conference to announce the filing of charges in the murder of the President, held shortly after midnight on 22-23 November, that Oswald had not been advised of charges in connection with the President's murder but had been told of charges in the death of Tippit. See also "Affidavit" page 61 and photograph in documentary section, Joesten book, indicating the document was not completed nor signed.
- (B) ~~(2)~~ If the doctors never turned the President over, how did they remove his shirt and back brace? See also Chapter II of the Warren report, stating that Dr. Carrico "felt the President's back." How could a doctor feel the President's back, if he was lying on his back the whole time?
- (C) ~~(3)~~ In May 1959 Oswald scored only 191, only 1 point over the minimum required to qualify as a marksman on a marksman/sharpshooter/expert scale, compared to his earlier score of 212 in December 1956. His skill had deteriorated considerably during service in the Marines. There is no evidence (or any strong evidence of opportunity) of target practice by Oswald between his release from the Marine Corps (September 1959) and 22 November 1963. How did he have the skill to shoot with such deadly accuracy on that date--an accuracy he had never approached during his tenure in the Marines, and an accuracy which expert riflemen (see Joesten page 80) were not able to match in tests after the assassination?
- (D) ~~(4)~~ How did Oswald acquire the \$170? He had been unemployed from July 19 to October 16 1964. From October 16 to November 22 he would have earned a maximum of \$270 (if he was paid on the Thursday before leaving for Irving) or, more likely, \$230 (four weeks and 3 days @ \$10 a day). His rent during that period (\$10 a week) would have come to \$50. leaving a balance of \$180 to cover his food and other expenses, including the birth of his second child on October 20. He had some money in his pocket when arrested; and it has been reported that a considerable sum of cash was found in his room. Where did he obtain his supplementary income? Western Union admits delivering small sums but has refused to identify the sender.

(F) If the only practical route to the Trade Mark from Main Street was via a turn at Houston leading into Elm Street and on to the Freeway, why did the map of the motorcade route published in the Dallas press morning editions on November 22 show the route as going along Main Street directly to the Freeway, without a turn at Houston into Elm? Who provided the Dallas Morning News with the diagram? The Warren report, moreover, does not mention the publication of the diagram in the Dallas Morning News on November 22 although it quotes a story in the same edition to the effect that the motorcade would move very slowly. Photostat of the diagram published in that edition is included in the Joesten book, Documentary Section.

(P) During the visit of Khrushchev to the United Nations, men were stationed on the roof of the adjoining Library Building and employees in the Secretariat building were prevented from opening and leaning out of windows on the 22nd floor just before Khrushchev was to arrive in a car and enter the building. This visit took place in 1960. It seems that the stationing of men on the roof was either a standard procedure of the New York City Police Department or an extraordinary measure employed because of known hostility to a visitor. In view of the extraordinary precautions taken by the Dallas Police (100 extra men on duty) and the known mood of Dallas, it should be more clearly explained why men were not assigned to check buildings along the route or stationed on the roofs of those buildings--especially since far greater care was taken to ensure security at the Trade Mart (including its roof). It should also be indicated whether or not security procedures on previous trips by President Kennedy included a check on buildings along his route.

(S) It is certainly regrettable that these agents, supposedly charged with scanning windows and roofs, failed to notice the same man with rifle that Brennan and other by-standers saw clearly enough to describe and identify the man, and seen also (with respect to the rifle) by others riding in the motorcade (press photographers and camera men).