

# THE FOURTH DECADE

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1973

1983

1993

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**Back cover illustration: Jew and Blacks.** Shown is a flyer distributed in the 1963 era by the later founder of the National States Right Party, Edward R. Fields. It demonstrates the heated the rhetoric of racial discussion in these times. For a discussion of possible assassination involvement by NSRP and its associates, see Notes From the Last Millennium, this issue.

## OSWALD IN NORTH DAKOTA-Part III

by  
Gary Severson

In the January and March 2000 issues of *The Fourth Decade*, two Lee Harvey Oswald (LHO) appearances in North Dakota were described by John Delane Williams and myself. My interest in the possibility that Oswald spent time in North Dakota was piqued in November of 1998, when I first ran across information about John Armstrong's research. [1] As a native North Dakotan, I became intrigued by Oswald's possible connection to North Dakota. Through research, peripheral data has continued to develop which has allowed a larger perspective to emerge. In this article, I plan to suggest that it is plausible for the information gleaned from the Stanley, North Dakota, interviews to have a basis in reality. To do this I will take a multifold approach, describing events that occurred in North Dakota and people who lived there during the years leading up to the assassination of JFK. There seem to be an unusual number of coincidental connections of people, organizations and occurrences in North Dakota history that may relate to the events of 1963. Is there a connection between Richard Case Nagell's account of a 9/63, JFK assassination attempt, the Alma Cole letter to LBJ in 12/63, and Aline Mosby's U.P.I. release of Oswald's defection to the U.S.S.R.?

### Mosby's U.P.I. Release

The immediate question following Armstrong's discovery of the Alma Cole letter to LBJ and the Aline Mosby interview of LHO moving to North Dakota is "how could North Dakota possibly have any significance in Oswald's history, especially in light of the possibility that the abbreviation "N. D." as used in the interview was simply a typo which should have read "N.O." for New Orleans instead of "N.D."? This was found in Mosby's November 1959, U.P.I. story from Moscow concerning LHO's defection to the Soviet Union. If we grant that there is enough ambiguity involved in the F.B.I. processing of Mosby's first and

second U.P.I. releases on 10/31/59 and 11/13/59, we can delve deeper into hypothesis one, the possibility that Oswald actually was in North Dakota, or hypothesis two, that a legend was created in North Dakota for LHO whether he or an impostor was there. [2] (These hypotheses are two of five proposed in Parts I and II previously published in *The Fourth Decade*.) Are there reasons to consider either of these scenarios as plausible? I believe there are.

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (S.I.S.S.) of Senator James Eastland questioned Abba Schwartz of the U.S. State Department in August of 1964, concerning his knowledge of LHO's State Department file. [3] Mr. Schwartz, on two occasions during that hearing, denied knowing about any communist activity by LHO in North Dakota. It is interesting to note that the S.I.S.S. chief consul questioning Schwartz was Julien Sourwine. Sourwine appears to be a part of a larger agenda when we consider he was an active player in the so-called Bayo-Pawley raid on Cuba. [4] We must ask if Sourwine's politics help explain the question asked by him of Schwartz about the reference to Schwartz's possible knowledge of LHO's communist activity in North Dakota. Do we simply dismiss this inquiry by Sourwine as an innocent query about Alma Cole's letter to LBJ on December 11, 1963? In this letter she told LBJ about her son William Timmer and his recollections about meeting a young man named Oswald in the summer of 1953 in Stanley, N.D. (5) Do we also assume that Sourwine was misled by Aline Mosby's possible U.P.I. typo, and that he was only repeating the misunderstanding of N.O. as N.D.? [6] Did Sourwine believe Mosby's story that Oswald found Marx's *Das Kapital* on a library shelf in North Dakota in 1953? Do these beliefs explain Sourwine asking Schwartz if all that information was in Oswald's State Department file? Maybe, but are there other reasons to believe North Dakota would be a fertile ground to create an Oswald legend? I say yes and will turn to those reasons now.

### Richard Case Nagell and North Dakota

Richard Case Nagell's story may provide insight into LHO activity in North Dakota. In Dick Russell's book *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, there are numerous references to an assassination plot that Nagell became

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privity to upon infiltrating a New Orleans anti-Castro cell in August of 1963. [7] An Oswald was part of this cell and Nagell tape-recorded these meetings. The as yet unrecovered recordings would verify Nagell's contention that an attempt would be made on JFK's life in late September of 1963. Specifically, in other parts of Russell's book the time frames between 9/24/63 to 9/29/63 and 9/26/63 to 9/29/63 are mentioned. [8]

Upon noticing these references, I remembered JFK had made a visit to Grand Forks, North Dakota, approximately two months before his murder in Dallas. I was 15 years old at the time and was present when JFK received an honorary degree from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. My buddy and I had skipped school that day in order to witness JFK's arrival. There were already 25,000 people present in the arena and outside around the helicopter landing field when we arrived late on the scene. We made our way unimpeded through the bowels of the arena to where JFK would receive his degree. Surprisingly, we were able to find two seats immediately in front of the podium. There was no visible security along our route through parts of a building that housed many other athletic facilities in addition to the main arena where 12,000 people waited to hear JFK's speech. The date was September 25, 1963! I had forgotten the exact date for 36 years until I saw Richard Nagell's story referring to the September 24-29 time frame for an assassination attempt on JFK's life.

#### **Conservation Tour of JFK- September 1963**

From JFK Library in Boston

September 24th leave D.C. (Tuesday)

1. Pennsylvania
2. Ashland, Wisconsin
3. Duluth, Minnesota

September 25th (Wednesday)

4. Grand Forks, North Dakota

Arrived 10:30 a.m., Departed 11:30 a.m.

5. Laramie, Wyoming (University of Wyoming)
6. Billings, Montana.

September 26th (Thursday)

7. Great Falls, Montana
8. Hannaford, Washington

9. Salt Lake City, Utah

September 27th (Friday)

10. Tacoma, Washington

11. Tong Point, Oregon  
September 28th (Saturday)

12. Whiskey Town, California

13. Las Vegas, Nevada

14. Palm Desert, California

September 29<sup>th</sup> Return to D.C. (Sunday)

On September 20, 1963, five days before JFK arrived in Grand Forks, Nagell walked into an El Paso, Texas, bank and fired two bullets into the ceiling in a fake robbery attempt. He calmly walked outside, sat down on the curb, and waited to be arrested. [9] On September 17, 1963, Nagell had written J. Edgar Hoover warning the F.B.I. that he had uncovered the September plot on JFK's life. [10] Nagell's arrest at the El Paso bank apparently allowed him to be safe in jail if the conspirators wanted to retaliate against him for blowing their cover by writing to the F.B.I. His arrest also had the effect of derailing the plot against JFK because the plotters would assume that Nagell would be talking even more extensively to the F.B.I. about their plans.

So the assassination attempt of September 24-29 during Kennedy's western states Conservation Tour of 1963 did not happen. But a short two months later assassins were successful.

#### **North Dakota Economics**

What geopolitical and economic factors were at work in North Dakota to create a milieu for a presidential assassination? North Dakota's history as a colony of the Minneapolis/St. Paul wheat milling industry is one of the most significant factors in the shaping of its history from its 1889 statehood to the present. [11] Conditions were oppressive enough from 1889 to 1920 that North Dakota farmers turned to radical socialist political and economic solutions that remain in place today. North Dakota has a state industrial commission, a state bank, and a state mill for wheat processing. These came into being to temper the effects of the big city business interests from Minneapolis/St. Paul. Add to this Senators Gerald P. Nye and Senator William (Wild Bill) Langer from the 1930's '40's and '50's and you have an interesting formula. These Senators were leaders in the isolationist anti-war movement called America First, the largest anti-war movement of this century and probably of all American history. [12]

The Non-Partisan League (NPL) was the populist/socialist political movement that North Dakota farmers turned to in the 1920's to prevent their exploitation by the grain companies. The NPL remained a strong influence in North Dakota until the 1960's. In 1933, the ND legislature actually debated seceding from the Union. [13] In North Dakota, the joke was that if we did secede from the union we would immediately be the third largest nuclear power in the world because of the presence of the two nuclear missile bases at Grand Forks and Minot. At any rate the profile of North Dakota was on the radar screen of the conservative, anti-communist powers-that-be in American society.

Of course, North Dakota politics were not any more monolithic than any other state. The same interests prevalent at the national level had their power bases in North Dakota as well, i.e. business interests vs. agrarian reform interests. The American Communist Party (CPUSA), for example, was interested in organizing farmers. Ella Reeve Bloor, one of the most famous female party members of the century, spent five years trying to recruit members in the Stanley N.D. area. [14] The party had a strong presence among the Mountrail County Finnish population. [15] Lyle Aho, mentioned in Part II of this essay, told of seeing Ella Reeve Bloor, or Mother Bloor, as she also was known, passing out communist literature on the streets of Stanley N.D. [16]

#### **North Dakota Oil Boom and the Hunts**

In 1951, the first oil well in North Dakota was drilled 20 miles from Stanley, by the small town of Tioga. One of the most visible oil companies working the Stanley area was Amerada-Hess. Hunt Oil of Dallas, Texas, also owned wells in that area. H.L. Hunt was in North Dakota on numerous occasions to meet with the representatives of the North Dakota Geological Survey. These meetings were used to process paper work for leases involving the oil drilling in the Williston Basin, the geological formation where oil was discovered.

My next-door neighbor in Grand Forks was C.B. Folsom, a petroleum engineer with the North Dakota Geological Survey located at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. When I was a teenager, he would occasionally discuss with me his meetings with H.L. Hunt which took place in various locations around

western North Dakota. He said all Mr. Hunt wanted to talk about at their business meetings was the John Birch Society and how much he hated John F. Kennedy. After the assassination of JFK in November 1963, and continuing well into the 1980's, Mr. Folsom expressed his feeling that L.B.J. was behind the assassination. Another geologist at UND during the same period mentioned that a son of H.L. Hunt, William Herbert Hunt, came to his office in the geology department in Grand Forks to discuss company business. Upon examination of the oil drilling records of the Stanley area it is possible to identify exactly which section of land the Hunts were drilling on. Whether these records are revealing of any relationships with specific residents in the Stanley area is not clear, but it does establish the Hunt Oil Company's presence in the area in the 1950's when LHO was possibly in the area. One has to assume that the Hunts, because of their vociferous anti-communism, would be well aware of the socialist history of Mountrail County.

#### **North Dakota Prohibition**

North Dakota enacted prohibition upon achieving statehood in 1889. The effects of prohibition on North Dakota's society were corrupting. Unlike South Dakota, which dissolved prohibition by 1895, North Dakota maintained prohibition until 1933. Of course some counties in the state and in Minnesota remained dry until 1947, while a few maintained prohibition until the 1980's. In any case North Dakota was dry for a period of 44 years. This extended time period, along with North Dakota's 300+ mile open border along the Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, allowed the development of numerous opportunities for bootlegging.

Minot, North Dakota, 50 miles east of Stanley, was known as the gangster capital of the western United States. [19] Stanley and Minot are 50 miles south of the area known as the "three corners" where the borders of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and North Dakota meet. Because of tighter Manitoba liquor laws, the Canadian liquor industry blossomed along the Saskatchewan border, specifically in the city of Yorkton. There were many loopholes in the Saskatchewan liquor laws which allowed distillers to operate more easily, but it meant their American bootlegging con-

tacts had to meet them at the "three corners" just north of Northgate and Portal North Dakota on the Saskatchewan border. This border crossing from the Canadian border to Minot and to a lesser extent to Stanley became known as "Whiskey Gap" (Highway 52 in the U.S.) (These towns are on the route of the transcontinental Empire Builder passenger train running from Chicago to Seattle. A 17 year old Oswald could have boarded a train in New York City and changed trains only once, ending up in Stanley, North Dakota in 1953.)

The liquor company operating out of Saskatchewan was eventually known as Seagram's. By 1922 it was based in Brandon and Winnipeg, Manitoba before eventually being moved to Montreal in 1928 and on to New York City later. This bootlegging culture had the effect of corrupting local governments. North Dakota functioned as a colony of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis/St. Paul. This meant that organized crime from Minneapolis/St. Paul had an easier in-road into the political scene in North Dakota. The Isadore Blumenfeld (Kidd Cann) gang was an extension of the Meyer Lansky crime syndicate out of Miami. Kidd Cann controlled the Twin Cities rackets in the 30's and 40's. This influence spread to places like East Grand Forks, Minnesota, also known as "Little Chicago". [21] In the 30's and 40's East Grand Forks resembled the Las Vegas of the same period. East Grand Forks was described by Ripley's Believe it or Not as having the most neon lights of any place in the world. The night-clubs with their liquor and slot machines were all illegal, but payoffs first to the county seat in Crookson, Minnesota, and then on to the capital in St. Paul were normal operating procedure. [22] In 1951, the North Dakota Attorney General was indicted for bribery involving Minneapolis/St. Paul slot machine operators who were trying to make North Dakota a total fiefdom for gambling interests. [23] Minot, 200 miles west of Grand Forks continued to be involved in prostitution and gambling until 1969 when the city was finally cleaned up.

### Henry Luce and North Dakota

Another interesting bit of history concerns a 1927 graduate of UND, Edward K. Thompson, who went on to become the managing editor of Life Magazine

from 1949 to 1967. As long as Thompson stayed within the ideological parameters of Henry Luce, Life's owner, he was given a free hand to run the magazine. Thompson said, "I realized very early on that Luce didn't care how you voted, as long as you didn't vote Communist." [24] If Thompson had a fault, it was that his boundless energy resulted in his micro-managing the magazine. [25] Interestingly, the Bayo-Pawley raid on Cuba involved Life Magazine in that pictures of the raid were printed in Life. That particular issue helped pay the costs of the raid and other incursions like it. [26] C. D. Jackson, Luce's publisher, had a more visible hand in the arrangements with the Bayo-Pawley raid, but it is certainly interesting to speculate about possible roles Ed Thompson may have played. The Bayo-Pawley and other raids on Cuba subsidized by Luce, were explicitly designed to challenge Kennedy's steps towards detente with the Soviet Union. [27] UND gave Mr. Thompson an honorary degree in 1958, just as it gave JFK an honorary degree in 1963. Mr. Thompson passed away in 1996.

Hopefully continued research into North Dakota history will provide further support to strengthen claims that Oswald was in North Dakota. Perhaps if events in North Dakota can be pieced together and related in a larger context, we can discover the forces present in Dallas.

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## MISSING RADIO TRANSMISSIONS

by

*William Weston*

Oswald's bus transfer had a punched hole that indicated that it was picked up prior to 1:00 p.m. on a downtown bus. It had to be used sometime prior to 2:00 p.m. at one of the six transfer points in the downtown area or at the Oak Cliff transfer point at the intersection of Jefferson and Marsalis. One writer speculated that Oswald was trying to get to the Oak Cliff transfer point, when he was stopped by Officer Tippit. Had he made it there successfully, he would have gotten on a bus that would have taken him to the Greyhound bus stop and from there he could proceed to Mexico. [1] Had he kept to this getaway plan after his encounter with Tippit, he would not have gotten away. Law enforcement officers were already looking for him at the intersection. As it turned out, they waited in vain. Oswald was on the opposite side of Oak Cliff going towards the Texas Theater.

On closer examination there is something strange about the aborted ambush at Jefferson and Marsalis. Why would the police go to that intersection, which is east of the Tippit shooting site, when witnesses saw the gunman heading west? To answer this question, let us go into more details.

Adrian Hamby, a student of the University of Arlington, was eating lunch in the cafeteria when the horrifying news came over the intercom that President Kennedy had been severely wounded. After lunch he got into his car and headed toward the Oak Cliff Library, where he had a part-time job in the afternoon, five days a week. He was driving a 1961 light gray Rambler sedan. (Oswald's getaway car in Dealey Plaza was a 1961 light gray Rambler *station wagon*.) As Hamby approached the library, he noticed at the intersection of Jefferson and Marsalis a couple of police cars with flashing lights and a multitude of people. Did someone get injured in a traffic accident?

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He turned right on Denver Street and pulled into the parking area on the west side of the library. He got out of his car and noticed two men in dark suits also getting out of a car. They seized him and asked him what he was doing there.

"I work here at the library. I'm a page."

They pulled out law enforcement identification badges and said that a police officer had been shot. They wanted Hamby to go inside and tell the head librarian to lock the doors and let no one out until the search for the suspect was over. The side entrance to the library was closer, but Hamby decided to go through the front, so he could get to the office of the head librarian more directly. As he ran towards the front door, he looked again at the crowd milling around the police cars at the corner. There must have been about fifty civilians over there.

Bessie Munday, the head librarian, was quite surprised when Hamby told her what the two plainclothesmen said. Neither she nor anyone else at the library had heard what was going on outside. She gave her keys to him so that he could lock the front door. She went to the children's department to lock the west side door. There were about five patrons on the premises, mostly old ladies. They were all informed that they had to stay inside until the police gave the all clear. A few people including Hamby went down to the children's area to listen to the radio and talk about what was going on. They were interrupted by a frightened woman who came down the stairs and said that the police had just surrounded the library.

To see what was going on outside, Hamby went to the west side door, opened it, and put his head out. He saw a swarm of policemen armed with rifles, handguns, and machine guns. He closed the door as quickly as he could. That started a terrific, bloodcurdling uproar. Someone with a megaphone ordered everyone to come out of the library. If they refused, the police would start shooting. Needless to say, everyone came out with hands up in the air. The police frisked everyone, but they focused their attention on Hamby, whose height, clothing, and hair color matched the description of the suspect. They spoke to him roughly, peppering him with questions. Hamby was crying over and over that he really did work at the library. Finally,

a plainclothesman came up and said to let him go. He was one of the two men who spoke to Hamby earlier. [2]

According to the official record, the alarm occurred when a patrolman spotted Hamby and reported on the radio that he had seen the suspect running into the library. This started a mad stampede of almost every police unit in the area. Why was there such a massive and immediate response to this call? One possible explanation is that there were two calls instead of one. The first call might have been an alerting call, something like, "The suspect is heading toward Jefferson and Marsalis." This would have prompted the police to regroup, move toward their vehicles, and start their engines. A few minutes later, the second call, the one that erroneously reported that he was running into the library, gave the exact location. By then the police were already on the way.

Checking through the Dallas Police Radio log, one finds only one call, not two. However, if my understanding of the library alarm is correct, then the alerting call was deleted or erased. In this article I will proceed on the assumption that there were indeed two calls. To bolster my thesis, I shall provide other instances where I think calls have been removed. The main implication of this analysis is that the truth was covered up by the simple deletion of a few messages. **"I feel a story breaking"**

When was Tippit shot? The Warren Commission thought that it was 1:15, based on its reconstruction of Oswald's movements. This reconstruction is severely flawed as Sylvia Meagher, Harold Weisberg, and other critics have so capably demonstrated. But what time was he really shot? Obviously it was before 1:15, but how much time before? After analyzing the evidence, I am convinced that Tippit was killed at 1:00 – a full *fifteen minutes* before the officially accepted time. Supporting the 1:00 time is Dallas Morning News reporter Hugh Aynsworth. In a 1967 book called *The Garrison Inquiry*, Joachim Joesten provides the following excerpt from an October 29, 1964 letter written by Shirley Martin of Hominy, Oklahoma.

*It has intrigued me that Aynsworth was so convinced in his conversation with me that Tippit had been killed around 1 p.m. Aynsworth is*



extraordinarily proud of the fact that he is the only reporter in the United States to have been at all four major scenes (the assassination, the Tippit killing immediately after, the arrest of Oswald in the Texas Theater, and the murder of Oswald in the police basement). When I praised Mr. Aynesworth for this and suggested that perhaps he should have been considered for the Pulitzer Prize (rather than Mr. [Merriman] Smith whom Mr. Aynesworth claims does not deserve the prize as another Dallas reporter did all his, Smith's, writing for him), Mr. Aynesworth modestly admitted to an oversight on the part of the committee, but continued to speak at great length over his four unique experiences. When I asked Mr. Aynesworth how and when he first heard about Tippit, he replied: "I was standing near the Texas Book Building, all the other reporters had gone to Parkland (Hospital), but I felt a story was breaking near the building, when I heard a squad radio blast out that a policeman had been shot in Oak Cliff. This was around one o'clock. I ran to the car and went with it to Patton and Tenth. I had a hunch that the policeman's murder was tied in with the assassination. I got to the Tenth Street area about 1:05, no later than 1:10 p.m." [3]

Assuming that Tippit was shot at precisely 1:00 p.m. and that the unknown citizen made the call two to three minutes later, then Aynesworth would have heard the news at 1:02 or 1:03. This is well within the meaning of the words "around 1 p.m." Corroboration for this claim is provided by Sheriff's Deputy Roger Craig. In a passage describing the search for evidence on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, Craig makes the following comment in his autobiographical manuscript:

*At that exact moment [when Seymour Weitzman was examining a 7.65 German Mauser] an unknown Dallas police officer came running up the stairs and advised Capt. Fritz that a Dallas policeman had been shot in the Oak Cliff area. I instinctively looked at my watch. The time was 1:06 p.m. A token force was of uniformed officers was left to keep the sixth floor secure and*

*Fritz, Day, Boone, Mooney, Weitzman and I left the building. [4]*

Since it takes about three minutes to reach the sixth floor from the street, we get a nearly exact correlation with Aynesworth's time. Listening to the audio recording, there is a 30-second period of Dietabelt background noise at exactly 1:02. This unusually long interruption in an otherwise heavily used radio channel indicates an erasure. I think that if this section of the tape were restored we would hear the citizen contacting the dispatcher, and then the dispatcher making an announcement ordering all squads to stand by until the citizen's call could be confirmed. A minute and a half after this 30-second interruption, at 1:03, the dispatcher can be heard attempting to reach Tippit and getting no response.

The main difficulty with the 1:00 time is a statement made by Helen Markham, a waitress at a downtown restaurant, who lived in an apartment at Ninth and Patton. She said that she left her apartment at 1:04, according to a wall clock, in order to catch a bus that would take her to work. Since it takes two and half minutes to get to the corner of Tenth and Patton, that would mean that the shooting took place at 1:06 or 1:07. [5] Notwithstanding the precision of these statements, there are four variables to consider when judging the accuracy of her time. First, it is not uncommon for clocks to run a few minutes fast. Second, Markham might have left her apartment a minute before 1:04 with out realizing it. Third, she might have been walking faster than normally. And finally, the real time of the Tippit shooting might have been 1:01 instead of 1:00. We should remember that journalists and sheriff's deputies are more time-conscious than waitresses, and thus their watches would be synchronized to the real time as closely as possible. Let us therefore take the 1:00 time as a starting point and see how far we can go in straightening out some of the convoluted inconsistencies that typically defy rational explanations of this case.

**"Hello, hello, this is a citizen calling..."**

Eyewitness Domingo Benavides, a used car lot mechanic, told the Warren Commission about his attempts to use Tippit's radio to notify the police.

*"I mashed the button and told them that an of-*

*ficer had been shot, and I didn't get an answer, so I said it again, and this guy asked me whereabouts all of a sudden, and I said, on Tenth Street. I couldn't remember where it was at the time. So I looked up and I seen this number and I said 410 East Tenth Street...I put the radio back. I mean the microphone back up, and this other guy was standing there, so I got up out of the car, and I don't know, I wasn't sure if he heard me, and the other guy sat down in the car...I don't know what he said to the officer on the phone, but the officer told him to keep the line clear." [6]*

The "other guy" was T. F. Bowley. [7] Since Benavides lacked experience in using the radio; Bowley took the microphone and tried it himself. The time when he made the call was 1:16. So who made the first call at 1:02? Benavides indicated that the first call was made by his employer, Ted Callaway.

*...when Ted Callaway got around there, he opened the car door and picked up the phone and called in and told them there was an officer that had been killed. But the officer on the other side of the radio told him to hang up the phone to keep the lines clear, or something of that sort. [8]*

That Callaway was the first one to call the dispatcher is confirmed by Callaway himself.

*"I saw a squad car, and by that time there was four or five people that had gathered, a couple of cars had stopped. Then I saw he had been shot in the head. So the first thing I did, I ran over to the squad car. I didn't know whether anybody reported it or not. So I got on the police radio and called them, and told them a man had been shot, told them the location, I thought the officer was dead. They said we know about it, stay off the air, so I went back. [9]*

The call that Callaway made was omitted from the radio log because it conflicted with the official version of Oswald's movements after the assassination. Since that version has no basis in reality, let us continue to use the 1:00 time as a reference point in the clarification of post-assassination events.

#### **"Jim, this is a conspiracy situation"**

Among those standing near the command post at

the corner of Houston and Elm were Inspector Herbert Sawyer, Sgt. Calvin Owens, Sgt. Gerald Hill, Assistant District Attorney Bill Alexander, and news reporters Hugh Aynesworth and Jim Ewell. At that moment, 1:02 P.M., Hill was urging Sawyer to get the Crime Lab over to the Texas School Book Depository. [10] He stopped talking when the police radio traffic was interrupted by a voice that made the following statement: "This is a citizen. A policeman's been shot! He's hurt pretty bad, I think!" [11] The citizen then gave the location. Hill made the comment that the two shootings were "awfully close together." Sawyer looked around to see who was available. Owens said, "I'll take the call!" Hill and Alexander volunteered to go with Owens.

Two minutes later Ron Reiland and Vic Robertson, a camera crew of WFAA-TV, came up to Aynesworth and Ewell and said, "Let's get over there!" [11] The citizen then gave the location. Hill made the comment that the two shootings were "awfully close together." Sawyer looked around to see who was available. Owens said, "I'll take the call!" Hill and Alexander volunteered to go with Owens.

Two minutes later Ron Reiland and Vic Robertson, a camera crew of WFAA-TV, came up to Aynesworth and Ewell and said, "Let's get over there!" Aynesworth said to Ewell, "Well, you've got one here. This is probably going to be a conspiracy situation. Why don't you stay here and get this one and I'll go in the Channel 8 cruiser?" Ewell agreed and Aynesworth got in the cruiser. Meanwhile the police in Dealey Plaza were waiting for confirmation of the shooting, as well as preparing themselves to move at a moments notice.

The drive into Oak Cliff was a white-knuckle adventure for the passengers of the Channel 8 cruiser. Reiland, who was driving, made a lot of fast moves to get past streets where the traffic was stopped up. Aiding him in his ability to get through was a flashing light accessory, which was probably not legal. Robertson and Aynesworth were yelling, "Stop! Stop!" as Reiland barreled through intersections as fast as he could go. [12] They got to Tenth and Patton by 1:09. A crowd of people was gathered around the body. The three newsmen got out and began interviewing witnesses, including Helen Markham, Ted Callaway, Sam Guinyard, Barbara and Virginia Davis. Markham gave

Aynesworth the most detailed description of the suspect. She said he was "chunky." (The same adjective was used by Acquilla Clemmons.)

At 1:10 T. F. Bowley got out of his car and checked the time on his watch. No doubt the journalistic triumph of WFAA and the *Dallas Morning News* impressed neither him nor anyone else at the scene, and they waited expectantly for the ambulance or the police. As the minutes, passed by, they became more concerned about the delay. After about five or six minutes, Benavides decided to try the radio. Since he seemed to be mishandling it, Bowley took the microphone and called the dispatcher himself.

The ambulance came about a minute later. Bowley and Callaway helped the attendants put the body in the ambulance. Immediately afterwards Callaway took Tippit's gun and embarked on a hunt for the suspect with cab driver William Scoggins. Just as the two vigilantes were leaving in Scoggins' cab, and before even the ambulance had a chance to get underway, the police arrived. [13] Officer Kenneth Croy came in his own vehicle. [14] He was followed by H. W. Summers and Roy Walker. [15]

#### **"This was all a bunch of confusion"**

Owens, Hill, and Alexander arrived at the scene at 1:22, after the ambulance had left. Alexander spoke to a few witnesses, got a fragmentary summary of what happened but did not write anything down. A couple of witnesses told him that the deceased officer had pulled up to the curb to question a pedestrian. When the officer got out of the car, the pedestrian opened fire. Benavides pointed out a spot and said "there's some hulls over here." Hill looked at them and determined that they were .38 automatics. He and Patrolman Joe Poe marked their initials inside each of the hulls. They also marked the spot on the ground where they were discovered. (Hill's examination of the shells has generally been placed at 1:42, because that was when he notified the dispatcher. I have placed his first look at the shells here for reasons that will be given later.)

One of the witnesses said that the gunman ran toward Jefferson Boulevard. Alexander and Owens got back in Owens' car. Hill took the keys to Car 105, the one belonging to Leonard Jez and Joe Poe, and brought

eyewitness Harold Russell to identify the gunman. A few officers remained behind to watch things, take statements from witnesses, and look for more evidence.

As the squad cars turned on Jefferson, someone said, "He's in there, I know he's in there," pointing toward an old two-story white frame building that was vacant. Owens and three officers covered the outside of the building, while Alexander, Hill, and five other officers went through the front door, all with guns drawn. Tagging along was Hugh Aynesworth. Second-hand furniture was stacked everywhere, and there were quite a few places where someone could hide. The dust and spider webs made the place a little creepy. All of a sudden, someone, a policeman, fell through the rickety upper floor up to his waist. Aynesworth panicked and screamed as he ran for the nearest exit. [16]

Capt. W. R. Westbrook found a parking spot at Cabell's Minute Market, next to the building then being searched. Also in the car were news reporter Jim Ewell and Sgt. Henry Stringer. (Ewell had second thoughts about staying in Dealey Plaza.) As Ewell got out and looked around, he was amazed to see the Assistant DA, armed with an automatic pistol, carefully tip-toeing along the upper floor balcony of the building next door. [17]

Nearby was a Texaco gas station and a parking lot and parking lot filled with cars. A policeman (unidentified) took Westbrook into the parking lot and pointed out a gray jacket that was underneath one of the cars. It was thought to be the gunman's. [18]

In spite of the tempo of all this clamorous activity, one witness at the scene, Warren Reynolds, was disturbed by the way the police were handling the manhunt. As he told the Warren Commission,

*"I followed him [the gunman] up the street behind the service station and lost him. I went back there and looked up and down the alley and didn't see him, and looked through the cars and still didn't see him. I looked through the parking lot for him after then the police got there and they took my name... I was trying to assure them that he was still close. This was all a bunch of confusion. They didn't know what was going on. And they got word that he was at a library, which was about three blocks down the street*

*on the opposite side of the street...Down Jefferson. And every one of them left to go there. So when they left, well, I did too..."*[19]

The main implication of Reynolds's statement is that the library alarm was nothing more than a diversion to get the police off the track of the real gunman.

#### **"It's another Battle of the Little Big Horn"**

Patrolman Charles Walker had parked his car on Denver Street, three quarters of a block north of Jefferson. He was looking for a white male, five feet eight inches tall, about 30 years old, black hair, slender build, white shirt, and dark trousers, last seen in the 300 block of E. Jefferson. This was the description given to him by Officer Poe at Tenth and Patton. When he saw a white male running across the lawn of the library, Walker picked up his microphone and said that he found the suspect. He told the dispatcher that he was going around to the back of the building. [20] (Hamby was five feet eight inches and had a slender build and dark hair. He was wearing dark gray slacks and a light gray sweater. Although he was only 19 years old, instead of 30, Walker's mistake is understandable, given the fact that he was seeing him at a distance.) When the alert was broadcast, Officer Croy saw the effect at Tenth and Patton (same block as the parking lot but diagonally across): "[There was a report] that he had gone into the library over on Jefferson. And they had all, most of the officers except maybe one or two, had left the scene where Tippit was killed and gone to the spot." [21]

Bus driver Cecil McWatters, the same one who punched the transfer that was supposedly in Oswald's shirt pocket, just happened to be at Jefferson and Marsalis when the tidal wave struck. According to a newspaper account, "his bus pulled up at the intersection as a swarm of 10 to 15 police cars zeroed in on the library. 'I couldn't imagine what was going on,'" said McWatters. 'Little did I know,'" [22]

Among the squad cars going to the library was one containing Lt. Cunningham and three subordinates. They rushed over there and were surprised to find thirty to forty armed civilians already there. Cunningham identified them as constables and deputies in plain clothes. He said, "I thought we were going to have another Battle of the Little Big Horn right there. I don't know where they all came from." [23] T. A. Hutson, a

motorcycle cop, also recognized the armed men gathered at the corner of Jefferson and Marsalis as coming from the constable's office. [24]

The police and the constables joined forces and quickly surrounded the building. Among those covering the west entrance leading to the children's department was Patrolman Walker. When a young man stuck his head out the door, Walker saw him. The police ordered everyone to come out. About half a dozen persons came with their hands over their heads. They seized the young man and sharply interrogated him. Finally one of the two men, who accosted the young man earlier, said he was okay. According to Officer Marvin Buhk, "one of the Secret Service men stated the person who came out of the basement with the others was not the suspect and that he had talked to him a few minutes previously." [25] As in Dealey Plaza, the presence of these individuals who claimed to be of the Secret Service but who really had no connection to that agency remains a mystery.

Walker's spotting call occurred at 1:35. At 1:36, only a minute later, Owens told the dispatcher "We are all here." Obviously the scattered police could not have organized themselves to move that quickly. The alerting call must have occurred two or three minutes before the spotting call. This would provide sufficient time for the police to get ready for the en masse dash to the library. The only problem with this scenario is the constable force at Jefferson and Marsalis. How did they get there so fast? The constable's office was located at Twelfth and Beckley, which was six blocks away, whereas Jefferson and Crawford where the manhunt was concentrated was only three blocks away. My thoughts on this matter will be given later in this article.

#### **"We see nobody, we hear nobody, nobody come in"**

Just before the false alarm at the library, the police were focusing their search on the Abundant Life Temple, next to the Texaco parking lot. [26] At 1:32 Patrolman J. G. Pollard told the dispatcher that a witness saw the gunman running west in the alley between Jefferson and Tenth. It was probably the same witness who saw him dash into the church. Two minutes later Officer McDonald went on the radio to request more squads to help search the basement of the Temple. Assistant DA Bill Alexander and three or four

officers went over there to give assistance. [27] When Walker sounded the alarm, McDonald as well as a number of other officers headed for the library. [28] Alexander was one of the few who remained behind.

After it had been determined that the person at the library was the wrong man, Sgt. Gerald Hill prepared to go inside the Temple with some of the other officers. They were met by two women, who came out to meet them. They said they were employees of the church and that they had been inside the whole day. Hill asked them if they had seen anybody go in. They said nobody passed by them, and nobody entered the church. Nevertheless, they invited Hill and his men to look around if they wanted to. [29] Hill evidently had the witness who saw the fugitive go into the church, for he contacted the dispatcher and said, "Witness said he saw him run at the Abundant Life Temple at Tenth, ah, about the 400 block. We're fixing to go in and shake it down." This transmission was made at 1:41 on channel two. Less than a minute later he was on channel one and said, "The shells at the scene are 38 automatics, rather than a pistol."

I have placed Hill's examination of the shells at 1:22, because this matches the sequence of events given in his interview with Larry Sneed. [30] Furthermore, he could not have been identifying shells at Tenth and Patton, if he was preparing to shake down the church at Tenth and Crawford. He probably did not report the automatic shell information at 1:22, because the radio traffic was heavy and he himself was too busy. The reason he chose to mention it at 1:42 was to correct what he perceived was an error. At 1:41 Patrolman H. W. Summers said that he had a witness at the scene who said that the suspect was armed with a .32 automatic. Hill called the dispatcher to inform him that the shells at the scene indicated that it was a .38 automatic, not a .32.

Hill and his men never did go inside the Temple. A few minutes later, the dispatcher said that the suspect had gone into the Texas Theater.

#### **"Do you know who Lee Harvey Oswald is?"**

After the false alarm at the library, Owens proceeded to the scene where Tippit had been shot. There he met up with Westbrook, Stringer, and Ewell. They were examining the jacket, which was found in the parking

lot, and discussing a watermark made by a dry cleaning shop. [31] Meanwhile, Homicide Detective Jim Leavelle was examining two shells of an entirely different sort than what Hill saw. He saw that they came from a .38 Special revolver. [32] The suspect still at large, Lee Harvey Oswald, just happened to have a .38 Special revolver. Unquestionably someone with prior knowledge of the patsy's role had switched the shells sometime between 1:22 and 1:42.

FBI agent Barrett arrived at the scene at 1:42 and observed Owens, Doughty and Westbrook looking at a wallet near the front fender of Tippit's car. As Barrett recently recalled, "It hadn't been very long [after he had arrived on the scene] when Westbrook looked up and saw me and called me over. He had the wallet in his hand. I presumed that they had found it on or near Tippit. Westbrook asked me, 'Do you know who Lee Harvey Oswald is?' And 'Do you know who Alek Hidell is?' And I said, 'No, I never heard of them.'" The wallet is the one solid piece of evidence linking Oswald to the Tippit shooting. It was, according to Barrett, "a slam dunk." [33] Since the police were collecting any evidence, no matter how tenuous, that would implicate Oswald, why did they let the wallet slip into oblivion, never to be heard from again?

If we have learned anything about the circumstances regarding the shooting at Tenth and Patton, the main thing is that Oswald was not the one who fired the shots. Thus the wallet, either borrowed or stolen, was planted at the scene to implicate the patsy. What foiled its incriminating potential was the fact that Oswald was carrying a *second* wallet when arrested at the theater. The existence of the second wallet is an indication that he had a streak of independence that resisted total control. Perhaps he foresaw the trap he was walking into and had taken measures to ensure his acquittal at some future trial. If that was what was on his mind, then it is interesting to note that he had three more wallets at Ruth Paine's house. Was he providing himself with extra insurance?

It is also interesting how the planted jacket, the planted revolver shells, and the planted wallet came out of nowhere at virtually the same time and place. Perhaps the wallet and the shells were originally in the pockets of the jacket. This would make the jacket

analogous to the bundle of evidence left in front of Canipe's Amusement Co., which implicated another patsy named James Earl Ray. Taking the jacket as a package deal one step further, it is possible that the five rounds of .38 Special ammunition (not to be confused with the empty shells) and the bus transfer were also in the pockets of the jacket. This is a much more likely story than the official one. Supposedly the bus transfer and the five bulky bullets were jumbling around undetected in Oswald's shirt pocket from the time of his capture at 12:50 to the time they were discovered two hours later in the line-up room.

If the bus transfer were in the jacket, then that would explain how the constables arrived at the corner of Jefferson and Marsalis before the police. The first ones seeing the transfer would immediately figure that the suspect was going to escape on a bus. Rather than pull away police officers engaged in the search of the buildings around the parking lot, someone with authority might have wanted reinforcements. As the radio log makes clear, Hill left the secondhand furniture building and, at 1:26, notified the dispatcher that he was at Twelfth and Beckley, the location of the constable's office. If the constables got the word to go to the intersection of Jefferson and Marsalis at that time, they would have had a head start of almost ten minutes on the police.

#### **"It was the shortest APB in history"**

Since the arrest of Oswald at the Texas Theater has been covered in detail in many articles and books, I will not go into it here. Instead I will jump ahead to the time when the police were escorting him back to the station. While en route an all points bulletin (APB) was broadcast regarding a suspect in the shooting of President Kennedy named Lee Harvey Oswald. The information came from Roy Truly, the warehouse manager of the Texas School Book Depository. He gave Oswald's name and description to the police, when Oswald failed to appear at a roll call of employees. [34] Following the APB, the police escorting Oswald notified the dispatcher that they had arrested a suspect in the shooting of the police officer. According to Paul Bentley, "We were not aware that we had anybody connected with the assassination. When the dispatcher asked the name of our suspect, that's when

we had the wallet and went through the wallet getting the various names that Oswald had in his wallet and gave them to the dispatcher. We were told then to bring him directly to Captain Fritz's office and that he was a prime suspect in the assassination of the president and the wounding of Governor Connally." Detective Bob Carroll told Barrett that it was the shortest APB in the history of the Dallas Police. [35] In spite of these definite statements, there is no record of any APB being broadcast that day. Once again we have evidence of deletions in the radio tape.

In summary there were at least three instances of recorded messages being removed: the first citizen call at 1:02, the first library call between 1:30 and 1:35, and the APB on Oswald between 1:50 and 1:55. The alteration of the radio evidence is analogous to the alteration of the Zapruder film. Just as the removal of a few key film segments concealed evidence of a head shot from the front, so the removal of a few radio messages concealed the time when Tippit was killed. These basically simple alterations have produced a tremendous amount of confusion among those trying to understand the events of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and researchers are only now beginning to unravel the tangled webs of conspiratorial obfuscations.

#### **Notes:**

1. David Belin, *NOVEMBER 22, 1963: YOU ARE THE JURY* (New York Times Book Co.: New York, 1973), pp. 425-427. Although I use the words "Oswald's bus transfer," I do not believe Oswald was the one who picked it up. See "Marsalis Bus No. 1213" in the Mar. 1995 issue of *THE FOURTH DECADE*.
2. Author's interviews with Adrian Hamby. Dale Myers, *WITH MALICE: LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND THE MURDER OF OFFICER J. D. TIPPIT* (Oak Cliff Press, Milford, Mich., 1998), pp. 139, and 145-147.
3. Joachim Joesten, *THE GARRISON INQUIRY* (Hills and Lacy, Limited: London, 1967), pp. 102-103. This was the second conversation that Martin had with Aynesworth regarding the time of the Tippit shooting. The first one was tape-recorded.
4. Roger Craig, "WHEN THEY KILL A PRESIDENT," unpublished manuscript, 1971, p. 8.

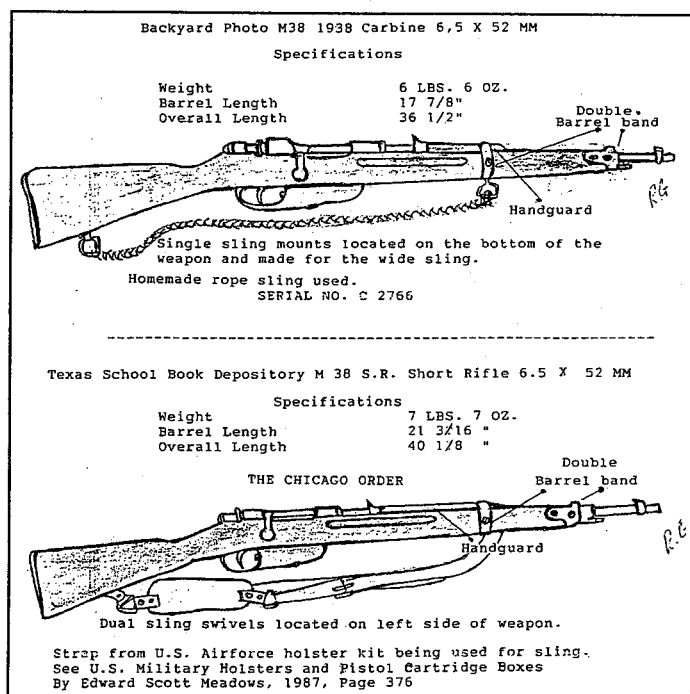
5. FBI report of Helen Markham interview by SA Robert Barrett, dated March 17, 1964.
6. 6H449 (Benavides). Not one word of this exchange appears in the radio log. However there is a period of about fifteen seconds of silence that immediately precedes Bowley's call. It is possible that these fifteen seconds represent another erasure.
7. 24H202 (Bowley affidavit).
8. 6H452 (Benavides).
9. 3H354 (Callaway).
10. Larry Sneed, NO MORE SILENCE, AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY (Three Forks Press: Dallas, TX, 1998), pp.292-293.
11. Sneed, NO MORE SILENCE, p. 21.
12. Myers, WITH MALICE, p. 99 and Sneed, NO MORE SILENCE, p. xx.
13. 3H354 (Callaway), 3H331-333 (Scoggins). FBI report of Ted Callaway interview by SA Arthur Carter, dated Feb. 26, 1964 and FBI report of William Scoggins interview by SA Robert Barrett, dated March 17, 1964. Callaway said that he contacted the dispatcher before the ambulance came, but according to Scoggins, his call was made after its arrival. A reconciliation of these statements may lie in the possibility that Callaway made two calls, one before and one after. On the audiotape, one hears another citizen call to the dispatcher two minutes after Bowley.
14. 12H201 (Croy).
15. Meyers, WITH MALICE, p. 611.
16. Sneed, NO MORE SILENCE, p. 25.
17. Sneed, NO MORE SILENCE, p. 7.
18. 7H115-117 (Westbrook). According to the Dallas police radio log, the jacket was discovered prior to 1:22. Yet Westbrook said that he picked it up after the library alarm, which was fifteen minutes later. It is possible that the jacket was left where it was found in order for other investigators to see the evidence *in situ*. After the library alarm, Westbrook went back to the jacket and took it with him.
19. 11H436 (Reynolds).
20. 7H36-37 (Walker).
21. 12H204 (Croy).
22. DALLAS MORNING NEWS, Nov. 28, 1963.
23. Sneed, NO MORE SILENCE, p. 264.
24. 7H29 (Hutson).
25. Myers, WITH MALICE, p. 147.
26. The Abundant Life Temple was a four-story brick building with an unobstructed view of the intersection of Tenth and Patton. During his investigation of the Kennedy assassination, Jim Garrison suspected that the church was a CIA front with a pivotal role in the Tippit shooting. He had experience with pseudo-churches in New Orleans, which were used by the CIA to conduct mind control experiments, launder money, and hide weapons and ammunition for the secret war against Cuba. He sent Bill Boxley to investigate, but Boxley never got to the bottom of what the Temple was all about. He did find out that the pastor, Oscar B. Graham, also known as Otis P. Graham, bought the building on April 3, 1962 and that he sold it on August 25, 1964. According to the incorporation papers, one of his associates was George Sherrill, owner of a used car lot. Sherrill was a good friend of Ray Brantley, owner of a gun shop, who in turn was a good friend of Jack Ruby. Sherrill's association with Graham must have soured in some way, for he told Boxley that "Graham was something of a crook where money is concerned." (Boxley memo, dated 9-15-67, HSCA 180-10112-103040.
27. Sneed, NO MORE SILENCE, p. 533.
28. 3H298 (McDonald).
29. 7H49 (Hill).
30. Sneed, NO MORE SILENCE, p. 295.
31. Sneed, NO MORE SILENCE, p. 8.
32. Myers, WITH MALICE, p. 643.
33. Myers, WITH MALICE, p. 289.
34. "The Transplantation of the Texas School Book Depository" in the Sept. 1993 issue of THE THIRD DECADE.
35. Myers, WITH MALICE, pp. 289-290, 647-648.

## THE RIFLE

By  
R. F. Gallagher

Despite the fanciful dreams of numerous authors and researchers of the John F. Kennedy assassination mystery, there is no available evidence that honestly contradicts the Warren version of how and when Lee Oswald obtained his Mannlicher Carcano rifle. Neither is there evidence to show that the rifle in the famous backyard photos was not the rifle that was delivered to him in March and used in his attempt to kill retired Army General Edwin Walker on March 10, 1963.

However, there is reason to doubt that the same weapon was used to murder President John Kennedy in the November 22, ambush in Dealey Plaza. The imported Italian Army rifle, found in the Texas School Book Depository, minutes after the President was pronounced dead at Parkland Hospital, appears to be an entirely different weapon counterfeited to mimic the Oswald rifle and implicate the political renegade as the responsible assassin of the President.



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The dilemma? There is no question that the rifle shipped to Lee, in March, from Klein's Sporting Goods, in Chicago, bore the serial number C 2766, stamped on the rear end of the Carcano barrel, and since no other Carcano, in the world, had the same serial number, how could the weapon used to kill JFK and found in the book building have the same serial number? The answer-easy.

First, it should be understood that the Mannlicher Carcano found in the Texas School Book Depository (TSBD) was manufactured in at least four different versions. One was identified as a Carbine. It was made in both 7.35 mm and in 6.5 mm. It weighed 6 lbs. and 6 ozs. and was 36-1/2 inches long with a 17 7/8-inch barrel. This was the weapon advertised in the February issue of The American Rifleman magazine. It was this model that Lee ordered in the spring of 1963.

The other was identified as the M 38 (1938) rifle and was also made in both 7.35 and 6.5 mm versions. It weighed 7 lbs., 7 ozs. and had an overall length of 40 1/8 inches and a barrel length of 21 3/16 inches. It was the rifle used to kill the President.

The weapons were identical in appearance except for the possible location of the sling mounts (also called swivels). Some had mounts only on the bottom of the weapon. This version is clearly visible on the carbine held by Oswald in the backyard photos. Some models had the mounts only on the side of the rifle, as on the TSBD murder rifle, and the remainder had a combination of both bottom and side mounts. Since the weapon in the backyard photos had obvious bottom mounts and the murder weapon had side mounts only, we must logically assume that we are looking at two different guns, but how could both have the same serial number?

First, it would help to understand the foreign rifle marking system:

The Italian arms manufacturers used the same consecutive marking system that the Germans used for identification, serial numbers, manufacturing plant, etc. It began with a three-digit serial number, progressed through the thousand numbers. Example: 000-9999, then began a prefix system. Example: A 111-A 9999. This progressed through the alphabet - A-Z and AA-ZZ, etc. This system can be better understood by look-



ing at the serial numbers on the 100 rifles delivered to Klein's Sporting Goods in February 1963 (See Warren-Waldman, Exhibit #4). It is probable that, since there were hundreds of thousands of rifles, many would have the same number. However, the prefix would be different. The FBI did locate a rifle with the serial #2766, while the Oswald weapon had the prefix C 2766. Other rifles would have been A 2766 and even XX 2766.

Anyone familiar with the construction of the Mannlicher-Carcano knows that the serial number on the 6.5 mm, M38 Carcanos is stamped on the rear end of the rifle barrel where the barrel screws into the receiver ring of the weapon. It is easily removed in minutes. All that was required to frame Oswald was to know the serial number of his rifle, purchase another identical rifle, unscrew the barrel and remove the serial number, which is done on guns frequently to lose its history. A new number using a metal stamp set, sold in gun and hardware stores, could then be used to stamp on Lee's C 2766 serial number and return the barrel to the rifle used in the Dealey Plaza murder.

It is very probable that the Paines, both Michael and Ruth, were turned assets of the FBI and on the payroll of the CIA. This being the case, these agents were no doubt acquainted with Oswald's possessions in the Paine garage, which included his rifle, the photos taken by Marina Oswald, and even the American Rifleman coupons cut from magazines in Adrian Alba's Crescent City Garage, in New Orleans. With this information, it would have been a simple matter of purchasing an identical rifle, possibly from Klein's, in Chicago, just as Lee did, complete with scope.

Then, why was the rifle, found in the Texas School Book Depository, almost four inches and longer and one pound heavier than the rifle Lee bought in March of 1963? Was a mistake made when the second rifle was purchased? Was the buyer not aware of the difference in the length and weight of the Carcanos, or maybe didn't care, since the two were identical in appearance and construction?

Since the second rifle would have had to be obtained sometime after Lee had purchased his, and after it was decided to frame him as the killer of Kennedy and the owner of the weapon planted on the floor of the book

building, and if it too came from Klein's Sporting Goods, it should be remembered that the February ad, used by Oswald, was the last ad, in American Rifleman, advertising the 36 inch, 6.5 mm Italian Carbine. The next ad for a Mannlicher-Carcano was in April 1963 and Klein's then started advertising the 40 inch heavier Short Rifle.

There is one other possibility. When Adam Consolidated (Crescent) bid on the 570,000 Carcanos, they also purchased 2,608,704 rounds of ammunitions. Among the parts were barrels as well as stocks, bolts, etc. Some of these barrels may not have had serial numbers, since some of them came from factories before final assembly, and before final proofing took place. Some of these unmarked barrels have shown up on rifles in the United States. If our framers of Oswald, the Marxist book-filler, obtained one of these clean barrels, the task of providing Lee's serial number on the murder weapon would have been one step easier, since they would not have had to remove a serial number from the barrel of their second gun.

If the first option, of removing the serial number from the barrel, was the case, and that rifle is in the National Archives, it can easily be checked. Bad guys often remove serial numbers from their pieces before doing bad things with them, but they are also caught when the good guys bring up the removed serial numbers with acids. Coin collectors use the same techniques to bring out the worn off dates on buffalo nickels. Of course, if the second option was used, the acid test will not help.

It's a thought – and it may be worth a try.

## NOTES FROM THE LAST MILLENNIUM PART 3

by  
Jerry D. Rose

This article concludes a series in a project of retrieval and synthesis of certain of my writings over the past fifteen years. These "notes" are directed toward three "hard fact" subjects relating to the JFK assassination—tending to prove, I assert, that:

1. A number of public agencies had prior knowledge of the upcoming assassination and of the fact that Oswald was to be the "designated patsy" for the crime.

2. After the assassination, many of these same agencies participated in a massive operation of evidence fabrication to "prove" that Oswald was the perpetrator of the crime. The agencies in question included, but were not limited to, the Dallas police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Secret Service.

3. Also after the assassination, there was a huge propaganda campaign to blame the assassination on forces against whom the propagandists hoped to provoke a severe reaction. The real "patsies" of the crime were to be not Oswald alone but his supposed associates in the left-wing political spectrum.

The first two parts of these Notes cover the first two of these areas; this article completes the "trilogy."

### PROPAGANDA; BEFORE AND AFTER THE FACT

Whenever a traumatic and notorious public event occurs, there are those who, in its aftermath, rush to seize an opportunity to influence public opinion in a certain direction. Supporters of gun control used public outrage at the massacre at Columbine High School to advance their campaign against uncontrolled weapons use. The Oklahoma City bombing focussed huge public attention on an "armed and dangerous" element of anti-government vigilantes in this country. These are examples of, from my viewpoint, healthy arousals of fear against real dangers in the society. But sometimes the blame-assessment process demonstrates that

those who gained a propaganda advantage from an incident were themselves agents in creating that atrocity. When his happens, we are in the presence of a provocation, an act perpetrated by one agent for the precise purpose of blaming it on another. The classic case, of course, was Hitler's burning of the German parliament, the Reichstag, with the motive of blaming that atrocity on his internal enemies, the Jews. In fact, the whole history of anti-semitic pogroms in Europe is laced with episodes of anti-semitic authorities creating such incidents and then "punishing" the Jews for the acts of the authorities themselves. [1] And, of course, paranoiacs of the American militia crowd have asserted that the conflagration at Waco, if not that at Oklahoma City, was a government provocation designed to destroy their movement.

The preceding is some sociological context, but was the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963, such a "provocation," an act designed to "patsy" not Oswald alone, but his ideological associates as well? This is exactly the claim that I am trying to defend in this article.

### A PERSONAL STATEMENT

Since what follows is clearly an interpretation of a set of facts—and since we tend to interpret facts from the angle of our particular ideological perspectives—the reader is entitled perhaps to a candid statement by the author of his bias, indeed of his "interest" in the assassination. When asked how I became interested in this subject, I often respond in terms of a couple of longstanding aspects of what seems to make me "tick" intellectually and emotionally. The first is an absolute abhorrence of injustice in any form, that is, any instances of individuals or groups being wrongly accused: whether the victims were the witches burned by the hundreds in Europe, or the day care workers imprisoned in America on child abuse charges on the coached "memories" of young children, or the "enemy aliens" deported en masse after World War I—these are nearly unspeakable horrors in that each was done under the self-righteous flag of police and legal authorities, not just a bunch of crazed night-riders burning crosses and wearing bedsheets. These and many more episodes have convinced me that it is not beyond the pale of reasonable possibility to suspect any

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official agencies of cooperation in the provocation. With this admittedly biased perspective, I had no trouble suspecting, when the facts seemed to justify the suspicion, that elements of the Los Angeles Police Department, far beyond "bungling" their investigation of the Simpson/Goldman murders or even of fabrication of evidence of Simpson's guilt, were actually complicit in the crime itself. And, for all that, Mark Fuhrmann emerges in this millennium as an author and an expert of the "true facts" of another crime!

Before I turn loose this "confessional" part of the essay, I want to try to describe more exactly my feelings about the victims of injustice. When I have personally been wronged, which fortunately has been rarely, I am usually able to say with John F. Kennedy that "life isn't fair" and shrug it off. And this I could say to the witches of old, the fantasied "child abusers" at day care centers, to Alfred Dreyfus, Tom Mooney, Sacco and Vanzetti, the Scottsboro boys, Alger Hiss, the Rosenbergs and Lee Harvey Oswald. What is so inexcusedly painful about all these cases is the assault on the intelligence of a public which is expected to "buy" the fantasied creations that supposedly prove the guilt of these persons. If we have derived common sense from God or from wherever, it is nothing short of sacrilege, in my view, to insult the public's common sense with, for example, some of Mark Fuhrmann's testimony of how he "just happened" to find damning evidence in the Simpson case. Maybe it's a wrong connection to make, but the synapses of my moral being allow a bridge from this kind of insult to the common sense to another dimension of culpability: actual complicity in the crimes being charged to the "patsies."

If I have not ranted beyond the reader's tolerance level, let me revert to a second aspect of my personal perspective. While "victims" of all ideological stripes engage my attention, those of a leftist bent have always been an area of special interest. My high school and college years were in the "McCarthy era," when careers of all sorts—artistic, academic, political—were being destroyed by accusations of communist activities or sympathies. My graduate school years corresponded with the intensification of the civil rights movement in the early 1960s, with their marches, sit-

ins and the street riots that resulted when more passive methods failed. While always staunchly anti-McCarthy and pro-civil rights, I never mounted any barricades on either issue—never participated in any demonstrations and, unlike a group of professors at the University of Oklahoma which I attended and a couple of whom I knew—I simply closed my eyes and signed the required loyalty oaths at my earliest college teaching jobs. My political passions have always been expressed through my intellectual work. When, in 1983, I published a sociology textbook called Outbreaks, I devoted a chapter to persecutions: that is, to outbreaks of intense efforts to deal with social "enemies," be they witches, heretics, radicals, Jews, blacks, pornographers or whatever—these efforts resulting in major anti- campaigns of various sorts. I did not realize before or even when I wrote that book that there was such a major interpenetration of elements of anti-communism and opposition to the civil rights movement. That connection has emerged and continues to emerge in my study of the John F. Kennedy assassination. There may seem little connection, at first consideration, between, say, the China Lobby that flourished in the late 1940s and early 1950s and blamed the U.S. State Department for the "loss" of China to communism; and the racist assassination plotters centered around the National States Rights Party in the 1960s—but it seemingly "all comes together" as they say in the murder of an American President which, from the viewpoint of the plotters, would kill the civil rights movement and restore "Americanism" to the pedestal from which it had been knocked by communist influences. This is the major perspective of my research over the last 6 years of the last millennium.

#### **WHO KILLED PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY?**

Some years ago, when I offered college courses on the assassination, I liked to review with my students a list of suspect elements in the President's murder. I called this the "pissed off list," an impressive array of people who were angered enough by John Kennedy that they might well have wished him dead. The "usual suspects" are all there: Cuban exiles (and their CIA sponsors) smarting from Kennedy's "betrayal" of them at the Bay of Pigs, military hardliners appalled at the prospect of military disengagement in Asia, organized

crime figures incensed at Justice Department prosecution of people from their ranks, Fidel Castro in his awareness or suspicion of Kennedy administration plots against his life, oil magnates threatened by the loss of federal tax privileges, and so on and so on. I respectfully the efforts made to develop the grounds of suspicion in all these and other areas. My own focus is on that spectrum of American political life which may be designated as anti-communist and segregationist. The assassination was, in my view, the work of propagandists for these causes who engaged in a provocation designed to blame leftist and integrationist forces by associating them with the "designated patsy," Lee Harvey Oswald.

**Propaganda: the Key That Unlocks.** Aside from my personal disposition to target anti-communists and segregationists as villains in any atrocity, these forces qualify as well in terms of their outstanding participation in the spate of blame-assessment propaganda that followed the assassination. I think it would be hard to overstate the importance to public life of propaganda aimed at influencing public opinion in a certain direction. Politicians, commercial products and every "cause" in the world live and die by the dispositions of the public to vote for them, buy the products or contribute money to the causes. Thus is established the motive for extreme actions directed toward influencing public opinion, up to and including the perpetration of provocations with disinformational intent to blame innocent victims who happen to be the targets of propagandists' hostility. If these forces can command the necessary means and opportunity as well—in the form of police forces, legislative "investigating" committees and print and electronic media outlets—then the stage is clearly set for understanding such propagandistic provocations.

What I am trying to do is, in a way, the project recommended by a Miami Police Department informant, William Somerset, on November 26, 1963. Having described to his handlers a post-assassination plot by Joseph Milteer and his associates to create a pamphlet which would lay responsibility for the assassination "at the foot of the Jews," Somerset suggested this investigative agenda:

*Now, if we closely observe their activities with*

*this pamphlet and others, it may bring us closer to the fact that Milteer is directly connected. At this point, we can prove nothing. But if we cover this man the way he should be covered, and the charges he is going to make against the Jews, the propaganda campaign that he is going to start, it seems to me that we can lead back and sooner or later identify some people close to him and in this conspiracy who killed this man. [2]*

Unfortunately Milteer was not "covered" as he "should have been covered." He was arrested by the FBI the next day and spooked away from any further clandestine surveillance by Somerset. So it is more than 36 years later, and we still can "prove nothing" but, I should hope, the following material will help bring us "closer to the facts" of the perpetrators of the assassination.

This material is organized in a roughly chronological way, beginning with the background or general political atmosphere in which the events of November 22, 1963 occurred. Then we turn to a period of about 3 to 4 months before the assassination that seemed to be a time of intense preparation for the event; and conclude with observations of propagandists like Milteer in the immediate and somewhat longer range aftermaths of the assassination.

**The long view.** The lethal forces that I have in mind represent a combination of people and organizations with long histories of bitter anti-communism and anti-integrationism.

**1. Anti-communism.** One element of this combination was a phobic fear of "communists" or "radicals" which infected American politics as far back, at least, as the era of World War I which coincided with the Soviet revolution in Russia. This "paranoid style" in our politics [3] produced the post-World War I "red scare" in which numerous "enemy aliens" were summarily and illegally deported, [4] and picked up again after the Second World War, with the Cold War rivalry of the United States with the Soviet Union and the "fall" of China to communism in 1949 and of Cuba in 1959. [5] The country's foremost red-hunter, J. Edgar Hoover, was at the forefront of every episode of intense anti-communism, from 1919 to his death in 1972. [6] But Hoover was abetted by a whole political establishment

which, like Hoover, rode the public fear of communism like a trusty stallion in their rise to personal power. At least three congressional committees—the House Committee on Un-American Activities (popularly called HUAC), the Senate Government Operations Committee headed by Senator Joseph McCarthy, and the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (SISS)—were sustained almost entirely by satisfying their voracious appetites for the names of communists and communist “sympathizers” and “fronts.” As we shall see, the association of Lee Harvey Oswald with these “fronts” began before the assassination and the event itself triggered an immediate effort to blame these “fronts” by association.

To be a little more specific about the nature of the forces that may have been involved in the assassination, I want to refer to a China Lobby and a Cuba Lobby in our political life. The China Lobby is a term which denotes a major force in American politics: people and organizations who urged support for Chiang Kai-shek in the Chinese civil war, blamed his defeat and removal to Formosa in 1949 on “traitors” in the U.S. State Department, and lobbied vigorously against U.S. diplomatic recognition of the Chinese (People’s Republic) government or its representation in the United Nations. [7]

The term Cuba Lobby is unique, I think, to this essay, but the coining of the term seems appropriate in the light of the strong similarity between those who opposed the social revolutions in the two countries. As with the Cuba Lobbyists, there was a tremendous effort to locate a scapegoat for the “fall” of Cuba to hostile forces. Again the U.S. State Department was one of the villains of a paranoid fantasy although, as we shall see, State’s delinquency was secondary to the sinister “network” in America of Castro operatives working through the Fair Play for Cuba Committee.

The connection between the two lobbies is more than a similarity of their ideologies; some of the same people and organizations were active in both lobbies. To cite individuals, two names come quickly to mind: William Pawley and Henry Luce.

Pawley was a co-founder, with Claire Chennault, of the “Flying Tigers” or American Volunteer Group who began para-military operations in China’s conflict with

Japan before the United States became officially involved in World War II. [8] The corporate prototype of the Tigers was Air America which, long after the war, survived under CIA auspices to become a major component of Asian narcotics trafficking. [9] In June of 1963, Pawley was to make his most spectacular appearance in connection with the Cuba Lobby. He largely financed and personally participated in Operation Red Cross, using his yacht, Flying Tiger II, to ferry some of the operatives in an ill-fated attempt at a commando raid in Cuba to discover evidence that Russian missiles and military advisers remained there in violation of the agreement that ended the missile crisis in 1962. [10]

Henry Luce likewise had feet planted in both the China and Cuba Lobbies. Born in China to missionary parents, Luce maintained a lifelong interest in China and a hostility to the communist forces there. [11] Like Pawley, Luce was much involved in Operation Red Cross as well as other anti-Castro para-military operations, many of which gave the appearance of being staged as massive “photo opportunities” for Life magazine to promote its anti-Castro agenda. [12]

A somewhat more institutional connection between the two lobbies is represented in the work of a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. The SISS, with its succession of chairmen in Pat McCarran, James Eastland and Thomas Dodd, focussed a huge amount of its many years of investigation by targeting the chosen scapegoats of the China and Cuba Lobbies. The Institute of Pacific Relations, publisher of the magazine Amerasia, was subjected to the closest scrutiny on claims that its editor, Philip Jaffe, was unduly influenced by “traitors” in the China division of the Foreign Service like John Stewart Service and by academics like Owen Lattimore. [13] After Castro came to power in 1959, the Committee shifted gears toward locating the agencies responsible for that calamity. From February to April 1963, the Committee targeted the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC), “coincidentally” the organization of which Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone member in New Orleans. [14] The title of its report was indicative of its conclusion: “Castro’s Network in the United States (Fair Play for Cuba Com-

mittee." The Chief Counsel for the committee, throughout most of both the China and Cuba Lobby years, as Julian Sourwine, a person about whom we shall hear much, much more.

**2. Massive Resistance.** The other element in this combination is a force with an even longer history in American public life, the vehement and violent opposition to the equality demands of blacks and other ethnic minorities. The "reconstruction" effort to secure the civil rights of ex-slaves ended in the 1880s with the passage of Jim Crow segregation legislation and a Supreme Court decision in 1896 that school segregation is constitutionally acceptable. If "the law" was insufficient to keep black Americans "in their places," there was the rise of the terrorist Ku Klux Klan. After World War II, the rise of the civil rights movement gave rise as well to a "massive resistance" movement as the KKK, still alive and "well," was joined by slightly more reputable organizations like the White Citizens Councils. [15] As Martin Luther King, through his leadership of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), came to symbolize the civil rights movement, so King attracted to himself the lethal anger of elements of the massive resistance, as well as that of, again, the ever-appearing J. Edgar Hoover. [16]

The more violent phase of massive resistance is reflected in both propaganda and "direct action" operations. Heated rhetoric is represented in publications like The Thunderbolt, published by the National States Rights Party (NSRP), which associated "race mixing" with communism and labelled both as part of a Jewish plot to subvert American values. [17] But, of course, the violence was not only rhetorical. The Klan tradition of racial violence was continued in a series of bombings of black churches and other facilities. The level of this violence was such that, as noted in Part 1 of these notes, the FBI (or some officials within it) immediately targeted "bombing suspects" as the most likely participants in the conspiracy to murder the President.

**Run-up to the assassination.** I use a British term for a political campaign season as a title to this section, for lack of an appropriate "American" one. What I want to do in this section is to show how anti-communist and anti-integrationist forces intensified their activities and, most importantly, focussed them on Lee Harvey

Oswald, and the assassination "patsy," both individually and collectively, was molded in the 3-4 months preceding the assassination. The association of Oswald with communist and integrationist forces was the Big operation of this period. Much of this operation involved laying the groundwork for associating Oswald with sympathies with Cuba, China and racial integration—an operation which could, of course, only be completed after the assassination when the "designated patsy" became just "the patsy." It involved as well Oswald's own actions in associating himself with organizations expressing these sympathies.

The propaganda campaign against Castro and the Fair Play Committee is reflected, for example, in a well-publicized episode in which a group of 58 American students, in violation of a 1961 ban on travel to Cuba, undertook such an unauthorized trip beginning on June 25. [18] Accompanied by at least one FBI informant, Robert Kaffke of San Francisco, and probably three or more others, the main body of the group returned in August. In hearings on September 12 and 13, they were hauled before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. [19] The mutual hostility between themselves and committee members resulted in demonstrations and room-clearing episodes and little else—except a popular identification of the travellers as belligerent "un-Americans." Two of the group—John and Marcia Glenn—did not, supposedly for their own personal reasons, return until after the September hearings, and they testified at another HUAC hearing on November 18, four days before the assassination. [20] The Glens, thought by other students to have been "finks" (government informers) were subjected to some pressure, which they resisted, to tag the FPCC with responsibility for the trip. They did acquiesce, however, in the claim of a former landlord to having found "communist" literature in their apartment. This material was mostly associated with the Socialist Workers Party, a longtime target of FBI surveillance [21] and the publisher of the newspaper, The Militant, to which Oswald subscribed and a rolled-up copy of which he held in one hand in the notorious "back yard photographs."

While this was happening, HUAC's Senate counterpart, the SISS, was focussing its investigative attention

on the China Lobby's old nemesis, the State Department. An official of State's Office of Security, Otto Otepka, was under fire from Secretary Rusk for unauthorized transfer to SISS of State Department files on State's handling of William Wieland, an employee of seemingly pro-Castro sympathies who was suspected of having "lost" Cuba to Castro as earlier Department villains had "lost" China to the Reds. [22] SISS Counsel Sourwine was a close ally of Otepka [23] and, on the morning of November 22, was engaged in hostile interrogation of a State Department employee, Abba Schwartz. [24] More about this shortly.

A second key operation of this period targeted a scapegoat to satisfy the segregationist side of the political spectrum. A civil rights organization based in New Orleans, the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF), had long been a target for investigative committees, most notably in 1954 when James Eastland, then chair of SISS, brought the committee to New Orleans to investigate the group. [25] Using a soon-to-be-discredited witness, Paul Crouch, Eastland was able to establish that SCEF was heavily communist-infiltrated. Although SCEF's reputation as communist-connected was, I think, mostly undeserved, the reputation itself was such that Martin Luther King, for example, wanted his SCLC to have nothing to do with SCEF, lest SCLC itself be red-tainted. [26]

The State of Louisiana, as did many other states at that time, had its own version of an anti-subversion committee, the Joint Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities, State of Louisiana (popularly called LUAC). [27] LUAC swung into action against SCEF in September, after the bombing of a black church in Birmingham in which four young girls were killed. Martin Luther King blamed Alabama governor George Wallace for "creating the climate encouraging the crime." Wallace retaliated by brandishing a picture of King with SCEF Director James Dowbrowski and other SCEF officials at a 1962 Birmingham meeting characterized as a "communist training school." [28] On October 4, LUAC conducted a massive raid on SCEF headquarters, removing office files and arresting several of its officials. When, on October 28, a federal judge ordered the illegally-seized papers returned, DA Jim Garrison startled the Court by announcing that

Julian Sourwine of SISS had removed the papers from Louisiana jurisdiction under orders from Senator Eastland. Ultimately the Supreme Court ruled in a landmark case that the whole LUAC operation was unconstitutional, and the papers were returned at some point, but not before LUAC reaped a huge propaganda advantage from same.

This exploitation of the SCEF papers began with a LUAC meeting of November 8. [29] A very questionable witness appeared to claim having observed Dombrowski at the Highlander School in Tennessee engaging in pro-communist indoctrination; and LUAC Counsel Jack Rogers used the SCEF papers to note a large number of "connections" of SCEF to communist front organizations, as these organizations were "named" by professional anti-communist witnesses over many years of operation by congressional investigating committees. Rogers also used ominous-sounding passages from Dombrowski's Ph.D. dissertation on Early Christian Socialists, neglecting to mention that Dombrowski was expressing the views of his subjects, not his own opinions. With this easy set-up, LUAC was able unanimously to decree that SCEF itself was a "communist front organization." The elements are now set, 14 days before the assassination, to elevate both FPCC and SCEF to collective "patsy" roles; it remained only to connect the assassin-to-be, Lee Harvey Oswald. Stay tuned.

While SCEF and FPCC were getting their Red paint jobs, Oswald was experiencing personal dabs from the same paintbrush. He (or someone impersonating him) made a provocative personal appearance in September in Clinton, Louisiana, during the course of a voter registration drive by a civil rights organization, the Congress of Racial Equality. [30] Back home in New Orleans, he spent much of late July and early August in propaganda activities on behalf of Castro's Cuba, getting into a "scuffle," while he was handing out pro-Castro handbills, with Cuban exile Carlos Bringuier. Following his arrest and a self-requested interview with the FBI [31], he was solicited thereafter to engage in debates on New Orleans radio with Bringuier and Edward Scannell Butler, Vice-President of Information Council of the Americas. [32] Bringuier was the local delegate of the Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil

(DRE) and, by his confrontation with INCA and DRE operatives, Oswald was truly in the Big League of local manifestations of the Cuba Lobby.

The DRE was regarded as the "enfant terrible" of the exile movement, involved in anti-Castro operations that faint-hearted exile organizations might avoid. [33] As for INCA, it had in 1963 a short but interesting organizational history. [34] It was founded by Butler and by Alton Ochsner, the famed surgeon and founder of the Ochsner Clinic, which specialized in catering to the medical ailments of the Latin American elite. As described by Carpenter, INCA was an instrument of New Orleans' own economic elite—for example, the fruit and shipping companies—to try to protect their economic interest in the face of threats thereto by the Castro regime. For public consumption, however, INCA's main activity was to engage in anti-communist "information," preparing for broadcast throughout Latin America a series of "truth tapes" to show Latin Americans what Castro was really all about.

Before Butler engaged in his debate with Oswald, he called Francis McNamara, then Counsel of the House Committee on Un-American Activities to see if HUAC had any "files" on Oswald. [35] HUAC did have a "public record" (news clipping) file on Oswald concerning his Soviet defection, and Butler used this information to "expose" Oswald as a communist, making a transcript of the debate to develop one of INCA's "truth tapes"—a wonderful piece of foresight if Butler were to contribute to the post-assassination labelling of Oswald.

While organizations the likes of HUAC and LUAC were laying the groundwork for an anti-Castro and anti-integration provocation, the "bombing suspects" mentioned above began focussing their attention on the possibility of political assassination. At a Congress of Freedom convention in New Orleans in April 1963, conferees had spoken darkly of the necessity of killing several hundred public figures as a condition of retaining our freedom. [36] An informant on that meeting, a longtime FBI informant who was then an informant to the Miami Police Department, William Somerset, reported on the presence there of his friend, Joseph Milteer. According to Somerset, Milteer, along with Jack Brown of Chattanooga, was "directing" a group

called the Dixie Clan, an "offshoot" of hard core members of the KKK and other racist groups. Somerset states that "for practically fifteen to twenty years he has been involved in outfits such as this and it is his considered opinion that for assassinations through rifles, dynamite and other types of devices, this is the worst outfit that he has ever come across." The Dixie Clan may or may not be identical with a similarly-described group called the Nacirema (American spelled backwards) investigated by Captain R.A. Little of the Atlanta Police Department which is described as a "handful of fanatics thought to be involved with 158 bombings across the South." [37] The activities of those like the Nacirema in the Georgia area may explain the asserted appearance in Atlanta in the summer of 1963 of none other than Lee Harvey Oswald, who supposedly went to the office of Klan Wizard James Venable seeking the names of right-wing activists in the area [38]—that is, if Oswald were the double agent as I among others have suggested that he was. [39]

As November 22 approached, Somerset's continued surveillance of Milteer, which started as least as far back as the Congress of Freedom meeting in April, became increasingly important. On October 19, he accompanied Milteer from Florida to Indianapolis to attend the Constitution Party's convention, stopping off in Chattanooga along the way to visit Milteer's friend Jack Brown. On this trip he confided to Somerset that Brown had been responsible for the September 15 bombing of a black church in Birmingham that had killed four children. He also told Somerset of "plans to put an end to the Kennedy, King, Khrushchev dictatorship over our nation." [40]

With this information, his Miami police contacts urged Somerset to tape record his next meeting with Milteer, and this produced the famous tape recording of November 8 in which Milteer said a plan to kill Kennedy was "in the works," that it would be done from "an office building with a high-powered rifle" and that "they [the police] will pick up somebody within hours afterward...just to throw the public off." [41] By at least November 12, this information had been reported directly to both the Secret Service and the FBI.

Mention of the Birmingham church bombing and of Martin Luther King brings to mind some other possibly



conspiratorial action around the time of the September 15 church bombing. According to information from FBI sources developed by the HSCA in the Martin Luther King section of its investigation, there was apparently a plan afoot to assassinate King in 1963. [42] "Information from a Mobile, Ala. FBI report indicated that Sidney Barnes and several others had gone to Birmingham Ala. in the fall of 1963 to kill Dr. King." Barnes, a resident of Coral Gables FL, was an "avid" follower of Wesley Swift, the "Christian Identity" preacher in California whose influence was decisive for both Richard Butler, the later founder of Aryan Nations, and William Potter Gale, the ex-intelligence officer of General McArthur who supported a huge range of para-military right-wing activities in California. [43]

The HSCA also says: "The FBI also learned that a secret meeting had been held in Birmingham before the September 15, 1963 bombing of a Birmingham church that left four young black girls dead. Barnes, William Potter Gale, Noah Jefferson Carden and John C. Crommelin attended this meeting." [44] (Crommelin was the Constitution Party's candidate for President in 1964.) Obviously we need more information beyond these terse reports; like the FBI reports that the Committee received. (There is no Assassination Records and Review Board for the MLK assassination.)

**November 22, 1963; sitting on go.** For this section I borrow an expression from Milteer's tape-recorded conversation with Somerset: that the conspirators would be "sitting on go" when the assassination occurred. While Milteer was apparently referring to the timing of the event—that it would occur when the opportunity arose and not on a "countdown" timetable—I believe there is another sense in which the conspirators were "sitting on go." Judged by their behavior, now to be described, it seems that they were ready instantly to spring into action to activate the long-prepared post-assassination propaganda part of their plan. The thinking was no doubt that we must strike while the fire (of public opinion) is very hot, in the intense public outrage that would predictably follow the event.

I wrote in the first installment of these notes of the astounding pre-maturity of intense suspicion of Oswald on the part of the Dallas police, Secret Service and FBI. I extend here this line of analysis by showing how

other persons and agencies—the very ones who were preparing the groundwork for blame assessment in the run-up to the assassination—were involved as well in an immediate propaganda campaign to blame Oswald and his left wing associates.

To begin, it might be thought that some of the people privy to the murder plot about to unfold would be a bit nervous or "trigger happy" on the day of the assassination. One such person may have been Julian Sourwine, the Chief Counsel of SISS. That seems at least a reasonable interpretation of a remarkable utterance by Sourwine himself in a July, 1964 SISS hearing. [45]

Recall from the above that Sourwine had been questioning Abba Schwartz, a nemesis from the State Department, on November 22. The next summer Schwartz was again on the SISS hot seat, this time to answer hostile questions about State's handling of the Oswald case. Schwartz described an intense (and surprisingly pre-mature) all-night review of this very subject at State on the night of the assassination. Referring to Schwartz' participation in that meeting, Sourwine asked Scharzt, with obvious venom, "Did you describe the committee or its proceedings in derogatory terms? Did you make a point of telling these officials that committee counsel was highly nervous while questioning you, and did you support this judgment by stating counsel took some pills and drank a great deal of water? What were you trying to convey to your superiors in that connection?" Schwartz of course denied making any such statements, but is it not remarkable that Sourwine himself put into the public record of a Senate committee hearing what could only amount to an accusation of his pre-knowledge of the later events of that day?

One agency obviously sitting on "go" on assassination day was the Joint Committee on Un-American Activities, State of Louisiana (LUAC) which had done so much groundwork in the "communizing" of the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF). The Committee's Chief Counsel, Jack Rogers, called a detective from the Isaac Detective Agency, Joseph Vinson, on that day and asked him to locate any information on Oswald that might be of interest to the Committee. [46] Strangely enough, he went to the New Orleans Retail Credit Bureau where he found no information

on Oswald; while there he had a "dim recollection" of some FPCC literature having been found in the vicinity of the residences of two Tulane University sociology professors, Leonard Reissman and Forrest La Violette, so he checked the Credit Bureau on those two as well. His incomprehensible behavior becomes understandable when we learn that the Credit Bureau manager told Vinson that his inquiry would be reported to the FBI. Apparently that was the real motive for Vinson's inquiry: to plant with the FBI the story of FPCC and the two Tulane professors.

LUAC's preparedness on "go" on Oswald/FPCC propaganda was demonstrated the following Wednesday, November 27 when the Committee convened "after the horrible assassination of the President" to see if it could lay some blame for the "horror." [47] Having already declared at its November 8 meeting that SCEF was a "communist front organization," the Committee tied Oswald to communism by the simple expedient of showing how FPCC was connected to SCEF in that a number of FPCC officials had dealings of one kind or another with SCEF. At the conclusion of this session the Committee chairman, James Pfister, put in a nutshell the whole theme of this section on the agencies that took advantage of the assassination, if they didn't actually provoke it:

*Gentlemen, what we have heard today is further evidence of the interlocking connection between most of the Communist Front Organizations in the United States. For many years, the House Committee on Un-American Activities of the Congress; J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI; the Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee; the Attorneys General of the United States; and various State Committees, including our own, have been telling the public that these Communist conspirators and crack-pots in the various Communist fronts were dangerous to the security of our Country. Many people have not believed this, but perhaps the horrible events of last Friday will wake them up to the fact. [48]*

Another very early attempt to associate Oswald with SCEF come through a different avenue: the New Orleans police by way of the Secret Service. Aware that Lt. Francis Martello of the police intelligence unit of

the NOPD had interviewed Oswald after his August 9 arrest in New Orleans, Secret Service agents contacted him at 2:30 AM on Saturday, November 23 for any information about Oswald. [49] Martello had plenty to say at this wee-hours interview. Recalling that Reissman's home "seemed to be the center of activity in New Orleans for various communistic type front organizations" and that "Mr. James Dombroski (sic) was seen on several occasions at the home of Dr. Reissman," he asked Oswald about Reissman and Dombrowski. Martello said that Oswald acknowledged acquaintance with Reissman but "became evasive" about Dombrowski. When the FBI finally interviewed Martello on January 29, it reported that Martello said he "evaded the question" about both Reissman and La Violette. [50] When Reissman himself was finally interviewed on December 2, he denied knowing Oswald or having any connection to the FPCC; and had not even been in New Orleans since July, 1963. [51] Having known Reissman both personally and professionally as a fellow sociologist, I tend to believe him.

Also on "go" on November 22 were the two operatives who had "debated" Oswald in New Orleans in August, 1963, Edward Scannell Butler and Carlos Bringuier of, respectively, INCA and the DRE. Recall that Butler had made an INCA "truth tape" of the debate. Fortuitously Butler was apparently in Washington D.C. with his "truth tape" on November 22; at least Congressman Hale Boggs was to say, in a later marketing of the tape, that Butler was in his D.C. office "a few hours after" the assassination, playing the tape and so impressing Boggs that he said it was a factor in his deciding to join the Warren Commission. [52] On Sunday morning, November 2, Butler played the tape for a special session of SISS whose chairman, Thomas Dodd, said the tape proved it was "Oswald's commitment to communism" that was behind the assassination. [54]

Butler's fellow debater Bringuier was also on "go," at least by his records if not his direct action. In 1978, the HSCA interviewed a representative of DRE in Miami, Jose Lanusa, who told how he and a small group of DRE colleagues, hearing Oswald's name in connection with the assassination, went to Miami DRE's files on November 22 and found a report from delegate Bringuier about the debate, along with an FPCC leaf-

let and a recording of the debate. [53] This discovery, in mid-afternoon, was conveyed to a CIA contact who asked the DRE people to hold the story for "at least an hour" while he contacted headquarters for instructions. However, Lanusa was on "go" to get this information out and contacted major news organizations before the hour was up.

China Lobbyists may also have entered the early propaganda offensive through a mysterious document received by the FBI on November 23. This was a four-page memorandum from one Bernard Weisman, a supposed employee of the U.S. Information Agency. [54] Weisman raised the question of Chinese Communist involvement in the assassination by noting the China connections of several different FPCC-connected individuals: Vincent Lee, Richard Gibson, Conrad Lynn, Robert Williams and William Worthy. Interestingly enough, this was strikingly close to the cast of FPCC characters featured in both the HUAC hearings on illegal travel to Cuba and in LUAC's list of FPCC people "tied" to SCEF. The Bureau discounted the significance of Weisman's memo and gave no consideration at all to whether Bernard Weisman was identical to the Bernard Weissman who attained notoriety on the assassination weekend for having his name attached to the "Welcome Mr. Kennedy" advertisement in a Dallas newspaper. [55] Nor was consideration given to the putative agency source of the "information:" the USIA, a government agency within which there flourished a "loyal American underground" which had fed anti-USIA information to Senator McCarthy's agents Roy Cohn and David Schine when they went abroad in 1953 to search out "communist" materials in USIA's overseas libraries. [56]

Finally, Milteer himself was apparently sitting on "go" for propaganda activities in the aftermath of the assassination. [57] On November 23, he met Somerset in Jacksonville and they drove together to Columbia SC to meet several Klansmen in connection with Milteer's plan to establish a new party, the Constitutional American Parties. Apart from being jubilant about the assassination and assuring Somerset that things had gone as planned, Milteer on this trip drafted a pamphlet which charged that Kennedy had been murdered by Jews and communists, all of whom should be driven

from the country. When they learned on Sunday that Ruby had shot Oswald, Milteer said, "That makes it perfect, now, the Jews killed Kennedy and the Jews killed Oswald...Now we have no worry." The South Carolina Klansmen were not so sure; they were worried that they had supported Jack Brown's solicitation for funds to support the legal defenses of white supremacists charged in the racial disturbances in Birmingham. While they would have no problem with killing Martin Luther King, they wanted no association with a presidential assassination. Nevertheless, they agreed to participate in Milteer's plan to distribute Milteer's pamphlet laying assassination blame "at the foot of the Jews." When Somerset reported all this on November 26 to his Miami handlers, they urged Somerset to lure Milteer back for more tape-recorded conversations. They also reported the information to the FBI, which responded by arresting Milteer on November 27 and asking him questions that blew Somerset's cover with him. Shortly thereafter, he was urging his followers to lie low [58], and Somerset was never able to re-establish Milteer's confidence in him.

**Afterthoughts** If the Kennedy assassination was a plot to provoke an inflamed public opinion against Communists and/or racial integration, it was obviously a "plot that flopped," [59] as there was no real public belief in a communist agency in the assassination; and the civil rights movement grew in strength under President Johnson as Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as a "memorial" to the slain President. The situation might have been different, had Senator Eastland's plan to make his Senate Judiciary Committee the investigative agency of the assassination—with, no doubt, the great red-hunter Julian Sourwine as the Committee's Chief Counsel—been successful. Johnson wisely headed this off by appointing the Warren Commission, which devoted itself to squelching rumors of conspiracy, certainly not promoting the kind of commie-conspiracy view that would surely have resulted from an Eastland/Sourwine investigation. As it was, Sourwine had to content himself with tantalizing the Warren Commission with some sinister pieces of disinformation about communist operations related to the assassination. [60]

There were, however, a couple of rearguard actions

of the type we have been discussing that were not launched until January of 1964. One was the enigmatic appearance in Dallas on January 27 of one of the most active of all China Lobby propagandists, Isaac Don Levine. [61] Levine supposedly went to Dallas to interview Marina Oswald in furtherance of a book on the assassination, but no book contract was ever forthcoming and Levine published no books or articles on the assassination. Rather, Levine seemed intent on establishing a communist and specifically a Maoist motivation for Oswald. In a later private conference with Allen Dulles and in an informal interview with Warren Commission staffers, Levine offered a number of "fresh clues," the freshest or most provocative of which was an assertion that Oswald planned to kill Nikita Khrushchev as well as Kennedy, in that both leaders were showing signs of a gang-up on communist China. The FBI officials to whom Levine talked had a different impression of what he was "up to." He seemingly was more intent on learning what information the FBI had on the case than in giving new information. This was exactly the impression, by the way, of Warren Commission staffers about one of Sourwine's false leads: that he and Eastland were trying to get information about the assassination investigation for "their own political purposes." [62] I have yet to determine whether there was any direct collaboration between the China Lobby propagandists, Levine and Sourwine, on these disinformational/information seeking operations.

On January 19, the San Francisco office of the FBI received information from a University of California student that her boyfriend, a student at the University of Mexico, had met an "unknown American" at the Friends Service Center in Mexico City, called the Casa de Los Amigos. [63] This same American was later seen with Oswald, and the two talked about going to Cuba together. The FBI took an interest in this story, since it dovetailed with Ruth Paine's Friends associates and with the Bureau's interest in a Friends-related organization in New Orleans, the New Orleans Council for Peaceful Alternatives, some of whose leadership overlapped with that of SCEF. [64] People at the Casa were interviewed and doubt was expressed that Oswald had ever been there; the boyfriend essentially verified the story of the UC coed, mentioning a "pro-communist

American, Steve Kennan, as a possible Oswald associate in Mexico." Some new life was breathed into this story on February 27, when Robert Kaffke of San Francisco walked into the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City with a story that Oswald had, indeed, been at the Casa de Los Amigos and that "persons at the Casa de Los Amigos are really scared when the name of Oswald is mentioned." Coincidentally (or not) Kaffke was one of that group of 58 students who took an illegal trip to Cuba in the summer of 1963 and, as an officer of the Bay Area FPCC, was informing on travel plans of the group to the Bureau. On March 20, back home in San Francisco, he gave the Bureau new "information:" that one Arnold (last name unknown) may have been the "unknown" American with Oswald in September, 1963, "advising" Kaffke of same when they were both in Mexico City in February, 1964. Inquiry at the Casa determined that one Arnold Kessler of Detroit had stayed there in February. The FBI investigated Kessler's background of leftist activity in Detroit and, when his picture was shown to Kaffke on April 14, he identified him as the "Arnold" he had known. The problem with all this is that Kessler could not possibly have been in Mexico City before October 11, 1963 and Oswald had left there by October 2 [65] (Intriguingly enough, Kaffke was staying at the Casa, in the near vicinity of the Hotel del Comercio, when Oswald was supposedly staying there.) Either Kessler lied to Kaffke or Kaffke lied to investigators. My money is on Kaffke as the liar, and I base it on his original desperation for U.S. government help in getting out of Mexico, and the likelihood that, as an FBI informant, he was motivated to give the FBI what it no doubt wanted: still another in the series of disinformational items designed to tie Oswald to "leftist" people (like Kessler) and organizations (like the Casa de Los Amigos.)

#### NOTES ON A LOCAL CONSPIRACY

I shall conclude these notes by some mention of a perspective on the assassination with which, in point of time, I actually started. Before my attention came to focus on the kinds of forces in American society generally discussed in this essay, I developed an especial interest in the activities of Dallas' most famous or notorious (excepting perhaps H.L. Hunt) right-winger, retired Army General Edward A. Walker. This was dis-

cussed in a couple of "nut country" articles in The Third Decade [66] and in an article on the "world" of Jack Ruby that featured some of the many connections between the "worlds" of Ruby and Walker associates, as well as between the two men personally. [67] Both "nut country" articles featured the strange behaviors of a group of intense young men calling themselves Conservatism USA or CUSA, former Army enlisted men who came to Dallas in 1962 and 1963 with an intention to "infiltrate" and take over the local right wing movement. Led by Larrie Schmidt, they included as well William Burley and Bernard Weissman, the (almost) namesake of the mysterious USIA employee who wrote a provocative memorandum on November 23. Working through the local John Birch Society, they prepared and financed, largely through contributions from local oilmen the likes of the Hunts and H.L. Bum Bright, and published in the Dallas Morning News on the morning of the assassination, a broadside accusing the President of having sold out the country to subversive interests. Walker's close associate, Robert Surrey, was instrumental, for his part, in preparing another propaganda bomb: a pamphlet in the form of a police poster, Wanted For Treason, which accused the President of treasonous behavior. [68]

I still regard it as a lively possibility if not a probability that some of these local worthies were involved in the assassination at some level or other. This possibility is re-inforced by observations about certain connections between these local people and some of the larger forces discussed in this essay. I only discovered rather recently that the National States Rights Party (NSRP) had an interesting presence in Dallas at the time of the assassination, a man who was actually an early suspect. When, in 1965, Martin Luther King was assaulted at a Selma AL hotel, his assailant was identified as Jimmie George Robinson, an NSRP member from Birmingham.[69] Was it only a name coincidence that FBI agent James Hosty, explaining his reaction to the "threatening note" delivered by Oswald to the Dallas FBI office shortly before the assassination, claimed that the note was unsigned and that he originally thought it was a person with whom he had dealt, a Jimmie George Robinson, a KKK member from the Dallas suburb of Garland? [70] The Thunderbolt, the

newspaper organ of the NSRP, identifies the Robinson in Garland as an NSRP member.[71] Klansman or NSRP member, this Robinson was closely watched after the assassination, when he was named as a suspect from several different sources. Perhaps most interesting was a "tech" (wiretap) on NSRP headquarters in Birmingham on November 22 in which a telephone voice thought to be Robinson, said "tell Doc Fields [NSRP director] I'm in Alabama, as he will be worried."

Another point of interest is the wider connections of both Walker and Larrie Schmidt. Walker was not only an anti-communist but a foe of racial integration. Before the assassination, he gained some notoriety in 1962 by having gone to Oxford, MS to encourage the violent white supremacist demonstrations against the integration of Ole Miss, getting himself arrested by Robert Kennedy for being an "inciter to riot." [72] And, immediately before the assassination, he was in conference in Shreveport with the editorial board of The Councilor, the newspaper of the Citizens Council. A couple of days before that, he had been in New Orleans holding meetings with followers and using the offices of Leander Perez, perhaps the most notorious Louisiana segregationist of that time. [73] After the assassination, he went on a speaking tour with Carlos Bringuier among others, in which they spread the "word" of Oswald's communist connections. [74] Finally, Walker had some very intimate connections into the China Lobby, especially through his association with a person featured in Dick Russell's book, General Charles Willoughby, like William Potter Gale a former member of General McArthur's staff. [75]

For his part, Larrie Schmidt had a possible China Lobby connection through the famous "infiltration" tactic of CUSA. A special target of CUSA infiltration: the Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) chapter in Dallas, closely connected to the China Lobby by virtue of such YAF leaders as William Buckley, Willoughby, Charles Edison and Marvin Liebman. [76]

#### FINAL WORD

At the conclusion of these "notes," I would only say to the reader that, voluminous though they may have been, there is actually a great deal more that I have already written on these subjects and infinitely more

that has been written by others—and yet much, much more that remains to be done. I only hope I have furnished the reader enough information, without reaching the level of overkill, to convince him or her that the three areas of “fact” that I have asserted to be true, if not rock hard in every particular, have enough evidence in their support to justify their continued examination during this millennium.

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# DEFEND THE WHITE RACE

## The Great White Race Has a Right to Live

The Jews have destroyed Racial Segregation. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has spearheaded the fight to get the Supreme Court to outlaw Segregation. It has amazed some people to discover that the President of the NAACP is NOT a Negro BUT the JEW Arthur Spingarn. The NAACP was founded by his brother, the JEW Joel Spingarn. The national board of the NAACP has many Jew directors on it.

### *Jews Behind Race Mixing*

All major Jew organizations are against Segregation. B'nai B'rith is the largest Jewish fraternal order in the world. The Jewish Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith filed a brief with the Supreme Court in opposition to Segregation. It happily welcomed the decision against Segregation by saying, "the strongest victory yet" in the South in recent years. (P. 13, Chattanooga Times, May 18, 1954.)

The Jew-owned Chattanooga Daily Times welcomed and praised the Court ban against Segregation in its own subtle way. Also, it (P. 3, May 18, 1954) quoted a Jewish rabbi as saying, "When I heard this afternoon of the Supreme Court's decision I gave thanks to God."

The Jewish Rosenwald Fund spent \$30 million financing organizations and writers that promote racial mongrelization. A race once mongrelized is lost forever. The Negroes are victims of the Jews—in politics and finance. The Jew plan of mongrelization (intermixing) would end the African race as well as the White.

"JEWISH LIFE" magazine in its June, 1950, issue on page 8 states: "Our job as Jewish Communists is to take the lead in educating the Jewish masses on the meaning of white chauvinism (White Supremacy) and to enroll the Jewish community in an all-out fight against white chauvinism (Racial Segregation). This is paramount in our work in the struggle for Negro rights. This is vital to the struggle of the Jewish people for their own security and future."

### *Don't Let the White Race Die*

Do you want your children to go to school with Negroes? If so, they will eat together with them in the school cafeterias and use the same rest rooms. Do you want your children to dance with Negroes at school dances? Do you want your grandchildren to be part Negro? Do you want Negro school-teachers to teach your children? Would you let your daughter date a Negro classmate? If you love the White Race and your own children, you will NEVER let such terrible things happen.

You can save Racial Segregation. You can Preserve the White Race. Join and elect the Christian Anti-Jewish Party to power and your children will NEVER have to go to school with Negroes. Our Party will solve America's racial problem in a strictly legal way—and in fairness to both races. Elect enough of our candidates to public office and we will enact a law or Constitutional Amendment that will give the Negroes a rich and prosperous country of their own in Africa.

### *Elect a New Supreme Court*

We will also change the law so that the Supreme Court will be elected by the People or by Congress. We will then elect a court that will rule for Separation of the Races.

Do not betray your own White People. GOD created the Great White Race and blessed it with more intelligence and virtues than any other race, so don't let the Jews destroy it. America was founded by White men for White men. This is a White man's Country. Be loyal to your Race. All White People—Protestant and Catholic, Native-born and Foreign-born, men and women, young and old: Do your duty for the White Race by joining and voting for our Party.

For an application blank send your name, address and phone number to:

## CHRISTIAN ANTI-JEWISH PARTY

Edward R. Fields  
Chief Secretary

P. O. Box 48

Atlanta, Ga.