

~~Product Policy and Programme Co-ordination~~  
~~Committee~~

~~14-16 February 1975 (Review of~~  
~~Relationship Agreements)~~

GUNDBLFO "BOOK"

Member

Book 22/2/75

-THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY-

TED GANDOLFO HAS COMPILED THE LARGEST, MOST ALL-INCLUSIVE, TAPE-RECORDED LIBRARY IN THE WORLD NUMBERING MORE THAN 5,000 HOURS-VIDEOTAPES (CASSETTES) AND AUDIOTAPES (CASSETTES.) SEE BELOW-

VIDEO TAPES (ON CASSETTES) AND AUDIO TAPES (CASSETTES) ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT VERY INEXPENSIVE PRICES. TRULY GREAT, HISTORIC TAPES. WHEN ORDERING ANY OF THE VIDEO CASSETTE TAPES AND/OR AUDIO CASSETTE TAPES

SEND LETTER SPECIFYING WHICH TAPES YOU DESIRE, LISTED HERE, AND MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO...TED GANDOLFO..ADDRESS: 1214 FIRST AVENUE..NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021. TED IS A private, long-time, (23 years) researcher on the JFK assassination, having appeared as guest expert on more than 240 radio/T.V. shows, and has compiled the largest, most all-inclusive tape-recorded library in the world..more than 5,000 hours thus far, and continuing to the present time, and is widely known and respected for spreading THE TRUTH all across this country about who killed JFK and why he was killed that tragic day in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Ted's list follows:

VIDEOTAPES: (IN COLOR). NOVEMBER 21, 1986-"THE TRIAL OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD". 5 HOURS- \$ 50. For the FIRST time, actual witnesses, etc, are questioned and cross-examined in an actual trial-room by prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi and defense attorney, Jerry Spence. Excellent show/trial.

I PRODUCED AND HOSTED MY OWN MANHATTAN CABLE T.V. HOURLY, WEEKLY SHOWS CALLED, "ASSASSINATION, U.S.A." EVERYONE WHO HAS SEEN THESE TV SHOWS HAS SAID THAT THEY ARE THE VERY BEST EVER DONE ON THE JFK ASSASSINATION. OUTSTANDING EXPERTS AND CRITICS OF THE WARREN REPORT WERE GUESTS ON THESE GREAT TV SHOWS, SUPPLYING, AS I ALSO DID, MUCH SUPPRESSED, CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT INFORMATION WHICH THE C.I.A. CONTROLLED NEWS MEDIA HAVE REFUSED AND FAILED TO DO FOR ALL THESE YEARS. I AM MAKING THESE 7, IN ALL HOURLY VIDEOTAPED (VHS) CASSETTES AVAILABLE TO ALL OF YOU AT THE VERY INEXPENSIVE PRICE OF A TOTAL OF ONLY \$105

PRICE OF A TOTAL COST OF ONLY \$105 FOR ALL SEVEN HOURLY SHOWS (7 HOURS TOTAL TIME OF THESE 7 HOURLY TV SHOWS) I PROMISE ALL OF YOU WHO ORDER THESE 7 TV VIDEOTAPED SHOWS THAT YOU WILL AGREE WITH THE MANY OF MY FANS WHO HAVE ALREADY ORDERED THEM THAT YOU WILL BE GREATLY PLEASED WITH THESE SHOWS. THEY MOST CERTAINLY BELONG IN THE HOMES OF EVERYONE IN THIS COUNTRY WHO WANTS TO BE MADE AWARE OF THE TRUTH IN THIS MATTER. (I, OF COURSE, SUPPLY THE VIDEOTAPED CASSETTES.) YOU MUST ORDER ALL 7 OF THESE TV SHOWS, AS I CANNOT SEND INDIVIDUAL SHOWS OUT AS I WOULD LOSE MONEY IF I DID SO. THE LISTINGS, DATES, GUESTS, ARE BELOW. I SEND ALL ORDERS OUT IMMEDIATELY, FIRST CLASS.

SHOW # 1- SEPT. 30, 1977- THE ZAPRUDER FILM OF THE JFK ASSASSINATION IS SHOWN SEVERAL TIMES, IN ADDITION TO MY REVELATIONS THROUGHOUT THIS SHOW.

SHOW # 5- OCT. 28, 1977- RICHARD E. SPRAGUE IS GUEST.

SHOW # 8- NOV. 11, 1977- TED GANDOLFO DEBATES THE WARREN REPORT WITH MICHAEL EDDOWES.

SHOW # 9- NOV. 18, 1977- MARK LANE GUESTS.

SHOW # 10- NOV. 19, 1977-MARK LANE & CYRIL H WECHT ARE GUESTS.

SHOW # 11- NOV. 26, 1977-ANOTHER DIFFERENT SHOW WITH LANE AND WECHT AS GUESTS.

SHOW # 12- DEC. 12, 1977- RICHARD A. SPRAGUE AND RICHARD E. SPRAGUE ARE GUESTS.

AUDIO-CASSETTE TAPES:

a)- NOVEMBER 1, 1986-TED GANDOLFO GUESTS ON WPLP-RADIO. (TAMPA, FLORIDA STATION), AND EXPOSES, FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, ABSOLUTE PROOF OF DIRECT CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE JFK ASSASSINATION, AND ABSOLUTE PROOF THAT ROBERT BLAKEY, CHIEF-COUNSEL OF THE HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS COMMITTEE, COMPLETELY COVERED-UP EVIDENCE OF THIS FACT, WHICH WAS SUPPLIED TO HIM BY JIM GARRISON. 2 HOURS. \$ 4 TOTAL COST. (THIS IS AN HISTORIC SHOW FILLED WITH MUCH SUPPRESSED FACTS WHICH WAS UNCOVERED BY TED GANDOLFO QUITE RECENTLY.)

TED GANDOLFO'S 2 JFK DOCUMENTARIES ARE: (ON AUDIO-CASSETTE TAPES)

1. THE JFK ASSASSINATION..(FROM NOV. 22, 1963 TO MARCH 28, 1975) WITH VOICES OF DALLAS POLICE CHIEF JESSE CURRY, LEE HARVEY OSWALD, MARK LANE, GEORGE O'TOOLE, CYRIL WECHT, ROBERT GRODEN, EARL WARREN,.. EARLIEST NEWS REPORTS FROM DALLAS, EXCELLENT. 2 HOURS.. \$4 TOTAL COST.

2. TED GANDOLFO'S "HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS COVERUP" 22 HOUR DOCUMENTARY (ALL CONVERSATIONS GANDOLFO HAD WITH HSCOA MEMBERS, STAFF, THEIR INVESTIGATORS, ETC, ALSO GANDOLFO'S MANY CONVERSATIONS WITH FELLOW LONG-TIME CRITICS, RESEARCHERS, THE MOST IMPORTANT 22 HOURS FROM MORE THAN 150 HOURS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE HSCOA DURING THEIR 2 YEAR "INVESTIGATION".. EVERYONE SHOULD OWN/HAVE THESE IN THEIR HOMES. ALL 22 AUDIO CASSETTE-TAPES COST A TOTAL OF ONLY \$45. DYNAMITE INFORMATION!!

The House Select  
Committee On Assassinations

# COVERUP

FINALLY, FOR THE FIRST AND ONLY TIME EVER, THE COMPLETE, CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT AND EXPOSE OF HOW AND WHY A UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE, IN GENERAL, AND IT'S CHIEF COUNSEL, ROBERT BLAKEY IN PARTICULAR, CHARGED WITH INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY AND DIVULGING ALL OF THE EVIDENCE IT OBTAINED TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, COMPLETELY SUPPRESSED-COVERED UP-EVIDENCE OF DIRECT C.I.A. INVOLVEMENT IN THE "CRIME OF THE CENTURY" WHICH WAS SUPPLIED TO CHIEF INVESTIGATOR CLIFFORD FENTON BY JIM GARRISON. THE "FENTON REPORT" IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND EITHER IN THE 12 VOLUMES OF EVIDENCE RELATING TO THE JFK ASSASSINATION OR IN THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE'S FINAL REPORT. IT WAS, AND REMAINS, "CLASSIFIED" FOR AT LEAST 50 YEARS BY ORDER OF BLAKEY & COMPANY!! ALSO INCLUDED HEREIN ARE TOP SECRET HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE TRANSCRIPTS, UNAVAILABLE TO ANYONE, INCLUDING CONGRESSMEN, HSCA DOCUMENTS, INTERIM REPORTS, THE COMPLETE, INFAMOUS "NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT", NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED ANYWHERE, LETTERS TO AND FROM THE COMMITTEE AS WELL AS THE MANY VERBATIM CONVERSATIONS THE AUTHOR HAD WITH MEMBERS OF THE HSCA, THEIR INVESTIGATORS, THEIR STAFF, ETC., AS WELL AS WITH FELLOW LONG-TIME RESEARCHERS, ALL DURING THE 2 YEAR TENURE OF THE COMMITTEE'S "INVESTIGATION", ADDITIONALLY, ARTICLES WRITTEN BY THE AUTHOR AND SEVERAL OTHER RESEARCHERS AND MEMBERS OF THE HSCA STAFF PERTAINING TO THE COMMITTEE PROBE.

A TRULY HISTORIC BOOK WHICH BELONGS IN THE HOMES OF EVERY AMERICAN WHOSE THIRST FOR THE TRUTH REMAINS UNQUENCHED, UNTIL NOW, RELATING TO WHO KILLED J.F.K., and why, that INFAMOUS DAY IN AMERICAN HISTORY ... NOVEMBER 22, 1963.

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TED GANDOLFO

THIS BOOK WAS WRITTEN AND PUBLISHED BY TED GANDOLFO IN MARCH, 1987

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-THIS IS GRATEFULLY DEDICATED TO-

ANITA, MY WIFE, WHOSE FAITH AND TRUST IN ME PROVIDED ME WITH THE INSPIRATION TO WRITE THIS TOME.

JIM GARRISON, WHOSE GREAT COURAGE, VALOR AND HUMANITY, IN FACE OF TREMENDOUS POWER AND DISINFORMATION, USED BY THE CIA TO DISCREDIT HIM AND TORPEDO HIS TRUTHFUL INVESTIGATION, CONTINUES TO THIS DAY TO INFORM OUR CITIZENS OF THE TRUTH IN THIS MATTER.

RICHARD E. SPRAGUE, WHOSE RESEARCH HAS ASSISTED ME GREATLY THROUGH THE YEARS, AS WELL AS GREATLY ASSISTING JIM GARRISON. A TRULY UNSUNG HERO WHO HAD THE COURAGE AND CONVICTION OF INFORMING US ALL OF THE NEFARIOUS PRACTICES EMPLOYED BY THE HSCA, BEING THE FIRST OF ONLY TWO MEN WHO WAS EMPLOYED BY THE HSCA TO FLAUNT THE INFAMOUS "NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT." I AM VERY PROUD TO CALL HIM MY FRIEND. (READ HIS DEVESTATING ARTICLE HEREIN.)

# Acknowledgments

As one who has researched this heinous crime, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963, since that infamous day and continuing to the present time, and being the one critic who has compiled the largest, all-inclusive, chronologically listed tape-recorded library in the world relating to this case, I have been made aware of the massive distortions of truth perpetrated by all factions of this government and it's lackeys in the news media as few people know it. The obfuscations of truth have been many indeed. These untruths have been orchestrated by the very highest levels of governmental agencies in what has been, and remain, a never-ending symphony of untruth and, in the truest sense, remain despicable. The barriers to those of us whom have sought to convey and provide the truth in this matter have been many and unceasing. Fortunately, we have in great measure, broken down these barriers of untruth. Due mainly to these very difficult efforts, we have been instrumental in convincing more than 90% of Americans of the gigantic fraud which has been continuously perpetrated on them by the government and it's agencies, outright lies which have been spoon-fed to us by the CIA's "propaganda assets" in the media. Fortunately also is the fact that there are people like Jim Garrison, Richard E. Sprague, Harold Weisberg, Mark Lane, Cyril H. Wecht, Mae Brussel, Robert Groden, Gaeton Fonzi, Thomas Whittle, L. Fletcher Prouty, Vincent Salandria, Ed Tatro, Ray Marcus, Bob Cutler and myself, among several others, people who, with every force used against us, continually strode towards a higher calling to take a stand against the many who proclaimed odious untruths in their subservience to the "national security" while the national HONOR was at stake.

What can be said about a government when it's very agencies feel it is politically expedient and financially profitable to cold-bloodedly murder it's head of state? Is it truly a nation "of, by and for the people" when the KNOWN perpetrators are allowed to go unpunished? When it remains a fact that in the only truthful investigation this country has ever had into this odious crime, that the man conducting it is traduced, ridiculed, lied about and illegally prevented in conducting it, can it be continued as a "representative government"? For it is a known fact to anyone worth their salt as a researcher that only one man, Jim Garrison, had the humanity and courage to attempt to bring to light the truth regarding this matter, and he was thwarted, by the government, and by the Central Intelligence Agency, the actual perpetrators of the crime, in his attempts. The finite question remains...Is the CIA to continue to go unpunished for committing this "crime of the century"? Can there be true redress by the people? Can we all be comfortable living in a country which facilitates the policies of a fascist state?

President Kennedy was killed for the finest thing he tried to do...to provide and ensure peace for all mankind for all generations to come. Can we turn our backs to his ideals and the ideals which made this country great? Have we indeed reached the point where everything is subservient to the government and it's intelligence agencies, as exemplified in Orwell's "1984" or is there yet a remaining redemption possible? Therefore, it is a redundancy to ask, "Who killed JFK?" The question for us all now remains as to what the citizens of this country can and will do to restore America to it's position of moral prominence and the freedoms which are so proudly proclaimed in it's heritage. To do anything less would necessarily be an abridgement of those very ideals which made this country great.

"Those who do not learn from history are condemned to relive it"...Santiana.  
"Let justice be done though the heavens fall"...Jim Garrison.

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR:

During the more than 23 years I have researched the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, I have been asked, on numerous occasions, especially on talk shows I have guested on all across this country, from callers and hosts alike, questions such as, "We won't ever know what really happened, will we?" Or, "What difference does it make now anyway?"

Whenever I got those reactions, I would have to restrain a spark of anger that would flare within me. I believe that today, more than ever, it does make a difference. It matters!

A President of the United States was assassinated more than 23 years ago and we still don't know what happened. There is no doubt now that it was a conspiracy, but, until the publication of this book, we aren't sure of anything beyond that. We do not know. And, yet, most of us- the polls say and the press reflects it-are not very angry about that. We don't like it, but we are no longer very upset about it. That's history and, Lord knows, there are enough worries today.

But I think you should be very angry about it. The assassination of President Kennedy was a blatant affront to each and every one of us who believes that we, as individuals, should have some control over who governs us and how we are governed. If you don't understand that, you don't understand the basis of the democratic system. You would have been very angry if someone with a gun had stopped you from going into the voting booth, had taken away your freedom to choose. You would have seen that quite clearly as a direct attack against the democratic system- and an outrageous personal affront to you, an unquestionable infringement of your rights.

And yet the analogy is quite obvious: The conspiracy to kill the President of the United States was also a conspiracy against the democratic system- and thus a conspiracy against YOU. The choice that you made in the voting booth was disapproved. That's why it still matters.

Understand this also: The action that brought about the death of President Kennedy is related to what is happening today. It prefaced the disintegration of faith in our government. It's residue lies in the ashes of the Sixties, in burnt-out countries and burnt-out cities and in many of our burnt-out young people. It fathered the now prevailing and debilitating assumption that we no longer have control over our economic or political destiny. We are now a so-called democratic nation in which less than a third of the people even bother to vote and increasingly don't give a damn about their government; where the quality and quantity of our productivity is declining; and where there is rampant cynicism and disrespect for all established institutions.

Perhaps at the time of Kennedy's assassination not enough was known to spark immediate reaction and anger, and the gradual manner in which it became known only generated disillusionment and cynicism. And yet, after two official government investigations, it remains outrageous in a democratic system that we still don't know what happened- we don't know exactly what was done to us and by whom, until now.

I think you should get very angry about that. If not, you might as well let slip the grip on your individual freedom. It will be gone soon enough.

-Ted Gandolfo

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## INTRODUCTION

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The introduction of this book consists of two articles recently written by myself.

I have researched the circumstances surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy since the day it occurred on November 22, 1963. On that infamous day, I began tape-recording from CBS-T.V. and NBC-T.V. beginning 14 minutes after the first bulletin was announced that shots had been fired at JFK. I began that very day investigating every aspect of the evidence of this case, an investigation which has never ceased and which continues to the present time. During these almost 23 years, I have compiled what is acknowledged to be the largest, all-inclusive tape-recorded library in the world on this case, numbering more than 5,000 hours at the present time, in addition to equally massive printed materials. Although the majority of these tapes and printed materials now reside in my own "archive" at the University of Wisconsin, under my name, I retain many hours of copies of both the taped and printed in my home. I have appeared as guest expert on more than 240 radio and television shows all across this country, including my own self-produced and hosted Manhattan Cable T.V. hourly, weekly shows entitled, "Assassination U.S.A." on which many fellow long-time researchers appeared, such as Mark Lane, Sylvia Meagher, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, Richard A. Sprague, who was the first chief counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, Richard E. Sprague, (no relationship), who is the possessor of EVERY film and photo ever taken of the JFK assassination, British attorney Michael Eddowes, whom I debated on one of these shows, and several others.

I have also lectured on several occasions, with my colleagues and alone, at U.C.L.A. in California, New York University, the Warwick Hotel in New York, during which in addition to my lecture on the case, I presented a "visual teach-in" showing the famous Zapruder film of the JFK assassination, of which I have a copy, and I also showed slides of various events and personages involved in the assassination. I retain these important slides as well. Also, I played several portions of highly significant tape-recordings during these lectures. All of these lectures and film/slides presentations were followed by question and answer periods, from and to the assembled audiences present.

Many of us long-time researchers have been very successful, through the years, of exposing the fraudulent conclusions reached by the Warren Commission in



September, 1964. However, it remains a fact that the majority of the citizens of this country DO NOT KNOW of the immense, definite coverup which was perpetrated by the House Select Committee On Assassinations in general, and especially by it's chief counsel, Robert Elakey, in particular! During the House Committee's so-called "investigation" of the JFK assassination, I was in constant contact with the Committee members, their staff, their investigators, etc, and they with me. I also, of course, during that time, ~~was~~ was in similarly constant communication with my colleagues including Mark Lane, Harold Weisberg, Richard A and E. sprague, Cyril H. Wecht, and others. I also had a very important and informative series of conversations with former New Orleans District Attorney, now judge, Jim Garrison. During one of my conversations with him, he informed me of crucially important evidence of a definite CIA conspiracy to kill JFK! With his permission, of course, I tape-recorded that most revealing talk. The most relevant and important things he told me at the time are contained in the enclosed article, written by myself, entitled, "The House Select Committee On Assassinations Coverup". Shortly thereafter that conversation with Garrison, I learned that Robert Elakey would completely ~~SUPPRESS~~ SUPPRESS that, and more evidence which had reached him of direct CIA complicity in the crime. Thereupon, I sought to, and succeeded in, informing several Committee members of these nefarious practices being utilized by Elakey. They didn't believe me. Although knowledgeable of SOME of the suppressions of evidence being perpetrated by him, at that time, what I have learned, very recently, is PROOF, of my assertions at that time!

This proof comes from two sources, the first of which is from Elakey himself, during a very recent (February 17/'87) phone conversation I had with him and secondly, from a staff member on the Committee, at the time, who shall remain nameless, because of his, or her, having signed the CIA/FBI issued "Non-Disclosure-Agreement" which was forced to be signed by EVERYONE who was employed in ANY capacity on the Committee.

( I also have a copy of that insidious N.D.A.)

These Committee/CIA documents I've very recently received were classified, and will remain so, by order of the CIA and the Committee, for the next, at least, 50 years. They, in addition to what Elakey told me on February 17/'87, PROVE BEYOND ANY QUESTION that Elakey was working in liaison with the CIA to suppress ALL CIA involvement in the JFK assassination!!

The information contained in these documents is known by myself and by no other researcher of this case. They are indeed HISTORIC documents, as well as other information re Elakey's suppressions of truth in this matter. Remember, the Committee's mandate was to DIVULGE, NOT SUPPRESS THE TRUTH regarding the burning question..."Who killed JFK"!!!

I trust that you'll agree that this, up to now, undisclosed evidence should be made available to the people of this country in their, yet, burning quest for the facts surrounding the assassination of our late, beloved President John F. Kennedy.

BY TED GANDOLFO.

(PAGE ONE)

what has been called "The Crime Of The Century", President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963, while riding in an open motorcade at a place called Dealey Plaza. One week later, the new President, Lyndon Johnson, created the Warren Commission to "fully ascertain all the facts relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy". It is known now that the Commission began its investigation with the preconception that Lee Harvey Oswald was the "lone assassin" and proceeded to build its circumstantial case solely along these lines and while in that process, it totally disregarded and refused to consider ANY evidence which did not conform to that, preveably, incorrect surmise. Among these elements of evidence not considered by the W.C. was the testimonies of eyewitnesses to the murder, photographic evidence, doctors evaluations of the wounds to JFK, etc. Thereupon, on September 29, 1964, the commission issued its findings, i.e. their preconceptions that Oswald, acting ~~absolutely~~ totally alone had murdered the president, wounded Governor John Connally, and had fired the only three shots fired that day. Very soon hereafter, books which were highly critical to the commission's findings began to appear, most notably Sylvia Meagher's "Accessories After The Fact", Mark Lane's "Rush To Judgment", Harold Weisberg's "Whitewash", Edward J. Epstein's "Inquest", and Josiah Thompson's "Six Seconds In Dallas". Through these works came the information that was completely suppressed by the commission, which had concluded that all three shots fired at the president were fired from the 6th floor of the Texas School Book Depository building located at the rear of the motorcade. Among this information was the following:

a) Of the 92 eyewitnesses in Dealey Plaza, more than two-thirds of them were of the definite opinion that the fatal shot was fired from behind a wooden fence atop a grassy knoll which was located to the right-front of the presidential limousine.

(TURN)

b)The doctors at Parkland Hospital, to which the motorcade proceeded immediately after the shots were fired, ALL gave interviews with information which was contrary to the commission's conclusions, i.e. Doctor Malcolm Perry stated that the wound discovered on President Kennedy's throat was "an entrance wound", and also, doctor James McLelland stated that the president died "As a result of a massive bullet wound of the right temple". There was much more conclusive evidence, especially the photographic, which totally discredited the commission's assertions to the contrary. As a result of this massive, definitive evidence of conspiracy, the Gallup poll, taken on January 16, 1965, showed that at least 78% of Americans DID NOT believe the commission's findings. Despite this, all remained relatively quiet until February 18, 1967 when the New Orleans States Item newspaper, in a banner headline, stated that the New Orleans District Attorney, Jim Garrison, had uncovered a plot to kill JFK and was further investigating the matter. Then, to put it simply, all hell broke loose. Reporters from across the country began to converge to the D.A.'s office to cover this momentous story. Garrison stated to them in a press conference that "We have uncovered a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy which originated in New Orleans, which is under my jurisdiction. We have arrested Clay Shaw in connection with this conspiracy. Further arrests will be made shortly." And then, almost immediately, the vicious attacks by the (we knew now) F.I.A. controlled news media began against Garrison. Perhaps the most vicious, and untruthful, attack was emblazoned in large front page headlines of the Chicago Sun Times newspaper on March 24, 1967. It read, "GARRISON RECEIVED A MENTAL DISCHARGE FROM ARMY". Although it was a fact that Garrison received several medals for bravery for flying over enemy lines in World War Two, and also that he was still in the active reserves and had received a quite HONORABLE discharge from the U.S. Army, the Chicago Sun Times NEVER retracted that totally untruthful story! At any rate, because of continual postponements of the trial of Clay Shaw by his defense attorneys, it was not until February 17, 1969

at the trial began. During that period of time between the first news article of Garrison's investigation until the trial date, the ENTIRE media engaged in their continuous, never ceasing, symphony of untruth directed against Garrison. Also, to make it complete, the then attorney general, Ramsey Clark, did and said two things whose obvious purpose was to torpedo the upcoming trial. Firstly, he stated in a Washington press conference that, "Much as I would hate to have to do it, I just might prosecute Jim Garrison. He took a perfectly fine man, Clay Shaw, and ruined him just for personal aggrandisement." Clark said that, just prior to the trial, when NONE of Garrison's evidence had even been known or judged upon! Secondly, ASX also just prior to the trial, Clark panelled a five man team of pathologists to view and report on their findings of the JFK autopsy. As one would expect, this five doctor panel stated that these materials CONFIRMED the Warren Commission's findings, that "all shots which struck the president were fired from above and behind him." The obvious purpose of this last minute action by Ramsey Clark was to influence the minds of prospective jurors in the trial. And just to make it complete, a man named William Gurvich infiltrated Garrison's staff and, only 2 weeks prior to the trial STOLE the complete copy of the prosecution's case and turned it over, in its entirety, to Shaw's defense attorneys. This tidbit was NEVER reported in ANY newspaper! Also, several crucially important witnesses fled New Orleans and when Garrison attempted to have them extradited back for the trial, he was refused by, among others, Governor Rhodes of Ohio and Governor Reagan of California. With all these obstructions and illegalities used against him, Garrison lost his case against Shaw, and others, although a poll of the jurors showed that he had indeed proved the existence of a conspiracy to murder JFK. His acquittal of Shaw, et al, did much to cause a silence across the land as far as the JFK assassination was concerned. All remained quiet until the Watergate affair came to light, carrying as it did many improprieties and, in fact, illegalities perpetrated by top governmental personages and it's

intelligence agencies, notably the F.B.I. and C.I.A. Because of these known illegalities, there came into being investigations by the Senate, including an investigation by Senator Frank Church into possible intelligence misdeeds relating to the JFK assassination. Senator Richard Schweiker's Senate sub-committee was charged precisely to investigate the evidence withheld from the Warren Commission by the F.B.I. and C.I.A., and they concluded that these agencies, starting with the TOP LEVELS of each organization conspired to LIE to the Warren Commission, and to MISLEAD the W.C! After these revelations were disclosed, a number of us W.C. critics began, in lectures and TV/radio appearances across the country, calling for an investigation by Congress into the assassinations of President Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, Jr. As a result, a prodigious amount of letters, telegrams, etc, were sent to various and many congressional representatives calling for such an investigation. On September 17, 1976, congress, by an overwhelming vote of THE HOUSE, (280 to 65) established A select committee on assassinations to investigate the JFK and King murders. The Committee selected Richard A. Sprague to be it's chief counsel, a most important position. During his first press conference held in Washington, Sprague stated that "Every single document in the possession of the CIA and FBI would be subpoenaed", and that "Every single witness who had evidence relevant to either or both murders would be called to testify before the Committee". And then, as in the case of Jim Garrison, the same C.I.A. controlled news media began it's vicious attacks on Sprague also, which, shortly thereafter, forced his resignation. A man named Robert Blakey was appointed the new chief counsel..a man who was APPROVED OF by the CIA and FBI. He, in his first press conference stated that, "We are NOT investigating the two murders, we are investigating as a LEGISLATIVE MATTER"! Immediately thereafter, the CIA and FBI issued, and ordered to be signed by everyone employed on or by the Committee, a "NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT", which prohibited everyone from EVER disclosing ANY information or evidence they learned as a result of their employment on the Committee. It was an ingenious, if totally illegal,

document which served it's purpose well in terms of suppressing the crucially important evidence of massive conspiracies in both cases, especially Jim Garrison's evidence. In fact, Garrison was NEVER even called to appear or to testify before the House Committee at all!! One of the principal reasons he was not was discussed with the author by Garrison on February 10, 1978. He told me that a five man team of investigators for the Committee, headed by Clifford Fehten, were sent to Garrison's New Orleans office and that they obtained evidence, including tape-recorded conspiratorial conversations on which Clay Shaw, David Ferrie, and others whose voices identified them with being contract employees of the CIA were heard discussing how they would kill JFK in Dallas! This crucial evidence, among other evidence, was completely SUPPRESSED by Blakey and company,, yet ANOTHER coverup by the government.

The above is merely a chronological overview of the events surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963. Time and space restrictions do not allow for anything near a mere complete fact-by-fact dissertation of this matter at this time. As a more than 22 year researcher on this case, I KNOW that the JFK assassination was as a result of a gigantic conspiracy by the Central Intelligence Agency. It was aided and abetted by the massive cover-up of the facts by them, the FBI, the military, the industrial military complex which places money and profits above human life, and other factions and personages. Perhaps, in time, ALL of the TRUTH in this matter may yet be disclosed. Then, and only then, may we yet be permitted to survive as a free nation.

(END OF ARTICLE)

Ted Gandolfo  
Chairman, A.I.C.



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CHAPTER ONE

-BEFORE THE BEGINNING-

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94TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 204

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 19, 1975

Mr. GONZALEZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on Rules

*Ray Madden - Chairman, Rules Committee*

*Congressman Downing Resolution  
also*

## RESOLUTION

- 1       *Resolved*, That there is hereby created a select committee  
2 to be composed of seven Members of the House of Repre-  
3 sentatives to be appointed by the Speaker, one of whom he  
4 shall designate as chairman. Any vacancy occurring in the  
5 membership of the committee shall be filled in the same  
6 manner in which the original appointment was made.
- 7       The committee is authorized and directed to conduct a  
8 full and complete investigation and study of the circum-  
9 stances surrounding the deaths of John F. Kennedy, Robert  
10 F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, and the attempted  
11 assassination of George Wallace.

1 For the purpose of carrying out this resolution the com-  
2 mittee, or any subcommittee thereof authorized by the com-  
3 mittee to hold hearings, is authorized to sit and act during  
4 the present Congress at such times and places within the  
5 United States, including any Commonwealth or possession  
6 thereof, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or  
7 has adjourned, to hold such hearings, and to require, by  
8 subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such  
9 witnesses and the production of such books, records, cor-  
10 respondence, memorandums, papers, and documents, as it  
11 deems necessary: except that neither the committee nor any  
12 subcommittee thereof may sit while the House is meeting

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13 unless special leave to sit shall have been obtained from the  
14 House. Subpoenas may be issued under the signature of the  
15 chairman of the committee or any member of the committee  
16 designated by him, and may be served by any person desig-  
17 nated by such chairman or member.

18 The committee shall report to the House as soon as prac-  
19 ticable during the present Congress the results of its investi-  
20 gation and study, together with such recommendations as it  
21 deems advisable. Any such report which is made when the  
22 House is not in session shall be filed with the Clerk of the  
23 House.

against the other. Mrs. Dinenzon left the Soviet Union for our country. She resides today in my district in Chicago with her son Viktor, waiting sometimes patiently, sometimes nearly hysterically for her other son to join her. Letters in her own blood to Soviet officials have gone unanswered as have the various inquiries I have attempted to make.

I had hoped after my recent trip to the Soviet Union and my meetings with the First Secretary and others that we would be able to reach the accords needed to facilitate emigration that would lead to the joining of families such as that of Mrs. Dinenzon. Those hopes are now shattered. We find that letters, entreaties, pleas fall on deaf ears.

I have written a personal letter to Georgi Arbatov the head of the Soviet Institute of American and Canadian Affairs asking for his personal intercession in the case. I am waiting for his answer.

Mr. Speaker, I attach Mrs. Dinenzon's plea.

#### A MOTHER'S CALL FOR HELP

I have been compelled to make an appeal for help. People suffer not only from wars, but also from inhumane treatment of them in times of peace. This problem prevents solution of the great tasks of peace all over the world.

My family is small; there are three of us, myself and two sons. We lost my husband and their father in the years of World War II. I have carefully brought up my two sons. They are not married . . . we have always lived together.

In 1972 we presented an application for permission to leave the Soviet Union. The result was that emigration was permitted only me and my younger son. My older son, Felix Aranovich, an engineer, was refused the right to leave on the basis that he had at some time worked at a secret plant.

In his appeals to higher authorities, Aranovich has denied that he possessed secret information for the simple reason that for a long time he had not worked at secret plants and the questions with which he had previously had contact have since been dealt with more extensively in public literature.

The reliance on secrecy and on the interests of the government are only worn-out excuses, covering up evil. The actual reason is found elsewhere: to inflict punishment upon us, to break up the family, to deprive Felix of a home, to create hardship for him through the traumatic surrounding of loneliness, to brutalize us.

It is clear that this is supported by further actions of the OVIR.

When my younger son, upon receipt of permission to emigrate and upon the order of the OVIR, presented all of the documents necessary to receive a visa and brought to the bank the required fees (for education, for the visa, for the renunciation of citizenship), OVIR refused to grant him a visa on the basis that I was not going together with him.

I stated that I would remain with my older son Felix and would leave only with him. Such questions, by law and by nature, should be decided by the mother. OVIR took this right from me. Despite having been granted permission to emigrate, my younger son Viktor was not granted a visa. He lived for a long time without means of support, without work, and yet could not leave. I tried to avoid fulfilling the illegal demands and appealed to higher authority. They answered that the way OVIR had decided was the way it was going to be. They called me in and notified me that if I did not immediately leave the Soviet Union, the permission already granted to my younger son would be

annulled, the money already paid out would not be returned and, in addition, he would be harshly dealt with. It became clear that we were unprotected by the law.

In fear for the fate of my totally innocent son, I was forced to go away, leaving Felix Aranovich in an empty home. The day of our exit occupies in our lives a place along with the sufferings in the years of World War II.

The destruction of our family by a method of threats and violence is not only a violation of the Declaration of the Rights of Man ratified by the Soviet Union and the conditions accepted by them at the Helsinki Conference, but the actions of the Leningrad OVIR are criminal according to the laws of the Soviet Union. For forcing me, without guilt, a trial, and outside legality, to abandon my son, for the threat of illegal repressive acts, and for the rude violation of the civil rights of my son, the head of the Leningrad OVIR, Mr. Bokov, is criminally liable under Article 171, Section 2 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR. And for the harm inflicted upon us by his criminal acts, he is liable for damages in accordance with Articles 444 and 446 of the Civil Code of the RSFSR, which claim could be satisfied by the unification of our family, that is, by granting Felix Aranovich permission to emigrate.

However, the law on longer works in relation to us. Mr. Bokov continues to work successfully; Felix Aranovich leads a lonely, miserable existence. Soon it will be three years since I have seen my son with whom I had lived for his entire life; soon it will be three years since I have known peace during the day or night.

All this serves as proof that the law does not protect us.

Once in a state of deep despair I addressed to the Soviet leaders a letter written in blood. I asked them to give me back my son. The physicians treating me advised the Soviet leaders that the trauma inflicted upon me by breaking up my family was destructively affecting my health, and that the treatment would be ineffective until the cause of the ailment was removed.

To all this the Leningrad OVIR answered my son in September 1975 with still one more refusal (the third). This time it was without any reason at all. Reliance on secrecy by now has become completely impossible. It is well-known that such sadism leads to physical annihilation of people.

In the south in the Soviet Union there is a chimpanzee nursery. Soviet medical workers are conducting medical investigations in this nursery. They broke up chimpanzee families. The chimpanzees flew into a violent rage. They ran from corner to corner, trying to break out of the cage, but they were not strong enough to deal with iron bars. Gradually, the chimpanzees quieted down and fell. When their blood pressure was measured, it turned out to be very high. As a result of their suffering, the chimpanzees grew ill with hypertension and died.

Nor does a mother have the ability to withstand that kind of suffering.

In the summer of this year Nina Podriadchik unexpectedly passed away. She, like I, fought for a long time to be reunited with her son Yuri, whom the Soviet Union had refused permission to emigrate. She did not survive her suffering and died. This is not death . . . it is murder by a method of slow torture. When they buried her, Yuri Podriadchik was given permission to emigrate.

It is necessary, in order that all might hear, to cry out to the Soviet Union in the name of all mothers who have abandoned their sons in the Soviet Union: Let our sons go to their living mothers and not to their graves!!!! An oath would thus be taken that people would no longer be brutalized.

According to the law concerning tort damages, on the basis of rights guaranteed to man by twentieth century civilization, and in

fulfillment of international obligations accepted by the Soviet Union I am addressing an appeal to you: Give me back my son!!!! I am calling for help!

Lubov Dinenzon

Felix Aranovich's Address:  
Aranovich, Felix, Pochte Restante, Leningrad 192028 RSFSR, U.S.S.R.  
Lubov Dinenzon (mother):  
7622 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois 60626, (312) 761-4163.

#### FURTHER INVESTIGATION NEEDED IN PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DOWNING) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have served in this House for 17 years. I hope I have served conscientiously and honorably. At the end of this session, I shall retire from the House and return to private pursuits.

Until a few weeks ago, I thought that I would return to my home district with a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction—certainly with a feeling of a thorough understanding of the Congress to which I have devoted the major part of my adult life. However, in the past few weeks, certain events have transpired in this House which concern me deeply and which lead me to believe either that I do not understand the House half as well as I thought I did, or that the House is undergoing a deep and fundamental transformation as a result of those tragic events which we collectively label "Watergate."

Until now, it has seemed to me that, although Congress might not have dealt with all problems wisely, it has not been its policy simply and doggedly to refuse to look at a serious national problem, no matter how difficult, no matter how distressing. Yet, I fear that is precisely what it is doing today. It is simply and doggedly refusing to look at the problem of who executed our former President, John F. Kennedy, and why he was executed.

I do not exaggerate. I have chosen my words carefully, and I mean precisely what I say: We do not know who killed John F. Kennedy or why, and the House apparently is uninterested and, in my opinion, shamefully unwilling even to attempt to find the answers.

Many months ago, along with a few colleagues, I introduced a resolution which provides for the establishment of a special House Committee to examine into the death of J. F. K. and the subsequent investigation of that murder by the Warren Commission. My colleague from Texas, HENRY GONZALEZ, introduced a somewhat broader resolution. Since that time, more than a hundred Members of this House have sponsored identical or similar resolutions; in fact, almost exactly one-fourth of the House Members have called for such a special investigating committee. However, we not only have failed to make any progress toward establishment of such an investigating committee, we also have not even been able to get a hearing on the merits before the Rules Committee.

Whether the Rules Committee would endorse such a project would, of course, be a matter of discretion on their part, after hearing the evidence pro and con.

However, the Rules Committee will not listen to any of the evidence for the passage of the resolutions. It will not listen to evidence that a real and very serious problem exists. Despite our appeals and our offer to share with them the hard evidence that has moved us to sponsor our resolutions they refuse to give me and the other hundred odd sponsors even a hearing on the merits.

There is to be no hearing, no evidence, no witnesses, no vote, no nothing.

This is not only difficult for the many, many Members who have sponsored the proposed legislation to understand, it is a regrettably poor answer to approximately 80 percent of the American people who do not believe that their leader was cut down by a "lone nut."

Why would there be reluctance on the part of the leadership and the committee. Have they been told by the Intelligence Community, which, incidentally, possibly acted as sole investigator for the Warren Commission, what really did happen to our young President, and why? Do they know who was behind the killing? Is it too horrible for the American people to face?

You will recall that there was a reluctance on the part of many to approach the impeachment program 2 years ago. Many cautioned that such a public exposure would be more than the American public could stand. However, we did our duty, the Republic did not collapse, the American public did not fall apart, and the country was better off knowing the truth.

And over on the Senate side, when the Church committee began to look into foreign assassinations and assassination attempts by U.S. agencies, we heard the same cries that the public could not stand it. Yet, Senator Church and his colleagues did their duty. They carefully examined a number of U.S. sponsored murders or murder attempts abroad, and printed the results in a thick report. Again the pillars of the Republic did not crumble.

Why is it that we seem to think the public can assimilate the truth about the killings of foreign leaders but cannot tolerate—and is not entitled to—the truth about the assassination of their own popular, elected President?

It would seem strange to me that the wrongful death of their own President is of less concern to the American people than the deaths of the leaders of Vietnam, the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, et cetera, et cetera. Yet, it is that truth that is being withheld from them.

Let me interject at this point that I have no clear idea whatever of the forces behind John Kennedy's death or the motives for the killing. What I do know is that there is an overwhelming abundance of evidence—physical, documentary, and scientific—that indicates that Lee Harvey Oswald could not have been a lone assassin.

Equally as important, a mass of evidence has come to light which indicates

that the Warren Commission unfortunately may have made no real effort to get to the bottom of the killing. They were prohibited in many instances by the U.S. intelligence community which acted collectively as their sole investigator. Evidence which has come vividly and dramatically to light in recent months was withheld from the Commission. Some of it has been revealed by committees and subcommittees of this House. It points to a cover up. The Commission deserved better than that. The American people deserved better than that.

All of this notwithstanding, there is still this unwillingness to let the House find out the truth. Someone apparently does not want us to see the evil, hear the evil, and certainly does not want us to talk about it.

The question is frequently put: "Even if you are right, what is to be gained by reopening the Kennedy case?" Our answer from the beginning has been, "the truth," but this answer does not seem to satisfy. One would think that truth about the death of a President in a democracy such as ours would be sufficient cause for reopening the case. After all, if a President is eliminated, not by a "lone nut" but for political reasons, is not the whole fabric of our form of government in direct danger if we cover up the political motivations and go on as if nothing happened?

Mr. Speaker, in the 11 months since I became convinced of the need for a re-investigation of the assassination by a Select Committee of the House, I have learned a great deal about the circumstances surrounding the death of the late beloved John F. Kennedy. I have learned far more than I ever expected that I could learn. I am frank to admit that I have learned far more than I ever wanted to learn.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, with all of this knowledge which has been forced on me has come the alarming realization that—to use a time-worn phrase—I have only touched the tip of the iceberg. Without subpoena power, without the official backing such as the House of Representatives, no one has any real chance to get to the solid facts of the issue.

What has been equally amazing to me has been the marvelously high degree of interest shown by the American people and continued to show in the unexplained death of their leader. They want to know the truth. In every case where the people have been polled, the response calling for a new investigation has been overwhelming.

Following the death of President John F. Kennedy, a Presidential Commission was established to secure the facts about that murder, and to assure the American people that all of the facts had been secured and that all of the facts had been reported to the American people.

Today, more than 12 years after that tragedy, a substantial portion of the evidence remains locked away in the National Archives where the American people and their representatives, the Members of the Congress, cannot see it. Even more surprising, more than a decade after the publication of the Warren Commission Report—which asserted that one

man was responsible for the assassination—every poll taken by a reputable news organization during the last year has revealed that the vast majority of the American people do not believe that central finding of the Warren Commission.

CBS revealed that 65 percent of those polled in its recent national survey said that they believe that there had been a conspiracy to assassinate the President.

The Philadelphia Daily News conducted a survey in that city last year which showed that more than 95 percent of those who responded to the question supported the reopening of the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy. The recent Detroit News survey showed that 87.3 percent of those questioned there said that they believed that a conspiracy was responsible for the assassination.

A distinguished former member of the Warren Commission, President Gerald R. Ford, has publicly stated that another investigation would be in order. He has, therefore, joined with two Warren Commission lawyers, David Belin and John Hart Ely, in understanding the need for a new investigation and in supporting such demands.

The Saturday Evening Post, responding to this widespread feeling in the United States, has called for a new investigation and offered a \$250,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of those who murdered the President. Major newspapers, including the Boston Globe and the New York Times, have called for Congress to investigate.

During the last year, more students at our colleges and law schools throughout the country attended lectures on the subject of the assassination than on all other subjects combined. At Purdue University in Indiana, about 7,000 students listened to a lecture and watched a film about the assassination for more than 5 hours. In Monroe, La., 4,800 crowded into the Coliseum to hear a similar talk.

This matter, obviously, remains high on the American agenda now, more than 12 years later. It is an issue which will not, which cannot die until our people are satisfied that they know the truth, all of the truth. That is why 125 Members of the Congress have joined with Congressman GONZALEZ and me in sponsoring a resolution to establish a committee to investigate a crime which so many Americans consider to be an unsolved crime.

What argument can be offered against such an investigation or against permitting Congress to at least vote on this question? That it is too expensive? Are we not willing to authorize a \$350,000 investigation into how one reporter secured a report? Are we not willing to provide 10 full-time independent investigators in that search? The Warren Commission conducted its investigation without a single independent investigator. It relied almost exclusively upon the reports it received from the FBI.

As a result of hearings held by Congressman EDWARDS' FBI oversight committee recently, we learned that the FBI deceived the Warren Commission, and destroyed a crucial document, and never so informed the Warren Commission.

Many Americans believe that it is more urgent and now more important to determine who killed President Kennedy than it is to determine how Mr. Schorr got his hands on a report. I agree that it is important. I believe that most of the Members of this House, if given the opportunity to vote on this vital question, would also agree. I believe further that credibility in our institutions can only be enhanced by our full and public commitment to all of the truth. I believe that our people, those we represent on this floor, those who in overwhelming numbers have stated that they do not believe they have been told all of the truth, are entitled to the facts and that this issue will not pass until the American people are satisfied that the truth has been told.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, that concludes my statement, but I will submit and ask unanimous consent to submit an ample amount of information concerning the assassination of President Kennedy. That material will be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of all of this is to try to get the Congress, and mainly the Committee on Rules, to reconsider its former decision to not even look at this evidence. I would be hopeful that the Committee on Rules would give us this opportunity, particularly since 125 of our colleagues have sponsored similar resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, the people want to know the truth. They are not afraid of the truth, and perhaps in the conduct of this investigation we may find ways in which to minimize assassination attempts on future Presidents.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, my plea to the Committee on Rules is to reconsider and give us the opportunity to go into this matter anew.

Mr. LAGOMARSINO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from California.

(Mr. LAGOMARSINO asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAGOMARSINO. Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter of legislation to conduct an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of the late President Kennedy, I regret the recent Rules Committee decision not to consider House Resolution 574 or like legislation to this purpose.

The specter of assassination has loomed ominously over the political scene for more than a decade. President Kennedy was the first in a succession of public assassinations and assassination attempts. Yet, speculation and controversy surrounding his murder continue to escalate even as we approach the 13th anniversary of Mr. Kennedy's death. Theories and suppositions abound in the press and in the media while—as I am sure all Members here today can testify—mail pours into Congress requesting a reopening of the murder probe. It is becoming more and more apparent that the Nation is dissatisfied, if not disbelieving of the Warren Commission Report.

In my opinion, it is unconscionable that the Congress would allow this matter to continue unresolved any longer. Inasmuch as almost one-third of this body has cosponsored legislation to reconsider this Presidential assassination, I believe that, at the very least, the House membership should be given the opportunity to vote on whether or not to further study this sensitive and persistent issue.

To ignore the problem as new, and previously undisclosed, evidence mounts concerning the matter could be to ignore the truth, or at least not present an opportunity to ascertain the truth. Therefore, I strongly urge that the House be allowed to hear the arguments, pro and con, surrounding the legislation in question, and to work its will.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California for his contribution.

Mr. Speaker, I do not mean to indict anybody in this investigation of the assassination and I certainly do not indict the members who constituted the Warren Commission because those men were able, dedicated and patriotic Americans who did the best job they could under the circumstances. But we now know that there was a raft of evidence which was withheld from the eyes of those gentlemen and which has now just come to light. We are getting this under the Freedom of Information Act, although there was much that was not available to us without the subpoena power. I do not know what that information will reveal but I am sure just from the very documents that we have gotten recently that it will be most interesting and I think it would shed some more light on the matter.

In my judgment, the Warren Commission either did not see these facts, were not shown them or, if they were, they might have concluded that it was in the best interests of the country at that time to close the report and to rely on the single-bullet theory. Had I been a member of the Warren Commission and had I thought it was in the best interests of the country at that time I might have done similarly. Now it is 12 years later and we now know the American public can stand the shock that can come if the truth is told.

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I am glad to yield to the gentleman from California.

(Mr. MINETA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Downing resolution—House Resolution 432—to create a select committee to investigate the assassination of President John Kennedy which the Rules Committee last week decided not to consider.

I rise today because I, along with 65 percent of the American people—according to a recent public opinion survey—doubt the findings of the Warren Commission. Over the past several years, more and more people have begun to question the Warren Commission's meth-

ods and conclusions. Too many questions remain—questions regarding Lee Harvey Oswald's background, the single bullet theory, the capabilities of the supposed murder weapon, Jack Ruby's association with the FBI and organized crime, and the alleged discrepancies between the testimony and evidence given to the Warren Commission and its published conclusions.

Mr. Speaker, the list of questions and allegations could go on for many hours, and that is the point. The American people are entitled to have their questions answered.

I do not stand today and portend to know who did, or did not kill John Fitzgerald Kennedy. I only know that the American people are not satisfied with the Warren Commission's conclusions, and, as such, I believe a full investigation by a select committee would help to dispell these doubts.

I respectfully urge the Rules Committee to reconsider its action and allow the full House to determine whether there is a sufficient number of Members who share my view that the American people have a right to have their questions regarding the John Kennedy assassination answered.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I thank the gentleman, and I appreciate his assistance in this whole matter for a period of months.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. MATHIS. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Virginia for yielding.

(Mr. MATHIS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MATHIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise to pay tribute to the gentleman from Virginia for the leadership he has taken in this area that I consider to be very, very vital in order that the faith of the American people might be restored to some degree in their institutions of government, because I do not think there is any question but that they have been deceived either deliberately or through error on the part of distinguished men who served on the Warren Commission. I think that the public has been deceived. I think the public has a right to know.

The gentleman from Virginia with the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) have provided leadership in this area, and I am very much appreciative of that.

I would also say, Mr. Speaker, that this body, his district, and this country are going to miss very much the leadership of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DOWNING) when he retires at the end of this session from this body. We all regret seeing him go.

Every one of us, almost without exception, remembers that date of November 22, 1963, where we were and what we were doing at precisely the time we heard the news on radio, television, or whatever it might have been, that President John F. Kennedy had been shot at Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Tex. I think what we have a right to know now as Americans is not only where we were and what we

we're doing, but why that tragic series of events came together all at that particular point in our Nation's history.

I would like to ask the gentleman from Virginia at this point what the procedure would be that he intends to use to try to get this matter to the floor. Is there a way that we can in fact, frankly, bypass the Committee on Rules to try to bring a resolution to the floor, or must we now under the leadership of the gentleman from Virginia go back to the Committee on Rules and ask for reconsideration?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. There is a procedure, of course, with which the gentleman is very familiar, known as a discharge petition, which requires the signature of 218 names. I would hesitate to take this route because it is flaunting the Committee on Rules, and I have the greatest respect for every member of that committee. I would hope that we could go back again to the Committee on Rules and beseech them to reconsider the matter and take it under consideration.

As I said, I have heard rumors to the effect that the Committee on Rules is talking about this very thing. I think as a last resort we could go the discharge petition route, but I hope that that would not be necessary.

Mr. MATHIS. I sincerely hope that the gentleman is correct in his assessment that there will be reconsideration by the Committee on Rules of this very important matter and that we will not have to go the historical discharge petition route.

But if we should have to go that way, I will pledge to the gentleman my support in attempting to obtain the signatures of as many Members in this body as possible to try to bring that resolution to the floor.

I think it is imperative that we move with a great degree of expedition on this matter because of the fact that every day that passes, memories dim, witnesses disappear, as the gentleman knows, and the record has shown exactly how many people who had some part, however minute, in that sorry display of things that happened in Dallas, are no longer with us for one reason or another. Witnesses are not available, and the longer we wait, the less likelihood there is that the American people will ever know the truth about what happened on that miserable day in Dallas.

I again commend the gentleman for his leadership in what he has done. I pledge to him my continued support, and I hope that other Members of this body, in addition to the 125, will join him and our distinguished friend, the gentleman from Texas, in sponsorship of this resolution and will continue to press not only the Committee on Rules but other Members of the House in the hope that we can get a resolution to the floor where we can have some kind of select committee established so that we may be able once and for all to let the American people know what was involved, lay some rumors to rest, and let America once again at least have one burden removed from her conscience.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from

Georgia for his kind comments about the gentleman in the well. I do appreciate them. Also I want to thank the gentleman for his leadership early on in this resolution fight before it was so generally publicly popular. The gentleman from Georgia has been a real wheel horse and he has been like a bulldog: He will not give us.

Mr. MATHIS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, the gentleman from Georgia has been called a great deal worse than wheel horse. I take that as a compliment.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, the question of who killed John F. Kennedy continues to intrigue Americans and will continue to do so because of the extraordinary mystique of the Kennedy family which fascinates the American public. So long as our doubts about the assassin of President Kennedy remain unresolved, speculation about the event will run rampant.

The conflicting evidence and the uncertain theories must be clarified in the name of truth, out of respect for our legal tradition of conclusion of law based on findings of fact. Contrary to that tradition, however, is the present status of the John F. Kennedy assassination phenomenon.

The issue is clouded by unresolved conflicts including the one-bullet theory, the direction of the bullet, conspiracy, and questionable evidence regarding the exit wound. These issues cannot be ignored; they must be resolved for our own best interests, for our posterity, and in the long-term service of truth.

Because of this I support the resolution offered by the gentleman and I join in appealing to the Rules Committee for action on this resolution.

I commend the gentleman for the splendid leadership he has given the House in the service of truth and in resolving this extraordinary issue.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota very much for his kind comments and I thank him for his assistance in this entire effort. He has been a real help, and he is as determined as I that the American public should know the truth.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentleman who sponsored the resolution which was a little broader than mine but which I have always thought had tremendous merit. I cannot say enough about this gentleman. He is one of the leaders in the Congress. He is one of my friends. I am glad to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENRY GONZALEZ).

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I most sincerely thank my distinguished colleague and I wish to take this opportunity to express my regrets about his decision not to seek reelection. When I read this in a newspaper back home there was no way I could get hold of him to try to find out if that was a fixed and inflexible decision, or whether he could reconsider continuing his great public service in the Congress. I sincerely regret that he made the decision to devote full time to

his family, which is understandable, but at the same time many of us sincerely regret his decision. I particularly regret it because we have been working in our joint efforts to try to center some kind of congressional action on discharging the congressional responsibility to review the circumstances surrounding the death of President Kennedy, and in respect to the more than a decade following his assassination—the violence on the national level, all of which impacted on national and governmental processes.

When I introduced what is now known as House Resolution 204, it was the first one, and I deliberately provided for a review by the Congress of the key points involving this decade of assassination beginning with the death of John Kennedy, but at that time it was not very well understood even then, but it turned out that it coincided with the beginning of a deep inquiry on the part of more than a dozen individuals throughout the various States and the Nation and coincided with very disturbing developments that had come to light in the summer of 1973.

Everything that the distinguished gentleman from Virginia has said is a very accurate chronological description of what has happened to most of us. I think it is true to say that the country collectively, and we individually, were a lot more innocent in that period that we refer to following November 1963 than we are now. Many, many things have happened. I know in my own case, I see clearly that things we had always considered not possible of happening in America—or if they were to happen were wholly unacceptable—now seem to be accepted.

The threat of assassination of national leaders seems to be the sort of thing we have come to accept. We used to think that coups d'etat and political assassinations in order to change the course of power of government, that those were things wholly foreign and abhorrent to the American way. Today there is a tendency to say, this is world-wide. It is a phenomenon. We are part of it. We have to accept it. We live in the day and time of murders, assassination, cold-blooded killings of innocent people, men, women and children for some cause, sometimes a defined cause, sometimes a nebulous cause.

We do live in an era of violence, but the only opposition since I introduced House Resolution 204 has come from very isolated cases of individuals, of about three or four who have bothered to write and say, "Why do you seek to stir this up?" On the other hand, I have received thousands of letters of support.

Even as the gentleman from Virginia said awhile ago, even if it is true that there was an assassination plot or some type of a conspiracy, what good is that going to do the Nation? How will that serve the national purpose. They seem to want to change the old scriptural injunction:

Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

They would change it to:

Don't know the truth, because it might make you free.

They seem to be the same kind of people that have been throughout the ages afraid of freedom, afraid of truth. But what is it that we must fear? What can there be in the circumstances surrounding the death of President John Kennedy, Senator Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, the attempt on George Wallace and others? What can there be about these incidents that have made it impossible for the only body in the Nation, able and sufficient to do a thorough job of not necessarily just investigating, or in the absence of a word, snooping around here and there, but in assessing what this has done to the American democratic republican form of government; for, indeed, it has had an impact.

We now have a unelected President. We have an unelected Vice President, that I do not think would be there unelected had President John Kennedy not been assassinated.

I doubt seriously that the 25th amendment, which in my opinion continues to be pointing a revolver at our heads in the sense of stability and continuity in the democratic processes of our Government, never would have been adopted if President Kennedy had not been killed.

Why now? Why should the Congress feel that it is a responsibility on their shoulders? Well, because it goes to the heart of the matter about which Congress is all about and everything else. Are we then to accept the rule of the bullet, rather than the ballot, which is, in effect, what we are doing?

There is ample precedent for the Congress to have in order a judicious, a serious review of these facts and evaluation. There are many serious-minded Americans, some of whom the distinguished gentleman from Virginia has referred to, that have on a scientific basis raised very serious questions that demand answers, at least an honest attempt to get an answer to their well-pondered questions.

There are many other individuals, ranging from some who started their queries in the very beginning, when it was very difficult, I am sure, for them to have raised the question, "We think it was more than one man." Men such as Mark Lane, and many others, who have since followed very early in the game, frankly at a time when I thought, "Well, it is really too early to speculate because we have the Warren Commission looking into this."

But, at the time of the Warren Commission it is impossible to try to reconstitute the environment that existed at the time the Commission was trying to operate. The pressure was on it daily to produce something. It had been in activity less than a year before the pressure increased and heavy demands were made, such as, "Why have you not come up with something? What is it you are dragging your feet on?"

The distinguished gentleman from Virginia has enumerated the facts that now prove to be failings in the method and manner in which that was conducted in 1964, mostly. We cannot help but agree, but we were innocent and many, including, I am sure, all of the

members of the Warren Commission with perhaps one or two exceptions, were certainly, as I view the record of the Warren Commission and the many exhibits that it incorporated into its volumes of exhibits, show clearly that certainly Allen Dulles had more than a passing knowledge of some things that now look to be accusing and have been enshrouded in an attempt to be submerged, obscured and not evaluated or considered at all.

I can understand many of the remarks that are now in cold print attributed to some of the other members of the Commission because, as the gentleman from Virginia said a while ago, if we too had been on the Commission at that time, we might have succumbed to the tendency to try to accept some things on face value that needed to have been followed through. There is no question now, the record is there and the record is irrefutable.

The assassin, presumably Lee Harvey Oswald, was more than just some loner. His background and associations beyond doubt in New Orleans, the very lurid attempts that have been very graphically brought out by the once district attorney of New Orleans, Jim Garrison, on the part of the Federal agencies to impede his investigation, not help it, should have been very disturbing to us at the time that was occurring. Yet, nobody really much cared because Jim Garrison, apparently in the public eye, ended up in ridicule and in failure in his attempts to bring one or a select number of individuals to account.

But, we must remember that this was an American tribunal; it was an American prosecutor, no matter how vengeful or how wrong he appeared before a court of new jurisdiction, presented evidences, many of which have since been substantiated. As far as I know, Jim Garrison was the first to proclaim loud and clear that some of our agencies that had been charged by the Congress for foreign work were in violation of their charter, doing domestic work that was wholly inimical to the purposes for which the agency was founded.

So, there is no question in my mind that there is a clear responsibility on the part of the Congress to look into this. Again, I have not gone off into any particular theory or concept or accusation, because I think this is the reason why we want a responsible committee to look into it. I think that nobody in the United States can properly look into this matter unless he is assisted by such a body as a congressional committee, invested with the right of subpoena. There is no question here that the distinguished gentleman from Virginia and I are in complete agreement.

At any rate, I wind up as I started, by thanking the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing) for seeking these special orders and for the great work he has done in concentrating House attention for the need of this type of committee.

Mr. Speaker, one might argue that it is not true that there is still much debate regarding the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Did Booth really kill

him? Who else was involved, who was not brought to justice?

While this is true, you cannot compare more than a decade of political assassinations with single instances of assassination in our country. There has been no similar period of history in our country. There has been no similar period of history in our country which began with the murder of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Tex., on November 22, 1963.

During this more than a decade the electoral system has, for all practical purposes, been manipulated, either deliberately or through a strange set of circumstances. The American people have been denied options, and the democratic process thwarted.

What is the Congress responsibility? Well, I would think that as the elected Representatives of the people it would be our responsibility to look into the nagging questions which have not been answered, and to do so would mean the creation of a select committee with subpoena power.

This is what I have advocated since February 19, 1975 when I introduced House Resolution 204 which, if approved by the House, would establish in the House a select committee for the purpose of studying the circumstances surrounding the deaths of President John F. Kennedy, U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King, and the attempted assassination of Gov. George Wallace.

I have pushed for the enactment of such legislation in the House because I sincerely feel that there is everything to lose if we do not act courageously in the pursuit of truth. If conspiracy existed in connection with even one of these deaths, or the attempt on Governor Wallace, then we cannot have a free electoral system until such conspiracy is fully exposed and dealt with.

I have chosen not to deal directly with the various theories regarding any of the assassinations because I feel that it is difficult to develop a case in respect to any of them without an official investigation—with subpoena power. The lack of subpoena power has, of course, hampered the ability of countless individuals engaged in research on the assassination.

These researchers, among them distinguished pathologists, writers, political scientists, and others in various fields of science, have done a credible job, and should be called upon by the Congress to pool their studies for use in the investigation I am advocating.

There are literally thousands of articles and books written about the recent political assassinations, many of which are worthy of our close study. Robert Sam Anson has written a good comprehensive study of the John F. Kennedy assassination entitled: "They've Killed the President! The Search for the Murderer of JFK" which is available in paperback, by Bantam.

Another book which deals with the assassinations I have listed which is worthy of study by Congress is being published this month, entitled: "The Assassinations—Dallas and Beyond—A Guide to Cover-Ups and Investigations," the book

is edited by Peter Dale Scott, Paul L. Hoch, and Russell Stetler (Random House).

Mr. Speaker, when I first introduced House Resolution 204 a year ago February, I did it alone, without too much hope that other Members of this House would join me in my effort. Since that time many other House Members have joined me. My good colleague, Congressman THOMAS DOWNING, introduced the same resolution last April, but specified a study of the John F. Kennedy assassination only, because he feels that it is easier to make a case for a reinvestigation of that assassination.

Between the two of us we now have more than 125 cosponsors, yet the House Rules Committee has thus far refused to formally consider these resolutions.

Why not? Are we going to hide our heads in the sand, because we are afraid of what we might find out? The truth will make us free—free to continue to conduct the elections in a free and open manner, free of the fear and doubt that rob the people of faith in their national Government.

We need this investigation more than ever now with revelations of recent date which prompt us to ask: What was the Cuban connection with the murder of J. F. K.? What was the role of the FBI in the life of Dr. Martin Luther King just prior to his death at the hands of an assassin?

Many of us have had lingering questions which have gone unanswered regarding the death of U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy, a candidate for the Presidency, and the attempt on Gov. George Wallace, also a candidate for the Presidency. Why was convicted Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt dispatched to Milwaukee by Charles Colson, to search the apartment of Arthur Bremer?

There are many unanswered questions and much controversy regarding the circumstances surrounding the death of Robert Kennedy. I have, among my voluminous files on the assassination an interesting exchange between ballistics expert William W. Harper and the Washington Post regarding a story done by Ronald Kessler in which Mr. Harper says that Mr. Kessler misquoted him.

Kessler's story was headlined "Ballistics Expert Discounts RFK 2nd-Bullet Theory", but Harper, despite many letters to the Post has not been able to get a follow-up story which would more truly convey what he said to Kessler.

There is no assurance that a congressional committee will find out any more about these assassinations than what is already known, but I contend that if anybody can, it will be done through the congressional study which I propose.

I really cannot think of any one issue of any more importance in this election than this.

We need to act courageously in the pursuit of truth, and we need to act now.

(Mr. GONZALEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from Texas for his tremendous contribution in

this area. The gentleman from Texas was in the motorcade the day President Kennedy was assassinated.

Mr. Speaker, in my mind one of the most outstanding individuals to address the varied aspects of the death of John F. Kennedy is a well-known attorney and physician from Pittsburgh, Pa., Cyril Wecht, B.S., M.D., LL.D., J.D.

He is the coroner of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, Pa. He is a research professor of law and director of the Institute of Sciences of Duquesne University School of Law. Dr. Wecht is the youngest former president of the American Academy of Forensic Science. Dr. Wecht, a leading authority on the Kennedy assassination, is one of very few individuals who have examined the autopsy photos and X-rays.

I have asked Dr. Wecht to let me have the benefit of his research into this matter, and he has provided me with the following letter which I insert at this point:

COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

I am grateful for this opportunity, through Congressman Downing, to express my views to the Congress on the many questions which still surround the assassination of President Kennedy and which continue, more than twelve years after the event, to cause deep concern and doubt among so many of our people. I wish it were possible for me to address you in person, with slides and films to show you in detail exactly what is wrong with the Warren Commission's explanation of the shooting. In this brief summary, I can give you only a few highlights.

In lieu of a detailed presentation, I have attached to this statement a number of articles I have prepared over the past several years. While even these are not the entire story, they will describe to you the fundamental weaknesses in the Warren Commission's single bullet theory and show you why I have concluded that there must have been two gunmen firing at President Kennedy. These articles have not been refuted. Indeed, they have scarcely been addressed.

I am primarily a medical man and a practitioner of science. I try to work only with facts and evidence, and I avoid speculative theorizing wherever I can. As a result, my views of the JFK assassination perhaps lack the sensational quality which so attracts the news media. I cannot offer you any CIA, Mafia, or international villains. But I do think I can prove to you that this case is unsolved, or at least incompletely solved, and that there has been a certain amount of governmental skulduggery in the official representations about the case. That alone, I should think, would be enough to stimulate further investigative action. Beyond this, however, with the evidence presently available, I cannot go. That is up to such bodies as the Congress.

There are those who will tell you that all the important questions about President Kennedy's assassination have been answered and that nothing of legitimate concern remains. They say, with a maddening glibness and an indifference to facts, that the skeptics who persist with their questions are negativists nitpicking over details of no significance, that there are some kinds of people who can never be convinced anyway, and that the doubt which continues to plague the nation is just another emotional aberration of our times, if not worse.

But these defenders and apologists for the Warren Report never face up to the really hard evidentiary questions about the case. Some of them do not deal with matters of evidence at all, and probably could not tell you, between their scoffs, even such fundamental things as the locations of the

President's and Governor Connally's wounds. Instead they sneer at the frailness of some of the questioners and compare them with the stature of the Warren Commission, the Rockefeller Commission, the FBI, the CIA, and the White House itself. Already forgetting Watergate and all its sequelae, the Servareids, the Buckleys, and the Kraits tell us that established authority alone ought give us assurance of truth.

The second and third string defenders do occasionally attempt to meet objections on evidentiary grounds, but when they do they usually pick only the weakest and most outlandish criticisms as their targets. Creating strawmen by focusing public attention on the absurd, they make a great show of bowling them over, thus managing to cast doubt on the sanity of everyone else who dares question the case. If you think I exaggerate here or imagine too much, I invite you to read the details of my encounter with the staff of the Rockefeller Commission in the attachment entitled "A Post-Mortem on the Warrenfeller Commission". This article will also show you what kind of intellectual integrity and ethical scruples are still being practiced in some parts of the Executive Branch.

I cannot go into the details and specifics of my objections to the Warren Report's single bullet theory in this summary, or why these objections lead inevitably to the conclusion that more than one assassin was involved. For these I must refer you to the attachments, particularly the rather lengthy article entitled "The Medical Evidence in the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy". But I must point out, at the expense of being obscure to those not familiar with the details of the case, that there are no less than three ineluctable flaws in the single bullet theory which remain unrepaired to this day, any one of which is sufficient to destroy the theory and with it the Warren Commission's lone assassin conclusion. They are:

(1) In regard to the wounds of Governor Connally and the non-fatal wounds of the President (back and throat wounds), there is no plausible postural alignment of the two men which will allow the locations and pathways of their wounds to be reconciled with the theory that the wounds were all caused by one bullet and which is also consistent with the visible positions and movements of the two men as seen in the Zapruder film and other photographic records. Moreover, the non-fatal wounds in the President, by themselves, cannot be reconciled with the alleged location of the Commission's single assassin and the visible position of the President as seen in the films.

(2) The timing and nature of the movements and reactions of the two men in response to their wounds (or any other postulated stimuli, such as the sound of a missed shot), again as seen in the Zapruder film and other photographic evidence, is simply not compatible with the theory that both men were struck by the same bullet.

(3) The essentially intact condition of the bullet designated Commission Exhibit 399, which has been theorized as having caused all these non-fatal wounds in the two men, including the fracture of two bones in Governor Connally (chest and arm) and the deposit of several fragments of lead in at least two separate anatomical locations while retaining an unpunctured copper jacket, is totally at variance with the experience of myself and of every other forensic pathologist with whom I am acquainted.

These are overwhelming objections to the single bullet theory, singly and collectively. They have not been answered, despite all kinds of absurd claims about tumbling or backward traveling bullets, delayed reactions, lurching cars, early shots through the trees, reactions by Governor Connally to the sounds of backfire, and a variety of other specula-



tions unworthy of mention. The plain fact is that the men were hit by separate bullets, one of which (most likely the one which hit the President, in view of the indicated near-horizontal trajectory) escaped the car after passing through him. But of course the die-hard defenders of the Warren Report cannot admit to this, because to do so is to concede that there had been another gunman, inasmuch as Oswald's gun could not be fired twice in the short time span between the wounding of the two men. Their response has thus been either to ignore these questions, as did the Rockefeller Commission, or to dismiss them as mere "details" of the kind one can never explain. The second piece of tape on the Watergate door was a detail, too, but fortunately someone other than one of our national pundits found it.

I want to emphasize that my objections to the Warren Report have nothing to do with the CIA, the Mafia, Oswald as an FBI agent, E. Howard Hunt perched in a tree, or the Illuminati. They simply concern the basic question of how the shooting could have been accomplished, which ought not to be too much for the public to demand in regard to the assassination of its President.

Moreover, it may still be possible to resolve some of these problems, and others related to them, if only some authoritative body would take the initiative. As an additional attachment, I have appended a "Suggested Priority List for Investigating Medical and Scientific Questions in the JFK Assassination", which suggests some relatively straightforward lines of inquiry that might be undertaken. Many of these suggestions amount to no more than securing the release of data and records already known to exist within the Executive Branch. Surely, if nothing else has been learned from the past few years of American history, we must be aware that the judgment and discretion of the Executive Branch are not the best guides for what the public may be allowed to know.

If the defenders and apologists for the Warren Report have their way, all effort to resolve these questions would be given up. Apparently, they would prefer to live with the distrust of virtually a whole generation of our young people, and let the history books of the future say that the Government of the United States could not adequately explain the murder of one of its Presidents.

I urge you not to let this happen. The questions about this case may be difficult to answer, and we may not like the answers if we get them. But to turn away from them, pretending that they have been answered or, worse, that it does not matter, would make us all parties to the crime.

CYRIL H. WECHT, M.D., J.D.  
March, 1976.

Mr. Speaker, I am told that the additional material which I had hoped to include in this edition of the RECORD cannot be inserted until a cost estimate has been obtained from the Government Printer. So that material will be inserted, hopefully, in Monday's RECORD. I direct the attention of the Members to the statement concerning the actual assassination that will appear in the RECORD then.

Mr. McDONALD of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on August 9, 1975, our distinguished colleague from Virginia, Mr. THOMAS DOWNING, delivered a speech on the subject of the Kennedy assassination to the Virginia Commonwealth Attorneys Association. It is a powerful argument which I believe accurately and persuasively summarizes the conflicts in evidence and testimony which lead me to believe that Congress must act swiftly to

reexamine the assassination of President Kennedy.

At this point, I would like to include that speech in the RECORD.

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS N. DOWNING TO VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION, AUGUST 9, 1975.

The legislation that I have introduced over the past 18½ years is usually limited to certain areas. Generally, they are matters in which the First Congressional District has a high degree of interest: Merchant Marine, port activities, shipbuilding, fisheries, space research, and national defense matters. In addition to these, there have always been certain areas of national priority in which I have tried to reflect the interests of the district.

I suppose that is why nobody seems to be able to understand why I introduced a resolution in April calling for the creation of a select committee of Members of the House to study the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy. It doesn't seem to fit my image. But if you will bear with me for a little while, I will try to explain it.

None of us will forget what happened in Dallas almost 12 years ago. I was astounded as any American. Congress had adjourned and I had gone home for the weekend.

When I had the first news that the President had been shot, I prayed that it would not be fatal. And then I found myself in somewhat of a trauma for the next few days as word came of his death, the swearing-in of LBJ, the plane ride back to Washington, the lying-in-state and the sorrowful funeral procession ending at the grave with the eternal flame.

In the midst of all of it came the capture of Lee Harvey Oswald and his subsequent murder—live on television—by Jack Ruby in the basement of police headquarters in Dallas.

It was all so unbelievable, yet all so true. Then came the appointment of the President's Commission, chaired by Chief Justice Earl Warren. They investigated and reported, concluding that there was no evidence of conspiracy and that Lee Harvey Oswald, alone and unassisted, was responsible for the death of President Kennedy and the wounding of Governor John B. Connally of Texas. And there the matter was supposed to rest for all time.

I did not believe it.

I did not believe that one man could have fired three shots in six seconds from a cheap, foreign made, single shot bolt action rifle with the deadly accuracy credited by the FBI and the Warren Commission. No way.

The great majority of Americans, it seems, never believed it. Yet except for a comparative few people no one attempted to do anything about it. The Warren Commission was sacrosanct. Its members included, in addition to the Chief Justice of the United States, Senators Richard B. Russell of Georgia and John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky, Representatives Hale Boggs of Louisiana and Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, the former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency Allen Dulles and the noted attorney and former high commissioner of Germany, John J. McCloy. Their position of eminence was bolstered by that of the Chief Investigative Agency of the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation under its Director, J. Edgar Hoover.

During the intervening years a sizable group of experts about the assassination and the resulting investigation has developed. They include attorneys, physicians, college professors, former government investigators and specialists in a number of fields. Many of them have extremely high degrees of expertise.

Among them is a young man named Robert Groden who is particularly adept and imaginative in the field of optics. Groden

obtained a copy of the eight millimeter color movie of the assassination taken by the late Abraham Zapruder, a Dallas dress manufacturer who was in Dealey Plaza that day.

Enlarging each of the movie frames that showed the fatal shot to President Kennedy's head, Groden put them back in sequence at slow motion so that it is possible to view the event from a greater enhanced perspective than you would get in watching a home movie at normal speed. He has taken the film to a number of college campuses and appeared with it before thousands of students. He also had it on late night television twice earlier this year.

In April students from the University of Virginia who had seen the presentation asked members of the Virginia delegation in the House to take a look at it. They brought Groden and the film to Washington and I was one of five Members who saw the presentation.

It is difficult to explain in complete detail what the film shows but you can see Kennedy grab his throat and start to lean forward after being shot high in the back. A second or two later you see Connally's face distort and he starts to crumple into his wife's lap. Then with the President bending forward with his head thrust slightly down, he suddenly bolts upright and backward as his head literally explodes. His body slams back against the back of the seat and then bounces to the left toward his wife.

I have seen this film shown a number of times since then and there are always people in the group who gasp at the impact. My immediate conclusion was that he was hit from the right front more than likely by someone who was firing from the so-called grassy knoll. I concluded that in all probability the Commission was wrong. There had to be more than one assassin.

I waited several days and considered all the aspects then I introduced my resolution.

It went in originally with the co-sponsorship of Bill Whitehurst and Herb Harris. I have reintroduced it on three other occasions and now there are thirty sponsors in all with the promise of still additional support.

Nobody pressured me to introduce this resolution. Nobody even tried to persuade me. I did it because I believe that the American people have lived for almost twelve years following that terrible day in Dallas without knowing the truth, certainly without knowing the whole truth; and that in a time when we have had a great many other myths exploded and brought to light, it is time for the truth, the whole truth, to be known about what really happened to John F. Kennedy.

I am in no way trying to criticize the members of the Warren Commission. The American people, however, have faced terrible truths in the last few years, truths which few of us ever expected to have to face, and our nation has survived. I believe it is time that we bring this one out into the open.

As everyone in this country knows so well, Lee Harvey Oswald was never brought to trial. As literally millions of Americans watched on television, he was gunned down by Jack Ruby in the basement of the Dallas police station, less than 48 hours after the murder of John Kennedy. As a result, no prosecutor was faced with the problem of prosecuting Lee Harvey Oswald for the first degree murder of President Kennedy. However, it is a most interesting exercise for prosecutors to look at the theoretical situation with which a district attorney would be faced if Oswald had not been himself murdered and if he had been brought to trial.

As a prosecutor, what would you have going for you? In a warehouse building along the parade route, near the scene of the crime, the police found a Mannlich-Carcano rifle which had been purchased through the mail by Oswald. Three cartridges which had been fired by that gun were found on the sixth

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floor of this warehouse, the Texas school book depository. A nearly perfect bullet which might have been fired from the Mannlicher-Carcano was found on a stretcher in the hospital to which President Kennedy and Governor Connally were taken for emergency treatment. That in essence is all of the positive evidence linking the suspect to the crime.

But even this evidence has its weak spots. For example, there is no clear record, despite the fact that Oswald worked in the Texas school book depository, of how or when the gun was taken into the building. There is also considerable evidence that a second rifle, a 7.65 Mauser, was also taken from the building by the police. There is no way of knowing when the cartridges had been fired in the Mannlicher-Carcano; they could easily have been fired at an earlier time and placed in the building. Although the pristine bullet found in the hospital appears to have been fired from the gun, there is no clear evidence whatever as to how it got onto a stretcher in Parkland hospital.

And now let's look at what a defense attorney would have going for him in this same case.

1. Despite a multitude of people in Dealer Plaza, no creditable witness could be found that saw anyone firing a rifle. It should be noticed in passing that, despite this total lack of eye witnesses, a rather good physical description of the alleged murderer went out over the Dallas police radio 14 minutes after the last shot rang out. The description matched Lee Harvey Oswald, but no one has explained how the police at that time had any idea for whom they were looking.

2. The great majority of spectators believed that the shots came from in front of the President's car, from a place generally called the grassy knoll. The police officers riding along side the presidential car dropped their motorcycles and rushed to this area.

3. Approximately 90 seconds after the last shot was fired, Lee Harvey Oswald was found on the second floor of the school book depository, drinking a coca cola. If, in fact, he was the assassin, in that 90 seconds he would have had to conceal his gun, cross the whole width of the large warehouse descend five flights of stairs, find a dime, get his coca cola, open it, and calmly begin to drink it. This sounds more like a decathlon champion than Lee Harvey Oswald.

4. The Mannlicher-Carcano is a very cheap (\$19.95) surplus World War II Italian carbine. It is a bolt action, single shot, fourth-rate gun, hardly the type that any serious assassin would even consider.

5. There is no trace of the source of the ammunition used in the murder. The Italians the quit manufacturing ammunition for the Mannlicher-Carcano during the closing years of World War II. Any of this old ammunition would be highly unreliable. The only known source of new ammunition for the gun was the United States Government. It has never been determined from which source the assassin actually obtained the ammunition.

6. For the Mannlicher-Carcano to be fired three times in six seconds, the use of a clip is almost imperative. Yet, no clip was ever found.

7. The telescopic sight on the rifle was defective. At the range it was being fired in Dealer Plaza, it was off approximately eleven inches . . . an almost fatal flaw in itself under the circumstances.

8. The FBI's ballistic tests on the bullet fragments taken from President Kennedy, from Governor Connally, from the automobile, etc., were inconclusive. In effect, there was no positive ballistic evidence connecting the bullets with the alleged assassin's gun.

9. A paraffin test was made on Oswald's right cheek and it turned out negative, indicating that he had probably not fired a rifle that day.

10. Oswald himself denied the killing.

On top of this rather hopeless evidential situation, you would also be faced with a number of most serious constitutional defects.

First and foremost, Oswald was questioned for a total of 13 hours during his 45 hour detention. Despite his requests for legal assistance, he was never furnished with a lawyer. Lawyers from the Civil Liberties Union who volunteered were turned away. Yet, the questioning went on. On top of that, the Dallas police force has given sworn testimony that there is not a scap of evidence as to what Oswald said during the 13 hours of interrogation. According to the police, the Dallas police force did not own a tape recorder. Further, they did not even bother to have a stenographic record of the interrogation. More incredibly, they say no notes were taken. It is difficult to believe that any judge or jury . . . with the exception of the Warren Commission . . . would accept such statements as true.

There was massive tampering with evidence. Despite a Dallas ordinance that an autopsy must be performed by the coroner in cases of violent death, no autopsy was performed in Dallas. Despite the protests of local authorities, the body of President Kennedy was forcibly removed to Bethesda, Maryland, where a grossly inadequate autopsy was performed by three military pathologists with little, if any, forensic experience. On top of this, the contemporaneous notes of the chief surgeon were later burned by him in the fireplace of his recreation room . . . he later swore that he did not think they were important. Many of the X-rays and photographs which would normally be taken during a competent autopsy were found not to exist.

The car in which the President was riding at the time of his death, was completely dismantled by the secret service and all evidence relating to it was destroyed.

Oswald's wife, who apparently had nothing to do with any crime, was held in "protective custody" for a number of months. For all practical purposes, she was held incommunicado.

I could go on and on with this list but I think I have made my point that any prosecution of Lee Harvey Oswald would have been undermined by the most serious constitutional abuses.

Until now, I have been discussing the problem of a prosecution of Oswald, not necessarily as the sole assassin of President Kennedy, but merely someone who may have played a role in the assassination. As we know, the Warren Commission insisted most strongly that Oswald was unassisted in his commission of the crime.

What new problems would be raised if it were necessary to prosecute Oswald as the lone-nut killer? Is there any way in which a prosecutor could convince a jury that he and he alone had committed the act?

Let us go back for a moment to the Zapruder film of which I spoke earlier. Knowing that the film in Mr. Zapruder's camera ran at 18.3 frames per second, it is possible to determine very accurately the time frame in which all the shooting took place. It is known . . . and the Warren Commission concurs . . . that 5.6 seconds elapsed between the first shot and the final shot which hit John Kennedy in the head. For practical purposes, let's round this off to six seconds. Now remember that this is a single shot, bolt action rifle. After each shot a cartridge had to be ejected by the bolt, a new bullet put into place and the gun re-aimed. Some of the world's finest rifemen have practiced with the Mannlicher-Carcano but none have been able to re-load, re-aim and fire accurately in less than three seconds. This means that in the time frame for the firing, a maximum of three shots could have been fired from the Mannlicher-Carcano, the initial shot plus two re-loads.

Realize these limitations, and insisting that only a single gunman was involved, the Warren Commission insisted that all of the damage done during the fusillade was done by three shots. The Warren Commission admits that one shot missed the target completely, striking the street curb. One shot hit President Kennedy in the head and disintegrated. That left only one shot which, for convenience sake, has often been labeled the "magic bullet."

According to the Commission, this shot entered President Kennedy's back, exited his adam's apple, went through Governor Connally's chest, broke a rib, went through Connally's wrist shattering it, and wound up in his thigh. This is the bullet which allegedly was found undamaged on a stretcher in Parkland Hospital.

If the "magic bullet" is central to the whole contention that Oswald was a lone-nut killer, let's examine its feasibility.

If the shots fired by the murderer came from the sixth floor window of the School Book Depository, their course would have been downward and to the left. If a bullet had entered the President's back and exited his adam's apple, it should have either hit Mrs. Connally who was sitting in front of the President and to the left, or harmlessly struck the side or floor of the car. To have hit Governor Connally on his right side, when he was sitting directly in front of the President, the bullet would have to have made two 90 degree turns in mid air. From this evidence alone it can be deduced that Governor Connally was not gravely injured by any of the bullets which struck President Kennedy, something which Governor Connally insists to this day. Furthermore, the "magic bullet" that was taken from the stretcher was pristine. The only lead missing from it was that removed by the FBI for tests. Yet, a great deal of lead was left in Governor Connally's chest and wrist when the bullet that struck him struck bone.

From this mass of evidence, all serious critics including a number of eminent pathologists, criminologists, and lawyers have all concluded that there must have been at least four shots at Dealer Plaza.

As no one has been able to fire the Mannlicher-Carcano four times in six seconds, we know that there was at least a second rifleman if the Carcano was used in the killing. This means a conspiracy. This means that the Warren Commission was wrong on its central thesis.

There are a number of other very disturbing aspects to this matter which are of particular interest to prosecutors. A huge amount of vital evidence was withheld from the Warren Commission . . . presumably, it would have been withheld from a prosecutor.

The FBI was deeply involved with this withholding of evidence. As an example, the Dallas police turned over to the FBI an address book which belonged to Oswald. In it was one page which gave the name, address, telephone number and license plate number of an FBI agent in Dallas. The FBI removed this page from the book before turning it over to the Warren Commission. Eventually the Warren Commission got the page but did not seem upset that it had been willfully withheld. The FBI also withheld much of the evidence which linked Jack Ruby to organized crime, to Cuban gamblers, to the narcotics trade, and last but not least, to the FBI itself. It has only recently been discovered that Jack Ruby was formerly enrolled as an FBI informant for quite a period of time.

Time does not permit me to go into this matter as deeply as I would wish tonight, but I would like to give you just one more example of this type of withholding and of what smacks of a serious cover-up. When Lee Harvey Oswald went to Mexico in September

of 1963, he had to obtain a Mexican entry card from the Mexican consulate in New Orleans. These cards are numbered serially. After the murder, the FBI obtained from the Mexican consulate a list of all of the persons who obtained entry permits in New Orleans on the same day that Oswald obtained his. The FBI did a massive investigation with respect to these people and published the results in detail in the volumes of evidence accompanying the Warren report. There was only one small exception. The identity of the person who received his permit immediately ahead of Oswald was never made public.

In 1972 following a periodic review, a list of commission documents which had formerly been withheld was released. Among them was the missing information about the man who obtained the permit. He was William George Gaudet, who was based in New Orleans and traveled widely in Latin America in 1963. A previously withheld FBI report, dated coincidentally the day after Jack Ruby murdered Lee Harvey Oswald, says that William George Gaudet gave them details as to certain of Jack Ruby's activities, not in Dallas, but in New Orleans.

William George Gaudet has been interviewed. He admits that he did receive his entry permit immediately ahead of Oswald. He denies that he accompanied Oswald to Mexico. He also admits being a CIA operative from 1947 until 1969.

He says that he was guaranteed that his identity would never be made public and was quite irritated at the FBI for having revealed his name, even at this late date. He says emphatically that the FBI is lying when it says that he volunteered information about Jack Ruby in November of 1963.

From the interviews with Gaudet it has been learned that Lee Harvey Oswald was known to agents in charge of the CIA operation in New Orleans in 1963. Their identities and whereabouts are known.

Lee Harvey Oswald certainly was no hero and I am not trying to make him one, but I do not believe that he was the lone nut assassin that the Warren Commission says he was. I do not know who was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy but I think it is time that all of us learned the truth. Our system of Government cannot remain strong if our leaders can be murdered and the Government itself consents to covering up the crime.

Mr. MCKINNEY. I regret very much that this discussion has had to occur for I had hoped that the Rules Committee would have given its approval to House Resolution 204 over a year ago. Had it done so, many of the nagging questions in the minds of so many Americans could have long since been put to rest. Frankly, I am baffled at the committee's intransigence for I know its members to be men of integrity who have demonstrated a constant willingness to bring progressive and worthwhile legislation to the floor.

Like most Americans, I have no new information nor have I devised an intriguing theory. Simply, like most Americans, I have questions—too many questions and too few answers. I have said before that the citizens of the United States—by their very nature—are not a conspiratorial lot nor do they believe in conspiracies and I numbered myself among them. However, certainly the events of the past few years have caused many of us to question what before we look as gospel truth. There is merit—we have learned—in being inquisitive.

At the very least, what is at stake here is the credibility of this Government and the faith of its people have in it. The

Watergate hearings demonstrated to all the unique character of a congressional investigation, a method which brought out truths not yet revealed. There are many today who feel a House select committee can accomplish that same goal. I agree and I would hope that in time, the Rules Committee will agree as well.

Mr. SYMMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to the attention of the House an interview with Dr. Cyril Wecht, the only independent pathologist, critic of the Warren Commission to examine the classified autopsy material in the Archives.

It is particularly interesting to note Dr. Wecht's comments that his examination of all the available medical evidence leads him to conclude that the Warren Commission's single bullet theory is incorrect and that his study of all available evidence proves that the assassination was committed by two gunmen.

Mr. Speaker, I insert the text of the interview contained in an article in *Citizens Quarterly* in the *RECORD* at this point:

DR. CYRIL WECHT—FROM THE CUTTING ROOM FLOOR

(By Amy Blotcher)

Dr. Cyril Wecht, currently Coroner for Allegheny County (Pittsburgh, Pa.) and former President of the American Academy for Forensic Sciences, has been the only independent pathologist, critic of the Warren Commission to examine the classified autopsy material in the Archives. CCI spoke to him on February 12 and obtained the following interview.

CCI. What are your feelings about the recent CBS Special which you participated in?

Dr. WECHT. Well, I think it was a one-sided presentation and I think it's unfortunate that they edited in the fashion they did. They completely emasculated the presentations that several of us made. I know that Mark feels that way about his, I do about mine. Other people's interviews wound up on the cutting floor completely; they never even survived as much as thirty seconds. So I think it was not an honest, unbiased presentation on CBS' part.

CCI. Can you take any recourse?

Dr. WECHT. No. I've written letters to tell them what I think, but there is no legal recourse and I'm not going to get involved with writing to the FCC to demand equal time. I don't think that I would be successful.

CCI. Could you explain the autopsy photograph of the head with what appears to be a flap attached?

Dr. WECHT. I don't know what it was. I'm very concerned about it. Indeed, I am doubly concerned because nobody else has ever made mention of it. It is there, there can be no doubt about it. I'm very suspicious about the fact that the original pathologists and subsequent medical people who reviewed this on behalf of the government, namely, the Rockefeller Commission panel (1975), and the Ramsey Clark panel (1968), have never commented on it. It could simply represent a piece of tissue, or it could be a small exit wound.

CCI. Was it a flap of skin?

Dr. WECHT. I don't know. It's a piece of grayish white colored material and it could be everted skin.

CCI. How do you classify the President's throat wound which all the doctors at the Parkland Hospital at first described as being an exit wound?

Dr. WECHT. Well, as you know, the throat wound was obliterated by the tracheostomy. So the examination of the photographs and everything else at the Archives does not permit me to make any further observations

since the original margins are completely gone. I can only go by what is present in the original reports. Based upon that evidence and correlating it with the wound in the back, the neck wound would seem to be a wound of exit. But that's not based upon direct observation of the wound. That's just based on all those items of evidence that are known to me.

CCI. Do you think that Exhibit Number 399 could have done all the damage that was claimed by the Warren Commission?

Dr. WECHT. No. I do not. The bullet that supposedly hit both Kennedy and Connally weighed 158.6 grains when it was recovered. Before it was fired, that type of ammunition would have weighed between 160 and 161 grains. Therefore, the bullet in question lost only approximately 1.5 per cent of its original weight after being fired.

Yet this bullet supposedly entered the right side of the President's back, coursed through the uppermost portions of the thorax and mediastinum, and exited from the midline of the anterior neck region at about the level of the knot of the tie. Then this "magical missile" allegedly entered the right side of Governor Connally's back, broke his right fifth rib, exited from the anterior aspect of his right chest, entered his dorsal right wrist area, where it shattered the distal radius, and finally entered Connally's left thigh.

We're expected to believe that after doing all this damage, the bullet emerged with a total weight loss of only two grains. It's simply not possible for a bullet to leave grossly visible particles on X-rays in four different anatomic locations in two human beings and emerge with a loss of substance amounting to only two grains out of 161.

On top of this, the condition of the bullet after allegedly causing all these wounds was virtually pristine. The upper two-thirds of the bullet show no grossly visible deformities, or any other kind of mutilation. This is not characteristic of a bullet that has struck two bones, particularly a dense bone like the distal radius.

CCI. Having been the only Warren Commission pathologist, critic to examine the Archives autopsy material, do you feel that there is enough information to support conclusively the Warren Commission theory on the source of the shots?

Dr. WECHT. No. On May 7, 1975, I testified by deposition for approximately five and a half hours before the Rockefeller Commission, to the effect that the Warren Report's principal conclusion, namely that the President was assassinated by a lone gunman, was wrong and absolutely irreconcilable with the medical and scientific evidence in the case. In several technical papers I had previously published on the case, it is true that I had stated that the available medical evidence, assuming it to be valid, gives no support to theories which postulate gunmen to the front or right-front of the Presidential car. However, in addition to the medical evidence, there is other evidence to be considered. The crux and primary thrust of my testimony, as well as the papers I have published, is that the Warren Commission's single-bullet theory is wrong, and that the available medical, physical, and photographic evidence all prove that the assassination was carried out by two gunmen.

Although the official report mentions the microscopic examination of the periphery of the small occipital wound, no mention is made of a similar examination of the periphery of the large, gaping wound on the right side of the head. Without such an examination and other studies such as neutron activation analysis, we cannot be sure that there was not a second wound of entrance in the head contained within the large gaping defect on the right side. I mention this only because of the extremely persuasive evidence on this point in the Zapruder film. I have

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seen this film in the superior copy owned by Life magazine. Quite clearly, the President's body moves sharply backwards and to the left following the impact of the fatal shot. It seems to me extremely unlikely that his body would have moved in this direction if he had been struck from above and behind as concluded by the Warren Commission; however, it is a physical possibility that I cannot rule out.

Ms. ABZUG. Mr. Speaker, I am a cosponsor of House Resolution 204 to create a select committee for the purpose of conducting a "full and complete investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the deaths of John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, and the attempted assassination of George Wallace. I urge the House to accept this inquiry, or to accept House Resolution 498 which I also cosponsored, which is limited to an investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy. I believe it is important to have as broad an investigation as possible since the critical issues to be explored are the role of Government law enforcement and intelligence agencies in these investigations as well as the pervasive secrecy which still shrouds their activities and procedures. The issue of secrecy and the role of the FBI and CIA are present in varying degrees in each of the assassinations and consequently if they are to be explored adequately the select committee should have jurisdiction over all of them.

Mr. Speaker, every poll, every contact with our constituents, every learned observation of the populace reinforces the conclusion that people have lost faith in their Government, particularly faith that their Government does not lie to them. This loss of faith can be traced to that fateful day in Dallas when John F. Kennedy was shot down. It grew and was nurtured by other lies which the Government told to the American people during the Vietnam war and during Watergate, but it was surely not assuaged by the handling of the investigations into the John F. Kennedy and King assassinations.

Since the publication of the "Report of the Warren Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy," volumes and volumes have been written attempting to discredit the conclusions and methods of that study and investigation. I want to state as forcefully as I can that I do not support all the critics' conclusions, nor am I convinced that the Warren Commission had before it all of the relevant data to support its conclusions. The point is that I, and millions like me, simply do not have enough information upon which to make an informed judgment concerning the Warren Commission findings and the criticism to which it has been subjected.

For example, as chairman of the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, my subcommittee held hearings last November on the National Archives and its handling of Freedom of Information Act requests for access to the Warren Commission files. There was some indication that certain informa-

tion was not available and that certain documents are still not available to historians and researchers.

In fact, there is information in the National Archives concerning the Warren Commission's investigation which is not available to Members of Congress. This is all the more astonishing when we consider another revelation of the hearings conducted by my subcommittee on this subject—namely, it is doubtful if anyone had authority to classify documents originating with the Warren Commission as secret or top secret. That power was simply assumed by the Commission's counsel, but there is little or no justification for his having done so.

Following the hearings conducted by the subcommittee, one witness, David Belin, who was a member of the Warren Commission staff and Director of the Rockefeller Commission study of the CIA, stated that he believed that the Warren Commission inquiry should be reopened in order to once and for all lay to rest the unfair charges against its conclusions. While I am not in a position to conclude that any findings will or will not stand the test of further inquiry, I certainly agree that it is necessary to finally settle the still open questions, particularly the role of the FBI in the investigations of the murder of Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

Mr. Speaker, it is too obvious that nothing any inquiry can do will bring back the great men who have been cut down by assassins. But there are lessons to be learned from the manner in which the agencies of Government charged with investigating and studying these tragedies performed their duties. We can learn a good deal about the need for secrecy of so many documents, about classification policies, about political pressures, about how the FBI conducts an investigation. I urge that any House interested enough in the Daniel Schorr matter to establish a special inquiry should not hesitate in opening an inquiry into these far more significant questions.

MR. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I am troubled by some of the questions that continue to be raised about the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of President Kennedy more than 12 years ago.

The feeling of persistent, nagging doubt that the country has learned all the facts is shared by a considerable number of people in the south Texas district I represent here. They desire, and I support, a reopening of the investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.

The investigation should be of sufficient scope and carried out in such a way as to settle once and for all the questions that prey on the minds of many Americans.

As a people, we pride ourselves on our regard for the truth. Our quest for the truth—the whole truth—about the assassination should be pressed forward in order that this dire chapter in our national history can be brought to a conclusion.

Mr. BIAGGI. I am pleased to participate in this special order to discuss the

urgent need to establish a select committee of Congress to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. As a cosponsor of this resolution I feel strongly that Congress must take this important step so that the many doubts which have racked this Nation regarding the assassination can be dispelled.

I was most disturbed over the decision of the House Rules Committee to prevent the full House from having the opportunity to debate this resolution. We have again seen this committee employ arbitrary and high-handed tactics to block consideration of legislation which it opposes. They took this action despite the fact that these resolutions enjoy more than 125 cosponsors and are supported by millions of Americans who consider it a national disgrace that there are still so many lingering and unanswered questions regarding this monumental event.

Congress has never officially investigated the Kennedy assassination. Executive responsibility for investigating the assassination was vested in a Presidentially appointed commission which reported its findings based on the limited amount of evidence it had at its disposal. Anyone who has had the opportunity to read Mark Lane's "Rush to Judgment," or who has viewed the horrifying film of the assassination by Abraham Zapruder would agree that a sufficient number of basic questions have been raised which merit a new full-scale investigation into this tragedy.

The questions which are raised go right to the very heart of the assassination. Was there more than one gun fired? Was there a conspiracy involved? Was the Dallas Police Department responsible for failure to provide better protection for the President? Was the Warren Commission as objective as it could have been? Did they pursue all possible angles to the case? Does the new evidence present basic new evidence which was unavailable to the Warren Commission.

We cannot allow these fundamental questions to go unanswered any longer. Even the President who was a member of the Commission stated that if sufficient new evidence was available it could merit a new investigation. I feel it is time that this investigation was begun and I urge the House Rules Committee to reverse itself and allow this issue to be debated on the House floor in a responsible manner. The more we let this issue go unresolved the more emotional the debates will become. Let reasonable men make reasonable judgments. The American people will be the better for it.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

generating axons. The second type of necessary action, given the provision of these materials, is support of studies targeted directly on the mode of action of NGF and other extrinsic factors with the objective of increasing the prospect of extending the presently abortive sprouting and regenerative activity in the mammalian nervous system.

#### B. TRAINING

As research problems concerning growth and regeneration in the nervous system come into sharper focus, it is becoming clear also that relatively few of the persons now engaged in neurological research in the United States are adequately trained in those concepts and techniques of cell and developmental biology that the becoming fundamental to further progress on regeneration. At the same time, the increasing numbers of cell biologists, chemists, immunologists and others who are turning their attention to neural growth generally lack the requisite background for something as complex and plastic as the mammalian central nervous system unless they also receive further training. Our recommendations:

1. Establish increased number of Institutional Training Awards, focusing on environments where developmental neuroscience is (or can be encouraged to become) closely integrated with the broader discipline of cell and developmental biology.
2. Establish a mechanism for the retraining of selected relatively senior professionals, e.g., via a Visiting Investigator program that would underwrite visits of 1-12 months to laboratories active in developmental neurology in general or expert in some particular pertinent technique.
3. State a particular interest in the field of nervous system growth and regeneration in fellowship announcements and other channels of information.

4. Recognize the particular dearth of expertise in the neuropathology of trauma at the present time. Historically, this has not been the most vital area of neuropathology, and yet the extraordinary advances in developmental neurobiology in recent years have made available a powerful set of new methods of microscopy and microchemistry that should be engaging the attention of the current generation of trainees in neuropathology. A few excellent training programs in the neuropathology of trauma would seem essential to produce the personnel who should form the crucial link between the experimenters working with animals and tissue cultures on the one side and the clinicians on the other side. The pathological problem of trauma to the human spinal cord and brain, and indeed the much more general problem of focal destructive disease of the nervous system, must be viewed in terms of the concepts and laboratory techniques now coming to the fore on the experimental side of developmental neurology. Yet today, it is virtually impossible to identify a single young neuropathologist in the whole country who could take a position with an academic group focusing on spinal cord injury research.

5. Reorganize and expand the staff, space and budget of the intramural regeneration research program of the NINDS in Bethesda so as to provide a training focus as well as a strong research focus. The NIH has excellent examples where an intramural program over a period of years has trained virtually all the outstanding investigators of the nation in a particular field.

#### C. PLANNING AND COORDINATION

1. We recommend formation of a standing advisory committee on Nervous System Growth and Regeneration to monitor research in this area and make ongoing policy recommendations to the NINDS. This recommendation is based on our recognition that the topic is fast becoming a central research

theme in the neurosciences, and one of fundamental relevance to the long-range prospect of effective therapy (as opposed to prevention) of many forms of stroke, focal epilepsy, chronic multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, and mental retardation, in addition to traumatic injury of spinal cord and brain. Clearly the field is ripe for a push.

2. We recommend that the Institute prepare a budgetary projection, to be added to its present commitments, that would encompass its plan for promoting laboratory research programs aimed toward accomplishing effective regeneration in the central nervous system. These laboratory programs should be distributed nationally among about a dozen Centers of Excellence (Program Project size) and a much larger number of small groups and individual grantees, the latter working especially in problem areas where urgency is great and predictability is low.

3. The Institute should encourage national lay groups with interests in particular neurological diseases to recognize a common objective in promoting laboratory research on nervous systems at cellular and molecular levels in whatever species or systems may yield the most powerful understanding of normal function and disease.

4. The Institute should coordinate and partially underwrite the presently somewhat haphazard efforts to exchange ideas among neuroscientists nationally and internationally, including conferences, laboratory workshops, visiting lectureships and preparation of focused bibliographies.

Mr. Speaker, this May, I am calling a 1976 meeting, the fifth in this annual series. I am especially grateful for those Members who have participated in the past and will welcome participation by all Members again this year.

#### THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HINSHAW) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, over the past year, it has become increasingly disconcerting to me that certain established facts, with direct bearing on the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy, have been omitted from the final official report by the Warren Commission.

Hearsay evidence could not persuade me to accept this conclusion. Scant and insufficient evidence could likewise be ignored. But the regularity with which carefully documented data continually comes to light, its obvious contradictions to the Commission's published findings, and its conspicuous absence from the Warren Commission report command further responsible and thorough investigation.

While I concur with the observation that a further investigation at this time may be too tardy, it is my feeling that, in a case such as this which manifests an unmistakable omission of facts as well as an incomplete effort, the credibility of the Federal Government to conduct or even require a thorough and exhaustive study is seriously undermined. To be faced with a situation where any citizen can read for himself the errors and inaccuracies in an official report of this nature, leads those same individuals to

question the resolve of the Government to dig for the truth in a multitude of other areas, and to doubt its basic commitment to the tireless search for the full and complete truth in every decision made. Daily, we are confronted with criticism by the media and press, aimed at the holes in our logic, the gaps in our data, the inaccuracies in our statements, and finally, charges against us not only of ignorance but of willful conspiracy to conceal certain information from the public. The investigation of the CIA, the enactment of the Freedom of Information Act, the current debate over nuclear regulation, and numerous other recent developments should sufficiently warn us, as Members of Congress, to pursue the truth to wherever it leads. We, as a national effort should take every criticism of the Warren Report and every piece of new information and respond in a detailed analysis to these conflicting views and information.

Again, we are facing the electorate in a year when faith in Congress and other national leadership falters. I support this resolution in an effort to establish a complete, full, and accurate public record on this specific matter, and will pledge my efforts to likewise pursue the facts on every important matter which may come to my attention on this subject.

#### IMPROVING FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Ms. HOLTZMAN) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Ms. HOLTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government spends nearly \$1 billion annually in aid for local law enforcement through the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. LEAA programs, however, have not done enough to protect Americans from crime.

I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues testimony which I presented to the Crime Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, in which I offer a number of suggestions for making LEAA a genuinely effective Federal crimefighting program:

#### TO MAKE LEAA A MORE EFFECTIVE WEAPON AGAINST CRIME

(Testimony of Representative ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN, before the Subcommittee on Crime of the House Judiciary Committee, March 11, 1976.)

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee on Crime, I appreciate your giving me the opportunity to appear before you today to speak about the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

Certainly one of the top priorities of government at all levels must be to protect Americans from the ravages of crime—from the death, injury, and fear that it brings. While State and local governments have the primary responsibility for fighting crime, the Federal government—despite the rhetoric of the President and others—has failed to meet its own duty to aid the States and cities in this effort.

LEAA was intended to be the major weapon of the Federal war on crime, but, as testimony before this Committee has shown, it has failed to have significant impact. In 1968 Congress passed the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, mandating the



United States of America

Introduced House Resolution on Feb. 19, 1975  
204  
(now are 110 supporters in Congress)

# Congressional Record

Chairman of House Rules Committee  
Roy Maddox

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 94<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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## NEED FOR REOPENING INVESTIGATION OF ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY

### REOPEN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, since I introduced House Resolution 204 on February 19—if the resolution is passed by the House a select committee of seven Members of the House would study the circumstances surrounding the deaths of President John F. Kennedy, U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King, and the attempted assassination of Gov. George Wallace—there has been a tremendous surge of interest on the part of the media and the general public in finding out what were the true facts regarding these assassinations.

Part of this interest has come about as the result of the showing of a second-generation Zapruder film of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy which is owned by Robert Groden of New York. This film within the last months has been seen for the first time by the general public.

As I have indicated in previous statements on this subject, the interest and concern of the people is genuine and merits attention from the Congress.

I have recently received a copy of a draft brief for reopening the investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy written by several students at the University of Virginia which I would like to share with you and other Members of the House. It is, as follows:

#### A DRAFT BRIEF FOR REOPENING THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

(By the following students at the University of Virginia: Mark Allen (Coll. 4), Sally Boucher (Coll. 3), Kevin Farrell (Coll. 1), Mike Holm (Coll. 4), and Andy Purdy (Law 2)).

#### PREFATORY NOTE

This document is intended to point out some of the arguments in favor of reopening the investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. We have framed the arguments in "brief" form to overcome the threshold barrier to consideration of the issues by Members of Congress and the news media posed by the great volume of conflicting writings and evidence.

We believe that an appropriate committee of Congress should hear the evidence which calls into question the findings of the Warren Commission.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va., April 14, 1975.

#### THE WARREN COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald fired the shots that killed

President Kennedy and wounded Governor Connally, and that these shots were fired from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository. The shots came from behind, back of his neck, and secondly by a bullet which entered the right rear portion of his head. Governor Connally was struck by a bullet which entered the right side of his back and exited under his right nipple, then to pass through his right wrist and enter his left thigh.

The Commission concluded that the shots were fired from the Texas School Book Depository because:

(a) of witnesses reporting seeing a gun fired from the sixth floor window of that building;

(b) the bullets recovered from Governor Connally and the Presidential limousine were fired from the rifle found on the sixth floor of the Depository building "to the exclusion of all other weapons. Used cartridge cases also found on the sixth floor were identified as having been fired from the same rifle;

(c) the windshield of the limousine was struck on the inside by a bullet fragment;

(d) the autopsy report and examinations of Governor Connally's wounds by doctors and wound ballistic experts lead to the con-

clusion that the bullets were fired from above and behind.

Although some witnesses said that they thought the shots came from the direction of the Triple Underpass (a forward direction), and from several other sites as well, the Commission found no substantial evidence to that effect.

The Commission believed that there were three shots fired, based primarily on the evidence that three spent cartridge cases were found in the Depository Building. Witnesses varied on the number of shots they heard, though the general consensus was three. However, "soon after the three empty cartridges were found, officials at the scene decided that three shots were fired, and that conclusion was widely circulated by the press. Eyewitness testimony may be subconsciously colored by the extensive publicity . . ." There is some speculation about which bullets struck the President and Governor Connally, and whether the same bullet which pierced the President's throat also caused Governor Connally's wounds.

Furthermore, the Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald fired the shots because:

(a) Oswald owned the rifle from which the shots were fired and was observed to enter the Depository Building November 22, 1963 carrying a brown paper wrapped bundle, presumably the disassembled rifle. The two eyewitness reports of this bundle are not completely concurrent and somewhat vague.

(b) Oswald was seen by one eyewitness at the time of the assassination at the sixth floor window.

(c) Oswald had capable marksmanship, and

(d) had attempted to kill Maj. Gen. Edwin Walker on April 19, "thereby demonstrating his disposition to take human life."

The Commission also concluded that Oswald killed Patrolman J. D. Tippit because

of positive identification by two eyewitnesses who saw the shooting, and by seven eyewitnesses who heard the shots and saw the gunman leaving with a revolver in hand. Oswald, at the time of his arrest possessed the revolver from which the cartridge cases found at the scene were fired "to the exclusion of all other weapons." And Oswald's jacket was found along the path of flight of the gunman.

The Commission also concluded that Jack Ruby did not act as part of a conspiracy.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> The Official Warren Commission Report on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy (Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, N.J.: 1964), at 19.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., at 18.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., at 19. See also 86-90.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., at 19. See also 92-93.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., at 18. See also 143-149.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., at 18.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., at 18. See also 87-96.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., at 19.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., at 19. See also 110.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., at 19. See also 111.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., at 19. See also 87-96 and 111-117.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., at 19. See also 131-134.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., at 19. See also 63.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., at 19. See also 166.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid., at 20. See also 163-164.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., at 20. See also 166-167.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., at 20.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., at 21.

#### I. THE IMPLAUSIBILITY OF THE SINGLE BULLET THEORY CALLS INTO QUESTION THE ESSENTIAL FINDINGS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION

The widely discussed "single bullet" theory is seen by critics of the Warren Commission as essential to the finding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. The Warren Commission said: "Although it is not necessary to any essential findings of the Commission to determine just which shot hit Governor Connally, there is very persuasive evidence from the experts to indicate that the same bullet which pierced the President's throat also caused Governor Connally's wounds. However, Governor Connally's testimony and certain other factors have given rise to some difference of opinion as to this probability but there is no question in the minds of any member of the Commission that all the shots which caused the President's and Governor

Connally's wounds were fired from the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository."

A. The single bullet theory is essential to the Warren Commission's finding that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone.

The back/neck wound in President Kennedy and the wounds in Governor Connally, whether from the same or different bullets, occurred between frames 210 to 240 as shown by the Zapruder film. This represents a time span, based on the 183 frames/second running speed of Zapruder's camera, of just over 1.6 seconds. The minimum firing time without aiming of Oswald's 6.5 millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano rifle was 2.3 seconds, precluding the possibility of separate shots from the same gun inflicting these wounds on the men.

B. A study of the evidence shows that it is highly improbable that President Kennedy and Governor Connally were struck by the same bullet.

1. The Zapruder film shows rather convincingly that the President and Governor Connally were struck by separate bullets.

The Warren Commission said that the wound in President Kennedy's neck was incurred between Zapruder frames 210 to 225.<sup>1</sup> It is apparent in frame 230 that the President has been shot and Governor Connally is still unharmed, holding his hat in his as yet uninjured right hand in a position higher than when it was struck.<sup>2</sup>

Governor Connally, his wife, and his doctors believe he was hit by a separate, second shot. About the single bullet theory, Mr. Connally has said: "They talk about the 'one bullet' theory, but as far as I'm concerned, there is no 'theory'. There is my absolute knowledge, and Nellie's too, that one bullet caused the President's first wound, and that an entirely separate shot struck me."<sup>3</sup>

An analysis of the angle subtended by the line drawn along the shoulder and the line along the ear indicate that Governor Connally was struck between Zapruder frames 237 and 238.<sup>4</sup> Other involuntary responses indicating this as the location of the hit on Governor Connally include the puffing of his cheeks and the disarranging of his hair. According to Dr. Gregory these factors are consistent with involuntary physical reactions to a bullet hit.<sup>5</sup>

2. Governor Connally's doctors believe the bullet which wounded him did not first pass through the President.

"Dr. Gregory indicated that both he and Dr. Shaw thought it highly unlikely that the President and the Governor had been hit by the same bullet."<sup>6</sup> The doctors were influenced by the character of the wound being very small and having clean-cut edges<sup>7</sup> and the fact that there were no cloth fibers in the back wound (as opposed to their presence in his wrist) in reaching the conclusion that the bullet which struck Connally had not struck Kennedy first.

3. Government reports also support this evidence of separate bullets.

Preliminary Special Dallas Report No. 1, Assassination of the President, prepared by the Secret Service said that the President was shot and "Immediately thereafter Governor Connally . . . was shot."<sup>8</sup> The FBI, in its five-volume report presented to the Warren Commission on Dec. 9, 1963, contained similar conclusions.<sup>9</sup>

4. The vertical and horizontal trajectories necessary for a single bullet to have wounded both men from the Depository window at a downward trajectory of 17 degrees are not plausibly established by the evidence.

An examination of the photograph contained in the Commission's final report reportedly demonstrating the bullet path of the single bullet theory shows a trajectory originating from the left (rather than the right) rear and in a vertical angle less than 17 degrees. Furthermore, such a bullet would be exiting from below the President's throat.<sup>10</sup> When examining the trajectories of the wounds and the bullet flight paths according to the Commissions report discrepancies arise.

"According to the commission theory, a bullet entered the upper right side of the President's back and emerged at the midline of the anterior throat, grazing the left side of the knot of the President's tie as it emerged."<sup>11</sup> The bullet was then supposed to have entered Governor Connally's back, exiting below the right nipple of his chest, and then crushing his wrist and lodging in his knee.

To do this, the bullet would have had to make an acute turn to the right in mid air before entering Governor Connally, which is virtually impossible.

From evidence obtained from an examination of the President's brain, an explanation of the smaller throat wound is made. It is believed to have been an exit wound for a piece of bone that was caused by the second head shot. This is consistent with the damage to the President's throat and also the fact that no traces of metal were found on the President's shirt or tie.<sup>12</sup> If this is true, then the single bullet theory has no credibility because there was no other bullet exit in the front of the President.

the Commission to have caused the non-fatal wounds to President Kennedy and Governor Connally, is inconsistent with tests of like bullets in similar circumstances.<sup>13</sup>

The bullet which supposedly went through both the President and the Governor, shattering two bones in the process shows no deformity in the upper 2/3 of its length. There is a small loss of lead at the base of the bullet but the copper jacket remains intact. This is inconsistent with the amount of metallic particles which were found in the wounds.<sup>14</sup>

If it is accepted (as the Warren Commission did) that the bullet which entered Kennedy's back, exited from his throat and then entered Connally's back, the angles of the trajectories need to be examined. Cyril Wecht has done so and concludes:

"It should also be pointed out that the indicated pathways of these wounds are in considerable disagreement with the calculated trajectories from the postulated firing position of the assassin. The supposed assassin's site looked down on the car at an angle which varied from 22 to 20 degrees in the vertical plane and from 18 to about 8 degrees (right to left) in the horizontal plane, during the time interval over which these wounds might have been inflicted. The slope of the street, about 3 degrees, might perhaps be deducted from the vertical angle if we assume that the men's seating posture was determined by the slope of the car rather than their own sense of balance. (The Warren Commission made this correction although it is open to some question.) However, the vertical angle through the President's back/neck wound measures only about 11 1/2 degrees, while that through the Governor's chest is larger, namely about 25 degrees. The indicated lateral angles (right to left in the horizontal plane) are about the same for both men, namely about 20 degrees. While these angular measurements are subject to error of a few degrees either way, the discrepancies seem too large to explain away in this fashion."

The original autopsy fact sheet places the President's neck wound in his back at a position below the neck wound in the front. Though said later to have been an incorrectly low, rough estimation of the wound, it does line up with the holes in the President's coat and shirt.<sup>15</sup> The response that the President's coat and shirt were "bunched up" in the back, thus accounting for the low clothing holes in light of a high wound, as conclusively disproven by a glance at Willis slide # 5.<sup>16</sup>

5. The character of the wound in the front of the President's neck establishes that a pristine bullet did not exit there as postulated by the single bullet theory.

The bullet wound in the President's throat, described later as viewed prior to the tracheotomy incision, was "very small . . . 3 to 5 mm."<sup>17</sup> Dr. Cyril Wecht has said that he finds a wound of that size " . . . very, very hard to buy as an exit wound for a bullet which would have entered the back."<sup>18</sup>

An experiment done for the Warren Commission by Dr. Alfred G. Olivier of the Army's Edgewood Arsenal was done to simulate the wound through the President's neck. Three 6.5 millimeter bullets were fired through 14 centimeters of goat meat held between goat skins and shirt and jacket cloth.<sup>19</sup> The bullet entry wounds are the same size as the wound in the President's back, but the smallest exit hole was 10 mm, compared to the 3-5 mm. throat wound<sup>20</sup> in President Kennedy.

6. The neutron activation analysis done on the bullet fragments found in Connally's wrist could not identify them with the bullet said to have wounded the President.

J. Edgar Hoover's letter of July 8, 1964 to the Warren Commission reports the results of the neutron activation analysis—that the metal fragments from Connally's wrist could not be identified as having come from the bullet which wounded the President.<sup>21</sup> The extensive studying of the (as yet unreleased) raw data could determine whether these test results prove the single bullet theory incorrect.

#### FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup>(Critics of Commission).
- <sup>2</sup>Warren Report at 18.
- <sup>3</sup>Interview with Joshua Thompson with Life Zapruder prints, Haverford, Pennsylvania, April 1, 1975.
- <sup>4</sup>(5 H 183-184); (3 H 257) (Zapruder).

<sup>5</sup>See Zapruder frame 306. See also Thompson, *Six Seconds to Dallas* (Bernard Geism Associates, New York: 1967), at 68.

<sup>6</sup>(4 H 114).

<sup>7</sup>Thompson, *Life* interview with Governor and Mrs. Connally, October 30, 1964.

<sup>8</sup>Thompson, *Six Seconds to Dallas*, at 73.

<sup>9</sup>Interview with Thompson on April 1, 1975 re: his November 2, 1966 interview with Dr. Gregory.

<sup>10</sup>Thompson, *Six Seconds to Dallas*, at 71.

<sup>11</sup>(4 H 104).

<sup>12</sup>Archives CD 57, dated November 28, 1963.

<sup>13</sup>Archives CD 1.

<sup>14</sup>(5 H 160; 18 H 89-90).

<sup>15</sup>Warren, photo #12 after page 433.

<sup>16</sup>Cyril H. Wecht and Robert F. Smith, "The Medical Evidence in the Assassination of President John Kennedy", *Forensic Science* 3 (1974), at 124.

<sup>17</sup>Thompson, *Six Seconds to Dallas*, at 54-55.

<sup>18</sup>*Ibid.*, at 146-154.

<sup>19</sup>Wecht and Smith, at 124.

<sup>20</sup>(5 H 89-90).

<sup>21</sup>Thompson, *Six Seconds to Dallas*, at 223.

<sup>22</sup>(17 H 29).

<sup>23</sup>See *Six Seconds*; Thompson interview with Wecht, May 26, 1967.

<sup>24</sup>(5 H 77-78).

<sup>25</sup>See Commission Exhibit 850.

<sup>26</sup>Interview with Thompson, April 1, 1975.

#### II. DOUBLE HEAD SHOTS

A. There is strong evidence to indicate that the President's head was hit by two shots in rapid succession, one from the front and the other from the rear.

1. The motion of the President's head tends to indicate that there were two shots.

Between frames 312-313 of the Zapruder film the President's head is seen to move forward at a rate of 69.8 feet/second. Beginning at frame 313 the head moves violently backward and to the left until it bounced off the back seat at frame 321. Its speed backwards is 100.3 feet per second. This all occurs in 1/18 of a second.

This motion is extremely rapid and analysis of the film shows that it was not caused by acceleration of the car, as none of the occupants were thrown off balance at that time. Secret Service agent Clint Hill testified that he was thrown off balance by the acceleration of the car, yet he did not reach the car until frame 368 which is 3 seconds after the head shots.

The motion cannot be explained as a neuromuscular reaction. The startled response takes place over an interval of 40-200 milliseconds. The time required for the head to move forward is 83 milliseconds. The change in direction of Kennedy's head observed in the film occurs in 56 milliseconds, much too fast for a neuromuscular reaction.

Similarly, with a neuromuscular reaction we would expect the head to keep accelerating, however, in this case the velocity remained constant. Also, since the motor strip (pre-central gyrus) was blown out by the entering bullet, the likelihood of any muscular reaction is considerably diminished. The Warren Commission chose to completely disregard this backward head motion.

2. The location of brain matter after the shots supports the double shot theory.

Governor and Mrs. Connally were covered with brain matter which would support a shot from the rear. However, a large amount of brain debris splattered on the left rear of the presidential car and also on the uniforms and windshields of the two motorcyclists who were riding 6 to 8 feet to the left rear of the President's car. One officer testified that the splattering was with such force that he at first thought that he had been struck.

A piece of skull bone, found in the street by an observer approximately 26 feet from where the President was shot. It was identified by Dr. A. B. Cairns, chief pathologist at Methodist Hospital as being from the occipital (rear) region of the skull. A bullet fired from the rear would have great difficulty causing this effect, but one fired from the front could easily explain it.<sup>1</sup>

3. Doctors at Parkland Hospital described the President's head wounds in a manner consistent with the double shot theory.

In addition to the massive wound to the right temple, the Parkland doctors described a large wound in the occipital region with brain matter protruding from it. This tends

to corroborate the belief that one or two head shots came from the front.

The Bethesda doctors give the picture of a shot entering the rear of the President's head and causing the massive damage to the temple region.<sup>9</sup>

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>9</sup>Thompson, *Six Seconds in Dallas*, at 86-87.

<sup>10</sup>*Ibid.*, at 98-101.

<sup>11</sup>*Ibid.*, at 103-111.

### III. IT IS HOPEFUL THAT OSWALD DID ALL THE SHOOTING

A. It is a widely accepted misconception that Lee Harvey Oswald was an expert rifleman, and that the shots from the Depository window were "easy".

Oswald's Marine Corps shooting scores indicate that he was not an expert rifleman. His last shooting score was taken in May of 1959 when Oswald scored 191 points. This performance barely qualified him for "marksman", the lowest title given out by the Marine Corps. Lt. Col. A. C. Folsom testified before the commission that Oswald's ability as evidenced by his score was that of a "rather poor shot."<sup>1</sup>

Complicating Oswald's rather mediocre shooting skill was the alleged assassination weapon itself, the Italian Manlicher-Caracano. The Caracano was a very cheap rifle, retailing for only \$12.78. It had a reputation for being a "humanitarian" weapon, a poor choice for any assassin.<sup>2</sup> The maldadjusted scope on the rifle sent bullets flying high and off to the right.<sup>3</sup> Its difficult bolt made rapid firing very difficult. In addition, Oswald's Caracano had an eccentric trigger and a disintegrating firing pin.<sup>4</sup>

Some of the Commission's difficulties regarding Oswald's rifle capability and his weapon's effectiveness might have been allayed had it been determined that Oswald had been practicing with the Manlicher-Caracano shortly before the assassination. The Commission was unable to document a single instance of Oswald practicing with his Manlicher-Caracano despite an extensive effort to do so.<sup>5</sup>

But even given an excellent rifle and a superb marksman, Oswald's alleged feat of shooting is remarkable. He fired three shots from a bolt action rifle (which he had to load and unload twice) in a short span of 4.8-5.8 seconds. He was shooting at a target moving down an incline, from 60 feet up and 180 to 265 feet away. He had only 8 seconds to aim for his first shot and yet he managed to land two accurate hits, the last one causing the President's fatal head wound.

The Commission endeavored to determine if Oswald was capable of such a performance. The Commission's rifle tests were so different from the actual conditions Oswald encountered, that any of their conclusions are open to serious question. The Commission's rifleman was shooting at stationary targets instead of moving ones; they were firing from 30 feet up instead of Oswald's 60; they took as much time as they wanted for the first shot while the assassin had less than one second to aim for his; and even more remarkable they corrected the defective sight of Oswald's Caracano by mounting the rifle with metal shims. Furthermore the Commission employed "master" riflemen for the test, experts in firearms some four classes above Oswald's shooting ability.

Even under these more favorable circumstances, the Commission's test only served to prove how difficult Oswald's alleged feat really was. Only one of the three "master" riflemen, (with the stationary targets, corrected sight, reduced distance and added firing time for the first shot) managed to duplicate Oswald's ability.

B. The psychological stress evaluation indicates that Oswald was telling the truth when he said that he did not kill the President.

was developed in the early 1970's as an auxiliary component to the polygraph which is designed to determine the authenticity of a suspect's testimony. It was later discovered by its inventors, Alan D. Bell, Jr. and Charles E. McQuestion (former Lieutenant colonel in army intelligence), that the P.S.E. evaluated authenticity accurately enough to be used independently of the polygraph.<sup>6</sup> Other polygraph experts have come to the same conclusion and the P.S.E. is now growing to be a respectable device in criminological circles.<sup>7</sup>

In 1972 George O'Toole processed tape recordings of Lee Harvey Oswald's statements to reporters through the P.S.E. His results were interesting: the P.S.E. indicated that Oswald was telling the truth when he said that he had not killed the President.<sup>8</sup> Mr. O'Toole's results brought criticism from experts who learned of his project; however, after processing the tapes themselves, the experts had to agree with his conclusions.<sup>9</sup> For example, L. H. "Rusty" Hitchcock, a former army intelligence agent and one of the most experienced polygraph examiners in the country, sent a supportive letter to Mr. O'Toole after analyzing the appropriate material.<sup>10</sup>

The P.S.E.'s evaluation of the Oswald tapes brings Oswald's role in the assassination into question.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Warren Report: (S H 304).

<sup>2</sup>Meagher, Sylvia; *Accessories After the Fact* (New York: The Bobbs Merrill Company, 1967), at 131.

<sup>3</sup>Warren Report at 194.

<sup>4</sup>Meagher at 131.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*, at 108.

<sup>6</sup>Warren Report at 198-4.

<sup>7</sup>Meagher at 308.

<sup>8</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup>"Lee Harvey Oswald Was Innocent", by George O'Toole, *Penthouse Magazine*, April 1975, p. 45.

<sup>10</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 124.

<sup>11</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 45-46 and pp. 124-125.

<sup>12</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 122.

<sup>13</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 125 (See letter).

### IV. THE AUTOPSY OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY RAISES DOUBTS AS TO THE WARREN COMMISSION FINDINGS

The autopsy of President Kennedy at Bethesda Naval Hospital was very incomplete and vague in its findings.

1. The autopsy team was mostly military and had had limited forensic experience at the time. No civilian forensic pathologist was present.

2. The positions of the wounds were determined by faulty measuring methods.

3. The wound to the anterior neck was not recognized and dissected because of the tracheotomy that had been performed in Dallas. This wound was only discovered the following day during a conversation with the Dallas physician who attended Kennedy at Parkland.

4. The back wound was not dissected or tracked under military orders.

5. Coronal sections through the fixed brain were not made, although this is a routine procedure in cases of gunshot wounds of the head in order to track the pathway of a bullet or bullet fragment.

6. As a result, the autopsy was unable to provide detailed analysis of the wounds to help investigators in locating the assassins' positions.<sup>1</sup>

7. See also autopsy analysis of trajectories in Single Bullet Theory—Argument I, page 1.

### V. THE WARREN COMMISSION INADEQUATELY INVESTIGATED THE MOVEMENTS AND ACTIONS OF JACK RUBY.

The Commission waited six months before interviewing the assassin of Oswald, indicating a predilection to accept the lone assassin theory before all the facts were in. Had the Commission been interested in thoroughly investigating the possibility of a conspiracy, its first witness would have been Jack Ruby, a man with troubling connections with the underworld and long time cronies of many members of the Dallas Police force.

Testimony by several reliable witnesses bring the Commission's timetable of Ruby's movements into serious question. The Commission claims that Jack Ruby was not in Parkland Hospital shortly after the assassination.

nesses. Beth Kantor, a member of the White House press corps reported in the Scripps-Howard Alliance newspaper on Monday, Nov. 25, that he had met Jack Ruby at Parkland Hospital about an hour after the assassination. As Kantor testified before the Warren Commission "I was indelibly sure at the time and have continued to be so that the man who stopped me and with whom I talked was Jack Ruby. I feel strongly about it, because I had known Jack Ruby and he did call me by my first name. . . ."

<sup>1</sup>Wecht, pp. 12-113. See also Appendix D in Thompson's *Six Seconds in Dallas*, pp. 275-284.

For the Commission to accept Kantor's credible testimony, they would have to admit they were unsure of Ruby's movements during a critical period following the assassination. Instead they chose to accept the testimony of a convicted murderer over that of a respected member of the White House corps.

Even more troubling is the Commission's inability to determine exactly Jack Ruby's means of entrance to the Dallas Police basement the day he murdered Oswald. The Commission was only able to state that Ruby "probably" entered by the Main Street Ramp, while the police guard, Officer Robert Vaughn was distracted by a departing vehicle. But five witnesses cast considerable doubt on the Commission's Main Street ramp hypothesis. The three officers who were in the car which allegedly distracted Vaughn, were departing by the same ramp that Ruby was supposed to have entered . . . yet none of the officers saw Ruby entering. Two of them, C. T. Pierce, the driver of the car and Sgt. Putnam stated they were positive no one came in while their car was leaving.<sup>2</sup>

Teh guard at the ramp, Officer Vaughn, also firmly denied that Jack Ruby slipped by him. Not taking his word, the Dallas police administered a lie detector test which the Officer passed.

The Commission also did not fully investigate the allegation that Jack Ruby was involved in Anti-Castro activities. Nancy Perrin Rich, a former waitress and bartender at Mr. Ruby's Carousel Club testified that several men approached her husband, a former gunrunner during the Spanish Civil War, about shipping some arms into Cuba. One of these men, Mrs. Rich testified, was Jack Ruby, from whose employment she had quit several months earlier. The Commission did not even mention her testimony in the 898 page report.

As a footnote to the Commission's incomplete treatment of Jack Ruby, it is noteworthy to mention the meeting of five men at Jack Ruby's apartment the night of Oswald's murder. Though all of these men were thought to be in good health, within 18 months, three of those men were dead, two by violent means. On April 23, 1964, reporter Bill Hunter was shot to death in a Long Beach Police station. Then on Sept. 21, 1964, Jim Koethe, another reporter present that night, was murdered, dying of a karate chop to the neck. Finally, on March 27, 1965, one of Jack Ruby's lawyers, Tom Howard died of what was diagnosed as a heart attack. The death of Hunter was termed accidental while the murder of Koethe remains unsolved to date.<sup>3</sup>

#### SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

We contend that there is a reasonable doubt that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. We further contend that the magnitude and quality of responsible criticism of the essential findings of the Warren Commission justify a formal governmental inquiry into the assassination.

At a minimum, we contend that a Congressional committee should hold hearings to gather all evidence which calls into question the findings of the Warren Commission so that a representative body can independently determine if there is sufficient doubt that Oswald acted alone to justify reopening the investigation.

#### CONCLUSION

There is a reasonable doubt that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. A governmental body should reopen the investigation of the assassination.





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## House of Representatives

IF OSWALD HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO TRIAL .....

Mr. TALCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I have had the good fortune to read the remarks of our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. THOMAS N. DOWNING, delivered to the Virginia Commonwealth's Attorneys Association during our August recess on the subject of the creation of a select committee of Members of the House to study the new evidence concerning the circumstances surrounding the death of President John F. Kennedy.

The speech is very persuasive. Mr. DOWNING is a very respected Member of the House. Some of us did not know of his keen interest in reopening this case.

Because of the respect we have for the ability, judgment and commonsense of Mr. DOWNING, I urge every Member to read his speech. I also believe it would be edifying for every citizen to read this speech.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I include the speech at this point in the RECORD:

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS N. DOWNING TO VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION, AUGUST 9, 1975

The legislation that I have introduced over the past 16½ years is usually limited to certain areas. Generally, they are matters in which the First Congressional District has a high degree of interest: Merchant Marine, port activities, shipbuilding, fisheries, space research, and national defense matters. In addition to these, there have always been certain areas of national priority in which I have tried to reflect the interests of the district.

I suppose that is why nobody seems to be able to understand why I introduced a resolution in April calling for the creation of a select committee of Members of the House to study the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy. It doesn't seem to fit my image. But if you will bear with me for a little while, I will try to explain it.

None of us will forget what happened in Dallas almost 12 years ago. I was as stunned as any American. Congress had adjourned and I had gone home for the weekend.

When I had the first news that the President had been shot, I prayed that it would not be fatal. And then I found myself in somewhat of a trauma for the next few days as word came of his death, the swearing-in of LBJ, the plane ride back to Washington, the lying-in-state and the sorrowful funeral procession ending at the grave with the eternal flame.

In the midst of all of it came the capture of Lee Harvey Oswald and his subsequent murder—live on television—by Jack Ruby in the basement of police headquarters in Dallas.

It was all so unbelievable, yet all so true. Then came the appointment of the President's Commission, chaired by Chief Justice Earl Warren. They investigated and reported, concluding that there was no evidence of conspiracy and that Lee Harvey Oswald, alone and unassisted, was responsible for the death of President Kennedy and the wounding of Governor John B. Connally of Texas. And there the matter was supposed to rest for all time.

I did not believe it.

I did not believe that one man could have fired three shots in six seconds from a cheap, foreign made, single shot bolt action rifle with the deadly accuracy credited by the FBI and the Warren Commission. No way.

The great majority of Americans, it seems, never believed it. Yet except for a comparative few people no one attempted to do anything about it. The Warren Commission

members included, in addition to the Chief Justice of the United States, Senators Richard B. Russell of Georgia and John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky, Representatives Hale Boggs of Louisiana and Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, the former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency Allen Dulles and the noted attorney and former high commissioner of Germany,

John J. McCloy. Their position of eminence was bolstered by that of the Chief Investigative Agency of the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation under its Director, J. Edgar Hoover.

During the intervening years a sizable group of experts about the assassination and the resulting investigation has developed. They include attorneys, physicians, college professors, former government investigators and specialists in a number of fields. Many of them have extremely high degrees of expertise.

Among them is a young man named Robert Groden who is particularly adept and imaginative in the field of optics. Groden obtained a copy of the eight millimeter color movie of the assassination taken by the late Abraham Zapruder, a Dallas dress manufacturer who was in Dealey Plaza that day.

Enlarging each of the movie frames that showed the fatal shot to President Kennedy's head, Groden put them back in sequence at slow motion so that it is possible to view the event from a greater enhanced perspective than you would get in watching a home movie at normal speed. He has taken his film to a number of college campuses and appeared with it before thousands of students. He also had it on late night television twice earlier this year.

In April students from the University of Virginia who had seen the presentation asked members of the Virginia delegation in the House to take a look at it. They brought Groden and the film to Washington and I was one of five Members who saw the presentation.

It is difficult to explain in complete detail what the film shows but you can see Kennedy grab his throat and start to lean forward after being shot high in the back. A second or two later you see Connally's face distort and he starts to crumple into his wife's lap. Then with the President bending forward with his head thrust slightly down, he suddenly bolts upright and backward as his head literally explodes. His body slams back against the back of the seat and then bounces to the left toward his wife.

I have seen this film shown a number of times since then and there are always people in the group who gasp at the impact. My immediate conclusion was that he was hit from the right front more than likely by someone who was firing from the so-called grassy knoll. I concluded that in all probability the Commission was wrong. There had to be more than one assassin.

I waited several days and considered all the aspects then I introduced my resolution.

It went in originally with the co-sponsorship of Bill Whitehurst and Herb Harris. I have reintroduced it on three other occasions and now there are thirty sponsors in all with the promise of still additional support.

Nobody pressured me to introduce this resolution. Nobody even tried to persuade me. I did it because I believe that the American people have lived for almost twelve years following that terrible day in Dallas without knowing the truth, certainly without knowing the whole truth; and that in a time when we have had a great many other myths exploded and brought to light, it is time for the truth, the whole truth, to be known about what really happened to John F. Kennedy.

I am in no way trying to criticize the members of the Warren Commission. The American people, however, have faced terrible truths in the last few years, truths which few of us ever expected to have to face, and our nation has survived. I believe it is time that we bring this one out into the open.

As everyone in this country knows so well, Lee Harvey Oswald was never brought to trial. As literally millions of Americans watched on television, he was gunned down by Jack Ruby in the basement of the Dallas police station, less than 48 hours after the murder of John Kennedy. As a result, no prosecutor was faced with the problem of prosecuting Lee Harvey Oswald for the first degree murder of President Kennedy. However, it is a most interesting exercise for prosecutors to look at the theoretical situation with which a district attorney would be faced if Oswald had not been himself murdered and if he had been brought to trial.

As a prosecutor, what would you have going for you? In a warehouse building along the parade route, near the scene of the crime, the police found a Mannlich-Carcano rifle which had been purchased through the mail by Oswald. Three cartridges which had been fired by that gun were found on the sixth floor of this warehouse, the Texas school book depository. A nearly perfect bullet which

ght have been fired from the Mannlicher-Carcano was found on a stretcher in the hospital to which President Kennedy and Governor Connally were taken for emergency treatment. That in essence is all of the positive evidence linking the suspect to the crime. But even this evidence has its weak spots. For example, there is no clear record, despite the fact that Oswald worked in the Texas School Book Depository, of how or when the rifle was taken into the building. There is no considerable evidence that a second rifle, 7.62, Mauser, was also taken from the building by the police. There is no way of knowing when the cartridges had been fired in the Mannlicher-Carcano; they could easily have been fired at an earlier time and placed in a building. Although the pristine bullet found in the hospital appears to have been fired from the gun, there is no clear evidence whatever as to how it got onto a stretcher in Parkland hospital. And how let's look at what a defense attorney would have going for him in this case.

1. Despite a multitude of people in Dealey Plaza, no credible witness could be found who saw anyone firing a rifle. It should be noted, in passing that, despite this total lack of eye witnesses, a rather good physical description of the alleged murderer went out over the Dallas police radio 14 minutes after the last shot rang out. The description attached Lee Harvey Oswald, but no one has explained how the police at that time had any idea for whom they were looking. 2. The great majority of spectators believed that the shot came from in front of the president's car. The police officers riding the grassy knoll. The police officers riding along side the presidential car dropped their notebooks and rushed to this area. 3. Approximately 90 seconds after the last shot was fired, Lee Harvey Oswald was found in the second floor of the school book depository, drinking a coco cola. If, in fact, he was the assassin, in that 90 seconds he would have had to conceal his gun, cross the whole width of the large warehouse descend five flights of stairs, find a dime, get his socks, open it, and calmly begin to drink it. This sounds more like a decaathlon champion than Lee Harvey Oswald.

4. The Mannlicher-Carcano is a very cheap (\$19.95) surplus World War II Italian carbine. It is a bolt action, single shot, fourth-rate gun, hardly the type that any serious assassin would even consider. 5. There is no trace of the source of the ammunition used in the murder. The Italian Mannlicher-Carcano during the closing years of World War II. Any of this old ammunition would be highly unreliable. The only known source of new ammunition for the gun was the United States Government. It has never been determined from which source the assassin actually obtained the ammunition. 6. For the Mannlicher-Carcano to be fired three times in six seconds, the use of a clip is almost imperative. Yet, no clip was ever found. 7. The telescopic sight on the rifle was defective. At the range it was being fired in Dealey Plaza, it was off approximately eleven inches . . . in almost fatal way in itself under

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8. The FBI's ballistic tests on the bullet fragments taken from President Kennedy, from Governor Connally, from the automobile, etc., were inconclusive. In effect, there was no positive ballistic evidence connecting the bullets with the alleged assassin's gun. 9. A paraffin test was made on Oswald's right cheek and it turned out negative. In

discussing that he had probably not fired a rifle that day. 10. Oswald himself denied the killing. On top of this rather hopeless evidential situation, you would also be faced with a number of most serious constitutional defects. First and foremost, Oswald was questioned for a total of 13 hours during his 45 hour detention. Despite his requests for legal assistance, he was never furnished with a lawyer. Lawyers from the Civil Liberties Union who volunteered were turned away. Yet, the questioning went on. On top of that, the Dallas police force has given sworn testimony that there is not on scrap of evidence as to what Oswald said during the 13 hours of interrogation. According to the police, the Dallas police force did not own a tape recorder. Further, they did not even bother to have a stenographic record of the interrogation. More importantly, they say no notes were taken. It is difficult to believe that any judge or jury . . . with the exception of the Warren Commission . . . would accept such statements as true.

There was massive tapering with evidence. Despite a Dallas ordinance that an autopsy must be performed by the coroner in cases of violent death, no autopsy was performed in Dallas. Despite the protests of local authorities, the body of President Kennedy was forcibly removed to Bethesda, Maryland, where a grossly inadequate autopsy was performed by three military pathologists with little, if any, forensic experience. On top of this, the contemporaneous notes of the chief surgeon were later burned by him in the fireplace of his recreation room. . . he later swore that he did not think they were important. Many of the X-rays and photographs which would normally be taken during a competent autopsy were found not to exist. The car in which the President was riding at the time of his death, was completely dismantled by the secret service and all evidence relating to it was destroyed. Oswald's wife, who apparently had nothing to do with any crime, was held in "protective custody" for a number of months. For all practical purposes, she was held incommunicado. I could go on and on with this list but I think I have made by point that any prosecution of Lee Harvey Oswald would have been undermined by the most serious constitutional abuses.

Until now, I have been discussing the problem of a prosecution of Oswald, not necessarily as the sole assassin of President Kennedy, but merely someone who may have played a roll in the assassination. As we know, the Warren Commission insisted most strongly that Oswald was unassisted in his commission of the crime. What new problems would be raised if it were necessary to prosecute Oswald as the lone-but killer? Is there any way in which a prosecutor could convince a jury that he and he alone had committed the act? Let us go back for a moment to the Zapruder film of which I spoke earlier. Knowing that the film in Mr. Zapruder's camera ran at 18.3 frames per second, it is possible to determine very accurately the time frame in which all the shooting took place. It is known . . .

the final shot which hit John Kennedy in the head. For practical purposes, let's round this off to six seconds. Now remember that this is a single shot, bolt action rifle. After each shot a cartridge had to be ejected by the bolt, a new bullet put into place and the gun re-timed. Some of the world's finest riflemen have practiced with the Mannlicher-Carcano but none have been able to re-load, re-aim and fire accurately in less than three seconds. This means that in the time frame for the firing, a maximum of three shots could have been fired from the Mannlicher-Carcano, the initial shot plus two re-loaders. Realizing these limitations, and insisting that only a single gunman was involved, the Warren Commission insisted that all of the damage done during the fusillade was done by three shots. The Warren Commission admits that one shot missed the target completely, striking the street curb. One shot hit President Kennedy in the head and disintegrated. That left only one shot which, for convenience sake, has often been labeled the "magic bullet."

According to the Commission, this shot entered President Kennedy's back, exited his palm's apple, broke a rib, went through Connally's wrist shattering it, and wound up in his thigh. This is the bullet which allegedly was found undamaged on a stretcher in Parkland Hospital. If the "magic bullet" is central to the whole contention that Oswald was a lone-but killer, let's examine its feasibility. If the shots fired by the murderer came from the sixth floor window of the School Book Depository, their course would have been downward and to the left. If a bullet had entered the President's back and exited his palm's apple, it should have either hit Mrs. Connally who was sitting in front of the President and to the left, or harmlessly struck the side or floor of the car. To have hit Governor Connally on his right side, when he was sitting directly in front of the President, the bullet would have to have made two 90 degree turns in mid air. From this evidence alone it can be deduced that Governor Connally was not gravely injured by any of the bullets which struck President Kennedy, something which Governor Connally insists to this day. Furthermore, the "magic bullet" that was taken from the stretcher was pristine. The only lead missing from it was that removed by the FBI for tests. Yet, a great deal of lead was left in Governor Connally's chest and wrist when the bullet that struck him struck bone. From this mass of evidence, all serious critics including a number of eminent pathologists, criminologists, and lawyers have all concluded that there must have been at least four shots at Dealey Plaza.

As no one has been able to fire the Mannlicher-Carcano four times in six seconds, we know that there was at least a second rifleman if the Carcano was used in the killing. This means a conspiracy. This means that the Warren Commission was wrong on its central thesis. There are a number of other very disturbing aspects to this matter which are of particular interest to prosecutors. A huge amount of vital evidence was withheld from the Warren Commission. . . . Presumably, it

holding of evidence. As an example, the Dallas police turned over to the FBI an address book which belonged to Oswald. In it was one page which gave the name, address, telephone number and license plate number of an FBI agent in Dallas. The FBI removed this page from the book before turning it over to the Warren Commission. Eventually, the Warren Commission got the page but did not seem upset that it had been willfully withheld. The FBI also withheld most of the evidence which linked Jack Ruby to organized crime, to Cuban gamblers, to the narco-cocaine trade, and last but not least, to the FBI itself. It has only recently been discovered that Jack Ruby was formerly entrolled as an FBI informant for quite a period of time. Time does not permit me to go into this matter as deeply as I would wish tonight, but I would like to give you just one more example of this type of withholding and of what smacks of a serious cover-up. When Lee Harvey Oswald went to Mexico in September of 1963, he had to obtain a Mexican entry card from the Mexican consulate in New Orleans. These cards are numbered serially. After the murder, the FBI obtained from the Mexican consulate a list of all of the persons who obtained entry permits in New Orleans on the same day that Oswald obtained his. The FBI did a massive investigation with respect to these people and published the results in detail in the volumes of evidence accompanying the Warren report. There was only one small exception. The identity of the person who received his permit immediately ahead of Oswald was never made public.

In 1972 following a periodic review, a list of commission documents which had formerly been withheld was released. Among them was the missing information about the man who obtained the permit. He was William George Gaudet, who was based in New Orleans and traveled widely in Latin America in 1963. A previously withheld FBI report, dated coincidentally the day after Jack Ruby murdered Lee Harvey Oswald, says that William George Gaudet gave them details as to certain of Jack Ruby's activities, not in Dallas, but in New Orleans. William George Gaudet has been interviewed. He admits that he did receive his entry permit immediately ahead of Oswald. He denies that he accompanied Oswald to Mexico. He also admits being a CIA operative from 1947 until 1966.

He says that he was guaranteed that his identity would never be made public and was quite irritated at the FBI for having revealed his name, even at this late date. He says emphatically that the FBI is lying when it says that he volunteered information about Jack Ruby in November of 1963. From the interviews with Gaudet it has been learned that Lee Harvey Oswald was known to agents in charge of the CIA operation in New Orleans in 1963. Their identities and whereabouts are known. Lee Harvey Oswald certainly was no hero and I do not believe that he was the lone-but assassin that the Warren Commission says he was. I do not know who was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy but I think it is time that all of us learned the truth. Our system of Government cannot remain strong if our leaders can be murdered and the Government itself consents to cov-

# H. RES. 1540

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 1976

Mr. GONZALEZ (for himself, Mr. DOWNING of Virginia, and Mr. FAUNTROY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

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## RESOLUTION

1       *Resolved*, That there is hereby created a select commit-  
2       tee to be composed of twelve Members of the House of Rep-  
3       resentatives to be appointed by the Speaker, one of whom  
4       he shall designate as chairman. Any vacancy occurring in  
5       the membership of the select committee shall be filled in the  
6       same manner in which the original appointment was made.

7       The select committee is authorized and directed to con-  
8       duct a full and complete investigation and study of the cir-  
9       cumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy and  
10      the death of Martin Luther King, Junior, and of any others  
11      the select committee shall determine.

12      For the purpose of carrying out this resolution the select

1 committee, or any subcommittee thereof authorized by the  
2 select committee to hold hearings, is authorized to sit and  
3 act during the present Congress at such times and places  
4 within the United States, including any Commonwealth or  
5 possession thereof, whether the House is in session, has re-  
6 cessed, or has adjourned, to hold such hearings, and to re-  
7 quire, by subpena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony  
8 of such witnesses and the production of such books, records,  
9 correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents as it  
10 deems necessary; except that neither the select committee  
11 nor any subcommittee thereof may sit while the House is  
12 meeting under the five minute rule unless special leave to sit  
13 shall have been obtained from the House. The chairman of  
14 the select committee may establish such subcommittees of the  
15 select committee as he considers appropriate. A majority of  
16 the members of the select committee shall constitute a quorum  
17 for the transaction of business, except that the select com-  
18 mittee may designate a lesser number as a quorum for the  
19 purpose of taking testimony. The select committee may em-  
20 ploy and fix the compensation of such clerks, experts, con-  
21 sultants, technicians, attorneys, investigators, and clerical and  
22 stenographic assistants as it considers necessary to carry out  
23 the purposes of this resolution. The select committee may re-  
24 imburse the members of its staff for travel, subsistence, and  
25 other necessary expenses incurred by them in the perform-

1   ance of the duties vested in the select committee, other than  
2   expenses in connection with meetings of the select commit-  
3   tee or any subcommittee thereof held in the District of Co-  
4   lumbia. Subpenas may be issued under the signature of the  
5   chairman of the select committee or any member of the select  
6   committee designated by him, and may be served by any  
7   person designated by such chairman or member.

8       The select committee shall report to the House as soon  
9   as practicable during the present Congress the results of its  
10  investigation and study, together with such recommendations  
11  as it deems advisable. Any such report which is made when  
12  the House is not in session shall be filed with the Clerk of  
13  the House.

of this paragraph; shall make studies, develop information, and make recommendations toward remedying these differences and include these in the annual Employment and Training Report of the President, and, if deemed necessary, make recommendations to the Congress within ninety days related to the objectives of this paragraph.

#### LABOR STANDARDS

SEC. 402. The policies and programs implemented and provided for by this Act, and funded in whole or in part through this Act, shall provide that persons employed pursuant to such policies and programs are paid equal wages for equal work, and that such policies and programs create a net increase in employment through work that would not otherwise be done. The President shall insure that any person employed in a reservoir project under section 206(d) or in any other job utilizing funds provided in whole or in part under this Act shall be paid not less than the pay received by others performing similar work for the same employer, and in no case less than the minimum wage under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 as amended. No person employed under section 206(d) shall perform work of the type to which the Bacon-Davis Act, as amended (40 U.S.C. 276a-276a-5) applies. Any recommendation by the President for legislation to implement any program under this Act, requiring the use of funds under this Act, and submitted pursuant to the requirements of this Act, shall contain appropriate wage provisions based upon existing wage standard legislation.

#### AUTHORIZATIONS

SEC. 403. There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be needed to carry out the provisions of this Act. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, no provision shall be construed to require expenditures in excess of amounts appropriated pursuant to this Act.

#### DEFINITIONS

SEC. 404. (a) "Fiscal drag" as used in section 106 means tax and expenditure rates, which, in combination, substantially impede attainment (or maintenance) of full employment, production, and purchasing power.

(b) "Balanced growth" in the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Plan means projecting and achieving (1) the relationship between production or supply capability and demand, and (2) the relationships among the growth rates of private investment, private consumer expenditures, and public outlays, and also (3) the purchasing power, including important components of each element mentioned in (1), (2), and (3) above, required to achieve and then maintain full employment and production and appropriate servicing of national priorities, these to be promoted by the programs and policies set forth in this Act and by encouragement of voluntary cooperation within the private sector (for example, between labor and management) and between the Government and the private sector.

(c) "Frictional unemployment" means the lowest level of unemployment, determined on the basis of evolving experience, consistent with labor mobility, changing job patterns, freedom of job choice, and sufficient job search on a voluntary basis.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to establish and translate into practical reality the right of all adult Americans able, willing, and seeking to work to full opportunity for useful paid employment at fair rates of compensation; to combine full employment, production, and purchasing power goals with proper attention to balanced growth and national priorities; to mandate such national economic policies and programs as are necessary to achieve full employment, production, and purchasing power; to restrain inflation; and to provide explicit machinery for the development and implementation of such economic policies and programs."

#### CALL OF THE HOUSE

Mr. LEVITAS. Mr. Speaker, I make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Evidently a quorum is not present.

Mr. O'NEILL. Mr. Speaker, I move a call of the House.

A call of the House was ordered.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members failed to respond:

[Roll No. 747]

|                 |                |                |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Abzug           | Hébert         | Railsback      |
| Adams           | Heckler, Mass. | Randall        |
| Alexander       | Helms          | Rangel         |
| Andrews, N.C.   | Helstoski      | Roe            |
| Ashley          | Hinshaw        | Richmond       |
| AuCoin          | Holland        | Riegle         |
| Badillo         | Howe           | Rodino         |
| Bell            | Ichord         | Roncaglio      |
| Bolling         | Jacobs         | Rose           |
| Bonker          | Jarman         | Rosenthal      |
| Bowen           | Johnson, Pa.   | Rousselot      |
| Breaux          | Jones, Ala.    | Roybal         |
| Burke, Calif.   | Karh           | Ruppe          |
| Burton, John    | Kastenmeier    | Ryan           |
| Byron           | Kelly          | Santini        |
| Carney          | Kemp           | Sarbanes       |
| Carter          | Ketchum        | Schauer        |
| Chappell        | Keys           | Schneebeil     |
| Chisholm        | Kindness       | Schroeder      |
| Clancy          | Krueger        | Shapiro        |
| Cleveland       | Lent           | Shuster        |
| Collins, Ill.   | Lott           | Skubitz        |
| Conlan          | McCloskey      | Snyder         |
| Conyers         | McCollister    | Stanton,       |
| Cotter          | McFall         | James V.       |
| Coughlin        | Madigan        | Stark          |
| Derwinski       | Mann           | Steelman       |
| Diggs           | Matsunaga      | Steiger, Ariz. |
| Dingell         | Mazzoli        | Stephens       |
| Dodd            | Meeds          | Stuckey        |
| Eckhardt        | Melcher        | Symington      |
| Edwards, Calif. | Metcalfe       | Talcott        |
| Emery           | Meyner         | Teague         |
| Esch            | Mikva          | Thornton       |
| Eshleman        | Milford        | Udall          |
| Flynt           | Mineta         | Vander Jagt    |
| Ford, Tenn.     | Mink           | Vander Veen    |
| Fraser          | Mitchell, Md.  | Waxman         |
| Fugua           | Mohr           | Wilson, Tex.   |
| Gladmo          | Moss           | Wirth          |
| Goldwater       | Murphy, N.Y.   | Wolfe          |
| Green           | O'Hara         | Wright         |
| Hagedorn        | Patterson,     | Wyder          |
| Hansen          | Calif.         | Yatron         |
| Harkin          | Pepper         | Young, Alaska  |
| Haraha          | Pike           | Young, Ga.     |
|                 | Pressler       |                |

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. Jordan). On this rollcall 292 Members have recorded their presence by electronic device, a quorum.

By unanimous consent, further proceedings under the call were dispensed with.

#### CREATING SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE AND STUDY ASSASSINATIONS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. MADDEN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 1540) creating a select committee to conduct an investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy and the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., and of any others the select committee shall determine, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. Res. 1540

Resolved, That there is hereby created a select committee to be composed of twelve Members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker, one of whom he shall designate as chairman. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the select

committee shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

The select committee is authorized and directed to conduct a full and complete investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy and the death of Martin Luther King, Junior, and of any others the select committee shall determine.

For the purpose of carrying out this resolution the select committee, or any subcommittee thereof authorized by the select committee to hold hearings, is authorized to sit and adjourn the present Congress at such times and places within the United States, including any Commonwealth or possession thereof, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, to hold such hearings, and to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents as it deems necessary; except that neither the select committee nor any subcommittee thereof may sit while the House is meeting under the five-minute rule unless special leave to sit shall have been obtained from the House. The chairman of the select committee may establish such subcommittees of the select committee as he considers appropriate. A majority of the members of the select committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except that the select committee may designate a lesser number as a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony. The select committee may employ and fix the compensation of such clerks, experts, consultants, technicians, attorneys, investigators, and clerical and stenographic assistants as it considers necessary to carry out the purpose of this resolution. The select committee may reimburse the members of its staff for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of the duties vested in the select committee, other than expenses in connection with meetings of the select committee or any subcommittee thereof held in the District of Columbia. Subpenas may be issued under the signature of the chairman of the select committee or any member of the select committee designated by him, and may be served by any person designated by such chairman or member.

The select committee shall report to the House as soon as practicable during the present Congress the results of its investigation and study, together with such recommendations as it deems advisable. Any such report which is made when the House is not in session shall be filed with the Clerk of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MADDEN) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MADDEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ANDERSON), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MADDEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MADDEN. Madam Speaker, House Resolution 1540 provides for the establishment of a select committee to be composed of 12 members to be appointed by the Speaker. The select committee is directed to conduct a full and complete investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy and the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., and of any others the committee shall determine.

House Resolution 1540 provides the select committee is authorized and meet throughout the remainder of the 94th Congress whether or

September 17, 1976

## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H 10357

House is in session and also provides that the select committee shall have subpoena power.

On Wednesday, September 15, the Rules Committee reported this resolution by a vote of 9 to 4, with 1 abstention. Our committee feels that the time is right to begin an investigation of how these assassinations occurred.

As chairman of the Rules Committee, I have received hundreds of letters and telegrams from all over the country on this issue. An overwhelming majority have strongly urged approval of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I support House Resolution 1540, and I urge the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. YATES. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. MADDEN. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. YATES. Madam Speaker, I ask the gentleman this question: What does the phrase mean following the granting of authority for investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., and I quote, "of any others the Select Committee shall determine"?

May this committee investigate the assassination attempts on the life of Castro, for example? Can it examine any assassination attempt it wishes to?

Mr. MADDEN. Madam Speaker, I will yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DOWNING) to answer that question.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

I would like to advise my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. YATES), that "any others" has no specific meaning.

I myself wish the words had never been included in the resolution, but it would be up to the determination of the committee as to what "any others" means.

It could mean that if there was a possible assassination attempt on the life of the present President, the committee, I suppose, would have the discretion to go into that. However, it would be entirely up to the judgment of the committee.

Mr. YATES. Madam Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, I share the gentleman's statement when he says he wishes this phrase was not in there.

I think it gives the committee enormous power to go into any possible kind of assassination attempt on any person throughout the world.

Madam Speaker, I wonder why this phrase should have been inserted. I wonder why the Committee on Rules included it.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Presumably it could mean what the gentleman says. However, I think we are going to trust the judgment of the committee to do what is right. This phrase pertains to American leaders, not persons.

YATES. Madam Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, it seems to me the committee's investigation of

the assassinations of former President Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., would be enough of a charge upon the committee. I would hope that there would be no effort to go into any other.

I believe it gives the committee far too much power, power beyond the original intent of the resolution.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I have told the gentleman that I wish the words were not in there; but I can assure him that insofar as I have anything to do with it, I would not want the power to be too broad, and I hope the gentleman from Illinois votes for the resolution.

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MADDEN. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. MADDEN, for yielding to me.

Let me say that I raised the same question before the Committee on Rules. I would like to ask the gentleman why this language should not be stricken when this matter comes on for debate today?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I have no objection to striking those words.

Mr. LATTI. I thank the chairman. Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. MCKINNEY).

(Mr. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to congratulate the Committee on Rules on this resolution. This is something I became involved in about 5 years ago. I do not know of any plots or any secrets, but I do know that I think the attitude of the American people is that there are questions that have not been put to rest. I think the questions that have not been put to rest about the Government have severely damaged the credibility of our Nation's Government and of our system.

I would hope that this committee quietly, very seriously and in a very hard working fashion can come out with the final answers that the American people have asked.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DICKINSON).

(Mr. DICKINSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DICKINSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that I too have some very real doubts as to some of the circumstances involved, particularly those surrounding the Kennedy assassination and perhaps we can get at some of the facts and questions that have been raised such as the unnatural deaths of certain of the people connected with the assassination, incidents that seem to be continuing right up to now as for in-

stance, the recent murder of Roselli a month or two ago.

But, Mr. Speaker, my most immediate interest is as to the funding of the committee and I would like to have the attention of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DOWNING) who will be the chairman of the committee.

I am curious as I say, as to the nature of the funding. First, we are limited to this Congress and, of course, we have the proposed date of October 2 for adjournment although I do not know that we will get out at that time. I would ask the gentleman from Virginia if he has any idea as to how much it will cost? I assume they will come to our committee for the funds they need, or it is going to be a direct tap on the contingency fund? How much does the gentleman anticipate it will cost?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, the gentleman from Alabama is correct in his assumption in the first instance that we will appear before his committee and ask for funds. We will ask for, it is estimated, \$250,000. This will be for organizational purposes, setting up of the staff, and so forth, so the committee will be ready to go at the next session of the Congress.

Mr. DICKINSON. The gentleman says "at the next session of the Congress," so I assume the gentleman does not anticipate that this special subcommittee will make any substantial progress in investigating this year. Will the committee make any report during this present Congress even though the gentleman does not expect to conduct or finish any investigations until the following Congress? I ask that, Mr. Speaker, because the resolution says:

The Select Committee shall report to the House as soon as practicable during the present Congress the results of its investigation and study . . .

From what the gentleman has told me, the gentleman does not even anticipate making a serious start until the next Congress. Could the gentleman explain that?

The SPEAKER. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 additional minutes to the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. DICKINSON. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the additional time.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further to me?

Mr. DICKINSON. I would be pleased to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Under the terms of the resolution the committee will have to file a report at the end of this Congress as to the progress of the committee during the interim period. It is not expected that there will be any formal hearings, certainly before election. It may be necessary to hold some hearings in order to preserve testimony. I just cannot assure the gentleman from Alabama that it will or will not hold hearings in that regard.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, much as I sympathize with the objectives of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DOWNING), we

must remember that the select committee expires with each Congress.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. That is right.

Mr. THOMPSON. That would mean the creation of this select committee, then, presumably, it would appear before the Committee on House Administration for funding purposes, then the organization of the committee, so that there would be relatively little time within which to do anything before the end of this Congress. Then the select committee would expire and there would be the reconstitution of the whole process all over again in the next Congress.

It just seems to me a meritorious idea—and I say this with all respect to my dear friend, the gentleman from Virginia, who will not be with us, unfortunately, next year—that this matter, if it does deserve the attention the gentleman is convinced that it does deserve, should really wait until the 95th Congress.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. If the gentleman would yield further, we have got to get started sometime, I will say to the gentleman from New Jersey, that this thing has been put off too long. The longer we wait, the more difficult it will be to obtain whatever evidence still remains out there. If we can get it organized, get our priorities, and get our directions set in the remaining days of this Congress, then the 95th Congress can start off right away with substantial hearings.

Mr. THOMPSON. If the ranking minority member, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DICKINSON) would yield further, I wish to point out the factual situation as I see it.

The SPEAKER. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DOWNING).

(Mr. DOWNING of Virginia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today marks the culmination for me—and others, too, I suppose—of 15 months of intensive work and efforts to try to persuade this body to reinvestigate the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

I want to thank the Speaker; I want to thank the leadership on both sides of the aisle; I want to thank the Committee on Rules for giving the House this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1540, which is sponsored by Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. FAUNTROY, and me, is the refinement of a number of similar resolutions sponsored by approximately 135 Members of this body.

Two or 3 years ago—perhaps even 1 year ago—only a small fraction of us would have looked with favor upon this establishment of a select committee to re-examine the assassinations of several of our national leaders. However, today, I believe that there is overwhelming support in this House and throughout the country for an in-depth study into these traumatic events, in order to ascertain the truth, or at the very least, dispell doubts concerning them.

Most of us have reached our conclusion as to the necessity of a select committee reluctantly. However, the revelations of the last year or two have been both shocking and sobering.

Committees of both the House and the Senate have proven that much vital information was withheld from the Warren Commission. The CIA and its former Director, Allen Dulles, pointedly withheld all information relating to the multiple plots, which the U.S. Government launched, in an effort to assassinate Fidel and Raul Castro. To underline the importance of this conscious effort to deceive, we have the recent violent and unexplained murders of Sam Giancana and John Rosselli, the two Mafia chieftains who were recruited by the CIA for the assassination plots against the Cuban leaders, which I think is deplorable.

A subcommittee of the House, chaired by our colleague from California, Mr. EDWARDS, has shown how a threatening note sent by Dee Harvey Oswald to an FBI agent, shortly before President Kennedy's murder, was torn up and flushed down a toilet rather than delivered to the Warren Commission.

We know that the original autopsy notes of the chief surgeon in President Kennedy's autopsy were burned in the doctor's recreation-room fireplace.

We know that Jack Ruby had many ties to both the Mafia and to Cuba, which were either unknown to the Warren Commission, or ignored by it.

The list of such items is almost endless.

In light of all of this, there is little wonder that very few people any longer have faith in the Warren Commission's conclusions that Oswald, and Oswald alone, was responsible for the death of President Kennedy, or that Ruby, likewise, was a "lone nut killer."

In a recent CBS poll, 65 percent of those polled said they did not believe the Warren Commission's conclusions. In a Detroit News poll, it was 87 percent. In addition, most of our leading newspapers and journals now have called for a reopening of the case.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution concerns only assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. King. If and when the select committee reaches a conclusion that other cases should be reexamined in depth, it will have authority to conduct such investigations.

However, for the present, the committee's efforts will be concentrated on the deaths of these two national leaders.

It is my hope and my expectation that this select committee shall be nonpartisan, and nonpolitical. It will be dealing with matters of grave concern to all Americans, regardless of their political party, race, or section of the country. I can foresee no partisan aspect to the work of the committee. And to the extent that I am privileged to participate in its work, I shall do everything in my power to see that it remains above politics.

This committee will engage in no witch hunts. Its purpose is to arrive at the truth, not to blame those who may have erred in the original investigations.

For my part, the only conclusion I have

reached concerning the murders of President Kennedy or Dr. King is that we do not know the complete truth. Certainly in the case of President Kennedy, I am convinced that there was a conspiracy involved. I do not, however, know the identity of the conspirators or their motives. It is this that we must prove in depth.

So that there will be no question about the nonpolitical nature of the proposed committee, it has been agreed that there will be no public hearings held prior to the election in November. Some hearings may be scheduled for later this year, but most of the time will be spent in organizing staff, setting priorities, and obtaining a mass of official records. This will set the stage for prompt and deliberate action by the select committee when, as I strongly urge and expect, it will be re-established in the 95th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that each of us remembers the manner in which we heard of the assassinations of President Kennedy and of Dr. King. We may forget many of the details of our lives, but each one of us will always remember where we were, what we were doing, how we heard about these assassinations, and our own personal reaction to them.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to go home and face my people unless I can assure them that I have done by utmost to provide them with the knowledge of what really happened to John F. Kennedy, their President. I want them to know what happened to Dr. King. I want to be able to tell them that no one has stood in their way of learning the truth. I want to help restore in them the credibility of their Government. That they need.

I want to leave this as my legacy to the Members of the 95th Congress, the pleasure of whose country I have chosen, with great reluctance, to deny myself.

#### INTERROGATION OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Lee Harvey Oswald was questioned by Dallas police and by seven FBI officials for approximately 12 hours. There are no stenographic transcripts of his interrogation. No tape recorded record of the questioning was made. Capt. Will Fritz, chief of homicide, "kept no notes." The sole source of information about the interrogations are reports, based in large part on memory, prepared by some of those present and covering some of the interrogation sessions. There are no reports for several of the interrogation sessions on Friday afternoon. No transcripts were made of Oswald's arraignments for either of the two homicides with which he was charged.

Oswald was taken into custody at approximately 2 p.m. on Friday and was murdered in the basement of the Dallas Police and Courts Building on Sunday shortly after 11 a.m. Throughout his detention, Oswald was without representation.

On Friday evening representa from the Dallas Civil Liberties appeared at the police departme determine whether Oswald was deprived of counsel and they wer by police officials that Oswald w formed of his rights and free to lawyer. They sought permission to



with Oswald but were unable to meet with him.

The fact that the 12 hours of interrogation by FBI agents of Lee Harvey Oswald, perhaps the most important defendant and witness in the history of our country, are lost to us forever, raises the most serious questions. What did Oswald say? Why are we unable to learn of his comments? Only a congressional committee that asks those questions of the seven FBI agents can provide answers for America.

#### BURNED AUTOPSY MATERIAL

There is general agreement that an analysis of the preliminary autopsy materials would shed further light on the possibilities of the Commission's "single bullet" theory, a theory which is crucial to the Commission's conclusion that Oswald was the lone assassin. However, chief autopsy surgeon, Comdr. James J. Humes, burned "preliminary draft notes" relating to the autopsy upon the body of President Kennedy. When Humes testified before the Warren Commission on March 16, 1964, he testified that:

In the privacy of my own home, early in the morning of Sunday, November 24, I made a draft of this report which I later revised, and of which this (handwritten report of autopsy report) represents the revision. That draft I personally burned in the fireplace of my recreation room.

Commission Counsel Arlen Specter, author of the "single bullet" theory, did not ask Humes why he destroyed a crucial piece of Federal evidence in the case against Oswald.

#### JACK RUBY AND THE FBI

According to Commission Document 1052 Jack Ruby worked for the FBI as an informant on organized crime in Dallas from March 11, 1959, to October 2, 1959. During that time he was contacted on nine separate occasions by Dallas FBI Special Agent Charles W. Flynn. J. Lee Rankin, general counsel for the Warren Commission received this information by courier service from J. Edgar Hoover on June 9, 1964.

Leon D. Hubert, Jr., and Bert W. Griffin, the two Commission lawyers in charge of investigating Ruby's background were not provided any information on his underworld or law enforcement affiliations. Thus the Warren Commission did not know and did not reveal the relationship between Jack Ruby and the FBI.

#### ROBERT E. McKEOWN AND JACK RUBY.

In 1959, while Jack Ruby was an informant for the FBI, he went to Havana, Cuba, where he stayed at the Tropicana Hotel owned by Meyer Lansky, a king pin in organized crime. Before Ruby went to Cuba he attempted to secure a letter of introduction to Fidel Castro from Robert R. McKeown. According to the statement of McKeown, Ruby offered \$25,000 for the letter of introduction to Castro.

The year was 1959—the year organized crime entered into an alliance with the intelligence community to assassinate Fidel Castro. The two Warren Commission lawyers assigned to investigate Jack Ruby's background, Leon D. Hubert, Jr., the former district attorney of New Or-

leans, and Burt Griffin, now a judge in Cleveland, Ohio, insisted in four separate memorandums that the Commission call McKeown as a witness. The Commission did not call McKeown and did not ask Ruby any questions about the matter.

#### POSSIBLE OSWALD LINK TO CIA

Before Oswald went to Mexico in September of 1963, he had to get an entry permit from the Mexican Consulate in New Orleans. After the assassination, the FBI investigated everyone who had gotten permits in New Orleans on the same day as Oswald. To their horror, they discovered that the man immediately preceding Oswald was one William George Gaudet, a man who had worked for the CIA since its founding in 1947. After much discussion between the CIA, the FBI, and the Warren Commission, it was decided not to call Gaudet as a witness, nor even to let his identity be known until the year 2039. However, recently, and apparently by accident, Gaudet's name was made public, and he has affirmed the story of the entry permit and the coverup.

This coverup by itself is bad enough, but it becomes more sinister when one realizes that CIA-man Gaudet not only stood in line ahead of Oswald, he also had knowledge of Ruby's activities. In fact, Gaudet told the FBI on November 27, 1963—4 days after the murder—of Ruby's activities in New Orleans.

Yet to this day, Gaudet has never been subpoenaed, put under oath and questioned publicly about the links between himself, Oswald, and Ruby—and the CIA.

#### THE WARREN COMMISSION'S SECRET MEETING

Two documents recently declassified, the January 22, 1964, and the January 27, 1964, transcripts of the Warren Commission executive sessions, provide interesting reading.

The members of the Commission decided to destroy the minutes of the meetings so that the American people might not know what the Commission discussed. The minutes survived, and they reveal that the general counsel for the Warren Commission, J. Lee Rankin, reported that the two highest law enforcement officials in Texas, Waggoner Carr, the attorney general of Texas, and Henry Wade, the Dallas district attorney, both had proof that Lee Harvey Oswald was an employee of the FBI. Rankin suggested that an examination of the FBI records would reveal that Oswald worked for the FBI, but he added that Hoover would probably deny that Oswald was the agent referred to in the FBI files. Allan Dulles assured Chief Justice Warren that Hoover would not tell the Commission the truth, even under oath, if Oswald did work for the FBI. Dulles said that a good agent would lie under similar circumstances.

The Commission agreed to call the five relevant witnesses on the questioning of Oswald's employment by the FBI and to subpoena Oswald's FBI file as well. By the end of the second meeting, the Commission decided not to call the five relevant witnesses and not to subpoena the records of the FBI. Instead, the Warren Com-

mission relied exclusively upon the testimony of Mr. Hoover regarding Oswald's association with the FBI.

Yet for many Americans this question remains an open one. A question which must be resolved if we are to know how—and why John Kennedy was assassinated.

#### TAPED CONVERSATION OF "OSWALD" IN MEXICO CITY

When Oswald visited Mexico City in September 1963, someone made several visits and phone calls to the Soviet and Cuban Embassies using the Oswald identity.

That there is some doubt that the person visiting and phoning the embassies was in fact Lee Harvey Oswald is evidenced by the fact that many photographs of "Oswald" were taken by CIA cameras outside both embassies. Each and every photograph which has been pried loose from the Government—and they are still withholding some—are of a man who is about 6 feet 2 inches, 175 pounds, 35 years old, and burly. "Our" Oswald was 5 feet 9 inches, 135 pounds, 24 years old, and slim. The pictures are obviously not of Oswald, though so identified by the CIA.

At the same time, the CIA—through some unknown means—tapped and taped the telephone calls of "Oswald" to the Soviet and/or Cuban Embassies. These recorded conversations were withheld from the Warren Commission. Had they been made available, or if they were made available today, voice prints of them could be made and compared with voice prints of known conversations of Lee Oswald. Then we would know for sure if there was someone else using Oswald's identity in Mexico City. And, if there are two Oswalds for sure, we can wager great odds that there was a conspiracy involved in the death of our President.

#### SECRET WIRETAPS

After the assassination, the Federal Government placed a number of wiretaps but withheld most of the "fruits" of these taps from the Warren Commission.

We are certain as to one crucial tap because of an FBI report declassified only weeks ago. This tap was either on the home phone of the Paine residence or the business phone of Michael Paine. It must be remembered that the Paines were the Oswald's closest friends in Dallas; in fact, Marina Oswald was living at the Paine residence at the time of the assassination. Oswald ostensibly stored his rifle in the Paine's garage.

On the day after the assassination, the FBI overheard Ruth and Michael Paine telling each other over the telephone that, although Oswald did the shooting, "We know who is responsible." Apparently the tapes from the conversation were withheld, because when the Paines were questioned at a later date, they denied the fact that the conversation had taken place. The FBI dropped the subject without ever facing them with a tape or an FBI agent who had monitored the conversation.

If the Oswalds' best friends, the Paines, know "who was responsible," is it not about time that the American people know?

## ALLAN DULLES AND ASSASSINATIONS

A leading member of the Warren Commission was Allan Dulles. Mr. Dulles had been the Director of the CIA from 1953 until after the Bay of Pigs in 1961. During this time, Dulles, as the head of the CIA, must have been privy to the fact that the CIA had been actively engaged in many attempts to murder Fidel Castro in the years 1959-61.

The grimy details of the CIA excesses—especially the use made by the CIA of the Mafia in its murder plots—have been recently documented by the Church committee.

Yet, despite the Warren Commission's great interest in Oswald's many links to Cuba and to both pro-Fidel and anti-Fidel factions, Allan Dulles never said one word to the other members of the Commission about the attempts on the life of Castro. Had Allan Dulles been more forthcoming, the whole direction of the Warren investigation might have been radically different and its conclusions radically altered.

When we have a new investigation of the Dallas murder—and we will have one, whether it is this year, next year, or 10 years hence—the investigators can now realistically weigh the evidence withheld from Earl Warren by Allan Dulles to see if John Kennedy's death was directly or indirectly caused by his administration's attempts on the life of Fidel Castro.

## THE MURDER WEAPON

A rifle was discovered on the sixth floor of the book depository building at 1:22 p.m. on November 22, 1963. The Dallas authorities told the press later that day that the weapon was a 7.65 German Mauser. Dallas District Attorney Wade repeated this information at a formal televised press conference and it was widely publicized. Deputy Constable Seymour Weitzman, on November 23, 1963, in a notarized affidavit, described the rifle he and Deputy Sheriff Boone found as "a 7.65 Mauser, bolt action equipped with a 4/18 scope, a thick leather brownish black sling on it." In a filmed interview in April 1974, Roger Craig, a deputy Sheriff also present when the rifle was found stated:

I was standing next to Weitzman, he was standing next to Fritz, and we weren't any more than six or eight inches from the rifle, and stamped right on the barrel of the rifle was 7.65 Mauser. And that's when Weitzman said, "it is a Mauser," and pointed to the 7.65 Mauser stamp on the barrel.

This description of the rifle is incompatible with the Warren Commission's case against Oswald. Although the FBI reported that Oswald owned a rifle it was not similar to the one reportedly found on the book depository sixth floor. According to the FBI, the rifle Oswald had purchased was a Mannlicher/Carcano, 6.5 Italian carbine. This rifle, which the Warren Commission identified as the murder weapon, is available for examination in the National Archives. Any individual, regardless of his experience in firearms, can clearly see it is an Italian rifle because stamped clearly on the rifle are the words, "Made Italy" and "Cal. 6.5." It is unlikely that two police officers upon close inspection

would have made such a case of mistaken identification.

Recently declassified CIA documents add further evidence that "Oswald's" rifle was not the rifle found in the book depository. A CIA report, dated November 25, 1963, states:

On November 22, 1963 Lee Harvey Oswald shot President Kennedy while the President was riding in an open automobile on a Dallas Texas street. The rifle used was a Mauser. . .

A second CIA report dated 5 days after the assassination states:

NOVEMBER 28, 1963.

## INFORMATION ON THE WEAPON PRESUMABLY USED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

1. As regards articles appearing recently in the Italian and foreign press concerning the presumed use of an Italian-made rifle in the slaying of President Kennedy, the following comments are made.

2. The weapon which appears to have been employed in this criminal attack is a model 91 rifle, 7.35 caliber, 1938 modification.

3. The description of a "Mannlicher Carcano" rifle in the Italian and foreign press is in error.

It should be clear that the initial identification of the rifle as a 7.65 Mauser clearly was not, as the Commission maintained, because Deputy Constable Weitzman "thought it looked like a Mauser." Since the Commission's case against Oswald as the lone assassin is built almost exclusively on his ownership of the 6.5 Mannlicher/Carcano, the identification of the murder weapon as 7.65 Mauser tends to discredit the entire case.

The report of the Warren Commission includes reference to a trip by Lee Harvey Oswald to Mexico City in late September of 1963, where on September 28 he visited both the Cuban and the Soviet Embassies. The report mentions that while he was in the Soviet Embassy he spoke with the Soviet Consul Kostikov, who also served as a KGB agent. Oswald referred to him as "Comrad Kostin." There is no further reference in the Warren Commission report as to the identity of Kostikov. We learned this in the recent release of some 1,500 CIA documents. I quote from one of the documents:

NOTE.—Valery Vladimirovich Kostikov, who has functioned overtly as a consul in the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City since September 1961, is also known to be a staff officer of the KGB. He is connected with the thirteenth, or Liquid Affairs Department, whose responsibilities include assassination and sabotage.

Upon reading this, my suspicions were very definitely aroused. Here we have the man who is considered to be the assassin of President Kennedy visiting a Soviet official whose responsibilities, according to the CIA, include assassination. I find the whole thing highly suspicious. I find it incredible. I would like to know more about Oswald's KGB contact. I would like to know why this is not mentioned in the Commission report.

## THE HOSTY LETTER

Just as the FBI destroyed evidence in the Watergate case, equally did it do so in the Dallas case.

In one crucial instance we know that a few days before the assassination, Os-

wald hand-delivered to the FBI office in Dallas a threatening letter addressed to FBI Agent James Hosty. Two hours after Ruby shot Oswald, Hosty tore up the note and a memorandum about it, and flushed them down a toilet in the FBI office.

How can we be so sure of the details of this incident? Because a subcommittee of the House, chaired by the Honorable DON EDWARDS, held a full-fledged hearing under oath on this subject not more than a few months ago. Such facts as I have stated are perfectly clear.

What is not clear is: First, the nature of the threats in the letter; second, did J. Edgar Hoover know of the letter; third, who ordered the letter destroyed; and fourth, why was it so crucial to hide the whole incident from the Warren Commission?

At the Edwards hearing, the testimony of various FBI witnesses was radically contradictory. As they were under oath, at least some of the witnesses were perjuring themselves, 12 years after the fact.

The aim of the FBI appeared obvious from Hosty's answers to questions from Chairman EDWARDS. He said he did not tell the Commission about the Oswald letter because he was not asked. He did not volunteer the information because he had been instructed not to volunteer anything that would be of help to the Commission.

To the extent I am privileged to participate in its work I shall do everything in my power to see that the committee remains above politics.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution.

As chairman of the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia, I would like to pledge to the gentleman or others my cooperation and work with the staff on how to set up the committee. I also commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) for his initial leadership in this area. I would suggest to the gentleman from Virginia that you have a small staff and use other Government agencies to help gather information.

Also I would like to suggest that these select committees do not have to run on and on. Even though the Select Committee on Missing Persons was extended for 3 months over the 1 year of the life of the committee, which was needed, I think we can write a comprehensive report on the missing persons by January 3. I see no reason to extend the Select Committee on Missing Persons.

I know the gentleman will look into these matters.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I thank the gentleman from Mississippi. I agree with him. The life of the committee will be determined by each succeeding Congress.

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SEIBERLING).

Mr. SEIBERLING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my support to this

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resolution and commend the gentleman in the well for his devotion to this cause. I think all America will applaud him for it.

The trouble is that we all felt in our bones that we did not have all the facts as to these terrible events, but only recently have we gotten some concrete evidence to confirm our misgivings. I was privileged to sit on the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil Rights earlier this year when we had hearings with respect to the FBI incident where they had a report on Oswald which was suppressed and flushed down the drain.

Unfortunately, the new evidence has been developed piecemeal and as a sort of byproduct of other investigations and oversight hearings. Now for the first time we will have the satisfaction that at least one committee will have the jurisdiction to go into this whole matter and try to answer some of these awful questions that have been continuing concern to the people of our country.

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. I thank the gentleman.

This committee will engage in no witch hunts. Its purpose is to arrive at the truth and not to blame those who may have erred in the original investigation.

For my part the only conclusion I have reached concerning the murders of President Kennedy and Dr. King is that we do not know the complete truth. Certainly in the case of President Kennedy I am convinced that there was a conspiracy involved.

I do not, however, know the identity of the conspirators or their motives.

The SPEAKER. The time of the gentleman from Virginia has expired.

Mr. MADDEN: Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 additional minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing).

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, so that there will be no question about the nonpolitical purposes of this proposed committee, it has been agreed there will be no public hearings held prior to the election in November. Some hearings may be scheduled for later this year, but none of the time will be spent in organizing staff, setting priorities or obtaining the mass of political records for setting the stage for broad and deliberate action by the Select Committee, when as I strongly urge and expect it will be reestablished in the 95th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure we each remember the manner in which we heard of the assassination of President Kennedy and Dr. King. We may forget many of the details in our lives, but we will each remember where we were and what we were doing when we heard about it and our own personal reactions thereto.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to go home and face my people unless I can assure them that I have done my utmost to provide them with all the knowledge of what happened to John F. Kennedy, our former President. I want them to know what happened to Dr. King. I want them to know that no one stood in the way of learning the truth. I want to restore credibility in our Government. I want to leave this as my legacy to the 95th

Congress, whose pleasure I have chosen to leave at this time with great reluctance.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Gonzalez).

(Mr. GONZALEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, today—in this eleventh hour of the 94th Congress—the House has finally seen fit to attempt to discharge its responsibility in respect to some of the political assassinations of the last decade.

When I became the first Member of Congress since the Warren Commission report to ask for a congressional investigation of political assassinations on February 19, 1975—at the first available time after committees were organized for this Congress—I was ridiculed in some quarters and no one else was interested in joining in the effort. The U.S. press was, generally speaking, disinterested.

Much to my surprise, as well as everyone else's, the kind of reaction which I initially received quickly began to change as the result of revelations, especially about the John F. Kennedy assassination, which began to appear in print. The showing of the Zapruder film on national television also stimulated great interest.

As the interest began to mount, my good colleague, Congressman THOMAS DOWNING of Virginia, introduced the very same resolution which I had introduced, but left off all other assassinations—or attempted assassinations—except that of President Kennedy.

However, I had originally proposed and continued to propose that the House also undertake a review of the assassinations of U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, and the attempt on the life of Gov. George Wallace, so my good colleague and I began to gather cosponsors on our two different versions of my proposal.

In the discussions which I had with my good colleague he argued that all the names of the others, especially that of Dr. King, should be removed from the proposal I had introduced, if we were to get any congressional investigation underway on the John F. Kennedy assassination, or any assassination.

Therefore, it was heartening this last Monday that my good colleague, THOMAS DOWNING, agreed to join me and Congressman WALTER FAUNTROY in a compromise proposal, House Resolution 1540, which includes Dr. King's assassination, and possibly others, as well as that of President Kennedy.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall, that I was the very first to appeal to you personally, on the floor of this House, for consideration of legislation creating a select committee on assassinations, as we have done today. This first appeal was many months ago when it appeared that there was no likelihood that we would ever get such a proposal out of the House Rules Committee.

Creation of the select committee is long overdue. However, whether creation of such a committee at this time, under

the present circumstances, including the retirement from Congress of my colleague, Congressman DOWNING, is really appropriate, remains to be seen.

I have only one interest: the truth about why and how these assassinations occurred.

In organizing such an effort, as a select committee on assassinations, we should have only the objective of assessing the effects of these assassinations on the American people, trying to determine why they happened, and how we can prevent such a series of events from happening again.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Anderson).

(Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that the gentleman who has preceded me on this resolution was the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing). The gentleman certainly has no political motives whatever in espousing the cause of a reopening of the investigation into the death of Dr. King and John F. Kennedy, because as all of the Members of this committee know, the gentleman from Virginia is not seeking reelection to this body.

Mr. Speaker, very frankly, I was one of those who originally was highly skeptical—totally skeptical, I would say—of the utility of further pursuing this matter. Yet, after listening to the testimony of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing) before the Committee on Rules way back in March of this year, I was so impressed with the very patient and persistent effort that the gentleman had made to gather together all of the facts and all of the evidence that certainly pointed to new areas that deserve investigation, that at that time I voted in favor of reporting out this resolution. This was on the 31st of March of this year.

Now, almost 6 months have gone by. 6 months, I might say, of very valuable time that could have been used to pursue this matter.

Fortunately, some of the members of the Committee on Rules, at least in my judgment, changed their position and so it was that I read this week 2 days ago that by a vote of 9 to 4 this resolution was favorably reported.

Mr. Speaker, I shall not take the time to go into the evidence that has been presented to the committee by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing). The gentleman has already made some reference to it in his statement a moment ago; but, for example, some of the people who have urged reconsideration of this matter include the staff attorney for the Commission, David Belin, who in November of last year called for a new investigation, because the Commission at the time it did its work had been totally unaware of CIA attempts on the life of Fidel Castro; yet I read, for example, in the statement of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Downing) and heard the gentleman testify before the Committee on Rules, that Lee Harvey Oswald was questioned by seven FBI of-

ficials for approximately 12 hours and that there are no stenographic transcripts of his interrogation, no tape-recorded record of his questioning was made, that no notes were kept, even by the chief of homicide of the Dallas Police.

Mr. Speaker, those are things certainly that lead me to believe that in view of what we have learned in recent months of CIA involvement in attempted assassination efforts with respect to the Cuban dictator, Fidel Castro, and also some of the revelations with respect to the activities of the FBI have lead me to believe that reasonable men have the right at this point in history to once again make an inquiry into these matters.

I have not spoken as to the need for reinvestigation of the death of Dr. King, although I understand from one of the witnesses before our committee, Mr. FAUNTROY, that there is evidence in this case as well that is deserving of consideration. I think both of these matters are so important that I would urge Members to put aside their doubts and support the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. THONE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. THONE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, no one can deny that there is a considerable percentage of people in America who feel they haven't had the full truth about the assassination of former President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King. There are lingering doubts in the minds of many about the participants, motives, and causes of these tragedies.

In my opinion, sinister conspiratory aspects loom larger and larger.

Questions have also been raised about killings, or attempted murders, of other leading American political leaders in the past 10 to 15 years.

It is always worthwhile to seek the truth. It is always a wise course to try to replace doubts with certainty. It is always a course of wisdom to seek to find answers for important questions.

An investigation of these assassination attempts may help to guide America's conduct of international relations. An investigation may help to provide better protection for our political leaders. Most importantly, an investigation that is thorough, complete, and impartial will do much to ease American minds. The United States is a nation of free people. We require knowledge and information to keep our freedom. As Justice Brandeis said, "The truth will make you free."

In the search for truth, I urge adoption of this proposal.

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. I yield to my colleague from Illinois.

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, the statements that have been made today by those advocating the resolution indicate

that the committee's attention will be devoted to the assassinations of former President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King. Yet, I am troubled by the phrase in the resolution which states, "and any others the select committee shall determine."

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. I would respond to the gentleman from Illinois in this manner: Certainly, all of the testimony before the Committee on Rules—and which led me individually to support as long ago as March of this year the adoption of a resolution to set up a select committee—was based on a desire on the part of the witness to reopen the investigation into the deaths of two men, and two men only, Dr. Martin Luther King and former President John F. Kennedy.

Let me conclude my answer by saying that just as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DOWNING) pointed out, there have been some very mysterious deaths occur in recent months, and he referred by name to two former members of the Mafia. It is generally believed that they may have had some connection with plots by the CIA on the life of Castro; so that, to me, indicates that this language is merely designed to give the select committee, if it is established, the latitude and the flexibility that it might need to look into the deaths of other individuals who are not really the prime focus of inquiry, but leads with respect to how that matter would in turn perhaps shed some light on the whole mystery surrounding the deaths of former President Kennedy and Dr. King. So, I think it is wholly ancillary to the principal thrust of the investigation, which is to look into the deaths of Dr. King and former President Kennedy.

Mr. YATES. Does the gentleman believe that the work of the committee should be fully devoted to the deaths of those two individuals? And further respecting the deaths, as the gentleman suggested, occurring recently if those deaths are related to the death of former President Kennedy, the authority given by the resolution would permit the committee to go into those deaths as well. I think the authority that is given by that gratuitous phrase, if you please, is so broad that the committee could go into the assassination of President Lincoln, for example, under this authority. It could go into the assassination of President McKinley.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. Now, the gentleman is resorting to a familiar device. There is not a shred of evidence before the Committee on Rules to show that they intend to go back and exhume the bones of Abraham Lincoln or James Garfield.

Mr. YATES. Why put this phrase in here then?

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. I have said to explain to the gentleman that the deaths of some of the other people in recent months have lead the authors of the resolution to think they might have some bearing on the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. King.

Mr. YATES. If they have a bearing on the deaths, would not the authority of

this resolution give Congress the power to go into that investigation?

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. I suppose one could argue without the phrase "and of any others" that they could.

Mr. YATES. That is right. I thank the gentleman for his concession.

Mr. ANDERSON of Illinois. I frankly cannot see the basis for the fears expressed by the gentleman from Illinois that this committee is going to get off on a fishing expedition into every gangland slaying that has occurred over the past 10 years. I do not think that is their intention at all.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SISK).

(Mr. SISK asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SISK. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let me urge my colleagues, for gosh sakes, if they have any respect, as I am sure they all do, for the dollars of our taxpayers, let us vote this resolution down. This, to me, is almost unbelievable, that we would be here, approaching October 1, even discussing the issue.

Maybe I should not use this title, because it certainly does not apply to any Member of this body, nor to most Americans, but there are unfortunately, a number of people running around this country who are plain witch hunters, and they have some kind of a melodramatic desire for the morbid. They want to try to create an incident.

If anyone can stand up and tell me one single good that anything that this committee may do would be of any benefit to the American people, to the American Government, to anyone, then for God's sake I wish they would do it.

I thought we put this thing to bed a long time ago, and we did have it stopped for a time.

But it seems to ever raise its head. And, finally, let me say we had an amendment yesterday proposed to eliminate the phrase which has been raised here which opens it up. For example, I understand there is new evidence in connection with the death of President Harding. I do not know whether or not the committee wants to go in and investigate the death of President Harding, and I do not really care. I just hope, as I said, that we vote this resolution down, and particularly at this stage of the year when there is no possibility even, with the admission of possible Members of the committee, that they are going to do anything this year and will depend on the 95th Congress for any achievements that may be developed.

Mr. Speaker, let me say to my colleagues that we have heard all kinds of rumors, and there will continue to be rumors. We had a very distinguished commission 13 years ago that I think did the very best possible job of investigating this. People talk about new facts. We read about new facts concerning a whole variety of things, some of them going back 100 years ago. Facts are facts to the individual stating them. They may or

may not be facts. They may be truths or half-truths.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, that I would urge that this House on this occasion vote down this resolution, and then if the 95th Congress wants to take a look at some new evidence that apparently seems to be floating around, they can do so. Frankly, as a Member of the Committee on Rules, I still have not heard anything up there that would in any way change my strong conviction that it is a total waste of time. Are we going to—and bring Mr. Castro up here if someone comes up with some so-called facts that he was instrumental in the death of President Kennedy? To me, it is just unbelievable that we spend our time on this kind of situation.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DOWNING).

(Mr. DOWNING of Virginia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOWNING of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have resolved this question for myself. The Members all know that I do not go in for the sensational or the bizarre. That is not my lifestyle. I asked myself: "Why do you want to do this?" And the answer came back: "The truth."

The American people want to know the truth. I would hope and pray that the committee would resolve that the Warren Commission was right, but I know in my heart it will not.

Let me tell the Members something else about these assassinations. We should take into consideration the political effects of this crime. Let us think of this for a minute: But for the fact that Kennedy was assassinated, Johnson probably would not have been President, and but for the fact that Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated, Richard M. Nixon probably would not have been President, and but for the fact that George Wallace was eliminated, Nixon probably would not have been reelected. No one can tell me that an assassination does not have an effect on politics and on our form of government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members to vote for this resolution.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Mr. FAUNTROY).

(Mr. FAUNTROY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FAUNTROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the House Resolution 1540. There are at least three compelling reasons for the House to establish this Select Committee on Assassinations. The first is that the American people want it. The second is that a wealth of new information which was not available to the initial investigators of the Kennedy and King assassinations justifies it. And third, Mr. Speaker, the best vehicle for such an inquiry would be a duly constituted panel of distinguished Members of this House committed to conduct a responsible and searching investigation of these matters.

Let us take a look at the first compelling reason, namely that: The American people today want a thorough, im-

partial and reliable investigation of the rash of political assassinations that have rocked our Nation over the past 13 years. Both nationwide polls and more localized polls of the opinions of the American people indicate that an overwhelming majority of our people are not satisfied that we know the whole truth about several of these assassinations. In fact, a CBS nationwide poll as recently as November of last year found a whopping 46 percent of the American people believing that the shootings of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and even George Wallace were related. The polls found only that 15 percent of the American people believe that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the Kennedy assassination.

When one reflects upon the wealth of new information that has come to light since initial investigators completed their work, one can understand the low level of confidence which the American people have in these dated findings. Not only have a number of books published on the subject of the assassinations revealed new information and raised serious questions that ought to be answered, but the recent findings of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence have, in my view, confirmed the need for a reopening of these matters.

Our distinguished colleague from Virginia, Mr. DOWNING, has noted a number of facts that were not available to the Warren Commission in the Kennedy case. The King assassination has never been thoroughly investigated inasmuch as there has never been a trial, even though the confessed assassin has been seeking one for nearly 8 years. I have shared new information with respect to the King assassination with the leadership of the House with the result that they have concurred in our desire to establish the select committee.

Third, Mr. Speaker, a select committee of the House is clearly the best vehicle for investigating this investigation. What the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has documented about the shameful conduct of the FBI with respect to Dr. King is certainly enough to convince all of us that the responsible thing for the Congress to do is to undertake this investigation, resolve any lingering doubts and help restore confidence in our Government.

The American people want it, new information demands it, and the conduct of our traditional investigate agencies require that we establish this select committee. Nothing more is needed; nothing less will suffice.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FAUNTROY. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I share the concern of the gentleman, and I agree that these assassinations certainly needed investigation at the time, but I fail to realize how we can come up now 2 weeks before sine die adjournment with a resolution that provides for the appointment of 12 Members of this Chamber to make an investigation in 2 weeks and clear the air in a matter that the Warren Commission spent months in investigating. I just cannot see it.

I will ask one other question, if I may. Mr. FAUNTROY. May I answer the first question and then answer the gentleman's second.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Certainly.

Mr. FAUNTROY. It is my considered judgment that the members of the Committee on Rules who voted for this, including the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DOWNING) whose record is very clear on questions of this nature, have not moved to do this at this time without serious understanding of the urgent need to preserve testimony. I am confident that when we are apprised of the specifics of the new information, we will understand the wisdom of the leadership which is supporting this measure now.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

(Mr. MADDEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Mr. FAUNTROY) for the remarks he just made.

As I previously stated, Mr. Speaker, there have been thousands of letters and requests from organizations and people all over the country pressing for these investigations.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) has been one of the pioneers in bringing about this investigation resolution. His work has not only extended over months, but over years in trying to get this Select Assassination Committee created.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PICKLE).

(Mr. PICKLE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PICKLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MADDEN) for yielding.

I will not take all of that time because I was also going to point out to the House that one of the first voices in the Congress to raise questions was that of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ).

Mr. Speaker, I have doubts about what this committee will find; but I do know that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) has been pursuing this matter for the last several years and probably was the first one to initiate or to insist on further inquiring. I think the House ought to know that perhaps this resolution is before us today because of his persistence and because of his determination that certain testimony ought to be preserved.

Mr. Speaker, most of us are going to reserve our judgment, but I know that the able gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) felt very strongly about uncertainties, and I think that the Members should be reminded of that particular fact.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PICKLE. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, once again we will establish a commission or a select committee, and I understand that these people who will serve

on this committee have already been designated, in the event this resolution passes today.

I wonder if this resolution would be here today if the 12 members who will serve on it were not Members of the House of Representatives. If we selected 12 persons from the population to make this investigation, would we still be voting on this bill today? Are we really concerned about this or is this an opportunity for somebody to be out in the limelight again?

Mr. PICKLE. Mr. Speaker, I must say to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MYERS) that I do not know whether the members have been selected. That is a matter for the Speaker, who will make that determination.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. If the gentleman will yield further, at the time this came up I understand that the members had been selected already or designated, at least, even though they have not been appointed.

Again, I doubt that we would be here today taking up this resolution if Members of Congress were not to serve on this very select committee. Regardless of how worthy or meritorious this bill is, can the 12 members to be appointed fulfill all their other legislative responsibilities, all probably will be running for reelection and will be doing some politicking during this period, yet do any kind of job of investigation and make a report before we adjourn? To spend that much money in such a short time is just not reasonable.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. FITHIAN).

(Mr. FITHIAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITHIAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

When I came to this body nearly 2 years ago, I came from a role of a history professor.

I was the person who had seen in the books repeatedly or every so often the statement that we wanted to go back and reinvestigate some assassination.

Mr. Speaker, by training alone, I was opposed to this movement; but in the last 18 months, both from the evidence that has been amassed and the interest that has been exhibited, and from my own investigation and my own reading into this subject, I have been led to believe that this is worthy of our consideration. It is worthy of our consideration because there are too many unanswered questions.

Both of these assassinations and the evidence pertaining to them are now demonstrably incomplete, as has been stated ably by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ANDERSON), that being the case, it is time to try to lay this question to rest and to try to assure the American people, who are, as the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MADDEN), the chairman of the Committee on Rules mentioned, uneasy about this whole matter.

Therefore, I would urge the Members of this body to support this resolution.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PATTEN).

(Mr. PATTEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PATTEN. Mr. Speaker, I think it is odd. Yesterday we had the Clean Air Act. Today we have this resolution.

Everybody in America loves moving pictures and they love to read mystery stories. It is the best way to sell a newspaper.

I work on the Appropriations Committee and there are no TV cameras or lights, no reporters. Let us get into the act even if it is a fake.

Mr. WON PAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support House Resolution 1540, which calls for the creation of a select committee to investigate the deaths of the late President John F. Kennedy, his brother Robert, Martin Luther King, and the attempted assassination of Gov. George Wallace.

The measure now before this body is similar to one I cosponsored; House Resolution 456, both of which were written by our esteemed colleague Representative HENRY B. GONZALEZ, of Texas.

The need for Congress to undertake a new and thorough investigation of these matters, particularly the Kennedy assassinations, is very real. Recent events have revealed new information which shed light on some very gray areas of the Kennedy assassinations. Information which should give every American pause to question whether the Warren Commission did, in fact, uncover all the sordid facts surrounding these terrible events in our history. Did Cuban President Fidel Castro play a role in the killings as press reports now indicate may be the case? Did the Mafia know about the murders and are the gangland killings of the two Mafia heads related in any way to the Kennedy assassinations?

I, for one, have no idea if these or any of the numerous theories about the assassinations are valid. But the fact remains that many Americans continue to doubt that all the truth has been revealed.

I have great confidence that should the Congress approve of this legislation, the investigation will be conducted in a professional and responsible manner which will reflect credit on the U.S. Congress. What we are looking for is the truth, not a sideshow. But as long as a reasonable doubt remains, I believe that it is the duty of the Congress to investigate these issues and report to the American people its findings.

Congressman GONZALEZ deserves our support in this matter. He has approached this sensitive issue with dignity and appreciation for the complex issues involved. Should the select committee be authorized, I would heartedly recommend that Congressman GONZALEZ be chosen as its chairman. He is extremely familiar with the issues and has undoubtedly developed strong connections with many of the groups who have publicly expressed reservations about the assassinations. Congressman GONZALEZ's record in the House is an outstanding one, and I am confident that he would carry out the

duties of the chairman of the select committee to investigate the assassinations with his usual skill.

Mr. ANDERSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support House Resolution 1540, a resolution that establishes a House select committee to complete a thorough investigation of the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lingering doubt about "what happened" remains with the American people. Uncertainty about the death of great leaders, or anyone cannot be.

Thus, last year I cosponsored a nearly identical resolution (H. Res. 574) introduced by my colleague from Virginia, Mr. DOWNING. Today, I urge every Member to join with me in passing a resolution that, hopefully, will close an old wound.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge a speedy passage today of House Resolution 1540. As Members of the House of Representatives, we have the duty to investigate and prove or disprove to the best of our ability any allegations of impropriety or conspiracy in these assassinations. The American people have the right to know with the greatest certainty possible the circumstances surrounding deaths of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and the attempted assassination of Governor Wallace.

Mr. MINETA. Mr. Speaker, I am most hopeful that today the House will take a step toward ending the 13 years of doubt that have surrounded the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Public opinion polls have shown us repeatedly that the American people simply do not believe the conclusions of the Warren Commission report. And rather than subsiding, the questions, charges, and doubts grow in scope, magnitude, and intensity with the passage of time. The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities concluded that there were serious omissions in the information and evidence provided to the Warren Commission and that another investigation is warranted. I concur with that conclusion and believe the House of Representatives should establish the vehicle to conduct that investigation.

It is clear that the Warren Commission never questioned the guilt of Lee Harvey Oswald and never looked into any information that was not directly related to him. In this way they never examined any information that did not fit into this preconceived conclusion, and thus the scope of their investigation was narrow and incomplete.

I do not portend to know who did, or did not, kill President Kennedy. I do know that too many questions and doubts remain for us not to create a select committee to investigate that assassination. Further, information that has come to light over the last several months regarding the surveillance and harassment of Rev. Martin Luther King, and the inconsistencies surrounding his assassination warrant attention by the House of Representatives as well.

I urge all of my colleagues to consider the public's right to know the truth, and cast an affirmative vote on this resolution.

Mr. BIAGGI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to indicate my full support for this resolution which will establish a new Select Committee on Assassinations. As a cosponsor of this resolution, I consider its passage vital if we are to address the clamorings of millions of Americans to reopen the investigations of the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Now, almost 13 years later, there are still many serious questions being raised on certain key facts associated with the murder of President Kennedy. The relentless efforts of such persons as Mark Lane in his book "Rush to Judgment" as well as other individuals and groups, have produced new evidence which questions the findings of the Warren Commission. It should be clearly understood that the efforts to create this select committee are in no way designed to be a total denunciation of the Warren Commission. Rather, in light of new and substantial evidence, it is imperative that a new inquiry be undertaken and we are seeking to allow Congress to investigate the assassination for the first time.

Similarly, serious questions have been raised about the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. New and very disturbing theories have surfaced which deserve close examination. This is exactly what the committee would do.

I am pleased that this resolution will vest the new committee with sufficient authority to insure that thorough inquiries are conducted. These two assassinations of major American leaders have had a profound effect on all Americans. We must write the final chapter on these two dark events in American history by permitting all relevant evidence to be aired and considered so that unimpeachable conclusions on these assassinations may be reached.

Mrs. MINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1540, to establish a Select Committee on Assassination. Many of us have been shocked in recent times to learn of the extent to which American intelligence and law enforcement agencies have engaged in illegal, improper, and unethical activities. Investigations by both Chambers of Congress have charted a long history of abuses by the CIA, FBI, and other agencies that have included illegal electronic surveillance, drug abuses, political spying, mail openings, efforts to disrupt and discredit citizen protest groups, and assassination plots against foreign leaders.

The recent disclosure of J. Edgar Hoover's now infamous COINTELPRO memos outlines a nationwide program to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the activities" of organizations and leaders who did not share Mr. Hoover's political philosophy. And yet, I would remind my colleagues, that the investigations of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were dependent upon information gathered under the direction of the very same J. Edgar Hoover.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress had done much to prevent the reoccurrence of the abuses of the past but to stop at this point is to leave our work half done.

Many Americans are demanding to be told the whole truth about the assassinations of some of our greatest leaders. The recent systematic violations of the Constitution, Federal, State, and local laws by the FBI, CIA, and other agencies, necessitates the direct intervention of this honorable body in order to determine if all facts have been brought to light. The American people will expect no less.

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution. The proponents of this resolution are asking the American taxpayers to pay \$250,000 to study the circumstances surrounding the assassinations of certain named individuals and other unnamed individuals. The proponents of this resolution call for the expenditure of these funds even though thousands of dollars have been previously spent by various local, State, and Federal entities—including adjudicatory bodies—in the investigation of assassinations.

Now, Mr. Speaker, assassinations are a terrible thing and if we could prevent them by writing \$250,000 reports that nobody will read, I would vote for this resolution. But the proponents of this resolution indicate that we just have to have this study. However, I have neither heard nor seen a great clamor from the people demanding this study. If the proponents truly down deep in their hearts want this great treatise called for by this resolution, I respectfully suggest that they reach down deep in their pockets and get out their checkbooks and personally contribute to this undertaking. I have it calculated. If each of the Members would write a check for \$575, that will cover the \$250,000 cost of this endeavor. Since the people do not want this resolution it is only fair that we pay the bill and save the taxpayers some funds. I suspect that there would be a lot less studies undertaken if we were required to pay for them out of our own pockets. And I also suspect, Mr. Speaker, that all of these study commissions would not linger on indefinitely if the Members were required to pay for them year after year.

The SPEAKER. All time has expired.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of the pending resolution.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question on the resolution. The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appear to have it.

Mr. ASHBROOK. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 280, nays 65, answered "present" 1, not voting 84, as follows:

[Roll No. 748]

YEAS—280

|                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Abdnor          | Frenzel         | Morgan          |
| Addabbo         | Frey            | Mottl           |
| Allen           | Gibbons         | Murphy, III     |
| Ambro           | Gilman          | Myers, Pa.      |
| Anderson,       | Ginn            | Natcher         |
| Calif.          | Gonzalez        | Neal            |
| Anderson, Ill.  | Goodling        | Nichols         |
| Andrews, N.C.   | Gradison        | Nix             |
| Andrews,        | Grassley        | Nolan           |
| N. Dak.         | Gude            | Nowak           |
| Archer          | Guyer           | Oberstar        |
| Armstrong       | Haley           | Obey            |
| Ashbrook        | Hall, Ill.      | O'Brien         |
| Aspin           | Hamilton        | O'Hara          |
| AuCoin          | Hammer-         | O'Neill         |
| Bafalis         | schmidt         | Ottinger        |
| Baldus          | Hanley          | Pattison, N. Y. |
| Baucus          | Hannaford       | Paul            |
| Bauman          | Harkin          | Pepper          |
| Beard, R.I.     | Harrington      | Perkins         |
| Bedell          | Harris          | Pettis          |
| Bennett         | Hayes, Ind.     | Peyser          |
| Bergland        | Hechler, W. Va. | Pickie          |
| Bevill          | Heckler, Mass.  | Pressler        |
| Biaggi          | Hefner          | Preyer          |
| Bingham         | Henderson       | Price           |
| Blanchard       | Hightower       | Pritchard       |
| Blouin          | Hillis          | Quie            |
| Boggs           | Holland         | Raisback        |
| Boland          | Holtzman        | Regula          |
| Bolling         | Horton          | Reuss           |
| Bonker          | Howard          | Rhodes          |
| Brademas        | Hubbard         | Richmond        |
| Breaux          | Hughes          | Rinaldo         |
| Brinkley        | Hungate         | Roberts         |
| Brodhead        | Hyde            | Rodino          |
| Brooks          | Ichord          | Roe             |
| Broomfield      | Jacobs          | Rogers          |
| Brown, Calif.   | Jeffords        | Roncalio        |
| Brown, Ohio     | Jenrette        | Rooney          |
| Broyhill        | Johnson, Calif. | Rosenthal       |
| Buchanan        | Johnson, Colo.  | Roush           |
| Burgener        | Jones, Ala.     | Russo           |
| Burke, Fla.     | Jones, N.C.     | St Germain      |
| Burke, Mass.    | Jones, Tenn.    | Santini         |
| Burton, Phillip | Jordan          | Sarasin         |
| Butler          | Karth           | Scheuer         |
| Carr            | Kasten          | Schulze         |
| Cederberg       | Kastenmeier     | Seiberling      |
| Clausen,        | Kazen           | Sharp           |
| Don H.          | Kemp            | Shriver         |
| Clay            | Keys            | Sikes           |
| Cohen           | Koch            | Slack           |
| Conte           | Krebs           | Smith, Iowa     |
| Conyers         | Krueger         | Smith, Nebr.    |
| Corman          | LaFalce         | Solarz          |
| Cornell         | Lagomarsino     | Spellman        |
| Crane           | Landrum         | Spence          |
| D'Amours        | Latta           | Staggers        |
| Daniel, Dan     | Leggett         | Stanton         |
| Daniel, R. W.   | Lehman          | James V.        |
| Daniels, N.J.   | Levitas         | Stephens        |
| Danielson       | Lloyd, Calif.   | Stokes          |
| Davis           | Lloyd, Tenn.    | Stuckey         |
| de la Garza     | Long, La.       | Studds          |
| Delaney         | Long, Md.       | Symms           |
| Dellums         | Lundine         | Taylor, Mo.     |
| Derwinski       | McCloskey       | Taylor, N.C.    |
| Diggs           | McCollister     | Thompson        |
| Dodd            | McDade          | Thone           |
| Downey, N.Y.    | McDonald        | Traxler         |
| Downing, Va.    | McFall          | Treen           |
| Drinan          | McHugh          | Tsongas         |
| du Pont         | McKinney        | Udall           |
| Early           | Madden          | Ullman          |
| Edgar           | Madigan         | Vander Jagt     |
| Edwards, Calif. | Maguire         | Vanik           |
| Ellberg         | Mahon           | Vigorito        |
| Emery           | Martin          | Walsh           |
| Eshleman        | Mathis          | Waxman          |
| Evans, Colo.    | Melcher         | Weaver          |
| Evans, Ind.     | Mezvinsky       | Whalen          |
| Evin, Tenn.     | Mikva           | White           |
| Fascell         | Miller, Calif.  | Whitehurst      |
| Fenwick         | Mills           | Whitten         |
| Findley         | Minish          | Wilson, Bob     |
| Fish            | Mitchell, Md.   | Wilson, O. H.   |
| Fisher          | Mitchell, N.Y.  | Wilson, Tex.    |
| Fithian         | Moakley         | Wylie           |
| Flood           | Moffett         | Yates           |
| Florio          | Mollohan        | Young, Alaska   |
| Flowers         | Montgomery      | Young, Fla.     |
| Foley           | Moore           | Zablocki        |
| Forsythe        | Moorhead,       | Zerferetti      |
| Fountain        | Calif.          |                 |
| Fraser          | Moorhead, Pa.   |                 |

CHAPTER TWO

-THE INVESTIGATION-



STATEMENT OF  
THE HONORABLE THOMAS N. DOWNING  
CHAIRMAN, SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1976

GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE TODAY. I HAVE THE GREAT PLEASURE OF INTRODUCING TO YOU MR. RICHARD SPRAGUE, WHO TODAY HAS BECOME ACTING COUNSEL AND DIRECTOR OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS. MR. SPRAGUE'S APPOINTMENT IS "ACTING" ONLY UNTIL THE SELECT COMMITTEE MEETS NOVEMBER 15TH, AT WHICH TIME I FULLY EXPECT HIS APPOINTMENT WILL BECOME PERMANENT.

MR. SPRAGUE COMES TO US FROM PRIVATE PRACTICE IN PHILADELPHIA. HE HAD HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE PROSECUTING CRIMINAL CASES, AND IN PARTICULAR SERVED AS SPECIAL PROSECUTOR FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE PROSECUTION OF THE YABLONSKI MURDERS. HE LATER SERVED AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE FEDERAL PROSECUTION OF W.A. "TONY" BOYLE.

I AM MOST GRATIFIED THAT MR. SPRAGUE HAS ACCEPTED THIS POSITION ON THE SELECT COMMITTEE. WITH HIS HELP, WE WILL, AS OUR MANDATE REQUIRES, CONDUCT A THOROUGH AND COMPLETE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATHS OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE SELECT COMMITTEE WILL PROVIDE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH THE TRUTH AS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR PRESIDENT AND TO ONE OF THEIR MOST PROMINENT NATIONAL FIGURES.

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS,  
*Washington, D.C., December 31, 1976.*

Hon. EDMUND L. HENSHAW, Jr.,  
*Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. HENSHAW: On behalf of the House Select Committee on Assassinations and pursuant to the mandate of House Resolution 1540, I am transmitting herewith to the House of Representatives the report of the committee representing the results of the committee's investigation and study since its inception on September 17, 1976. The report includes the recommendations of the committee with respect to continued investigation by the House of Representatives of the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.

I would like, at this time, to express the deep appreciation of the committee to the committee staff for its excellent work on this phase of the Select Committee's investigation.

I note, on my retirement from the House of Representatives, the fine start which has been made on this investigation, for whose initiation I have worked over the past years. It is my sincere hope that the House will see fit to proceed with the investigation in the same thorough and professional manner in which it has begun.

THOMAS N. DOWNING,

*Chairman.*

Enclosure: Report.

94TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES } REPORT  
2d Session } } No. 94-1781



ADDITIONAL AND SUPPLEMENTAL  
VIEWS  
OF THE  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 31, 1976.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

DECEMBER 31, 1976.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. DOWNING, from the Select Committee on Assassinations submitted the following

REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

Twelve years have passed since the Warren Commission released its report finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

Eight years have passed since Judge W. Preston Battle of the Shelby County, Tenn., Criminal Court accepted James Earl Ray's plea of guilty to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The passage of time has not healed the national trauma caused by these assassinations. In the ensuing years, old doubts have remained and new disturbing questions have been raised as additional evidence has come to light.

The following are just a few examples of these new issues:

(1) Did the Central Intelligence Agency deliberately avoid furnishing critical information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation which would have resulted in the surveillance of Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination of President Kennedy? If so, why?

(2) Was critical evidence withheld from the Warren Commission? If so, why?

The U.S. Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations, in a report released April 23, 1976, concluded that the performance of U.S. intelligence agencies was defective both with respect to the investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy as well as the reporting to the Warren Commission. That report states in part:

In the days following the assassination of President Kennedy, nothing was more important to this country than to determine the facts of his death; no one single event has shaken the country more. Yet the evidence the Committee has developed suggests that, for different reasons, both the CIA and the FBI failed in, or avoided carrying out, certain of their responsibilities in this matter.

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The Committee emphasizes that it has not uncovered any evidence sufficient to justify a conclusion that there was a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy. The Committee, has, however, developed evidence which impinges the process by which the intelligence agencies arrived at their own conclusions about the assassination, and by which they provided information to the Warren Commission. This evidence indicates that the investigation of the assassination was deficient and that facts which might have substantially affected the course of the investigation were not provided the Warren Commission or those individuals within the FBI and CIA, as well as other agencies of Government who were charged with investigating the assassination. (Emphasis supplied.)

(3) There are reports of intensive surveillance of Dr. Martin Luther King by domestic intelligence agencies, including the FBI. Who and where were these agents at the time of Dr. King's assassination? Do they have any evidence concerning the assassination or any plans to commit it? Was this surveillance deliberately curtailed prior to the assassination? And, if so, why?

(4) There are reports that there were unusual transfers of personnel by the Memphis fire and Police Departments on April 3 and April 4, 1968, which may or may not have affected the security of Dr. King. If so, why were these transfers made and at whose direction?

Over the years repeated disclosures of agency misconduct, foreign assassination attempts, concealed information, destruction of evidence and possible deliberate misinformation have fostered among our citizens an ensuing lack of confidence in Government agencies.

As a result, there has been a growing sense of national concern about the adequacy and integrity of the original investigations. The history of these assassinations has demonstrated that the passage of more time will only increase that concern, and only a thorough and definitive inquiry at this time will resolve the growing doubts.

On September 17, 1976, the House of Representatives rose to this challenge. It created the Select Committee on Assassinations (H. Res. 1540) with the mandate to conduct a "full and complete investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of John F. Kennedy and the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., and of any others the Select Committee shall determine."

The members of the Select Committee recognized the need to resolve certain preliminary matters in the 3 months remaining before the close of the 94th Congress. With a realistic appraisal of the task in mind, staffing and budget levels were determined. Threshold investigative inquiries were begun. With the advent of the new Congress the committee is now prepared to proceed with the investigation.

The committee undertook legislative mandate with the recognition of its responsibility to the American public. The purpose of this mandate is to investigate and provide the facts relating to both assassinations and to do so in a manner which will be credible, professional, ethical and will reflect well on the integrity of Congress.

Pursuant to this mandate, the committee will make recommendations regarding the adequacy of existing laws relating to the assassination of the President of the United States, conspiracy, deprivation of civil rights, and the investigatory authority and capability of agencies and departments of the United States government.

The committee has received widespread support for this legislative investigation. An assistant counsel to the Warren Commission, citing recent disclosures of documents which were withheld from the Warren Commission, strongly urged the reopening to the investigation. He stressed that "the conduct of the Commission and of the agencies upon which it relied should be carefully examined and any new information be fully pursued."

The important questions, he said, are "not only how and why President Kennedy was assassinated, but how such events can be effectively investigated." He was joined by another assistant counsel to the Warren Commission who has endorsed "a full and thorough investigation of both assassinations."

In the case of the King assassination, the committee was provided with the results of a 1975 investigation conducted by the Atlanta, Ga., Bureau of Police Services. The report states in part: " \* \* \* even a cursory examination of certain information presented to us elicits some very interesting series of coincidences which would appear to merit investigation by appropriate agencies." The report urges that a new investigation be undertaken in order to reach "a more definitive position on the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."

II. THE COMMITTEE'S INITIAL ACTIONS

The committee's first task was the selection and appointment of a chief counsel and director.

The committee obtained the services of Richard A. Sprague, Mr. Sprague served as First Assistant District Attorney of Philadelphia, Pa., from June 1966, until December 1974. He has represented the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as prosecuting attorney in more than 10,000 criminal trials. Serving as Special Prosecutor for Washington County, Pa., he was responsible for the investigation and subsequent prosecution of the Yablonski murder cases. As Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States, he was responsible for the conviction of W. A. "Tony" Boyle, the deposed president of the United Mine Workers.

The committee considered the necessity of moving expeditiously on both investigations. It felt that new evidence pertaining to either the Kennedy or King assassination should be pursued immediately, that further delay would be unwarranted.

Thus, the committee decided to pursue each investigation simultaneously. It organized itself into two subcommittees: one, chaired by Walter E. Runtroy to direct the King investigation; the other, chaired by Richardson Preyer to pursue the Kennedy probe. All members of the Full Committee will be active in both investigations.

The committee agreed upon the need for a staff of 170. This figure provides for two investigative teams of approximately 15 attorneys and 25 investigators each. It is the intention of the committee to recruit the best talent within this Nation. The committee believes it can attract dedicated professionals in the field of criminal investigation with broad experience and ability, who will view this call as a professional challenge as well as an opportunity for public service. Substantial progress has been made in this area.

Finally, the committee decided unanimously not to conduct the investigations under deadlines. One reason for this is to avoid a situation where an agency, individual or group might engage in delaying tactics in an attempt to outlast the committee.

The Warren Commission, which was under intense pressure to resolve the question of responsibility for the Kennedy assassination quickly, produced its final report within 10 months. That Commission did not have an independent investigative staff and conducted its proceedings in closed hearings. These factors, which may or may not have influenced the outcome of the Commission's investigation, have nevertheless contributed to the increasing challenges to that Commission's conclusions.

With the passage of time since the original investigations, there is no longer the pressure to arrive at quick conclusions. The Select Committee, with the advantage of hindsight, with independent investigators, and without artificial deadlines, will conduct the full, dispassionate, and comprehensive investigation that is necessary.

To the extent that it does not impede or impair the integrity of the investigation, the committee intends to hold open hearings. These sessions will be held as the investigations lead to verifiable conclusions, which either prove or disprove prior findings or allegations. In observing the various witnesses and being able to observe their demeanor and judge their credibility, the American public will have a greater basis for confidence in ultimate conclusions. These sessions will also enable the public to observe the investigation as it unfolds.

III. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION AND ANALYSES

In the 3 months since its establishment the Select Committee has initiated preliminary investigations into new and previously unpursued leads in both assassinations. While we cannot yet verify the results of our preliminary investigations, we can provide two examples which are representative of the investigative activity that the committee has undertaken.

On November 26, 1976, committee staff questioned extensively an ex-CIA agent regarding his personal knowledge of conversations between Lee Harvey Oswald and personnel within the Soviet and Cuban Embassies in Mexico City.

As a result of the initial questioning, members of the Kennedy Subcommittee held an executive session on November 27. Based on information obtained during the hearing, staff members were dispatched to Mexico where they located and interviewed new witnesses. These witnesses had never been sought out before by any investigative body, notwithstanding the fact that they had important information concerning statements by Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico within 60 days of the assassination of President Kennedy.

With respect to the assassination of Dr. King, committee counsel obtained relevant information from a witness who had never been interviewed before by any investigative agency. This witness has stated that James Earl Ray related to him the fact that after Ray fled to Europe, Ray contacted another person from whom he received further instructions to aid in his continuing flight.

In other areas of inquiry, committee staff has interviewed persons with new relevant information who had never been contacted by any investigative agency. The committee intends to continue to pursue such information.

In addition to pursuing other new investigative leads, the committee has been conducting an intensive analysis of the evidence available in both assassinations in order to define and determine the nature and scope of the inquiry.

With respect to the Kennedy investigation, the chief counsel presented the committee with a list of hundreds of questions which must be resolved. The committee also has identified several hundred witnesses who must be interviewed.

The committee has taken positive steps to insure that it will preserve all relevant materials in the possession of investigative agencies. It has

issued several subpoenas deuces tecum to insure evidence will be made available. The committee has been informed that the Central Intelligence Agency alone is in possession of more than 60 cartons of materials relating to the assassination of President Kennedy and the activities of Lee Harvey Oswald prior to that assassination.

With respect to the assassination of Dr. King, the committee's initial examination of the events and circumstances during the period of James Earl Ray's escape from prison in Missouri in 1967 until his capture and subsequent extradition from England in 1968 gave rise to hundreds of questions. The committee has completed a detailed analysis of the stipulations of fact contained in the guilty plea of Ray in March 1969. The committee noted that during the course of the plea proceedings, Ray rose to advise the court that he did not concur with statements made by both the State prosecutor and his own attorney, that there had not been a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King.

The committee does not mean to imply that there was or was not a conspiracy. It merely indicates that this is one of the areas which requires further investigation, especially in view of the failure to obtain a full statement of involvement from Ray by the Tennessee authorities. Two staff members of the Select Committee traveled to Memphis, Tenn., and compiled a 76-page index of materials contained in only one of the evidentiary files. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has advised committee staff that it has more than 80 volumes of materials on the assassination and subsequent investigation into that assassination.

To insure the preservation of certain evidence and documents the Select Committee voted and issued a total of 12 subpoenas deuces tecum related to evidence in the assassination of Dr. King.

The Select Committee is cognizant of the significant accomplishments of other independent investigations by the Congress. A quantum of evidence relevant to our investigations has been accumulated by various committees and select committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate. To date, contacts by committee staff have demonstrated a willingness on the part of both Houses of Congress, their Members, and various committees to cooperate in making those materials available to this committee.

On the basis of these numerous areas of inquiry and the necessity to preserve evidence already under subpoena, the Select Committee unanimously recommends to the 95th Congress that the Select Committee on Assassinations be immediately reestablished to continue the investigation.

IV. STAFF AND BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

The committee wishes to emphasize that the unprecedented nature of the task identified in House Resolution 1540 makes past methods of determining the Select Committee's budget inappropriate.

The committee feels strongly that the integrity of this investigation is contingent upon the independence of our investigative efforts. The executive branch agencies, which were utilized in the past, are the very agencies whose previous performance may be the subject of a part of this investigation. The committee, therefore, cannot employ the services of the executive branch agencies. Both the size of the staff and the budget requirements are predicated on the necessity of conducting a comprehensive, impartial investigation.

The committee submits the following comparative analysis of budget and staffing levels of certain previous investigations as a standard by which our recommendations may be measured.

Warren Commission

Staff: 83.  
Duration: 10 months.

The Warren Commission did not possess an independent investigative staff. For investigative purposes, they relied on the Federal intelligence agencies. We have been able to amass the following figures, indicating the level of support provided to the Warren Commission by each agency.

FBI: Provided 150 full-time agents who in turn conducted 25,000 interviews and submitted 2,300 reports totaling 25,400 pages. They also provided secretarial and clerical assistance.

CIA: Provided 12 full-time and part-time professionals. They also provided secretarial and clerical assistance.

Secret Service: Provided over 60 full-time professionals who conducted 1,550 interviews and submitted 800 reports totaling 4,600 pages. They also provided secretarial and clerical assistance.

Justice Department: Provided at least 4 full-time professionals.

State Department: Provided certain professional support.

IRS: Estimates that between their Internal Security Inspection Service and their Intelligence Division, they provided 6 staff-years of support.

FBI Investigation Re: Patty Hearst

The only figures available for this investigation are for the first 3-month period. During this initial 90-day span, the FBI spent \$2,600,000. Figures for the number of staff employed are also unavailable.

New York State Special Nursing Home Investigation

This investigation of abuse of the medical program by nursing homes has a total staff of 421. The staff includes 65 lawyers, 156 auditors, 100 investigators, and 100 support personnel. Its present yearly budget is \$6,000,000. In addition it utilizes 40 sitting grand juries, the cost of which is not included in the \$6,000,000.

The committee feels that the staff and budget requirements it has identified at the end of this report are at minimal levels necessary to conduct comprehensive and independent investigations of the assassination of President Kennedy and Dr. King.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee and, indeed, the 94th Congress by the passage of House Resolution 1540 recognized that there are many lingering doubts as to the comprehensiveness and credibility of prior investigations into each of these assassinations. The questions which arise from even a preliminary analysis and investigation are legion. Thus, the Select Committee unanimously and unequivocally recommends:

- (1) That the House of Representatives immediately move to continue the investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of President John F. Kennedy and the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

(2) That the House immediately re-establish the Select Committee to insure that evidence which is currently under subpoena will remain intact and under the continuing control of the House and to insure that there is no delay in the ongoing investigations.

(3) That the House approve the budget as set forth herein.

#### ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF HENRY B. GONZALEZ

I completely support the recommendation of the committee, urge that the 95th Congress immediately reestablish it, and that a budget be approved in the full amount requested.

If ever a legislative effort began with less promise, it was the work of this Select Committee. The committee began its work in the waning days of the 94th Congress, had no staff, no offices, no time to organize properly, and no time to prepare or carry out the study it was commissioned to do. The committee has, however, accomplished more than anyone could have thought possible.

First, the committee has secured the services of an outstanding chief counsel, Richard A. Sprague; he is one of the most effective and respected investigators in the country today. The committee has also been able to hire a team of exceptionally able investigators, researchers, and attorneys. There is absolutely no doubt that Mr. Sprague and his Staff can conduct a completely independent, dispassionate, objective, and thoroughly professional study, given time and adequate support.

In the very short time available, the committee has obtained a substantial amount of information and evidence, and placed these under its control. Researchers and investigators have compiled, and indexed an immense amount of material, initiated some investigations, and most important, prepared the ground for the sustained effort ahead.

Second, the committee has defined its job and has a clear idea of how it is to be accomplished.

The committee does not intend to prove or disprove any theory concerning the assassinations it will study. Instead, the committee will conduct a completely new, independent study. It will begin with the events, take the evidence available, verify that evidence, and reach reasonable conclusions based on the available evidence: no more, no less.

I recognize that an approach of this kind will entail a substantial amount of money, and will require a large number of people; moreover, a study of this kind will take time, and cannot be subject to any deadlines. To have any meaning, the investigation must rely on unimpeachable integrity. To do less than a completely thorough job would be to accomplish nothing at all.

The committee is unanimous in its conclusion that it must be able to rely completely on its own resources. We know that neither the FBI nor CIA cooperated fully with the Warren Commission; and we know that the FBI Director in 1968 had passionate feelings against Dr. Martin Luther King—feelings that might well have been reflected in less than objective work by his subordinates. The decision of the committee to rely on its own staff rather than Executive agencies does not reflect on the integrity or efficiency of those agencies; but we are determined that this be a completely independent study, not in any way affected by the interests of any agency or group.

Investigations of any kind are expensive. Few people, perhaps few of my colleagues, realize how costly even a simple investigation can be. The scope of this study, and the fact that evidence and witnesses are scattered far and wide, the complexity of carrying out two major homicide investigations at once, will make this a very expensive effort. But I am satisfied that the study must be independently verified as thoroughly and that every finding must be as thoroughly verified as humanly possible, or the entire effort will be meaningless.

Third, the committee has demonstrated its competence. In the very short amount of time it has had available, the committee has accomplished miracles of organization, defined its work, and begun an extremely complex set of investigations. It is difficult to imagine how it could have accomplished more than it has, especially under the very adverse conditions it has been forced to operate under.

I believe the committee has demonstrated that it has a real task to accomplish. If it is permitted to proceed, the committee can settle hundreds of questions about the murder of President Kennedy and that of Dr. King. Beyond that, the committee can shed light on the larger issue of political murder and violence. We should not forget that President Ford had his own narrow escapes; no Member of the House should forget that the Capitol Building was bombed; and no Member of the House should forget that we live and work under increasingly tight security measures.

It is necessary today to have a vast police force in and around the Capitol. It is necessary to have television monitors on every door. It is necessary to have parcels X-rayed.

Every airline passenger must be subjected to an electronic search for metal, and baggage carried aboard airplanes, and even into boarding areas, must be X-rayed.

Visitors to the Supreme Court must be cleared.

New gates and increasingly sophisticated surveillance devices surround and protect the White House. A whole new police force is employed to protect Embassies.

All of this reflects an age of political violence; all of it has come about since 1963. All of it shows that we have not learned the answer to the crucial question: Why?

That, as I see it, is the ultimate task of the Select Committee—to find out not just what happened, but why.

If we can answer that question, it may be possible to end political violence, and begin taking down the security measures that repress all of us, and represent a genuine threat to free government. Political violence is not inevitable, and it is not inexcusable. The Select Committee may, and I hope will, shed light on why these events took place, and why they shadow all our lives, even today—and how we can begin to end political violence and the omnipresent threat of it, which is, in fact, a threat to free government itself.

HENRY B. GONZALEZ.

SUPPLEMENTAL VIEWS OF CONGRESSPERSONS LOUIS STOKES, WALTER E. FAUNTROY, YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE, AND HAROLD E. FORD P.12

The purpose of these supplemental views is to strongly emphasize our concurrence in the recommendation contained in the committee's report. In our opinion, the House of Representatives took a giant step toward restoring the faith of the American people in their Government when, in the 94th Congress, it passed House Resolution 1540 on Assassinations. Just this past week, the latest Gallup Poll told us that 80 percent of the American people do not believe that either Lee Harvey Oswald or James Earl Ray acted alone in the murders of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They feel that their Government has not told them all that it knows or that it is in position to find out about the brutal assassinations of two of the most important leaders of the Post World War II era.

The following article appeared in the Washington Post on December 26, 1976, and read as follows:

As the House Select Committee on Assassinations begins its investigations, the overwhelming majority of Americans believe that others besides Lee Harvey Oswald were involved in the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

In the latest survey, just completed, 80 percent think others were involved in the assassination, while only 11 percent think Oswald acted alone. Nine percent do not express an opinion. Persons with a college background, while overwhelmingly of the opinion that some form of conspiracy was involved, are less inclined to hold this view than are persons with less than a college background.

Approximately one-half of the survey respondents who believe others were involved did not name a specific group. Among those who did, however, Cuban or Premier Fidel Castro were mentioned most often. Other responses frequently given are "the Mafia," "Communists," and the Central Intelligence Agency.

The same survey also shows that few Americans believe James Earl Ray acted on his own in the assassination of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis on April 4, 1968. Only 15 percent hold this view, while 69 percent think others were involved and 13 percent do not express an opinion.

An investigation into the assassinations of Kennedy and King was recently begun by the newly established House Select Committee on Assassinations, the sixth to be conducted on a large scale by Government officials since Kennedy was assassinated.

P.13  
Thus, in the case of the death of President Kennedy, in spite of the Warren Commission investigation and the investigations by other Federal agencies and the U.S. Congress, the final reports to the American people have lacked the thoroughness to allay their suspicions that a conspiracy existed which has not yet been uncovered. In the case of James Earl Ray and the King murder, the same general suspicions exist. The threshold inquiries made into these two deaths by our present committee do not provide the answers to these rumors, theories, and suspicions. If these facts, theories, suspicions, and rumors are to be put to rest and if the confidence of the American people is to be restored in the investigative agencies of their Government, a thorough, competent and objective investigation into each of these deaths is an absolute necessity.

This committee has proceeded in that vein. The committee has selected Mr. Richard Sprague, a prominent prosecuting attorney as chief counsel and director of its staff. He is in the process of establishing a staff of attorneys, investigators, and administrative personnel who are capable of exhibiting the highest degree of competence and professionalism in the enormous task of investigating two murders. The Warren Commission was able to avail itself of the investigative personnel of numerous agencies such as the FBI, CIA, the Secret Service, the Justice Department, the State Department, and the Internal Revenue Service.

The integrity of the results of the investigation by the Select Committee on Assassinations will be predicated upon a thorough, objective, fair, and impartial investigation by professional personnel, who will be independent and will be free from the taint of "investigating themselves." It is imperative, therefore, that these minimum staff and budget recommendations which are being requested be granted by the 95th Congress. If in the final analysis we have been able to help restore the faith and confidence of the American people in their Government, this Congress will have justified the costs and will have endeared itself to the people whom we serve.

LOUIS STOKES.  
WALTER E. FAUNTROY.  
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE.  
HAROLD E. FORD.

SUPPLEMENTARY VIEWS OF CONGRESSMAN  
CHARLES THONE

I am in basic agreement with the Report of the Select Committee on Assassinations to the 94th Congress. I do, however, wish to make the following observations.

Unless this Select Committee maintains complete credibility with the American public, its efforts will be in vain. Anything that detracts from the faith and confidence that the people of the United States have in this committee will greatly diminish the value of its final report.

Therefore, I have been deeply concerned by the tendency of a majority on the committee to conduct far too many meetings in executive session. I grant there will be some matters coming before the committee that should be heard in executive sessions. Examples of such matters are testimony that would endanger the national security and, in special investigative hearings, such testimony or evidence that would tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate an individual who might be innocent. By and large, however, we can only serve the public well through conducting our sessions after adequate notice and in public.

At the December 17, 1976, meeting of the committee, a motion which I introduced was adopted unanimously by those present. It specifically provides in the reconstruction resolution of this committee for the 95th Congress that the committee, at its first meeting in 1977, must adopt rules for its conduct and that those rules must be in accordance with House of Representatives rules.

Rule XI provides that every committee of the House shall adopt written rules governing its procedure, and Rule XI 2(g)(1) provides that "Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, of each standing committee or subcommittee thereof shall be open to the public except when the committee or subcommittee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by rollcall vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public." Other meeting rules cover proper notice, specified record keeping and some very limited exceptions to open sessions. We can and must follow both the letter and spirit of these rules.

Yes, by all means this Select Committee on Assassinations must operate scrupulously and diligently within the rules of the House. Furthermore, we must strive, within the rules, to be open and accessible to the public and their representatives; the news media. For this committee, credibility is everything. And credibility will best be served, as usual, by conducting public business in public.

CHARLES THONE

(14)

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF CONGRESSMAN CHRISTOPHER  
J. DODD

"Independence, thoroughness, and openness" must be the guiding principles of these new investigations into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. by our House Select Committee on Assassinations.

In endorsing this report, I would like to take this opportunity to elaborate on these themes, and to underscore their importance to the ultimate success or failure of our efforts. I also want to share my personal views on these inquiries, as the committee begins this ambitious undertaking.

As an early cosponsor of congressional resolutions calling for this Select Committee, I have long felt that there remain many unanswered questions surrounding these assassinations—especially questions about the roles of the Federal agencies charged with investigating these terrible crimes.

The specific questions highlighted in this report as to the conduct of the Central Intelligence Agency, and its apparent knowledge of some of Lee Harvey Oswald's activities in Mexico before the Kennedy assassination, are examples of just such continuing concerns.

Another example underscored in this document is the question of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's reported surveillance of Dr. King, and whether FBI agents were in Memphis and near the civil rights leader at the time of his death.

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil Rights, on which I serve and which has oversight responsibility for the FBI, found it necessary last year to hold hearings about that agency's activities before and after President Kennedy's assassination. After taking part in those hearings, I can say our subcommittee raised more new questions about the FBI and the assassination than we received answers to old ones.

Since then, other pressing legislative responsibilities—such as FBI surveillance guidelines and bankruptcy law reforms—prevented our Judiciary Subcommittee from pursuing these new questions, and the unanswered old ones, as fully as would have been desired.

The allegations of possible conspiracies, and of the possible withholding of evidence, are more of the many additional questions about these assassinations which should be laid to rest once and for all, so that these tragic chapters in American history can at last be closed.

I think this new Select Committee represents a unique opportunity for Congress and the American people to finally resolve the issues still surrounding these murders, and I would hope the committee will be able to provide the answers to all these continuing questions.

However, it must be pointed out that this committee could, after its lengthy, exhaustive inquiries, still reach the same conclusions about these assassinations that other investigating bodies have before us. Or this committee might arrive at far different conclusions.

(15)



The American people have a right to know the full stories behind these assassinations. They have a right to know the motives and reasons for them, how these deeds were accomplished, and who truly was responsible for them.

This Committee, then, has a great responsibility to fulfill, and the ways it accomplishes this task are of the utmost importance. It is here where "Independence, thoroughness, and openness" count the most.

"Independence"—As mentioned before in these views and in the body of this report, major criticisms of past investigations of these assassinations focus heavily on the activities of the Federal justice and intelligence agencies charged with conducting the initial criminal inquiries.

In light of the fact that these Federal agencies could be the subject of part of our investigation, it would be wholly inappropriate to employ their services as has been done in past assassination studies. Such reliance on these agencies would prejudice the necessary impartiality and credibility of our inquiries.

Therefore, it is crucial to the success of this committee that it retain an experienced, professional investigative and legal staff completely independent from these Federal Government agencies. This great need for an independent staff is the primary reason why the proposed committee budget totals what it does.

"Thoroughness"—I am pleased that the members of this committee, and its staff, are committed to pursuing every possible avenue of investigation and every conceivable theory and lead about these assassinations.

This determination to find definitive answers, if they exist, to all the questions surrounding the assassinations is significant, because the committee's work must withstand the tests of time which other investigations apparently have failed to pass. In 10, 20, 30, or 100 years after the end of our inquiries, the American people should not have to face the doubts about these crimes which exist today.

Our committee must go about its deliberations in the most considered and careful manner possible—eschewing making judgments and conclusions until all the evidence is gathered and evaluated. It is essential that the committee and staff approach these inquiries with completely open minds, so as to avoid possible charges from any quarter that we are being less than objective.

Central to the thoroughness of our investigations will be the necessity to obtain confidential, sensitive, or classified material from Federal agencies. In this regard, I believe the committee should insist on full and total disclosure of all relevant documents in law, rather than edited or revised, form.

The committee should have the unlimited opportunity to make an independent analysis of these documents, and it should not accept any prescription or screening of information by any agency. Acceptance of edited or screened information could jeopardize the independence of the committee's investigations and could raise the possibilities of pertinent information being withheld by the agencies.

To obtain the necessary raw information and documents, the Select Committee should avoid the past experiences of other congressional bodies which made "treaties" with Federal agencies about access to information.

The requirements of a thorough, independent investigation must not be compromised away through "treaties," and the committee must be willing to employ all appropriate means, including contempt of Congress citations, to obtain needed information. The committee furthermore must be willing to vigorously pursue subpoenas and contempt citations to the fullest legal extent possible in its efforts to secure relevant information.

In insisting on total disclosure of relevant agency information relating to the assassinations, the committee must recognize a paramount responsibility to ensure the safekeeping and confidentiality of such materials through whatever elaborate security measures and personnel clearance procedures are necessary. The act of "leaking" any such materials should face the most severe penalties, also.

Lastly in the area of "thoroughness," I would caution the American people to also avoid reaching premature conclusions about the nature, progress and results of the committee's examinations.

It would be misleading for the public to view committee deliberations and hearings about specific allegations, observations, theories, et cetera regarding the assassinations as official endorsements of the validity of these pieces of information.

Until any interim or final committee reports set forth conclusive findings from the investigations, any deliberations and hearings and their contents, should be viewed as part of the overall process by which we are attempting to determine the truthfulness or falsity of all this information.

"Openness"—Clearly, the question whether to hold meetings and hearings in public or in closed session is one of the most difficult with which the committee must deal. The obligation has, as an arm of a public institution, Congress, to do its business in public must be balanced by the need to protect the confidentiality of certain sensitive information.

I believe that a meeting or a hearing of our committee should be closed only when it has been demonstrated that an executive session is necessary to:

- (1) protect the constitutional rights and safety of witnesses;
- (2) avoid jeopardizing the ongoing investigations, such as by risking loss of potential evidence; and,
- (3) safeguard national defense information.

Any decision to close a meeting or hearing should be made by a rollcall, rather than a voice, vote.

During the course of the committee's investigations, as platenaus are reached where significant evidence has been verified, allowing various conclusions to be drawn, then it would seem proper for the committee to hold open sessions, or to issue interim reports, to keep the public informed of its work.

This committee has an obligation to conduct as much of its business as possible in open sessions, where the American people can follow our investigations and judge for themselves how well or poorly we are discharging our responsibilities. Such openness, I submit, is essential to establishing the credibility of our committee and of the results of its investigations.

The American people should have the opportunity to observe how the members of this committee question witnesses. The public should

be afforded as many insights as possible into the actual workings of the investigations, because such participation will mean that our final conclusions will be more credible to all Americans.

During floor debate on the House resolution establishing the committee, a major argument in its favor was that, unlike past investigations, we would allow the people to oversee our deliberations. Such openness, it was argued, would help to quell public mistrust of Congress and of our governing process, in general. This argument remains valid today.

Our committee might finally conclude that past investigations of the Kennedy and King assassinations were correct in their findings, thus rejecting the many alternative theories now circulated. Or we might show some of these theories to be correct.

What is as important here as any specific conclusion we might reach, is that we allow a reasonable, open process to work, and that we demonstrate to the people that we are giving each and every theory thorough scrutiny before accepting or rejecting it. In this way, no one in the future, will be able to challenge the committee's integrity and responsibility, as past investigations have been challenged.

To further demonstrate the committee's commitment to conducting an open inquiry, and to allow discussion in the near future of the best way to strike a balance between our public obligation and the need to maintain a certain level of confidentiality, I again would urge the committee to draft a comprehensive policy statement or set of rules dealing with these issues. Policy or committee rules regarding the handling of sensitive documents, and statements to the press by individual members, also should be proposed for discussion. Such rules or policies should be debated and voted on by the committee at an open session early next year.

In summary, I feel that the Select Committee has made a productive beginning, and by this report, has demonstrated that it should be reconstituted as quickly as possible in the 95th Congress to allow the investigations to proceed without a loss of continuity or momentum. I urge all my colleagues in Congress to support such a reestablishment of the committee.

Furthermore, I believe that only through independence, thoroughness, and openness will the committee earn and continue to receive the full support of the American people to pursue these deliberations along whatever paths the investigations might lead, including the firm steps needed to enforce subpoenas and contempt of Congress citations.

And it will be only by following these guiding principles that the committee, and its work, will be acceptable to the American people as providing proper answers to the disturbing questions which still surround the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD.

maintaining the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor and the cooperation of all the Members is requested.

### PROVIDING COMPENSATION AT MAXIMUM PAY LEVELS FOR EMPLOYEES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 8) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. Res. 8

Resolved, That, until otherwise provided by law—

(1) each employee referred to in subsection (a) of the first sentence of House Resolution 413, Ninety-fourth Congress, adopted May 6, 1976.

(2) each employee in a position referred to in subsection (b) of section 523 of Public Law 91-510, and

(3) each individual with respect to whose compensation House Resolution 890, Ninety-second Congress, was made permanent law by Public Law 92-607.

may be compensated at a rate not in excess of the rate of basic pay for one pay level above the maximum pay level for employees of the House of Representatives provided under clause 6(c) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### CREATING SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. Res. 9

Resolved, That, effective January 3, 1977, there is hereby created a Select Committee on Assassinations to be composed of twelve Members and Delegates of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker, one of whom he shall designate as Chairman. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Select Committee shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

The Select Committee or a Subcommittee thereof is authorized and directed to conduct a full and complete investigation and study of the circumstances surrounding the assassination, murder, homicide and death of President John F. Kennedy and the assassination, murder, homicide and death of Martin Luther King, Jr. and of any other persons the Select Committee shall determine in order to ascertain whether the existing laws of the United States, including but not limited to laws relating to the safety and protection of the President of the United States, assassinations of the President of the United States, deprivation of civil rights, and conspiracies related thereto, as well as the investigatory jurisdiction and capability of agencies and departments of the United States Government, are adequate, either in their provisions or in the manner of their enforcement; and shall make recommendations to the House, if the Select Committee deems it appropriate, for the amendment of existing legislation or the enactment of new legislation.

For the purpose of carrying out this reso-

lution the Select Committee, or any subcommittee thereof authorized by the Select Committee to hold hearings, is authorized to sit and act during the present Congress at such times and places within the United States, including any Commonwealth or possession thereof, or in any other country, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, to hold such hearings, and to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents as it deems necessary; to take testimony on oath anywhere within the United States or in any other country and to authorize designated counsel for the Select Committee to obtain statements from any witness who is placed under oath by an authority who is authorized to administer oaths in accordance with the applicable laws of the United States or of any state; except that neither the Select Committee nor any subcommittee thereof may sit while the House is reading a measure for amendment under the five minute rule unless special leave to sit shall have been obtained from the House. The Chairman of the Select Committee may establish such subcommittees of the Select Committee as he considers appropriate. One-third of the Members of the Select Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business as permitted by the rules of the House, except that the Select Committee may designate a lesser number as a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony, but not less than two. The Select Committee may employ and fix the compensation of such clerks, experts, consultants, technicians, attorneys, investigators, and clerical and stenographic assistants as it considers necessary to carry out the purposes of this resolution. The Select Committee may reimburse the members of its staff for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of the duties vested in the Select Committee, other than expenses in connection with meetings of the Select Committee or any subcommittee thereof held in the District of Columbia.

Subpoena may be authorized by the select committee, or any subcommittee thereof, or the chairman of the select committee, and issued under the signature of the chairman of the select committee or any member of the Select Committee designated by him, and may be served by any persons designated by such chairman or member.

The select committee shall be considered a committee of the House of Representatives for all purposes of law, including but not limited to section 103 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 192); and sections 6002 and 6005 of title 18, United States Code or any other act of Congress regulating the granting of immunity to witnesses.

The select committee shall adopt written rules governing its procedures, which rules shall not be inconsistent with this resolution and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

The select committee shall report to the House as soon as practicable during the present Congress the results of its investigation and study, together with such recommendations as it deems advisable. Any such report which is made when the House is not in session shall be filed with the Clerk of the House.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the present consideration of the resolution?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, will the gentleman from Texas, the new majority leader, tell us whether it is possible in the change of rules for the House Com-

mittee on Administration to allocate money to this particular function without a vote of the House?

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. I would be pleased to yield.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding, and I will yield for confirmation to the House Committee on Administration, that absent an amendment of this type, there would be no means by which the committee can make funds available to this special committee.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. I would be pleased to yield.

Mr. THOMPSON. The gentleman from New Jersey at the moment is not the chairman of the Committee on House Administration.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Is there any doubt in the gentleman's mind that the gentleman will be?

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, with the experiences of the past, it might be reasonable with this rule; but earlier in the day the House adopted the rule so that all select, special, ad hoc and other type committees, before they can be funded, must introduce resolutions which will go to the Committee on House Administration, to its Subcommittee on Accounts, the prospective chairman being our colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DEW); then to the full committee and then to the floor.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. So what the gentleman is saying, before the committee can function further in that respect, coming from the chairmanship the gentleman formerly held, it must be brought to the floor.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, the answer to that is "Yes." The House will have the opportunity to consider the resolution, not only for the committee to which the distinguished majority leader is referring, but to all other special, select, and ad hoc committees.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, the effect of this resolution is really based on a continuing resolution until a further resolution is passed.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, that is precisely correct.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield further?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. I am glad to yield.

Mr. THOMPSON. Essentially the resolution of the gentleman from Texas is to reconstitute the committee. The committee, presuming the adoption of the next resolution, which is a continuing resolution, will be entitled to the equivalent of 1 month's expenditure, or approximately \$8,000 per month, until the House acts on the larger budget request.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comment. That was my next question. We are then, in effect, voting to fund this select committee for 1 more month.

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield further?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. I would be glad to yield.

Mr. THOMPSON. Presuming from the date the continuing resolution, which will be up next passes, the Committee on Assassinations, or whatever it is called, will be funded under the language of the continuing resolution until March 31.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. At the rate of approximately \$8,000 a month?

Mr. THOMPSON. If the gentleman will yield further, at the equivalent of one-twelfth per month of its authorization in the previous Congress, keeping in mind that the committee was constituted late in the previous Congress, in September.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield further?

Mr. ROUSSELOT. I yield to the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. WRIGHT. I think the accurate description of what this would permit is to say that it would allow the continued authorization, until some action can be taken, at the rate of actual expenditure incurred by that committee in the month of December.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. But not to exceed that amount?

Mr. WRIGHT. Not to exceed that amount; not to exceed that amount.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. From the \$50,000 per month, is that what it is?

Mr. WRIGHT. If the gentleman will yield further, I am advised that that is approximately correct, and under no circumstances could enactment of this resolution authorize any amount calling for the expenditure of more than \$50,000.

Mr. ROUSSELOT. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I withdraw my reservation of objection.

Mr. BAUMAN. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I certainly was not aware that this resolution was going to be called up this afternoon. Copies have not been available to Members generally. I listened to its reading very carefully, as one who supported the original authorization for this committee. I believed the statement of the former gentleman from Virginia, Mr. Downing, that the investigation was going to cost one-half million dollars to \$1 million and would continue for about a year. I am and a great many other people are alarmed at the scope of both the staffing and the expenditures that have now been proposed.

Surely, this committee does not have a higher claim to the consideration of the House than many of those standing or select committees or other groups. Unfortunately, none of us have had much of a chance to consider this. I would ask the gentleman if the resolution could not be brought up on Thursday so that Members would have a sufficient chance to consider it.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BAUMAN. Certainly, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. WRIGHT. I wish the gentleman would not suggest that we bring it up on Thursday, because Thursday is set aside for the somewhat ceremonial, but none-

theless extremely important, constitutionally directed business of canvassing votes and discovering who was elected President of the United States.

I would suggest to the gentleman that the House will have ample opportunity to work its will as to the vote with respect to this particular committee. I too, as has the gentleman from Maryland, have been alarmed by quite large sums bandied about in the press as to the probable cost of this investigation. What we are doing at the moment is authorizing only the very short view, because it is necessary to authorize continuously lest it die, and then at a rate no more than the amount of money expended monthly as was expended in the preceding month, which was the month of December.

It cannot cost more than about \$50,000, and I would suggest to the gentleman that it is appropriate to vote on it today. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. Gonzalez), I am advised, discussed it in some detail with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Devine), and I am not aware of any basic issue.

Mr. BAUMAN. Further reserving the right to object, I understand the gentleman's desire to have this fast \$50,000 which—if the gentleman will pardon the expression—is not peanuts. I do think that if we go ahead with this resolution we are, in effect, approving of what we have heard the committee's plans are for the future. I cannot agree to the scope of those plans or the cost.

I therefore object to its consideration.

The SPEAKER. Objection is heard.

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I move the adoption of the resolution.

The SPEAKER. The Chair will inform the gentleman that that motion is not in order at this time.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION 10 RELATING TO HOUSE DOCUMENTS, SUBPENAED BY COURTS OF LEGAL OFFICERS

Mr. WRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 10), and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

H. Res. 10

Whereas, by the privileges of this House no evidence of a documentary character under the control and in the possession of the House of Representatives can, by the mandate of process of the ordinary courts of justice be taken from such control or possession except by its permission; Therefore be it

Resolved, That when it appears by the order of any court in the United States or a Judge thereof, or of any legal officer charged with the administration of the orders of such court or Judge, that documentary evidence in the possession and under the control of the House is needful for use in any court of justice or before any Judge or such legal officer, for the promotion of justice, this House will take such action thereon as will promote the ends of justice consistently with the privileges and rights of this House; and be it further

Resolved, That during the Ninety-fifth Congress, when a subpoena or other order for the production or disclosure of information is by the due process of any court in the United States, served upon any Member, officer, or employee of the House of Representatives, directing appearance as a witness

before the said Court at any time and the production of certain and sundry papers in the possession and under the control of the House of Representatives, that any such Member, officer, or employee of the House, after notifying the Speaker, is authorized to appear before said court at the place and time named in any such subpoena or order, but no papers or documents in the possession or under the control of the House of Representatives shall be produced in response thereto, and be it further

Resolved, That after the Speaker has been notified by the Member, officer, or employee that a proper court has determined upon the materiality and relevancy of specific papers or documents called for in the subpoena or other order, then said court, through any of its officers or agents shall have full permission to attend with all proper parties to the proceedings before said court and at a place under the orders and control of the House of Representatives and take copies of the said documents or papers and the Clerk of the House is authorized to supply certified copies of such documents that the court has found to be material and relevant, except that under no circumstances shall any minutes or transcripts of executive sessions, or any evidence of witnesses in respect thereto be disclosed or copied, nor shall the possession of said documents and papers by any Member, officer, or employee of the House be disturbed or removed from their place of file or custody under said Member, officer, or employee; and be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives reserves to itself the power to revoke or modify the authority contained herein in all or specific instances; and be further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by the Clerk of the House to any of said courts whenever such writs of subpoena or other orders are issued and served as aforesaid.

The resolution was agreed to.  
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair desires to make an announcement concerning the electronic voting system.

After consultation with the leadership on both sides of the aisle it has been decided that it would be a convenience to Members to permit changes in votes cast with the electronic system by reinserting the voting card under the following conditions:

First, on 15-minute votes, Members may reinsert a voting card in any voting station during the first 10 minutes of the voting period. After 10 minutes, if a Member wishes to change his vote, he must follow the present procedure of doing so by voting card, in the well, following the completion of the 15-minute voting period; with the announcement of his change when called by the Clerk.

Second, on 5-minute votes, the revised procedure will permit Members to reinsert voting cards in any voting station at any time until the Chair directs voting stations to be closed by inquiring whether Members in the Chamber wish to change their votes or be recorded. From that point until the Chair's announcement of the result, Members must follow the present procedure of submitting voting cards, in the well, at the completion of the 5-minute voting period, and announcing his change when recognized to do so.

HOUSE  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

January 13, 1977

ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, the 94th Congress on September 17, 1976, debated, deliberated and decided that there should be an investigation into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It seems to me unconscionable to the American people, this House and the professional staff who have already begun this investigation now to redebate a policy which has previously been decided.

Legitimate questions have been raised by my colleague, Chairman DONALD EDWARDS, about the conduct of the investigation. To keep the Members of this House fully apprised of those issues as well as my response I have inserted all of that correspondence in the RECORD of this House. Other inquiries have been raised about the proposed budget and the size of the staff. Personal attacks have been leveled in the media against Richard Sprague, the committee's chief counsel.

The inquiries do not raise an issue as to whether we should continue these vital investigations but how. Certainly there should be no question as to the will or desire of the American people to carry on these investigations. The primary issue now facing the House is simply to reestablish the select committee.

There are very compelling reasons for the immediate reestablishment of the select committee. For example, subpoenas which have been issued in both the Kennedy and King investigations are no longer enforceable. Thus, the evidence which was previously under the control of the House is no longer effectively under its control. Similarly, evidence which should be immediately brought under the control of the House cannot because there is no committee and no subpoena power. The select committee is literally in a legal limbo.

The committee has assembled a staff of professionals who are continuing to proceed. Yesterday, members of the Kennedy subcommittee and I received a briefing from the staff outlining areas of investigation which require sustained effort. I know that if it were possible to divulge at this stage of the investigation the facts and evidence adduced, every reasonable-minded Member of the House would say: "By all means proceed." I believe that if the American people were to know these same facts and developments, they would never forgive us for not going on.

The staff is continuing to proceed with the acquisition and analysis of documents from all agencies of Federal, State, and local government. Unfortunately, where there is no legal authority, even the acquisition of documents has been seriously hampered.

Today, I received a letter from Attorney General Levi, properly advising me that until the committee is reestablished we are "unauthorized persons," and thus prevented from further examination and analysis of records. The Attorney General has assured me of his cooperation once the committee is re-

he has directed the Federal Bureau of Investigation to continue to process requests so it can be examined and analyzed as soon as the select committee is reestablished.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I cannot too strongly stress that it is imperative that the select committee be established immediately. Unwarranted delay will permanently cripple the efforts of our investigations.

HOUSE  
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

January 10, 1977

CONDUCT OF INVESTIGATION BY  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, there appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for January 6, 1977, a copy of a letter from my distinguished colleague Chairman DON EDWARDS to former Chairman Tom Downing of the Select Committee on Assassinations. I had responded to Chairman EDWARDS' letter on December 28, 1976. Unfortunately only Chairman EDWARDS' letter was presented, but my response which was also available, was not.

Fundamental fairness to the Members of this House dictates that all correspondence between Chairman EDWARDS and myself be presented so each Member may properly evaluate the issues raised in the complete context. The letters follow:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, D.C., December 28, 1976.

Hon. DON EDWARDS,  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, Committee on the Judiciary, Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C.

DEAR DON: Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Chairman Downing dated December 16, 1976, with respect to the conduct of the investigation by the Select Committee on Assassinations.

I don't know if Chairman Downing has replied. I hope he has. I certainly agree with you that the Select Committee in its investigation must proceed under the highest ethical and professional standards. Indeed, we have never set lower standards, nor do we intend to. One of the major characteristics of this project is the preservation of the integrity of the Congress. If we should do anything in an unprofessional manner, our credibility as well as that of this House would be diminished.

I have not had an opportunity to see the December 15, 1976, Los Angeles Times article to which you referred. However, you are, of course, aware that matters stated in the press sometimes are taken out of context, and sometimes are inaccurately phrased. Rather than indulge in fruitless discussion over the content of what may have been reported in the media, it is preferable just to discuss the matters raised by you in your letter.

The transmitters to which you refer are not for the purpose of secretly recording interviews of witnesses. Rather they are to be used by investigators during surveillance activity when safety considerations dictate that investigators transmit their own comments. I am sure you are aware that in some situations it is imperative to have this type of equipment for the protection of investigators. In fact, we are seeking only two (2) such devices.

Mr. Sprague clearly stated that no person would be taped unless he both knew and consented to having the conversation or interview taped. Indeed, the transcripts and tapes of interviews of witnesses who al-

ready have been made available. I am confident that in each case the individual knew the conversation was being taped and consented to the taping. The record of one of our subcommittee executive sessions will further show that the witness knew that the interview was being taped, that he consented to the taping and that he further knew that the tape might be played before the Select Committee. I will be happy to make that or any transcript or tape available for your review should you so desire.

Second, as to the polygraph, it has been stated at our public hearing as well as in our press conferences, and in executive session, that our use of the polygraph would, of course, only be with the consent of the witness. Our position has remained the same from the beginning.

We do not intend to use the polygraph or stress evaluators in any way as evidence to be produced at our hearings. The use of these devices is identical to that employed by other investigative agencies, i.e., to aid the investigation but not to establish conclusions. It also should be pointed out that from the commencement of this investigation we have rejected the concept of using the polygraph or stress evaluators for employment purposes in any fashion.

It should be noted that we have never attempted to hide the fact of our use of the polygraph and stress evaluators. As with most of our decisions they are made openly and are always subject to review by the House. Thus you will find both items, and all other hardware requests, clearly specified in our proposal budget.

Third, with respect to your concern for the protection of the civil and constitutional rights of witnesses, the Committee is most aware of the problem. This consideration was an important factor which contributed to our decision to hold executive sessions. We have determined to utilize public hearings only where the evidence to be elicited has been clearly established and verified.

As a matter of fact, the decision to hold public hearings was in accord with the rules of the House and on the occasions when we didn't, it was only after a rollcall. One such resulted in a 6-6 tie. In this manner, we can avoid the potential danger of exposing an individual or governmental agency to unwarranted ridicule or the airing of unproved allegations. We feel strongly that the vehicle of public hearings to prove or disprove allegations when the appropriate evidence has been accumulated and corroborated is very important to this process. Developing our findings with full knowledge at each stage of our proceedings will, we believe, foster the support of the American public for our ultimate conclusions. We feel that holding public hearings distinguishes our process from that of the Warren Commission which as you know, held their proceedings in closed sessions until the final report was filed. In our judgment, that secrecy reduced the effectiveness of the Commission work and subjected its conclusions to skepticism and speculation which would have been avoided by public disclosure.

Incidentally, the situations where Mr. Sprague has spoken publicly have been at the public sessions and at various press conferences, sometimes under the express instruction of Chairman Downing; unfortunately, the Committee, under Mr. Downing, did not establish guidelines. But, Don, I cannot say that Mr. Sprague has been anything but prudent and restrained, even in the absence of this needed Committee guidance. Let me assure you of the fact that if I should become Chairman, this will be provided in a manner similar to the handling of your Committee during impeachment hearings.

Again, I appreciate your concern and assure you that the Select Committee will conduct this investigation in accordance with the highest ethical and professional standards. I hope you will always share your concern with me and the members of the Committee.

With kindest personal regards, I am  
Sincerely,

HENRY B. GONZALEZ,  
Member of Congress.

HON. HENRY B. GONZALES,  
U.S. House of Representatives, Rayburn  
House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR HENRY: Thank you for your letter of December 28, 1976. I appreciate your timely comments on my letter to Chairman Downing regarding the investigative methods of the Select Committee on Assassinations. Your letter certainly showed that, should you become Chairman, you intend to approach your responsibility in a serious and professional manner.

But while I found your letter partly reassuring, it raised some additional questions in my mind that I believe need to be answered. It is important to all of us to have a clear understanding of the Select Committee's policies and procedures before any informed decisions can be made on the wisdom of its continued existence or on the amount of its budget requests.

As a preliminary matter, I am enclosing a copy of the Los Angeles Times article I referred to in my letter to Chairman Downing. It will enable you to understand the specific context in which I wrote that initial letter. I am certainly aware that media accounts of various events are not always entirely accurate, or are often taken out of context. But in this case I am disturbed by the fact that the remarks that prompted my letter to Chairman Downing were direct quotations from Mr. Sprague.

In your letter you discuss the use of the mail transmitters referred to in the article. I am very relieved to hear that the transmitters will not be used to secretly record

interviews of witnesses. However, your statement that they will be used during "surveillance activity," leaves me no less concerned than Mr. Sprague's earlier statements as reported in the Times. I am absolutely unable to comprehend a situation which would require "surveillance activity" of any kind. Who and under what authority will the Select Committee's investigators be surveilling? If you could describe more fully what you have in mind and indicate whether American citizens would be the subject of such surveillance and if so, under what circumstances, I would appreciate that information.

You also state that the transmitters are "imperative . . . for the protection of investigators" in some situations, and that I must certainly be aware of this necessity. I assure you I am not aware of any such need. What kind of activity is contemplated that would require such protection? From whom? And more importantly, by whom? The scenes that come to mind when I ask myself such questions are, as you can imagine, extremely disturbing. A Congressional investigation is not, and should never be, a game of cops and robbers.

I am relieved to know that polygraphs will be used only with the consent of the witness. Does the Committee also intend to obtain such consent for the use of the stress evaluator as well? Moreover, you state that the Select Committee's use of the polygraph and the stress evaluator would be identical to that of other investigative agencies. It is my understanding, however, that the FBI does not use stress evaluators at all, because the Bureau is not yet persuaded of its reliability even as an investigative device.

House Resolution 9, introduced on January 4, 1977, differs from the Resolution last year creating the Select Committee on Assassinations. The new resolution now contains a stated Legislative purpose. I cannot express too vigorously my hope that public hearings will be directed strictly at the Legislative purpose. Periodic hearings while you are gathering information and evidence files in the face of every constitutional safeguard attendant to criminal investigations. Spilling out bits and pieces of information before the investigation is complete will obviously present a distorted picture and cannot avoid, in my view, causing serious harm to potential witnesses.

I do not believe that the American people or the Congress wish to indulge in a temporary suspension of the Bill of Rights, however laudable the ultimate purpose may be. I believe the House of Representatives commissioned a thorough, serious study of

purposes of this investigation will or should cause the public to hold Congress in higher esteem is only valid if the task is completed in a dedicated manner which respects all traditional safeguards.

Frankly, I am not persuaded at this point that either the Committee or the staff has given adequate thought to its basic role, its own procedures, and the myriad problems which confront it in the proper discharge of the authorizing resolution. I would like to be able to fully support the activities of the Select Committee. I cannot, however, approve any tactics or techniques which I have personally fought against when employed by the Executive Branch or by other Congressional committees.

Since we all will be called upon to support your work I believe these questions must be dealt with in a most precise manner as soon as possible.

My staff and I will be happy to meet with you, your members and your staff at any time to discuss this matter of common concern.

With kind personal regards,  
Sincerely,

DON EDWARDS,  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Civil and  
Constitutional Rights.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, D.C., January 7, 1977.

HON. DON EDWARDS,  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, Committee on the  
Judiciary, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR DON: Thank you for your letter of January 6, 1977, in response to my letter of December 28, 1976, with respect to the conduct of the investigations into the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

At the very beginning of that letter I stated: "I certainly agree with you that the Select Committee in its investigation must proceed under the highest ethical and professional standards. Indeed, we have never set lower standards, nor do we intend to. One of the major characteristics of this project is the preservation of the integrity of the Congress. If we should do anything in an unprofessional manner, our credibility as well as that of this House would be diminished."

The statement relating to the use of transmitters and polygraphs must be read in the context of the foregoing assurance. Similarly, it must also be read in the context of my statement on Page 2, paragraph 4 that all such requests are subject to review by the House.

Somehow, Don, in my haste to respond to the letter you wrote to Former Chairman Downing, I apparently did not make clear that each investigative technique must be approved by the full committee after careful consideration, debate and deliberation.

Each of us has taken an oath to uphold and preserve the Constitution. We intend to do no less in the course of this investigation and most emphatically not to "indulge in a temporary suspension of the Bill of Rights."

I welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you and your staff at the earliest possible time to avoid further misunderstandings as to our intent and purpose.

With kindest personal regards, I am  
Sincerely,

HENRY B. GONZALES,  
Member of Congress.

P.S.—I am so grateful to you to have had an opportunity to speak to you on the telephone today. I had stated the above before I spoke to you and am most grateful to have a chance to meet with you Monday as you consented to and will see you then.

Second, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. BAUMAN] introduced into the record of this House a personal attack on the committee's chief counsel, Richard Sprague. He suggests, among other things, that Mr. Sprague has "virtually assumed the role of chairman of the committee." It is implicit in that unfounded accusation

abrogated their constitutional duties. The conclusion has no basis in fact. Indeed, I can state quite unequivocally that my colleagues on the committee from both sides of the aisle have worked diligently to insure a credible, professional, ethical, independent investigation. There is no reason to believe that we will continue to do less. One must bear in mind that when the House created the select committee last year, it had nothing, not even a place to meet, much less a staff. It had a total life span of 2½ months.

Next, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman introduced an article which appeared in the New York Times on January 1, 1977, written by David Burnham. I do not often dignify unfounded accusations in the press by responding to them, but where, as here, a journalistic vendetta dredged from the turgid and murky waters of big city politics more than a decade ago has been introduced into the record of this House, I am constrained to conclude that justice and fair play require a response. Failure to respond to accusations of this nature would work a fraud upon the House.

Mr. Burnham in his article suggests that the committee did not do a background investigation of Mr. Sprague prior to his selection as chief counsel. What Mr. Burnham did not write was that Mr. Sprague was appointed Special Assistant to the Attorney General of the United States in charge of the Boyle prosecution. A fact which was known and considered by members of the committee when they unanimously confirmed Sprague as chief counsel. I think it only fair to conclude that if the U.S. Department of Justice found Mr. Sprague to be of questionable integrity or ability the appointment would never have been made.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I think it is clear that any person who has spent as many years in public service and who has prosecuted as many cases as has Richard Sprague will be the target for criticisms. Where those criticisms are politically motivated they command no credence.

## HOUSE

## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

January 17, 1977

### ARE WE A NATION GOVERNED BY LAWS OR BY MEN?

The SPEAKER, Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALES) is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. GONZALES. Mr. Speaker, the assassinations of John Kennedy and Martin Luther King shook the very foundations of our governmental structure based on the concept of the free and peaceful exercise of rightful authority and expression of opinion or belief. Indeed, they raised the question of whether or not we are a nation governed by laws or by men. Unfortunately, as a result of potentially ineffectual investigations, the answer to that question has never been fully resolved. Consequently, this House determined that it would, once and for all, decide the extent to which the fabric of our Nation's structure was torn, how, and, by whom.

Some people question whether the House can justify why these investigations should be undertaken. They do not

see any possible benefit that can be gained by exploring these past events. Yet no less than the integrity of our democratic process and belief in fundamental freedoms is at stake. The House is the largest body which represents the American people; the public's faith in the integrity of our democratic process and constitutional ideals is the foundation of our authority to govern. We have a continuing obligation to justify such faith. Under such circumstances, the burden is not on the House to justify why it should investigate these assassinations, but on those opposed to the investigations to make a compelling case for why it should not.

In constituting the select committee and charging it with the responsibility to conduct a full and complete investigation, this House vested great responsibility in its committee. In fact, the integrity of the Congress in the future may rest, in some part, on the thoroughness of this investigation. Absent a thorough investigation, we will risk being subject to the same allegations of cover-up, ineffectiveness, and the like that are the very reasons it is necessary that we undertake the current investigations. If we do not perform fully and effectively, we will lose the opportunity to explore the jeopardy to our governmental structure at the time of the assassinations.

We will not merely lose the opportunity to learn from a historical lesson, but possibly the opportunity to bring to justice those who have for these many years remained unpunished and unexposed. Thus, it is imperative, as the original resolution charges, that we perform our function completely so that there will be left no unresolved questions as to the past. The purpose of the House, therefore, must not be to restrict the quest for truth, but in fact, to broaden it.

To this end, the original resolution, as well as that in question today, charges the select committee to examine not only the murders of Kennedy and King, but also "any others the select committee shall determine." Much thought has been given to the inclusion of this phrase by the members of our committee and staff. We have determined that in its absence, very grave problems could befall the course of our investigation and we could be thwarted in the vital collection of evidence and testimony. Simply stated, absent this phrase, we might be

confined to the investigation of facts restricted in time and place, to the deaths of these two great leaders.

It is known by the Members of this House that many persons have died since the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. King. Whether they be witnesses, conspirators or deaths totally unrelated to the assassinations, an exploration of the circumstances and the impact of their deaths may be vital to finally answer all the questions that have been raised. Without the clause in question, we might be compelled to prove the death was related to either that of Kennedy or King before we have the authority to investigate that very issue. Courts never presume a relationship in a situation such as this, but require its proof; without broad jurisdiction in this select committee, proof may be impossible.

Most of the questions with regard to the authority and the jurisdiction of the investigation will arise when a subpoena is questioned. It is my belief that without this clause, the burden of proof upon the select committee as to the intent of

this House will be severely restricted. Without this language, a court might narrowly construe the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Kennedy and King to those events which were directly related in time and proximity. Such a narrow construction might preclude the committee from investigating the many mysteries that have arisen concerning the deaths of others which may bear directly on the investigation. Such a narrow construction would be an error given the broad inquiry the committee and House intends to undertake but it is a possibility whose effects we should minimize.

Moreover, since this clause did appear in the original resolution, to delete it at this juncture might suggest that Congress intended to narrow the extent of the authority of the select committee. This might be fatal to the effort to obtain any analyze the evidence.

The point of this discussion is that the inclusion of this language in the resolution as a deliberate and conscious determination by this House will indicate to any court that the Congress wishes the investigation to be unfettered by a narrow delineation of authority. The purpose of embarking upon this inquiry is a full and thorough quest for the truth, and if this involves the deaths, murders, or assassinations of others that may initially appear only tangentially, remotely, or indirectly relevant to those of Kennedy and King, then I hope the committee will be able to examine the issue before it has to demonstrate or prove any relevance to the death of Kennedy or King.

In fact, so that no question should exist in the minds of others, whether they be those under subpoena to testify or the courts examining our subpoenas, permit me to discuss briefly the areas which this House wishes to have us explore, without narrow limitation. The "circumstances surrounding the assassination, murder, homicide and death" of Kennedy and King is meant to be a very broad scope of inquiry. It is meant to include those

who may have been involved in the planning, execution or any coverup of the assassinations. It is meant to include the investigations into each assassination. It is meant to include all events that may relate to either assassination—whether they occurred within days of either death or within the past week.

It is clear that the select committee should attempt to determine the identities and motives of all persons who were in any way involved in the killings of Kennedy and King. This inquiry, of course, would include the examination of whether or not any governmental agencies, Federal, State, or local in the United States or any foreign country

were involved. Moreover, the oversight responsibility of the Congress would include examination into whether or not any law enforcement or intelligence agency of the United States had knowledge of or was in any way a party to plots to murder these leaders.

It is important that the select committee determine whether or not any agency of the Federal, State, or local government engaged in the investigation into either assassination fully and effectively performed its function. In fact, was there the required degree of effectiveness in the cooperation among these agencies? Finally, did any person, agency or organization deter the course of the investigation of these assassinations by withholding, destroying, or altering evidence?

The investigation, to date, has raised many questions in the areas that I have just categorized. Although I do not mean to suggest that we have firm conclusions as to the resolution of any of these questions I have raised, there is no doubt that we have uncovered much material which gives rise to further exploration.

Before I conclude, may I take one last moment to urge upon this House that we act quickly and expeditiously to reauthorize the select committee. Any further delay could result in a serious hindrance to our investigation in its quest for truth. The obvious effect of delay would be to suggest to others that this House vacillates and is indecisive as to whether or not it wishes to pursue this cause. This will result in a critical effect on our credibility with other agencies, whether executive branch, State or local, and will suggest a lack of firmness in our pursuit of a subpoena with the judicial branch. Of more acute importance, two problems immediately face the committee for we are without any legal authority whatsoever and, in law, do not exist. Thus, 13 vital subpoenas for essential evidence which have been issued in Tennessee and Texas are, at present, completely unenforceable. Further, those of us on the committee have seen emergency situations arise in the past where the testimony of witnesses or the collection and custody of evidence is immediately vital, and under our current status, we could only sit helplessly in futility.

In conclusion, I ask you now, expeditiously and with full support to reauthorize the select committee. In effect, I ask you to permit us to finish the job which we have just begun. To turn our back on this obligation now is unthinkable and would make this House the laughing stock of the world. So much has shaken the confidence of the American people in their governmental institutions in the past two decades that we find ourselves with a rare opportunity, at least in these two areas, to say to our fellow citizens that given this opportunity, we acted.

JANUARY 16, 1971

PURSUANT TO

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DEAR MR. SPEAKER: SPECIAL ORDERS to address the

The assassinations of John Kennedy and Martin Luther King shook the very foundations of our governmental structure based on the concept of the free and peaceful exercise of rightful authority and expression of opinion or belief. Indeed, they raised the question of whether or not we are a nation governed by laws or by men. Unfortunately, as a result of potentially ineffectual investigations, the answer to that question has never been fully resolved. Consequently, this House determined that it would, once and for all, decide the extent to which the fabric of our nation's structure was torn. . . . how . . . and, by whom.

HOUSE  
FOR  
15  
MINUTES

Some people question whether the House can justify why these investigations should be under taken. They do not see any possible benefit that can be gained by exploring these past events. Yet no less than the integrity of our democratic process and belief in fundamental freedoms is at stake. The House is the largest body which represents the American people; the public's faith in the integrity of our democratic process and constitutional ideals is the foundation of our authority to govern. We have a continuing obligation to justify such faith. Under such circumstances, the burden is not on the House to justify why it should investigate these assassinations, but on those opposed to the investigations to make a compelling case for why it should not.



In constituting the Select Committee and charging it with the responsibility to conduct a full and complete investigation, this House vested great responsibility in its Committee. In fact, the integrity of the Congress in the future may rest, in some part, on the thoroughness of this investigation. Absent a through investigation, we will risk being subject to the same allegations of cover-up, ineffectiveness, and the like that are the very reasons it is necessary that we undertake the current investigations. If we do not perform fully and effectively, we will lose the opportunity to explore the jeopardy to our governmental structure at the time of the assassinations. We will not merely lose the opportunity to learn from a historical lesson, but possibly the opportunity to bring to justice those who have for these many years remained unpunished and unexposed. Thus, it is imperative, as the original resolution charges, that we perform our function completely so that there will be left no unresolved questions as to the past. The purpose of the House, therefore, must not be to restrict ~~the~~<sup>the</sup> quest for truth, but in fact, to broaden it.

To this end, the original resolution, as well as that in question today, charges the Select Committee to examine not only the murders of Kennedy and King, but also "any others

the Select Committee shall determine". Much thought has been given to the inclusion of this phrase by the members of our committee and staff. We have determined that in its absence, very grave problems could befall the course of our investigation and we could be thwarted in the vital collection of evidence and testimony. Simply stated, absent this phrase, we might be confined to the investigation of facts restricted in time and place, to the deaths of these two great leaders.

It is known by the members of this House that many persons have died since the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. King. Whether they be witnesses, conspirators or deaths totally unrelated to the assassinations, an exploration of the circumstances and the impact of their deaths may be vital to finally answer all the questions that have been raised. Without the clause in question, we might be compelled to prove the death was related to either that of Kennedy or King before we have the authority to investigate that very issue. Courts never presume a relationship in a situation such as this, but require its proof; without broad jurisdiction in this Select Committee, proof may be impossible.

Most of the questions with regard to <sup>the</sup> ~~our~~ authority and the jurisdiction of <sup>the</sup> ~~our~~ investigation will arise when a subpoena is questioned. It is <sup>my</sup> ~~our~~ belief that without this

clause, the burden of proof upon the Select Committee as to the intent of this House will be severely increased. Without this language, a Court might narrowly construe the circumstances surrounding the deaths of Kennedy and King to those events which were directly related in time and proximity. Such a narrow construction might preclude ~~our~~<sup>the</sup> Committee from investigating the many mysteries that have arisen concerning the deaths of others which may bear directly on ~~our~~<sup>the</sup> investigation. Such a narrow construction would be an error given the broad inquiry the Committee and House intends to undertake but it is a possibility whose effects we should minimize.

Moreover, since this clause did appear in the original resolution, to delete it at this juncture might suggest that Congress intended to narrow the extent of the authority of the Select Committee. This might be fatal to ~~our~~<sup>the</sup> effort to obtain and analyze the evidence.

The point of this discussion is that the inclusion of this language in the resolution as a deliberate and conscious determination by this House will indicate to any Court that ~~we wish~~<sup>the CONGRESS WISHES</sup> the investigation to be unfettered by a narrow delineation of authority. The purpose of embarking upon this inquiry is a full and thorough quest for the truth, and if this involves the deaths, murders or assassinations of

others that may initially appear only tangentially, remotely, or indirectly relevant to those of Kennedy and King, then ~~we~~ *I hope* ~~the~~ *will* ~~wish~~ *the* Committee ~~to~~ be able to examine the issue before it has to demonstrate or prove any relevance to the death of Kennedy or King.

In fact, so that no question should exist in the minds of others, whether they be those under subpoena to testify or the Courts examining our subpoenas, permit me to discuss briefly the areas which this House wishes to have us explore, without narrow limitation. The "circumstances surrounding the assassination, murder, homicide and death" of Kennedy and King is meant to be a very broad scope of inquiry. It is meant to include those who may have been involved in the planning, execution or any cover-up of the assassinations. It is meant to include the investigations into each assassination. It is meant to include all events that may relate to either assassination - whether they occurred within days of either death or within the past week.

*On Jan. 16th, Gonzalez addressed the House floor - one of the most crucial things he said was...*

~~It~~ It is clear that the Select Committee should attempt to determine the identities and motives of all persons who were in any way involved in the killings of Kennedy and King. This inquiry, of course, would include the examination of whether or not any governmental agencies, federal, state or

*Turn →*

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It is important that the Select Committee determine whether or not any agency of the federal, state or local government engaged in the investigation into either assassination fully and effectively performed its function. In fact, was there the required degree of effectiveness in the cooperation among these agencies? Finally, did any person, agency or organization deter the course of the investigation of these assassinations by withholding, destroying or altering evidence?

~~The~~ investigation, to date, has raised many questions in the areas that I have just catagorized. Although I do not mean to suggest that we have firm conclusions as to the resolution of any of these questions I have raised, there is no doubt that we have uncovered much material which gives rise to further exploration.

Before I conclude, may I take one last moment to urge upon this House that we act quickly and expeditiously to reauthorize the Select Committee. Any further delay could result in a serious hindrance to our investigation in its

quest for truth. The obvious effect of delay would be to suggest to others that this House vacillates and is indecisive as to whether or not it wishes to pursue this cause. This will result in a critical effect on our credibility with other agencies, whether executive branch, state or local, and will suggest a lack of firmness in our pursuit of a subpoena with the judicial branch. Of more acute importance, two problems immediately face us <sup>the Committee</sup> for we are without any legal authority whatsoever and, in law, do not exist. Thus, thirteen vital subpoenas for essential evidence which have been issued in Tennessee and Texas are, at present, completely unenforceable. Further, <sup>those of us on the committee.</sup> we have seen emergency situations arise in the past where the testimony of witnesses or the collection and custody of evidence is immediately vital, and under our current status, we could only sit by helplessly in futility.

In conclusion, <sup>I</sup> we ask you now, expeditiously and with full support to reauthorize the Select Committee. In effect, <sup>I</sup> we ask you to permit us to finish the job which we have just begun. To turn our back on this obligation now is unthinkable and would make this House the laughing stock of the World. So much has shaken the confidence of the American people in their governmental institutions in the past two decades that we find ourselves with a rare opportunity, at least in these two areas, to say to our fellow citizens that given this opportunity, we acted.

- 1) I received a copy of this document from Congressman Thomas Downing in late 1976. It is CIA document #II3, the text of which follows:(dated 4/Dec./'63:)  
"Source on(~~deleted~~) said he saw (~~deleted-deleted~~) reported Sov.Con.Gen. (Soviet Counselate General) told him 30 November that Oswald sent to U.S.S.R. and married Soviet girl under C.I.A. instructions."  
(The above PROVES Oswald was in the employ of the C.I.A.)as does below;
- 2) Marine Corps lieutenant John Donovan's testimony before the Warren Commission-(excerpt) Volume 8..page 298...  
"Shortly before I got out of the Marine Corps, which was mid-December, 1959, we received word that he ~~Ø~~ (Oswald) had showed up in Moscow, this necessitated a lot of change of aircraft call-signs, codes, radio frequencies, radar frequencies..he had access to the location of all bases in the west coast area, all radio frequencies for all squadrons, all tactical call-signs, and the relative strean~~th~~ of all squadrons numbers and type of aircraft in ~~a~~ a squadron, who was the Commanding Officer, the authentication code of entering and exiting the A.D.I.Z. (Air Defense Identification Zone), he knew the range of our radar, he knew the range of our radio, and he knew the range of the surrounding unit's radio and radar."
- 3) A CIA report, dated November 25, 1963 states:  
" On November 22, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald shot President Kennedy while the President was riding in an open automobile on a Dallas, Texas street. The rifle used was a Mauser."
- 4) Another CIA report, dated November 27, 1963, states: (title)  
"Information On The Weapon Presumably Used In The Assassination Of President Kennedy."  
10) As regards articles appearing recently in the Italian and foreign press concerning the presumed use of an Italian made rifle in the slaying of President Kennedy, the following comments are made:  
The weapon which appears to have been employed in this criminal attack is a Model 9I rifle, 7.35 calibre, 1938 modification; the description of a 'Mannlicher Carcano' rifle in the Italian and foreign press is in error."  
Editor's note: Congressman Thomas Downing, who read this CIA document on the floor of the House in late 1976, concludes by stating,  
"It should be clear that the initial identification of a rifle as a 7.65 Mauser clearly was not, as the Warren Commission maintained, because Deputy Constable Weitzman 'thought it looked like a Mauser'. Since the Commission's case against Oswald as the lone assassin is built almost exclusively on his ownership of a 6.5 Mannlicher-Carcano, the identification of the murder weapon as a 7.65 Mauser tends to discredit the ENTIRE case against Oswald."
- \*5) On March 28, 1977, while Richard A. Sprague was chief counsel(before Blakey), the House Assassinations Committee issued a report. In this interim report, these are some verbatim avenues of investigation, under Sprague:
  - a)"The Select Committee is actively pursuing several new leads which indicate that Lee Harvey Oswald was associated with CIA supported ANTI-Castro groups, and which suggest that his reported pro-Castro activities and possibly his 'alleged' trip to Mexico City may have been deliberately designed to MASK those CIA associations."
  - b)"The Warren Commission had concluded that Jack Ruby never knew Oswald and had never seen him before November 22, 1963. The Committee staff has spoken with a witness who has never been previously interviewed, and who stated that in November of '63, prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, the witness was PERSONALLY introduced to Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby."

6) One of the earliest proclamations by the Dallas police was that Oswald's palmprints were on the rifle allegedly used to fire "all the shots" at President Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963. This "fact" helped to ~~in~~ incriminate Oswald of the crime in the eyes of people around the world. Here is the text, verbatim, of a document dated July 23, 1964, EIGHT MONTHS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF JFK, sent by J. Lee Rankin, Warren Commission chief-counsel, (sort of G. Robert Blakeys counterpart; earlier,) to J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau Of Investigation:

"Dear Mr. Hoover,

It has been alleged that the palmprint lifted from Oswald's rifle by the Dallas police is FALSE. This allegation is SUPPORTED by the statement that the F.B.I. told the press in an off-the-record briefing ~~at~~ session on November 23 or 24 that there was ABSOLUTELY NO PALMPRINT ON THE RIFLE."

EDITORS NOTE:

The reason I have not published the actual copies of the above documents is because I have sent them, and they now reside, at the University of Wisconsin, in my own archive under my name for future/present critics, students, researchers, historians, etc. I have sent them very much of my 4,350 hours of tape-recordings, printed documents, etc. I retain copies of many of my tapes and on these tapes I have read the above texts of these documents. In addition to retaining many taped copies, I also retain 9 very large, thick scrapbooks of EVERYTHING on the JFK assassination in magazines, documents, articles, etc., etc. Ted Gandolfo, Chairman: A.I.C. Editor.

Editor's Note:

"The Third Decade" newsletter (Editor and publisher Jerry Rose) is published bi-monthly at the State University College, Fredonia, N.Y. 14063, is 32-40 pages per issue and publishes research articles on the JFK assassination, as well as such features as a "news" column and a names-and-addresses directory of active researchers, Ted Gandolfo, Sylvia Meagher, Paul Hoch and George Michael Evica are among the many contributors to the Journal, which numbers a large proportion of the leading researchers among its subscribers. Subscriptions are \$15 for 1 year, \$26 for 2 years, \$36 for three years. The editor and publisher is Jerry Rose, a professor of sociology; author of seven textbooks in sociology and around 15 articles on the JFK assassination published in "THE THIRD DECADE" and in "THE CONTINUING INQUIRY".

*This is  
Page 68*



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HEARINGS

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

on

RULES

H. Res. 9

Providing for funds for the Select Committee on Assassination

Tuesday, January 25, 1977

Washington, D. C.

Official Reporters to Committees

H. Res. 9

Providing for funds for the Select Committee on Assassinations

- - -

Tuesday, January 25, 1977

- - -

House of Representatives,  
Committee on Rules,  
Washington, D. C.

The committee met, pursuant to other business, at  
11:20 a.m., in Room H-313, The Capitol, the Honorable James J.  
Delaney (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Delaney, Bolling, Sisk, Young,  
Pepper, Murphy, Long, Moakley, Chisholm, Dodd, Quillen,  
Anderson, Latta, Clawson, and Lott.

Also present: Philip R. Collins, Chief Counsel and Staff  
Director, and D. Gregory Nicosia.

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1 Chairman Delaney. Mr. Gonzalez, I understand that you  
2 have a resolution here and a request to make. You are recognized.

3 STATEMENT OF HON. HENRY B. GONZALEZ

4 A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

5 Mr. Gonzalez. That is correct, Mr. Chairman.

6 If I may be permitted --

7 Chairman Delaney. Yes, would you explain at the very  
8 outset that this is not a request? Somehow it seems to be in  
9 the minds of most people for \$6-1/2 million or \$6 million.  
10 You can explain your request.

11 Mr. Gonzalez. Absolutely not.

12 Mr. Quillen. Mr. Chairman, is this a full hearing? We  
13 have heard this measure. Can we just vote it up or down?

14 Chairman Delaney. If it is your desire, at any time you  
15 want to move.

16 Is that correct, your committee died, did it not, the first  
17 of the year?

18 Mr. Gonzalez. That is true, Mr. Chairman.

19 Chairman Delaney. For all purposes, this is a new request  
20 for a Select Committee. Handle it any way you want, but it  
21 really is for continuance of a Select Committee that was  
22 adopted last year and never fulfilled the purpose for which it  
23 was adopted; is that right?

24 Mr. Gonzalez. Essentially that is right. This is a  
25 resolution seeking the reestablishment of the committee.

1 Chairman Delaney. That in substance is the same thing.

2 Mr. Gonzalez. That is right.

3 Chairman Delaney. The Chair recognizes Mr. Gonzalez.

4 You may proceed.

5 Mr. Gonzalez. Mr. Chairman, at the very outset I would  
6 like to point out that we have several members of the committee  
7 that served as such last year. The ranking member is the  
8 Honorable Richardson Preyer sitting to my immediate right here.  
9 We have Congressman Walter Fauntroy, Congresswoman Yvonne  
10 Burke, Congressman McKinney, Congressman Louis Stokes, and  
11 also Congressman Devine is here.

12 If I have missed anyone, please let me know.

13 It may be that if it is all right with the committee, I  
14 would proceed with a rather short statement. It may be that  
15 the members who are here present might also wish to contribute  
16 with either additional statements or participate during the  
17 question period.

18 Every one of the members attended the meetings of the  
19 committee such as they were last year. You are correct, the  
20 94th Congress set the committee up the last three weeks before  
21 it adjourned. Therefore, there was in essence about 2-1/2  
22 months of actual working time for the committee to get  
23 organized, appoint staff and the like.

24 In the first place we are deeply grateful we had this  
25 opportunity to come before the Rules Committee. This is where

1 in the first instance the first committee was set up. I think  
2 it is proper we come back here today.

3 I am seeking the approval of House Resolution 9, fully  
4 realizing the impact of some of the controversy surrounding the  
5 use of such things as various investigative techniques, the  
6 proposed budget and the activities of the Chief Counsel, all  
7 of which lamentably have been corollary issues, but nevertheless  
8 the reality as we confront it.

9 First, a proposal was made by the staff for the use of  
10 polygraphs and stress analyzers. These items have never been  
11 used. I am personally opposed to their use. Before they could  
12 be used they would have to be approved by the full committee  
13 after careful debate and deliberation. I am confident that  
14 once it is reestablished and the Members have an opportunity  
15 to meet, that the committee for the 95th Congress will not  
16 sanction the use of such devices.

17 Furthermore, I have made it clear that each and every  
18 investigative technique proposed to be used will be carefully  
19 considered and decided by the members of the committee.

20 Second, questions have been raised about the size of the  
21 proposed budget of \$6.5 million. Until we are reestablished  
22 as a Select Committee, there cannot properly be a budget  
23 request. Once the committee is reestablished, the members will  
24 have to thoroughly review and evaluate the proposed budget.  
25 We will then be in a position to justify each and every proposed

1 expenditure.

2 At this point we do not know what the budget request will  
3 be. I can only state that whatever the amount of the request,  
4 the committee will be prepared to justify it and I believe it  
5 will be acceptable to every Member of the House who wants to  
6 see a thorough, professional, independent investigation.

7 Third, various question have been raised about the  
8 activities of the Chief Counsel, Richard A. Sprague. Some of  
9 the stories which have been published about him were dredged  
10 from the turgid and murkey waters of big city politics. They  
11 are political and bear no credence. As to his frequent contact  
12 and visability in the media, I have already prepared a draft  
13 of proposed rules for both the staff and the members of the  
14 committee. Once we are reconstituted, the members of the  
15 committee will then be able to immediately consider and adopt  
16 such rules.

17 Fourth, while I propose to speak for no other Member, I  
18 am sure that I reflect their strong feelings that this  
19 investigation will be conducted under the highest professional  
20 and ethical standards. I can personally assure the members of  
21 this committee and of the House that this investigation will  
22 be carried out in the most professional manner so there will be  
23 no doubt as to our credibility or that of this House.

24 It is important to point out that I have not yet served  
25 as the chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

1 Even though I was the originator of legislation creating the  
2 Select Committee on Assassinations I was not named the chairman  
3 of the committee when it was first established last September.  
4 Therefore, it is important to understand that I have inherited  
5 the errors and misjudgments that have been made during a  
6 period when I was not the person in charge.

7 I have devoted myself, and much of the time of my personal  
8 staff, to meeting the challenge of these circumstances, and it  
9 is my judgment after very close consideration that there is  
10 nothing so dire that cannot be resolved or corrected. The work  
11 that has been done thus far by the legal and investigative  
12 efforts of the select committee's staff is commendable and  
13 outstanding.

14 At such time that this committee is reconstituted and I am  
15 officially made the chairman by House Speaker Thomas O'Neill,  
16 it is certain that some staff adjustments will be made, and  
17 there is no doubt in my mind that after these adjustments are  
18 made we can work together in such a way that no further  
19 missteps are taken that could cause harm to this body or these  
20 investigations.

21 Mr. Chairman, my colleagues, I have long sought enactment  
22 of legislation establishing a House study of the political  
23 assassinations.

24 I feel strongly about the need for assessing the impact  
25 of these assassinations on our country, and getting to the truth

1 of why they happened so that we can prevent such events from  
2 happening again.

3 There has never been a period of time in the history of  
4 our country like the decade of political assassinations which  
5 began with the murder of President Kennedy and included the  
6 death of Dr. King.

7 This decade of assassinations shook the foundations of  
8 our democracy and has had lasting effects on the people -- too  
9 many of whom have very serious doubts and fears about their  
10 government and its ability to cope with forces both within it  
11 and loose throughout the land.

12 I sincerely did not seek the establishment of this select  
13 committee so that I could become the chairman. The thought  
14 did not even cross my mind. Maybe it should have, because I  
15 certainly have other objectives and responsibilities which  
16 must be considered, too.

17 All I have wanted from the beginning is the truth about  
18 these crimes against the people, and this is why I seek  
19 reestablishment of the committee first established through  
20 legislation that was born of the resolution I introduced.

21 I cannot think of anything more important for us to do  
22 here in the Congress, as elected representatives of the people,  
23 than to insure that the people have the option to choose their  
24 national leaders by ballot, rather than subjecting them to the  
25 possibility that bullets may eliminate those who could possibly  
serve, or who might continue to serve, in either a volunteer



1 or elected position.

2 When I first introduced my proposal in the 94th Congress --  
3 on February 19, 1975 -- calling for a select committee to study  
4 the circumstances surrounding the deaths of President  
5 Kennedy, U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Dr. King, and the attempt  
6 on Governor George Wallace's life -- I was serious, but since  
7 I was not taken too seriously at the time I had no reason to  
8 know much about the forces in this country who are dedicated to  
9 keeping the truth from being known.

10 Now that the committee became a reality and the  
11 investigations have gotten underway, I know full well that  
12 there are strong and organized forces which are dedicated to  
13 stopping this investigation in its tracks.

14 Nevertheless, I am willing to stand up to these forces, and  
15 I hope that you are willing to give me and my colleagues, who  
16 want to continue to serve on this committee a chance to give the  
17 people a full accounting of why President Kennedy and Dr. King  
18 were slain.

19 Those of you who served on the House Rules Committee  
20 during the 94th Congress know that this committee on  
21 September 15, 1976 favorably reported out House Resolution  
22 1540, which authorized a Select Committee on Assassinations.  
23 On September 17, 1976, the House passed that resolution. Thus,  
24 four months ago, the House debated, deliberated and determined  
25 that there should be full and complete investigations into the

1 assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin  
2 Luther King, Jr.

3 The initial reasons for the establishment of a Select  
4 Committee were thoroughly discussed and obviously dispositive  
5 to the overwhelming number of the Members of the House who voted  
6 in favor of that resolution.

7 First of all, the inadequacies of the investigations in  
8 both assassinations and the questions which have been raised,  
9 as well as independent findings of other congressional  
10 committees that in the case of the assassination of President  
11 Kennedy the Warren Commission was not provided with all the  
12 evidence, continue to be compelling reasons why the  
13 investigations must be carried out.

14 Similarly, Mr. Chairman, it was certainly the will of the  
15 American people that these investigations should once and for all  
16 solve these assassinations and determine the truth. To this end  
17 I would simply remind the members of this committee that both  
18 a CBS and a Detroit news poll indicated that 65 percent and  
19 87 percent of those polled do not believe the conclusion of  
20 the Warren Commission. A poll by the Philadelphia Daily News  
21 indicated that 96 percent of those polled supported the need  
22 for investigations. Thus, the will of the American people to  
23 fully investigate these assassinations was carried out by the  
24 House last September by the passage of House Resolution 1540.  
25 A recent Gallup Poll indicated that only 11 percent of the

1 people believe the conclusion of the Warren Commission.

2 During the span of its short life, the Select Committee of  
3 the 94th Congress found previously undisclosed evidence, critical  
4 witnesses who had never been questioned and revelations which  
5 lead to serious questions which must be resolved.

6 Can we like an ostrich now hide our heads in the sand  
7 and pretend this evidence does not exist? If we do, I submit  
8 we can be accused of the greatest congressional cover-up in  
9 history. To do so would be tantamount to the Senate Watergate  
10 Committee discovering the existence of the tapes and not  
11 inquiring further or the House Impeachment Committee drawing a  
12 Bill of Impeachment and not proceeding.

13 Further unwarranted delay would demonstrate vacillation  
14 and indecisiveness which ultimately damages our credibility as  
15 Member of this House.

16 Mr. Chairman, the evidence is compelling -- it will not be  
17 washed away -- it cannot be ignored. As I said earlier, to  
18 stop now would be unthinkable. It would demonstrate to the  
19 American people that when faced with this challenge we turned  
20 our backs on the quest for the truth.

21 In closing I would like to call your attention to a  
22 comparison of H. Res. 9 to H. Res. 1540 of the 94th Congress  
23 which I am submitting with this testimony, also to copies of  
24 material from the Congressional Record relative to the need for  
25 the reconstitution of the select committee and to the exchange

1 of correspondence I have had with Congressman Don Edwards in  
2 response to this initial letter to former select committee  
3 chairman, Congressman Thomas Downing, who is now retired.

4 (The information follows:)

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1 Mr. Gonzalez. Again, I ask for your support of this  
2 effort to find the truth and welcome any questions you might  
3 have.

4 Chairman Delaney. How much money is provided in this?

5 Mr. Gonzalez. None that I know of.

6 Chairman Delaney. You would go before the appropriate  
7 committee for the money?

8 Mr. Gonzalez. As I understand it, and I could stand  
9 to be corrected, the approval of this resolution would then bring  
10 it under the auspices of the continuing resolution, H. Res. 11,  
11 which would fund it until March 1 at a rate not to exceed the  
12 previous rate and no monthly rate to exceed the monthly rate  
13 in December as I remember the resolution offered by the leader.

14 Chairman Delaney. Do you recall how much that was?

15 Mr. Gonzalez. The total would not exceed 150,000 for the  
16 three-month period which is identical to last year's resolution.

17 Chairman Delaney. So we are talking about \$150,000 and not  
18 to exceed that in any one month?

19 Mr. Gonzalez. No, the total amount would not exceed  
20 \$150,000 for the period of life that it would be extended until  
21 March 1.

22 Chairman Delaney. You will have to justify that.

23 Mr. Gonzalez. Well, if the committee wished to seek  
24 permanent type for the fiscal year, it would have to come back,  
25 reassemble, come back and make that request to the House

1 Administration Committee which in turn would make that request  
2 to the full House.

3 Chairman Delaney. Mr. Bolling?

4 Mr. Bolling. No questions.

5 Chairman Delaney. Mr. Quillen?

6 Mr. Quillen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 Isn't it true, however, if the House should adopt this  
8 resolution, in effect we are committing ourselves to two years  
9 as proposed by the Staff Director and his request of \$6 million,  
10 that if it is constituted, there is no way of going back?

11 So I think when we adopt this resolution, should it be  
12 reported and adopted by the House, the House is committing  
13 itself to the full authorization because there is really no  
14 need to reconstitute the committee without funds to operate it.  
15 We are shadowboxing.

16 Mr. Gonzalez. Mr. Quillen, that is not my understanding.  
17 There would be no commitment to any figure other than that  
18 which the House Administration Committee would recommend. The  
19 only thing this would do would be to offer the continuity which  
20 is necessary for every Select Committee when a new Congress is  
21 formed. There would be no appropriation and it would have to  
22 be subjected completely to the controlling processes of hearings  
23 before the House Administration Committee and then the full  
24 House. It would still have to come to the full House.

25 Mr. Quillen. That is true legislatively. But the former

1 Staff Director, and if this is reconstituted, he could be the  
2 new Staff Director, has testified that the minimum requirement  
3 would be \$6 million for the first year, as I understand.

4 Therefore, with that commitment, and he said it would take that  
5 to do the job, I think really we should face the facts now.

6 In fairness to you -- and I want to commend you for your  
7 diligence and dedication and efforts, and you know what high  
8 regard I hold for you -- but at the same time I think it is  
9 unfair to say that we are going to reconstitute this committee  
10 on the basis of a \$150,000 expenditure for three months when  
11 we know it is like jumping from the springboard into the pool.  
12 Once you make the jump you are committed.

13 Mr. Gonzalez. No, sir. You have a sort of rope attached  
14 to that jump which would be controlled by the House Administration  
15 Committee and the full House.

16 Mr. Quillen. If the rope is around the neck and we are  
17 going to break the neck, why not break it now?

18 Mr. Gonzalez. I realize the type of life attachment you  
19 attach to a young kid learning to swim in a pool and you hold  
20 him above the surface. But I think it is proper to point out  
21 that the fact that a key counsel has recommended what he feels  
22 is minimal but which incidentally has himself revised downward  
23 in the interim does not make that the controlling factor.

24 The committee is still the one. It is the judgment of the  
25 committee, not the Chief Counsel, that should rule or will rule

1 or should have ruled.

2 I would like very much to remove the impression that we are  
3 committing by any stretch of the imagination to any sum other  
4 and above the one the leadership has sought in the continuing  
5 resolution for the extension of the life of the committee, well,  
6 first reestablishing it, continuing it to March 1 at a total  
7 sum not to exceed \$150,000 and in the interim organize,  
8 reorganize and prepare for the fiscal year request to the House  
9 Administration Committee.

10 As an individual -- and I couldn't speak for a committee  
11 that has yet to be formed -- but as an individual I would say  
12 that I could find absolutely no justification for coming in  
13 willy-nilly with any figure near that amount.

14 Mr. Quillen. If the gentleman would yield, I was at our  
15 conference and your Chief Counsel or Staff Director appeared  
16 before us. He said it would take a minimum of two years and a  
17 minimum of \$6 million-plus per year to do the job or otherwise  
18 he was not going to assume the responsibility.

19 I don't quote him in exact terms, but I got the impression  
20 that if he could not carry out the duties as he saw it, that  
21 he would rather not tackle it.

22 Now this was his presentation. I realize that the Congress  
23 legislates and a Staff Director or the Chief Counsel takes  
24 orders from the members of the committee.

25 Mr. Gonzalez. Absolutely.



1 Mr. Quillen. But it would seem to me that he has been  
2 speaking for the committee and then grinding in the thought  
3 that the funds are necessary to do the job and the travel  
4 overseas would be terrific.

5 Mr. Gonzalez. Mr. Quillen, let me give you an example of  
6 what I am trying to explain. I didn't see the suggested report  
7 to be filed by the outgoing Chair which he announced he could  
8 do on December 31 until December 28. For the first time I saw  
9 that it closed a budgetary proposal.

10 I can assure you no Member of the House was more aghast  
11 than I was because I knew when I saw the itemized suggested  
12 request that I was not about to be party to suggesting the  
13 purchase of a polygraph machine or two, a voice stress analyzer  
14 or two. I was not about to.

15 I thought everybody would understand the procedures here,  
16 that it was irrelevant, premature and immaterial because the  
17 first thing would have to be to reestablish the committee and  
18 then you could get into a discussion as to what you would be  
19 requesting for funds.

20 Naturally when you get a high velocity investigator and  
21 prosecutor such as our Chief Counsel has been, you asked a man  
22 how fast he could get to that point and his idea would be with  
23 a 12 cylinder Masserati or Jaguar. But we are talking about  
24 getting to that destination with an American-made 6 cylinder  
25 and not an 8 cylinder because if you can get to the

1 destination, why not?

2 I never even considered as a talking matter this proposal  
3 before the committee could be reestablished. But this did  
4 become the main issue for a while.

5 What I would like to disabuse your mind from is that the  
6 main issue remains legally the reestablishment of the committee  
7 because there is really nothing -- you have a staff that is  
8 in there mostly on faith. After that is done we have to  
9 come to the proper and very fine grand processes of straining  
10 requests to the House Administration Committee. Then the House  
11 Administration Committee in turn has to come to the full House.

12 Mr. Quillen. You are talking about the high-priced cars  
13 and that you could reach it with a lesser model. Suppose the  
14 counsel started in an Edsel or a Cord. It would fizzle to  
15 begin with.

16 You know the members of the committee last year let the  
17 Chief Counsel go before the other committees of the House and  
18 other organizations of the House and point out what it would  
19 take as a minimum to do this. I wonder if the members of the  
20 committee realized what was going on?

21 Mr. Gonzalez. I would like to evoke the requirement at  
22 that time. The committee was established rapidly and quickly.  
23 The outgoing chairman was given unanimous consent to hire, fire,  
24 et cetera, because of the shortness of time. The House was not  
25 in session, therefore the natural monitoring process that we

1 would have gotten had it been in session did not exist. There  
2 were no rules by the committee to govern either the members of  
3 the committee or the members of the staff. In view of the fact  
4 that the Chief Counsel had no prior Washington exposure or  
5 congressional experience, and given the temper then where the  
6 media was asking specific questions and the chairman would  
7 delegate for their answer the Chief Counsel, understanding that  
8 setup, it was natural that a vacuum was created. The Chief  
9 Counsel went into that vacuum and did the best he could under  
10 the circumstances.

11 But I feel that these were acts of omission, not  
12 intentional but because of the special circumstances surrounding  
13 the 2-1/2 month period of activity.

14 Mr. Quillen. One final statement, Mr. Chairman: I have  
15 misgivings about the committee. I am one of 65 who voted  
16 against its establishment.

17 Mr. Gonzalez. I understand that.

18 Mr. Quillen. On the other hand, the committee could do  
19 some good. I feel that the assassination of President Kennedy  
20 and Robert Kennedy, that some good could come possibly from  
21 out of the investigation of the assassination of Martin Luther  
22 King. I know maybe there should be some circumstances developed  
23 because the alleged assassin is in custody in prison and he  
24 has appealed many times for a new trial.

25 What would come out of that and what would come out of the

1 investigation of both Kennedys, I don't know. But if you  
2 plow the ground 14 years later, I don't know what would come  
3 from the earth. So really the committee has a plus and a  
4 minus. The minus is the terrific amount of money. The good  
5 might offset that minus.

6 Right now I am in the throes of deciding exactly what to do  
7 although I am inclined to follow the same position that I took  
8 the last time.

9 But I want to commend you for your dedication and perhaps  
10 the things that happened in the past had no control and they  
11 were perhaps off shoots. But I am not convinced yet that the  
12 reestablishment of the committee would not be a binding  
13 commitment of funds to carry it out or else there would be no  
14 reason to reconstitute it.

15 That is all, Mr. Chairman.

16 Chairman Delaney. Mr. Sisk?

17 Mr. Sisk. Mr. Gonzalez, I don't need to state my regard  
18 for which I hold you because we have served together for many  
19 years. I do want to commend you for having made a case here.  
20 I deplore Monday morning quarterbacking as much as the next guy.  
21 I guess once in a while we like to say I told you so.

22 I want to commend you for having made a very strong case  
23 today for the very strong case I made on this five months ago  
24 when I said it was the most ill-timed and ill-conceived action  
25 this committee could take. I appreciate your making that point.

1 very strongly.

2       Unfortunately the timing was bad and everything was wrong  
3 and it was never able to establish the proper rules. So what  
4 happened in this ill-conceived arrangement really has now  
5 raised the real question of whether or not there can be any  
6 successful pursuit of this issue.

7       Isn't that a fact that if you had been able to start as  
8 many of us pled with you, if you could start it fresh now  
9 without past history and the unfortunate and ill-conceived  
10 statements that have been made, wouldn't you have been in  
11 better shape?

12       Mr. Gonzalez. Of course, the ideal thing would have been  
13 for the 94th Congress in the beginning to sanction the formation  
14 of the committee, but it didn't happen that way. In analyzing  
15 what I think your question is addressing itself to, I feel there  
16 is one element here that perhaps I have neglected to emphasize,  
17 that despite all of these handicaps, the status, abilities and  
18 skill of the men who were assembled, you take the two deputy  
19 counsels, you have not heard anything from them. In my book  
20 they have done more to impress me as to skill and ability than  
21 anything I have ever watched.

22       Now our colleague, a distinguished former Federal judge,  
23 is the chairman of the subcommittee having to do with the  
24 pursuit of the Kennedy investigation. He is deeply involved in  
25 the processes that have been followed by that particular unit.

1 Adding to the plus factor is a decision to proceed  
 2 simultaneously on both homicides. I think that here in this  
 3 case I would very much like to ask and request Judge Preyer  
 4 to explain some of the things that this staff, even quickly  
 5 assembled and in the case of his deputy counsel did not come  
 6 on board until December, some of the things that have been done  
 7 and even though they describe them as thresholds, I think they  
 8 have gone way beyond that and I think if you had a chance to  
 9 follow this you would consider they are substantial  
 10 accomplishments.

11 I would like to defer to Judge Preyer because I think he  
 12 could add an element that perhaps I can't quite fill in.

13 Mr. Sisk. Before we do that, of course I have great  
 14 respect for Judge Preyer, but before we do that let me pursue  
 15 a couple of questions dealing with the resolution before us,  
 16 House Resolution 9.

17 We are the committee of original jurisdiction and we can  
 18 amend or do anything we want to with this resolution as I  
 19 understand it.

20 As I interpret the call of this committee, we are here to  
 21 hear House Resolution 9; is that correct?

22 Mr. Gonzalez. That is my understanding.

23 Mr. Sisk. I notice the name of Mr. Jim Wright, Majority  
 24 Leader, on this resolution. I assume he did not write this  
 25 resolution. I assume it was given to him and he introduced it

1 on behalf of members of the committee; is that correct?

2 Mr. Gonzalez. Yes.

3 Mr. Sisk. I want to discuss at some length if I can,  
4 Mr. Chairman, and I don't want to take a lot of time, but again  
5 recognizing that we are a committee of original jurisdiction,  
6 I am concerned about the difference in this resolution and the  
7 one that originally set your committee up.

8 I would like to start with discussion of language on page 2  
9 starting with line 3 in which I want to read this briefly  
10 because I am very much concerned about the tone and the sound  
11 and really what this language amounts to.

12 Mr. Gonzalez. Could I pass this parallel comparison  
13 showing the differences in the versions and then the precedents  
14 in the rules in prior committees in the House and Senate for  
15 the inclusion of the new language? I do have that there.

16 Mr. Sisk. I appreciate the comparison. I have had some  
17 work already done. I wish I had this earlier because it would  
18 have saved us some work.

19 Here are the questions I want to get to. You can answer  
20 them and anyone else in the committee can comment.

21 You have added some language there after the authorization  
22 in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy and  
23 Martin Luther King, Jr. and any other person the Select  
24 Committee shall determine and that is one area I had hoped you  
25 would drop out because I think that is enough.

1 But you have some language, "in order to ascertain whether  
2 the existing laws of the United States, including but not  
3 limited to laws relating to the safety and protection of the  
4 President of the United States, assassinations of the President  
5 of the United States, deprivation of civil rights, and  
6 conspiracies related thereto, as well as the investigatory  
7 jurisdiction and capability of agencies and departments of the  
8 United States Government, are adequate either in their  
9 provisions or in the manner of their enforcement; and shall make  
10 recommendations to the House, if the select committee deems it  
11 appropriate, for the amendment of existing legislation or the  
12 enactment of new legislation."

13 This sounds to me as about as broad as the horizon and as  
14 long as we can imagine. What earthly reason do you find for  
15 the necessity of broadening this investigation? It is my  
16 understanding this would get into matters dealing with Foreign  
17 Affairs Committee, Armed Services, Judiciary, Government  
18 Operations, et cetera.

19 Would you comment on the reasons and the need for that  
20 addition?

21 Mr. Gonzalez. The reason is that H. Res. 1540 was  
22 defective in that it did not clearly set forth the legislative  
23 purpose which is essential if you are going to risk a challenge  
24 as to the legality of the Congress setting up this type of  
25 committee. Unlike H. Res. 1540, this particular section you



1 read from is an attempt to define that legislative purpose which  
2 essentially is recommendation, if such be the case, of needed  
3 legislation in both the laws governing the legislative processes  
4 as well as the administrative processes.

5 Mr. Sisk. Do you feel that in order to set forth what the  
6 goals of the committee should be it was necessary to broaden  
7 the jurisdiction to the vast areas that seemingly to me are  
8 included in this?

9 I think it is terribly important for the record, not  
10 necessarily for me, but for the record and certainly in debate  
11 on the floor to establish certain guidelines here and certain  
12 limitations. It seems to me an attempt to believe that  
13 language that it would just lead out into all kinds of  
14 considerations. I could see your committee getting involved  
15 in civil rights enforcement provisions.

16 I am really concerned. I wish you would state the  
17 limitations which you visualize for your committee.

18 Mr. Gonzalez. This was recommendation of several counsel,  
19 lawyers, attorneys both on the staff as well as on the  
20 legislative --

21 Mr. Sisk. Was this a recommendation of Mr. Sprague, the  
22 counsel?

23 Mr. Gonzalez. No.

24 Mr. Sisk. Henry, as you remember very well, I always  
25 opposed this procedure.

1 Mr. Gonzalez. I understand that.

2 Mr. Sisk. On the other hand, I respect my colleague and  
3 you and I have discussed this many times. It was finally  
4 determined in this committee over my opposition and over my  
5 opposition on the floor that this be done. Certainly respecting  
6 the integrity of all of you on that committee, I felt that we  
7 had that safeguard.

8 I think there was a very unfortunate mistake made, Henry,  
9 in the situation last December where I know the gentleman from  
10 Texas, I don't think, had anything to do with it, but apparently  
11 Mr. Downing did, where the gentleman was brought before the  
12 Caucus and made a statement which frankly scared me to death.

13 As you know, I have had some reservations. The longer  
14 that discussion went on the more frightened I became. I know  
15 Mr. Downing was apparently trying to stop him and seemed to have  
16 a great deal of difficulty.

17 Keeping that information in mind, it really leaves me  
18 somewhat appalled.

19 Mr. Gonzalez. Sir, let me assure you that this language  
20 does not broaden the intent, the purpose of the range of the  
21 resolution. It just merely sets forth as clearly as it is  
22 possible the legislative reasons because in decisions where  
23 similar resolutions have been brought as far as the Supreme  
24 Court, the courts have ruled that even though the investigative  
25 function is a proper adjunct to the legislative process, it is

1 construed in narrow terms and that unless the House in  
 2 legislating specifically sets the range, that it therefore  
 3 intends a strictly delimited investigatory power.

4 Mr. Sisk. I will ask one more question and then I will  
 5 yield the floor because I recognize other members are going to  
 6 have questions.

7 You have now broadened it further by the inclusion on  
 8 part 1 of page 2, "or any other country".

9 Also, I note over here on page 3 near the top of the page  
 10 dealing with the question of taking testimony on oath anywhere  
 11 within the United States or any other country and "to authorize  
 12 designated counsel for the select committee to obtain  
 13 statements from any witness who is placed under oath by an  
 14 authority who is authorized to administer oaths in accordance  
 15 with the applicable laws of the United States or of any State".

16 What earthly reason has given the committee the feeling  
 17 that it is necessary to broaden this now to worldwide?

18 Mr. Gonzalez. It doesn't broaden the substantive  
 19 authority of the committee at all, let me put it that way.  
 20 What it does and what the intention is is to provide for the  
 21 obtainment and taking of testimony outside the continental  
 22 limits of the United States. In calling for a complete  
 23 investigation of both of these homicides there are elements in  
 24 which witnesses live outside the United States. That is the  
 25 only purpose.

1 Mr. Sisk. Are you going to propose to let staff go out  
2 in remote places and take depositions and swear witnesses  
3 without the presence of a member of the committee? Apparently  
4 that is what the language proposes to do; is that correct?

5 Mr. Gonzalez. The staff is subjected to the same legal  
6 constrictions domestically and internationally. It does  
7 provide the sanction necessary for them to travel outside the  
8 United States in the obtainment and safeguarding of evidentiary  
9 material and documentation.

10 If a witness is a key to what happened in the  
11 assassinations of both Martin Luther King crime and the  
12 assassination of John Kennedy and you are constricted and  
13 witnesses say how come you have not talked to us because we  
14 are ready, willing and able to give you testimony which  
15 credibility and weight would still have to be evaluated  
16 independent of whether it was given in the States or outside  
17 of the States. It doesn't broaden the substantive grant of  
18 authority to the committee at all.

19 Mr. Sisk. Mr. Chairman, I will conclude with this very  
20 brief statement.

21 As I said and I have no need to repeat it, you know the  
22 high regard I hold for you, and I really felt I was not going  
23 to say anything because I made my statement in the last  
24 Congress. Let me say to you, I am not that concerned about  
25 \$6-1/2 million or even \$14 million if that is what it takes as

1 I am the original question as I asked Mr. Downing and you and  
2 every one of you, what earthly good the committee can possibly  
3 do with any decision they arrive at. These men are dead. They  
4 are not going to be any less dead. The people, their families  
5 and this country in my opinion are not going to be helped one  
6 iota.

7 I go back to the initial questions I asked one or two  
8 years ago. I just can't conceive of the pressures. Let me  
9 conclude on this thought: The thing that has caused me even  
10 more concern about the pressures in back of trying to get this  
11 investigation underway and keep it going have almost been  
12 unbelievable. I have been the recipient of threats by  
13 telephone from certain people in Detroit, Michigan, Los  
14 Angeles, California, my employees, my staff have been cursed  
15 openly to the point that I have told them to hang up when these  
16 individuals called because there was a time when they seemed  
17 to feel I was leading the opposition and I was tending to block  
18 this. This was going on last fall.

19 I won't go into more detail, but I could tell you that, the  
20 unbelievable statements that has drawn. They are kooks and  
21 they are dangerous. These are further indications that cause  
22 me to begin to wonder what motivates them.

23 Is it a desire to destroy the FBI and CIA? I have  
24 decided that is what motivates these particular people. I  
25 don't think that motivates you, but I think the main people who

1 raise most of the propaganda are out deliberately to make this  
2 country a martyr and dress us in sack cloth and ashes and drawn  
3 down our law enforcement agencies. That is what distresses me  
4 more than anything else. It is not the dollars and cents  
5 given there was something to be gained from that.

6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 Chairman Delaney. Mr. Anderson?

8 Mr. Anderson. Mr. Gonzalez, you correctly pointed out  
9 that H. R. 9 is an organic act that would reestablish the  
10 Committee on Assassinations and the funding the work of the  
11 committee is subsequent to the reestablishment and would be  
12 in the form of another resolution that would emanate from the  
13 House Administration Committee.

14 However, I am sure you are aware that since this is a  
15 matter of original jurisdiction before this committee, that as  
16 one member pointed out previously, we have the authority to  
17 amend this resolution or under an open rule -- and I am  
18 assuming that this resolution would be sent to the floor under  
19 an open rule, any Member could offer a resolution or an  
20 amendment to the resolution putting a ceiling on the funding.

21 I myself back in 1975, at which time the House established  
22 a Select Committee on Intelligence, offered an amendment under  
23 that procedure when it was before us on the floor limiting the  
24 expenditure by that committee to \$750,000.

25 I further recall that when this committee established a

1 Select Committee on Committees, the so-called Bolling-Martin  
2 Committee, that there was contained within the resolution a  
3 ceiling on expenditures, a \$1-1/2 million.

4 Therefore, I am suggesting that we cannot escape even at  
5 this stage of the proceedings the question of what the proper  
6 level of the funding for this committee should be. When we go  
7 into executive session or when we go into the mark-up of this  
8 resolution that question is going to come up, if not then,  
9 surely when this resolution is reported to the floor, if it is.

10 Therefore, without having any desire whatever to  
11 embarrass the gentleman from Texas and to force him to a  
12 premature disclosure of what he thinks an adequate funding  
13 level will be, I think it is my duty at this point to bring  
14 that fact out and to elicit, if I can, some indication from  
15 the chairman as to what his ideas are in that regard.

16 Mr. Gonzalez. My own individual ideas, as I said earlier,  
17 are inconclusive as to an exact dollar amount because I feel  
18 that the urgent need at this time is to first have a committee  
19 and then start with what we have.

20 You know the committee has a total staff of 73. I feel  
21 that my own recommendation, if it were my decision to make,  
22 assuming that I had that power to make a decision, I would want  
23 to proceed very slowly and very methodically and every single  
24 addition accounted for and absolutely made necessary for it,  
25 born out of the necessity of the investigation underway.

1 But whether that could be done with one-tenth of what has been  
2 discussed, I am not a professional in that field.

3 As you know, we were listening to what we considered to be  
4 the professionals, but I never could quite understand why it  
5 had to be thought of as if it were a total sum in one fell swoop.  
6 I couldn't understand how in the world even in one year's time  
7 you could reach that proportion of the total staff number, 171,  
8 without some very serious problems of oversight and account-  
9 ability.

10 So it is not that I am not willing, it is that I must  
11 admit to you my total incapacity to answer that question with  
12 any certitude. All I know is that I would want to have the  
13 consensus of the committee after organization and intense  
14 consultation with the members of the staff that are considered  
15 the professionals and then based on that recommendation,  
16 judging whether that is the consensus of the committee as to  
17 the way to approach it and then shape up the recommendation to  
18 the House Administration Committee.

19 As to the free play of the will of the House, I think I  
20 have been, and my record shows, quite an opponent of closed  
21 rules. This may not have been wise, but it is a personal  
22 feeling that I have reflected all during my career in the House.  
23 The will of the Rules Committee is something that I feel is  
24 proper to work. This is where we came the first time. This is  
25 where the basic approval was given. I certainly have not



1 considered anything but what is proper to come back here and  
2 then the judgment of the majority of this committee working its  
3 will.

4 I do not have the expertise to say, "I visualize 750,000  
5 or 250,000." To me, \$500,000 is a lot of money. I look over  
6 at committees. Of course you have a different charge, you have  
7 a different nature of tasks, but it would be very difficult for  
8 me to reconcile a huge sum when you have a committee such as  
9 the Armed Services that supposedly would oversee \$1 billion of  
10 expenditures with a budget of about half a million dollars.

11 I would say that it would be an error, whether I was on  
12 this committee or not, to proceed at an excessively fast pace  
13 even if you had that power.

14 Mr. Anderson. If I understand the chairman correctly then,  
15 you are in effect suggesting sort of an incremental approach  
16 to the funding of this committee?

17 Mr. Gonzalez. You have a more eloquent way of putting it  
18 than I was able to.

19 Mr. Anderson. One other question if I may.

20 I understood your answer to Mr. Sisk earlier in  
21 explanation of why there are a number of changes in this  
22 resolution from the resolutions which passed the 94th Congress  
23 and that to a large extent those are dictated by the advice of  
24 counsel to sustain the legislative purpose of the committee to  
25 avoid the taking of investigations which have been struck down  
by Supreme Court decisions because they did not relate to a

1 proper legislative purpose, that references are made to, for  
2 example, the consideration of efficiency with which certain  
3 agencies operate and whether or not certain laws that are now  
4 on the books are being properly administered.

5 This inevitably, of course, is going to stir alarms and  
6 to arouse suspicions that the Select Committee on  
7 Assassinations would trespass on the jurisdiction of existing  
8 committees in the House, perhaps most notably Government  
9 Operations and the Select Committee of the Senate on  
10 Intelligence.

11 I wonder what assurances the chairman is prepared to  
12 offer with respect to what efforts will be made to so circum-  
13 scribe the work of the Select Committee on Assassinations that  
14 we are not laid open to that charge of duplicating the activity  
15 of other committees.

16 Mr. Gonzalez. I would like to recognize Judge Preyer  
17 because he is a distinguished jurist in his own right and he  
18 has been a ranking member of this committee.

19 Chairman Delaney. Is that just for that question:

20 Mr. Gonzalez. Just for this question because I think he  
21 can give you a far more knowledgeable answer.

22 Mr. Preyer. I think there are several fears that have  
23 been created by the changes in the resolution. One was the  
24 point that Mr. Sisk made leaving the phrase in, "and any other  
25 deaths", leaving the specter or possibility in that we were

1 going to investigate the death of Abraham Lincoln, Garfield or  
2 whoever.

3 We had a legal memorandum prepared because the question  
4 was "Shouldn't we strike that from the resolution?" The legal  
5 memorandum was prepared that the best way to handle that was  
6 through making legislative history on the floor making it clear  
7 that we were only interested in these investigations and not  
8 any others, but if we took that portion out we might run into  
9 problems when subpoenas were issued of deaths that were related  
10 to assassinations of Kennedy and King, for example, the  
11 Gianncano and Rosselli deaths, but we would have to prove they  
12 were related before we were able to investigate.

13 So it was felt this broader language should be in there  
14 simply for that purpose, not for the purpose of broadening the  
15 scope to go into other assassinations.

16 I think it is very clear that the committee is not  
17 interested in any other assassinations or deaths other than as  
18 they relate to Martin Luther King.

19 The other changes that have been made in the resolution  
20 to broaden the legislative scope have given rise to another fear  
21 Mr. Sisk expressed that we are out to get the FBI or CIA  
22 because of some broad language in there. That is certainly not  
23 the case. The only reason that those provisions are in there  
24 is that, as Mr. Gonzalez said, because we were advised legally,  
25 we needed this in there to have a proper, soundly constitutionally

1 based constitutional authority for the setting up of the  
2 committee.

3 I think there, again, we can limit that by legislative  
4 history. This has gone and several other changes, the ones you  
5 mentioned about the other countries, were suggested by the  
6 House legislative counsel. This was submitted to the House  
7 legislative counsel. Staff counsel worked on it. I think it  
8 was reviewed by the Parliamentarian.

9 So this is the legal form which we were told it should be  
10 put in order to be soundly based. I think with legislative  
11 history we can narrow it down and eliminate some of the fears  
12 that have been expressed by the members here and arise out of  
13 the broadness of the language.

14 Mr. Anderson. I have one final and brief concluding  
15 observation: When the 94th Congress convened, as some of you  
16 may recall, I led the fight on the previous question and  
17 objected specifically to proposed changes in the rules of the  
18 House that would permit one-third quorums in committee and  
19 give unilateral authority to the committee chairmen to issue  
20 subpoenas without the vote of the full committee and the  
21 direction to subcommittee chairmen for the same.

22 Consistent with the position I took I would have to say I  
23 am likewise opposed to those provisions that would grant those  
24 powers.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 Chairman Delaney. Since we have original jurisdiction of  
2 this matter and when we mark up the bill we would like to  
3 include the thought that you just expressed, the reason that  
4 you put that in, have you any language for that with which you  
5 could consult with counsel and let them know so that if you run  
6 across something collateral that you have the right to follow  
7 through? We don't want to witch-hunt but I think you can put  
8 that in by legislative intention.

9 Mr. Preyer. Yes, we would be glad to do that. We have  
10 a memorandum on the subject.

11 Chairman Delaney. That is the only thought I wanted to  
12 express.

13 All right, Henry, we go back to you.

14 Mr. Gonzalez. If it would please the chairman and the  
15 members of the Rules Committee, we have present the other  
16 subcommittee chairman, Congressman Fauntroy.

17 Chairman Delaney. We will go into that.

18 Mr. Young?

19 Mr. Young. Henry, in your opening remarks you indicated  
20 a burden that would be placed on you by conflicting duties in  
21 your service as chairman of this committee. I take it that  
22 you did not mean to intimate by those remarks that if you are  
23 selected to be chairman of the committee that you would decline  
24 that selection?

25 Mr. Gonzalez. No, sir, I intend to accept it.

1 Mr. Young. I have a great deal of confidence in the  
2 gentleman from Texas, as I do in the members of your committee.  
3 I have had reservations and still have with regard to the  
4 function of this committee chiefly by virtue of my inherent  
5 dislike for opening old cases and walking old grounds.

6 But I think a great deal depends on the confidence we  
7 have in the individuals who are to carry out the functions of  
8 the committee. I have not shared the experiences that Mr. Sisk  
9 has had with regard to telephone calls and that sort of thing,  
10 but I am concerned about that type of possible underlying  
11 efforts by unnamed individuals or organizations to attack the  
12 law enforcement facilities of this country. I have confidence  
13 that you as chairman if you are selected and the members of  
14 your committee are going to be vigilant in seeing that this  
15 sort of thing does not happen. Knowing you personally, I know  
16 that you would not yield to any such efforts on the part of  
17 sinister groups that might have such things in mind.

18 I will not belabor the point further except to state that  
19 it is my present intention to support your resolution.

20 Mr. Gonzalez. Thank you very much.

21 Chairman Delaney. Mr. Clawson?

22 Mr. Clawson. Henry, you do support an open discussion,  
23 an open rule so called, on the floor of the House, don't you?

24 Mr. Gonzalez. If that is the will of this committee, I  
25 would welcome it. I think I am like my colleagues, in the

1 position of supplicants. Beggars can't be choosers.

2 So we will be guided by whatever decision is made on this  
3 level.

4 Chairman Delaney. You put that in your statement at the  
5 beginning. I can't conceive of the committee doing it any  
6 differently.

7 Mr. Clawson. Do you think that two years is going to be  
8 enough to accomplish the goals that you have set?

9 Mr. Gonzalez. It should be enough, sir, from the standpoint  
10 of the capabilities of a committee of this type to do the work  
11 that it has been charged to do, yes, sir.

12 Mr. Clawson. Woven throughout your prepared statement has  
13 been this type of phrase, "Getting at the truth, prevent such  
14 things from happening, the truth about these crimes against the  
15 people" and on page 5, and I assume this is probably your  
16 real goal, "should once and for all solve these assassinations  
17 and determine the truth."

18 Now who is going to make that decision, this committee or  
19 is it going to be in the eyes of the public? Will the people  
20 decide whether or not you have resolved that question once and  
21 for all or would the committee make that decision?

22 Mr. Gonzalez. In the open society such as ours, the public  
23 opinion is a jury of last resort. What I meant by that is the  
24 Congress can go a long way in seeing the hunger that is  
25 obviously reflected by the American people in wanting to know as

1 fully as possible the details of these crimes. Obviously, many  
2 of these evidentiary facts were wholly unknown until just within  
3 the last three years which in turn have compounded the questions.  
4 I feel very certain that an efficient and an objective as humanly  
5 possible pursuit of this will very much wipe away these cobwebs  
6 that have grown up.

7 Mr. Clawson. Thank you.

8 On page 2 you came to the defense of the Chief Counsel  
9 or Staff Director indicating that "the stories that have been  
10 published were dredged from the turgid and murky waters of  
11 big city politics."

12 Given the beginnings of this committee and in the eyes of  
13 the public what has happened and apparently the public made a  
14 decision in Pennsylvania, if you can accept the New York Times  
15 article written by David Burnham.

16 Mr. Gonzalez. That is what I had reference to. I  
17 considered that a hatchet job.

18 Mr. Clawson. The public must have accepted the hatchet  
19 job because they defeated the man.

20 Mr. Gonzalez. I don't believe Mr. Sprague held an elected  
21 office. He was an assistant. In the Yablonski case he was a  
22 special assistant to the Attorney General of the United States.

23 Mr. Clawson. I was thinking of the things he mentioned.  
24 They were using Mr. Sprague as a target during the course of  
25 that campaign. Isn't that true? "According to Frank Mascara,



1 the newly elected Comptroller in Washington County, Pennsylvania,  
2 one reason he won the Democratic primary earlier this year  
3 was his criticism of his opponent who held the position for  
4 20 years for approving the \$440,000 expense of the trials."  
5 This is a quote. "Sprague wasn't very careful with the money  
6 during the first trial and I raised hell about it."

7 It went on to say, "They would say you can't put a price  
8 tag on justice and I would say baloney, you can have justice in  
9 a frugal manner." He became a part of the campaign apparently.

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WALTER E. FAUNTROY, D.C.  
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE, CALIF.  
CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONN.  
HAROLD E. FORD, TENN.  
FLOYD J. FITHIAN, IND.  
ROBERT W. EDGAR, PA.

STEWART B. MCKINNEY, CONN.  
CHARLES THONE, NEBR.  
HAROLD S. SAWYER, MICH.

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# Ted Gandolfo Tapes dispro

Ted Gandolfo is Chairman of the Assassination Information Committee, located at 1214 First Ave., New York, N.Y., 10021, phone (212) 288-1596.

The Warren Report's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin of President John F. Kennedy was the result of a blatant misrepresentation of the known facts, evidence and until recently, suppressed Commission documents themselves.

According to earliest TV accounts from Dallas, which were truthful ones from on the scene reporters there, the Commission's conclusions subsequently reached bore no serious relationship to what actually occurred on Nov. 22, 1963. What follows is a small sampling of chronological verbatim accounts of media reportage derived from the actual NBC-TV tapes in my possession:

● 1:50 p.m. (Dallas time-CST) "We know that Mr. Kennedy was hit in the right temple." —Frank McGee, NBC newsmen

● 3:09 p.m. "Mary (Moorman) started to take the picture as the president became right even with us. Three shots—we looked at him and he was looking at the middle of the street—three shots rang out and he grabbed his chest—and a look of pain on his face and fell across towards Jackie and she—uh—fell over him and said, "My God, he's shot." And—uh—there was an interval and then three or four more shots rang out." (Question by reporter) "Did you see the person who—who fired the ... " (Answer) "No, I didn't see any person fire the weapon." (Question) "You only heard it?" (Answer) "I only heard it and I looked up and saw a man running along the top of the hill." —Jeanne Hill's statement to a Dallas reporter

● 8:04 p.m. "The Dallas police reported a moment ago that a foreign-made rifle believed to have been used in the shooting of the president had no fingerprints on it. It has been sent here to the FBI laboratory in Washington for an analysis." —David Brinkley report from Washington

So much for earliest media reportage. Next, we turn to originally suppressed Warren Commission documents relating to the case. Some relevant verbatim excerpts follow (emphasis added):

● May 7, 1964—Under title "Probable Radius Within Which The First Two Shots Occurred."

"The governor feels he was hit at approximately frame 230; some members of our staff feel that it could have been as late as 240." —Letter from Warren Commission counsel J. Lee Rankin to J. Edgar Hoover—FBI.

NOTE: Zapruder frame 225 shows JFK has already been hit at this point and Connally has NOT, thereby demolishing the

"single Comm

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Ted Gandolfo

FROM: Ty Roberts, Public Informat

Pursuant to our telephone conversa are several news clippings about M Also enclosed is our statement in the front page of the NEW YORK TIM As soon as GPO has the March 16th send you a copy. I assure you, th one to get it.

Since the Select Committee and funded on April 28, the Commit limited number of investigators in President Kennedy and Dr. King.

In the Kennedy case, invest persons named in the Warren Commi "new" witnesses. In the case of l interviewed witnesses who were at names nave come forth subsequent Earl Ray.

I cannot comment on or cha have told staff investigators, an reached since the investigations. But you must remember, our job wa "prove" as many of the facts, sta come forth as possible. This is

Richard A. Sprague became the first chief counsel of the Select Committee on November 18, 1976. He was a tough prosecutor, having conducted perhaps the classic investigation, and later, conviction, of Tony Boyle. On the day he assumed the chief counsel position on the HSCA, he stated in his first press conference that, "Every single document and every single witness would be subpoenaed from the FBI & CIA", and that "I do NOT intend to rely on the FBI or CIA in the investigation. It seems to me that one of the reasons that this investigation has come into being is because of the fact that those 2 agencies have covered up much of it's information in the past. Now that does not mean that I don't want access to what it is that they have." And then, the vicious media attacks on him began. David Burnham wrote EIGHT derogatory articles in ONE MONTH, January, 1977 in the New York Times, which were followed by an editorial statement of CONGRATULATIONS for Mr. Burnham for having utilized his investigative skills in attacking Mr. Sprague. George Lardner, An admitted CIA propaganda asset wrote a despicable attack on him in the Washington Post on February 1, 1977. George McMillan, also an admitted CIA "Propaganda asset" wrote his derogatory slimy piece on February 5, 1977, also in the Washington Post. Joseph Berger attacked Sprague TWICE..on January 21st and 25th in the New York Post. And, most assuredly, Time magazine got into the anti-Sprague act by publishing it's diatribe against him in it's February 14, 1977 edition. The theme of all these attacks were predicated on implications that Sprague had, at least 7 years earlier, used incorrect prosecutorial methods to convict a man unjustly. These stories were absolutely UNTRUE!! But these attacks were absolutely essential promulgations by the CIA, through it's "assets", because they knew that Sprague, if allowed to remain in that most important position, would most assuredly conduct a most thorough, all-encompassing, TRUTHFUL investigation, which obviously go into the depths of the evidence which ultimately prove CIA involvement in the murder of President Kennedy, beyond question, now, as well as discovering the FBI's involvement in the Martin Luther King, Jr., slaying also. This could not be allowed. The CIA's and FBI's goal, therefore, was to have Sprague removed and replaced by their OWN man, Robert Blakey, whose assignment would be to put distance between both the Agency and the Bureau and the 2 murders under investigation. I thoroughly agree with my friend and colleague, Richard E. Sprague, that this was a quite ingenious strategy used by the intelligence community. And it completely succeeded!!

It was determined that if Sprague remained as chief counsel, the Committee's continuance would be voted down and abolished when vote-time came soon, at which time, Sprague QUIT, saying, "I did not come here to PREVENT an investigation from taking place." A man named Ken Brooten was installed as temporary chief counsel until June 20, 1977, at which time the CIA's master stroke was completed. G. Robert Blakey, who definitely was a FINK for the CIA & FBI was made the permanent chief counsel of the HSCA. The evidence, as well as documents which appear further on in this book absolutely PROOVE my assertions. On the very day Blakey took over HE held a press conference, which you may compare with Spragues earlier press conference for some important insight. Here, now, are the verbatim questions put to Blakey during his press conference and his answers to them:

Q- Your description, Mr. Blakey, of the manner in which this investigation will be conducted, at least from a philosophic standpoint, is directly at odds from what we have been told up to this point. It has been reportedly told us that these are two murder investigations. You are telling us that this is NOT the case- that you are investigating as a legislative matter?

B- That is correct.

Q- You intend to restructure the investigation? As I understand it, in the beginning, the Committee was going to take a very broad-scope look at all of the evidence-all of the documents, etc.

B- Those decisions will be reached, but frankly, I doubt they will be made public.

Q- The Committee is staying on that course and intends to cover all the ground?

B- I'm not terribly sure that I understand...that we have a common understanding of what it's purpose is. It is my understanding that this is a legislative committee, pursuing a investigation, and NOT PURSUING TWO MURDER INVESTIGATIONS. During the course of that LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATION, I would hope that all questions people might think relevant, IN THIS CONTEXT, will be answered.

Q- All questions relevant to the two murder investigations WHICH THEY ARE NOT INVESTIGATING?

B- I THINK THAT IS FAIR TO SAY.

Blakey concluded by saying, "The reason for this press conference is to say that there will be no other press conferences. I would like the press to let us alone so that we can conduct this investigation in a QUIET, orderly manner."

And quiet it indeed was... TOO damned quiet!! Just like the star-chamber proceedings of the, also QUIET, Warren Commission, as I then alluded to during one of the many shows I appeared on at KGO-radio in San Francisco, with a really great host, Bob Trebor, who was very receptive to our side. Thereafter, with Blakey in control, what occurred was an absolute abomination, in many respects. Immediately after Blakey was installed as chief counsel, the CIA& FBI issued out their infamous, NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT, which, in effect, prohibited EVERYONE, including the congresspersons who comprised the Committee, from divulging ANY evidence and/or information they learned about, to ANYONE!! This "agreement" is elsewhere in this book. To my knowledge, this is the very first time it has ever been published anywhere in it's entirety. Certainly, the CIA-laden media never published it ANYWHERE in this country!! Well, with this document, Blakey was in full control. He fired investigators and researchers alike, Donovan Gay and Bob Lehner among them, the two top investigators on the Committee, telling Gay that, "The CIA would be more comfortable if you were removed", and the firing of Lehner was because he did not pass the FBI/CIA security test!! So here we had the situation, as Mark Lane told me at the time, (elsewhere herein), "of the FBI and CIA investigating the House Select Committee on Assassinations, instead of the other way around."

Tell me, you readers, have you ever read about, or heard, of this development in ANY newspaper, or radio/TV news reportage? As one who continually taped all news from EVERY radio and TV station, as well as subscribing to 15 newspapers around the country during the ENTIRE "investigation", I neither heard nor read about ANYTHING relating to all the above!!

Can it be assumed that the ENTIRE media was uninformed about these corruptions? The answer to that question is NO, because I informed them ALL about it!! (I retain ALL tape-recordings of my phone calls to them in this regard.)

It is all quite easy to figure out. The CIA murdered President Kennedy, covered-up this information by either destroying ALL evidence to this fact, LIES to the Warren Commission, MISLEADS the Warren Commission, TORPEDOES JIM GARRISON'S INVESTIGATION AND TRIAL OF CLAY L. SHAW, BY ALSO DEMEANING HIS REPUTATION, AS THEY DID TO RICHARD A SPRAGUE, BLAKEY RECEIVES EVIDENCE OF DIRECT CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE JFK MURDER FROM JIM GARRISON AND SUPPRESSES IT, etc,etc, ad nauseum!!

Blakey also received absolute corroboration of conspiracy from the following:

- a)- Cyril H Wecht's BRILLIANT testimony during the Committee's Public Hearings, testimony which, in and of itself absolutely destroys the single-bullet/bullshit theory, so crucial to the "Lone Assassin" mythology- Blakey tells me Wecht's testimony was not accepted because, Blakey said to me, "BECAUSE WECHT WAS WRONG!", inferring that far less qualified forensic pathologist's were correct!!
- b) Richard E Sprague's photographic presentation to the Committee and Blakey during it's "investigation" which absolutely PROVES CONSPIRACY, as well as proving that Oswald, nor anyone else was, or could have been firing shots from the window of the TSED building at the time of the assassination. Sprague's photographic evidence was COMPLETELY IGNORED by Blakey & company!!
- c) Bob Groden's most revelatory testimony and photographic evidence ALSO was totally ignored by Blakey's Bastards as well.

All went well until the acoustics panel rocked the coverup boat, proving that, at least 2, not one, persons was firing at JFK that infamous day. But, the CIA came to the rescue by informing Blakey that the shot fired from the grassy knoll MISSED JFK, although a 5-year-old could see, by viewing the Zapruder film, that the knoll shot did indeed strike Kennedy in the right temple!! But the Committee disallowed Newton's 2nd & 3rd laws of motion by saying/concluding that, "The shot fired from the grassy knoll MISSED the president." Can ANYTHING OR ANYONE be more sickening or revolutive?? I think not!!

THE BELOW IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PORTIONS OF THE HSCA'S "INTERIM REPORT" DATED MARCH 28, 1977, WHILE RICHARD A. SPRAGUE WAS THE CHIEF COUNSEL. THESE, (BELOW) AREAS OF INQUIRY WERE NOT PURSUED WHEN BLAKEY BECAME THE COMMITTEE'S CHIEF COUNSEL, AND WEREN'T EVEN MENTIONED AT ALL IN THE HSCA'S FINAL REPORT, NOR IN ANY OF THE 12 VOLUMES OF IT'S EVIDENCE DEALING WITH THE JFK CASE!! WHAT YOU WILL READ BELOW IS VERY SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIVE AREAS WHICH WERE COMPLETELY DISREGARDED UNDER BLAKEY'S LEADERSHIP!! THAT IS WHY, AS OPPOSED TO THE VICIOUS, UNRUTHFUL ATTACKS AGAINST SPRAGUE IN THE CIA-MEDIA, I NEVER READ EVEN ONE DISSENTING VIEW ABOUT BLAKEY IN ANY NEWSPAPER, NOR ON ANY RADIO OR TV STATION, NOT ONE!!!

THAT IS, OBVIOUSLY, BECAUSE THE CIA-MEDIA KNEW THAT THEY HAD THEIR MAN IN THERE NOW WHO WOULD "CONTROL" THE INVESTIGATION AND PROTECT THE CIA AND FBI IN THEIR ABSOLUTE INVOLVEMENTS IN THE JFK, MLK MURDERS, THAT'S WHY!!! TELL ME, DID ANY OF YOU READERS EVER READ OR HEAR ABOUT WHAT IS BELOW, ANYWHERE IN THE MEDIA?? THE ANSWER IS, OBVIOUSLY, NO!!!

### III. DEVELOPMENT OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

Although the Committee is initiating methodical investigations to establish the basic facts surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy, it is, in addition, pursuing new leads which have come to the Committee's attention. Some of this information, if corroborated and proved to be true, would indicate connections between Lee Harvey Oswald and the CIA and FBI. Furthermore, other sources of information allege that Oswald and Jack Ruby knew each other prior to the assassination and that Jack Ruby was associated with organized crime figures who participated in CIA-sponsored plots against Fidel Castro. Much of the new evidence is of a highly sensitive nature and cannot be publicly disclosed at this time; however, what follows are representative examples which illustrate the leads the Committee is currently pursuing.

The Select Committee is actively pursuing several new leads which indicate that Lee Harvey Oswald was associated with CIA-supported anti-Castro groups and which suggest that his reported pro-Castro activities and possibly his alleged trip to Mexico City may have been deliberately designed to mask those associations.

In 1974, a letter surfaced that purportedly was written by Lee Harvey Oswald on November 8, 1963, and addressed to a Mr. Hunt, requesting that "we discuss the matter fully before any steps are taken by me or anyone else". The Committee is attempting to identify the handwriting in the letter and to determine just who "Mr. Hunt" is.

The Warren Commission had concluded that Jack Ruby never knew Oswald and had never seen him before November 22, 1963. The Committee staff has spoken with a witness who has never been previously interviewed and who stated that in November of 1963, prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, the witness was personally introduced to Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby.

The Committee has received uncorroborated information that in 1959 Ruby traveled to Cuba and visited Santos Trafficante in jail. Trafficante was associated with John Roselli and Sam Giancana, both of whom visited him in jail in 1959. According to a witness, Ruby and Roselli had meetings in Miami several months prior to the assassination. During this period Trafficante was quoted by an active Cuban exile in Miami as saying that Kennedy was going to be "hit". Trafficante is, at present, alleged to be a major organized crime figure from Tampa, Florida, and was reportedly the organized crime coordinator of the CIA-sponsored efforts to assassinate Fidel Castro. On March 16, 1977, Trafficante appeared before the Select Committee on Assassinations pursuant to a subpoena. Invoking his constitutional privileges, he refused to answer questions relating to his involvement with the CIA, his participation in anti-Castro assassination plots, knowledge he had prior to November 22, 1963, that President Kennedy was going

to be assassinated, and his association with Robert Maheu, who testified before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to his own participation in anti-Castro assassination attempts.

On January 27, 1964, members of the Warren Commission met in Executive Session to discuss evidence which had surfaced indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald was an undercover FBI informant at the time of the assassination. Specifically, the evidence indicated that Oswald was employed by the FBI from September of 1962 up until the assassination at a salary of \$200 a month. His FBI number was allegedly either 172 or 179. The evidence came from two independent sources, but the Commission did not investigate the matter and simply accepted a statement by J. Edgar Hoover that Oswald was not an informant for the FBI.

Recently, an FBI informant advised the Committee that he had seen an FBI agent and Lee Harvey Oswald meeting together on numerous occasions in various New Orleans bars. The informant states that he had previously denied seeing Oswald and the agent together because he was threatened by the agent. The agent has denied the informant's charge.

A witness who was an FBI security code clerk in the New Orleans field office from 1961-1966 alleges that the FBI sent a teletype to all of its offices five days before the assassination, warning of a reported conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy on his proposed trip to Dallas on November 22-23. The witness further states that the teletype disclosed that a militant revolutionary group was to be involved in the assassination. The FBI has denied sending such a teletype.

The Committee has information which, if corroborated, establishes links between Lee Harvey Oswald and the CIA. Documents in the possession of the FBI, some of which are in the public domain, indicate that the Bureau destroyed relevant evidence and proffered misleading statements to the Warren Commission. Our analysis of the investigative procedures of Federal agencies is a potential subject of legislative action by our Committee and the Congress.

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

NOW THAT YOU HAVE READ THE ABOVE, ASK YOURSELF A QUESTION.(I.E.) WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT THESE AREAS OF INQUIRY WERE NEVER PUBLISHED OR BROADCASTED ANYWHERE?? CAN IT BE TRUTHFULLY SAID THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS WERE NOT NEWSWORTHY OR IMPORTANT?? CERTAINLY, THESE WERE HIGHLY/MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH THE MEDIA SHOULD HAVE REPORTED OUT! THAT THEY DID NOT, IS, IN A WORD, DESPICABLE!!! BUT, THE, THE ENTIRE MEDIA HAS EITHER OUPRIGHT LIED, AND/OR SUPPRESSED THE TRUTH FROM THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY SINCE THESE ASSASSINATIONS OCCURRED. THAT IS THE BASIC REASON I PRODUCED AND HOSTED MY OWN MANHATTAN CABLE-TV WEEKLY, HOURLY SHOW CALLED, "ASSASSINATION USA", WHICH FEATURED SEVERAL GUEST EXPERTS LIKE MARK LANE, CYRIL H. WECHT, RICHARD A. SPRAGUE, RICHARD E. SPRAGUE, RUSH HARP, SYLVIA MEAGHER, JERRY POLICOFF AND OTHERS, SO AS TO COUNTER THE MEDIA MYTHOLOGY BY PRESENTING THE TRUTH ABOUT THESE CASES. I HAVE 7 OF THESE MOST INFORMATIVE HOURLY SHOWS ON VIDEOTAPES AND AM SELLING ALL 7 SHOWS, (7 HOURLY SHOWS), FOR THE LOW COST OF ONLY \$105. many of my subscribers have ordered them and have called them "THE BEST SHOWS EVER ON THESE CASES I IMMODESTLY AGREE WITH THEIR ASSESSMENT. IF ORDERING THESE 7 TV SHOWS, WRITE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: TED GANDOLFO... 1214 FIRST AVENUE...NEW YORK, N.Y...10021. Thank you very much. YOU WON'T, AT ALL, BE DISAPPOINTED WITH THEM.

T.G.AUTHOR-

House Select Committee on Assassinations Nondisclosure Agreement

I, Richard E. Sprague, in consideration for being employed by or engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for or at the request of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, or any Member thereof, do hereby make the representations and accept the obligations set forth below as conditions precedent for my employment or engagement, or for my continuing employment or engagement, with the Select Committee, the United States House of Representatives, or the United States Congress.

1. I have read the Rules of the Select Committee, and I hereby agree to be bound by them and by the Rules of the House of Representatives.

2. I hereby agree never to divulge, publish or reveal by words, conduct or otherwise, any testimony given before the Select Committee in executive session (including the name of any witness who appeared or was summoned to appear before the Select Committee in executive session), any classifiable and properly classified information (as defined in 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(1)), or any information pertaining to intelligence sources or methods as designated by the Director of Central Intelligence, or any confidential information that is received by the Select Committee or that comes into my possession by virtue of my position with the Select Committee, to any person not a member of the Select Committee or its staff or the personal staff representative of a Committee Member unless authorized in writing by the Select Committee, or, after the Select Committee's termination, by such manner as the House of Representatives may determine or, in the absence of a determination by the House, in such manner as the Agency or Department from which the information originated may determine. I further agree not to divulge, publish or reveal by words, conduct or otherwise, any other information which is received by the Select Committee or which comes into my possession by virtue of my position with the Select Committee, for the duration of the Select Committee's existence.

3. I hereby agree that any material that is based upon or may include information that I hereby pledge not to disclose, and that is contemplated for publication by me will, prior to discussing it with or showing it to any publishers, editors or literary agents, be submitted to the Select Committee to determine whether said material contains any information that I hereby pledge not to disclose. The Chairman of the Select Committee shall consult with the Director of Central Intelligence for the purpose of the Chairman's determination as to whether or not the material contains information that I pledge not to disclose. I further agree to take no steps toward publication until authorized in writing by the Select Committee, or after its termination, by such manner as the House of Representatives

THIS AGREEMENT IS FOR LIFE!

Ed. Sandell

see underline

may determine, or in the absence of a determination by the House, in such manner as the Agency or Department from which the information originated may determine.

4. I hereby agree to familiarize myself with the Select Committee's security procedures, and provide at all times the required degree of protection against unauthorized disclosure for all information and materials that come into my possession by virtue of my position with the Select Committee.

5. I hereby agree to immediately notify the Select Committee of any attempt by any person not a member of the Select Committee staff to solicit information from me that I pledge not to disclose.

6. I hereby agree to immediately notify the Select Committee if I am called upon to testify or provide information to the proper authorities that I pledge not to disclose. I will request that my obligation to respond is established by the Select Committee, or after its termination, by such manner as the House of Representatives may determine, before I do so.

7. I hereby agree to surrender to the Select Committee upon demand by the Chairman or upon my separation from the Select Committee staff, any material, including any classified information or information pertaining to intelligence sources or methods as designated by the Director of Central Intelligence, which comes into my possession by virtue of my position with the Select Committee. I hereby acknowledge that all documents acquired by me in the course of my employment are and remain the property of the United States.

8. I understand that any violation of the Select Committee Rules, security procedures or this agreement shall constitute grounds for dismissal from my current employment.

9. I hereby assign to the United States Government all rights, title and interest in any and all royalties, remunerations and emoluments that have resulted or may result from any divulgence, publication or revelation in violation of this agreement.

10. I understand and agree that the United States Government may choose to apply, prior to any unauthorized disclosure by me, for a court order prohibiting disclosure. Nothing in this agreement constitutes a waiver on the part of the United States of the right to prosecute for any statutory violation. Nothing in this agreement constitutes a waiver on my part of any defenses I may otherwise have in any civil or criminal proceedings.



11. I have read the provisions of the Espionage Laws, Sections 793, 794 and 798, Title 18, United States Code, and of Section 783, Title 50, United States Code, and I am aware that unauthorized disclosure of certain classified information may subject me to prosecution. I have read Section 1001, Title 18, United States Code, and I am aware that the making of a false statement herein is punishable as a felony. I have also read Executive Order 11652, and the implementing National Security Council directive of May 17, 1972, relating to the protection of classified information.

12. Unless released in writing from this agreement or any portion thereof by the Select Committee, I recognize that all the conditions and obligations imposed on me by this agreement apply during my Committee employment or engagement and continue to apply after the relationship is terminated.

13. No consultant shall indicate, divulge or acknowledge, without written permission of the Select Committee, the fact that the Select Committee has engaged him or her by contract as a consultant until after the Select Committee has terminated.

14. In addition to any rights for criminal prosecution or for injunctive relief the United States Government may have for violation of this agreement, the United States Government may file a civil suit in an appropriate court for damages as a consequence of a breach of this agreement. The costs of any civil suit brought by the United States for breach of this agreement, including court costs, investigative expenses, and reasonable attorney fees, shall be borne by any defendant who loses such suit. In any civil suit for damages successfully brought by the United States Government for breach of this agreement, actual damages may be recovered, or, in the event that such actual damages may be impossible to calculate, liquidated damages in an amount of \$5,000 shall be awarded as a reasonable estimate for damages to the credibility and effectiveness of the investigation.

15. I hereby agree that in any suit by the United States Government for injunctive or monetary relief pursuant to the terms of this agreement, personal jurisdiction shall obtain and venue shall lie in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, or in any other appropriate United States District Court in which the United States may elect to bring suit. I further agree that the law of the District of Columbia shall govern the interpretation and construction of this agreement.

16. Each provision of this agreement is severable. If a court should find any part of this agreement to be unenforceable, all other provisions of this agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

-4-

I make this agreement without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and I agree that it may be used by the Select Committee in carrying out its duty to protect the security of information provided to it.

Date: July 19, 1977

Richard E. Sprague

I am submitting a list of material and information which has already been given to the committee, or which I intend to give the committee in the near future. I intend to publish some of this information.

\_\_\_\_\_  
LOUIS STOKES, Chairman  
Select Committee on Assassinations

EDITORS NOTE:

This insidious, odious but very CLEVER document is EXACTLY HOW the C.I.A. & F.B.I. conceived of HOW they would ENTIRELY CONTROL AND SUPPRESS the most crucially important evidence of massive conspiracies in both the JFK and MLK assassinations from being divulged to the citizens of this country, by forcing EVERY SINGLE member of the Committee, their investigators, their staff, consultants, witnesses, etc, etc, **TO BE SIGNED BY THEM.** One must admit that it was a cleverly devised scheme, although in its wake it left many truthful questions regarding these two cases unresolved and unanswered to the American people, indeed, people of the world. • Our utmost thanks go to the CIA & FBI and especially to chief counsel G. Robert Blakey for this, yet another, travesty of justice and information, and total suppressions of same.

"THE TRUTH, THOUGH CRUSHED TO EARTH, SHALL RISE AGAIN."  
Martin Luther King, Jr.

P.S. Our sincerest thanks to Richard E. Sprague, former consultant to the H SCOA. We should all applaud his efforts to providing this document and THE TRUTH to the people of our land.....Ted Gandelfo:Editor.

Mr. Robert Blakey  
Chief Counsel  
Select Committee On Assassinations  
House Of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ted Gandolfo  
Chairman: Assassination  
Information Committee  
1214-1st Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10021  
Phone 212-288 1596

July 29, 1977

Dear Mr. Blakey,

As you requested during our phone conversation yesterday, I am sending you this letter, to further inform you of my offer to the Select Committee On Assassinations. As a private researcher since November 22, 1963 on the JFK assassination, I have personally compiled what is generally acknowledged to be the most all-inclusive, chronologically listed tape-recorded library in the world on the JFK case. These include ALL aspects of everything related to this case, witness testimony, earliest media reportage, subsequent media reportage, all aspects of prior investigations such as Warren Commission, Garrison's, Senate/Congressional hearings, personal interviews conducted by myself of crucial personages, etc, etc, in short, everything related to the JFK assassination. These tapes number more than four thousand (4,000) hours in all. I also have an extensive printed file on this case as well. I know these would prove to be an invaluable asset to you and your committee in your quest for truth in this investigation you have undertaken, an investigation I have continuously urged be initiated to the many people I have spoken to through the years on more than 240 radio and TV shows I have appeared on across this country. At my request, I have received many letters in support of the original constitution of your committee and, subsequently, for the reconstitution and adequate funding and have sent these to various Congressmen across the country to influence their voting for it. I think it not too immodest to suggest that I have been, and remain, one of the best friends your committee has ever had. In this spirit, I am offering any or all of my material to the Select Committee to assist in securing the truth you are seeking. I will be awaiting your reply. Also enclosed find a recent article by myself.

Respectfully,

*Ted Gandolfo*  
Ted Gandolfo, Chairman:AIC

-SEE NEXT PAGE-

LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN  
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 WALTER E. FAUNTROY, D.C.  
 YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE, CALIF.  
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 CHARLES THONE, NEBR.  
 HAROLD S. SAWYER, MICH.

## Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4824

August 2, 1977

Mr. Ted Gandolfo  
 Chairman: AIC  
 1214--1st Avenue  
 New York, N.Y. 10021

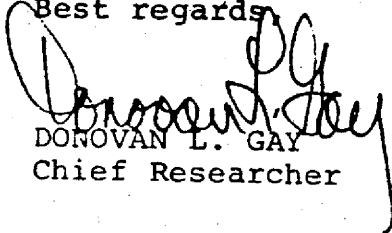
Dear Mr. Gandolfo:

Professor G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director for the Select Committee on Assassinations, has asked me to respond to your recent letter to him concerning your offer of assistance to our Committee.

It is very kind and generous of you to offer to our staff all materials you have compiled over the years which relate to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. I assure you that we are indeed interested in the many tape recordings to which you refer in your correspondence, and I anticipate that in the near future, my Deputy Chief Researcher for the Kennedy Task Force, will be in touch with you to arrange for an appropriate meeting.

Again, we sincerely appreciate your support and interest in these investigations.

Best regards,

  
 DONOVAN L. GAY  
 Chief Researcher

P.S. I never was communicated with in ANY way after this, regarding my tapes, although I asked Blakey, by phone about it, he declined to answer my question of whether or not the Committee wanted any/or all of them, etc. ad-nauseum. T.G.

March 10, 1987

LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN  
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Select Committee on Assassinations  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4624

August 2, 1977

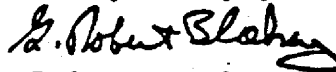
Larry Strawderman  
 Information and Privacy Coordinator  
 Central Intelligence Agency  
 Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Strawderman:

This is in response to your letter of 26 July 1977 wherein you informed me of the Agency's willingness and intention to furnish the Committee with any and all documents pertaining to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy which reside in Agency files upon the conditions specified by you, i.e. that "sanitized" materials remain as such and that any and all contents of said documents labeled as Top Secret and Eyes Only remain classified. I can assure you that the Agency's requests will be strictly adhered to.

I know I speak for the entire Committee in expressing our gratitude for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,



G. Robert Blakey  
 Chief Counsel and Director  
 Select Committee on Assassinations

GRB:jwc

## Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

July 27, 1977

G. Robert Blakey  
Chief Counsel and Director  
Select Committee on Assassinations

Dear Mr. Blakey:

In response to your letter of inquiry dated July 24, 1977, it is the Agency's considered opinion that the areas of inquiry relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy which were pursued by your predecessor, Richard A. Sprague, as stated in the Select Committee's Interim Report dated March 28, 1977, should be entirely disregarded based upon our contention that they are without any merit or corroboration.

Please feel free to consult the Agency at anytime should you feel indecisive regarding anything that will come into your possession during your investigations, The Agency will be only too happy to correctly advise you on "substance and procedure" of your probe.

very best regards,

*Larry Strawderman*  
Larry Strawderman

Information and Privacy Coordinator  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

LS:rw

On December 12, 1977, Richard A. Sprague, Richard E. Sprague and Rush Harp guested on my cable-TV show, "Assassination USA." Near the conclusion of the show, I asked the former chief counsel, A. Sprague, "Is there anything of your own personal knowledge, while you were chief counsel of the Committee, or perhaps now, that leads you to the belief that they"(the HSCA) "have already reached conclusions, whether now or long ago, which are synonymous with the governmental, we maintain fraudulent, conclusions relating to these two cases?"

A- "It is clear to me that there are tremendous areas that merit a thorough, full, impartial investigation. To answer your question specifically, Ted, I have been told by a number of people that the present investigation does have already...has indicated, that they intend to come out with a conclusion that there is no conspiracy involved in the President Kennedy assassination and the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and they are going through the motions of trying to fortify a final statement that says that. Now, whether in fact that is so or not, I do not know. All I can do is say that that is what I have been told by a number of people."

Now, with the knowledge that Mr. Sprague was FORCED to resign, due mainly by the CIA controlled news media, in April, 1977, which was only 7 months after the Committee was established, and FIFTEEN MONTHS before it had completed it's "investigations", then one can obviously see that the HSCA's probe practically began, as did the Warren Commission, with the pre-conception of Lee Oswald's sole guilt. Ad nauseum. How, then, would they have been able to conduct a full, complete and honest investigation of the case, even were they so inclined? Of course, they were not, and DID NOT, as this tome adequately proves. It was NEVER their intention to divulge the truth to the people of this country. It really is all very simple: The CIA and President Kennedy were on a direct collision course for several reasons. Firstly, and most importantly, JFK had begun the process of dismantling the WAR MACHINE, by initially seeking a normalization of relationships with, not only Russia but Cuba as well. Quite obviously, this would have inexorably resulted in the loss of trillions of dollars spent on armaments of every conceivable kind. That was the PRIMARY reason for his execution. Secondly, he had incurred the wrath of the anti-Castro Cubans, when he refused to provide air-cover in the Bay Of Pigs fiasco, inflaming them to action against Kennedy on November 22, 1963, as Jim Garrison's evidence proves, since it is a fact that one of these men, Emilio Santana, has admitted to a New Orleans Grand Jury that he fired one of the shots at JFK that day. This, of course, was never mentioned in ANY newspaper or TV/radio station. Thirdly, Kennedy had come to recognize the total immorality of the CIA and told his personal aide, Kenneth O'Donnell that he was going to, "get the CIA and break it into a million pieces and scatter the pieces to the winds." Those are the primary reasons he was killed..BY THE CIA, which, naturally, covered up the crime by destroying evidence, manufacturing false evidence, and withholding the truthful evidence it had from both the Warren Commission and, later, from the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Of course, the HSCA had obtained evidence, especially from Jim Garrison, PROVING CIA direct involvement in the crime, but, through their employee, chief counsel Robert Blakey, completely suppressed ALL of it, which is disclosed in this book for the first time ever. As you will later read, I call for the complete abolishment of the CIA. Certainly we do need an intelligence-gathering organization in this country. But we don't need MURDER SQUADS who find it feasible to kill not only foreign leaders who oppose their views and policies, but also, proveably now, kill the President of the United States. For it remains an odious fact that, in our name, the CIA supports dictatorships all across the world. There is not a fascist government in this world who could survive for a single moment without the direct assistance of the CIA. And there is not a peoples of this world, yearning to be free who are not suffering from the abuses inflicted upon them by the CIA, who, as I mentioned, in our name, commit some of the most despicable illegalities, including murder, all across the globe!! The HSCA found it necessary, I strongly feel by direct instructions of the CIA, to classify much of the information it obtained, for noless than 50 years. Remember, the charter of the Committee was to DIVULGE, NOT SUPPRESS, everything it learned relating to the JFK & MLK assassinations. They opted NOT to do so, quite obviously now because of the conclusive evidence it had of direct CIA involvement in the JFK assassination and, I have also learned, direct involvement of the FBI in the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. Obviously, the classic question remains:"Why hide ANYTHING if there's nothing to hide"(with apologies to Ed Tatro).So the totally uncontrollable power of the CIA, which murdered the President Of The United States, as well as foreign leaders, which completely thwarted Jim Garrison's investigation of the crime, which controls, on a most massive scale, the ENTIRE news media of this country which, through the CIA, has fed us lie after lie concerning these murders for more than 23 years in the JFK case and 19 years in the King case, continues to thrive and remains totally unaccountable for it's heinous atrocities.

Today, Mark Lane called me up and told me very disheartening news he had just learned about. The most relevant dialogue follows:

ML- The Select Committee is hopelessly destroyed.

TG- Is hopelessly destroyed?

ML- Taken over by the FBI and CIA.

TG- They are taken over by the FBI and CIA?

ML- Is that true?

ML- Yes, I mean it's just,..they just fired Bob Lehner-that was the final blow.

TG- Robert Lehner was fired today?

ML- Well, very recently.

TG- What leads you to the belief that they have been taken over?

ML- They fired Donovan Gay, the chief researcher of both the Kennedy and King cases, and the reason given to him was the CIA would prefer that he longer be there. They fired Bob

no

Lehner and they're replacing him with a Department Of Justice lawyer who has passed an FBI and CIA loyalty test. All the employees are being screened by the FBI and the CIA. In other words, the FBI and the CIA are investigating the Select Committee instead of the other way around. I can tell you this. They (HSCA) have not subpoenaed a single document from the FBI and the CIA, not one document has been subpoenaed, and Blakey is involved in, I'm convinced, in a major sellout.

TG- But how can they go against what Garrison has told me twice, that they just can't do it because there's too many investigators there who will scream out...

ML- I'll tell you about those investigators. They have uncovered absolutely incredible information on their own..,incredible stuff, and if anybody reveals it they go to jail.

TG- Why?

ML- Because of the statement (non-disclosure agreement) they signed. That's how they're silencing them.

The next day, Lane held a press conference at the Los Angeles Free Press with this information. Not one word was ever published or mentioned anywhere, predictably, in the entire news media. The following day, February 5th, I did 3 radio shows about this.(KGO, WMCA, and WOR). I also called CBS radio news, CBS-TV news, NBC TV & radio news, and ABC-TV and radio news. By using 3 TVs, 3 radios and 6 recorders, I was able to determine that, again, as with the case of Lane, not a single WORD was broadcast or televised on any of the above-mentioned network stations, not one!! Need I say more about the media of this country? There was, however, ample news reportage of rigged bullfights, the skiing conditions in Vermont, and assorted, varied trivia which the media found worthy of reportage.

-Again, ad nauseum!-



I called the Select Committee asking to speak to Blakey. He wasn't available, <sup>124</sup> so

I left my name and phone number, and 2 hours later, he called. The verbatim talk follows:

B- Hi, this is Robert Blakey.

TG- Hello, how are you?

B- Fine.

TG- Allright, I did a TV show with Richard A Sprague, former chief counsel of your Committee and he told me and fellow guests Richard E. Sprague and Rush Harp, he told me something rather startling-that he had been told that the Committee had long ago concluded , reached conclusions which were to be that there was no conspiracy involved in either case under investigation. Is that true, Mr. Blakey?

B- I have no comment to make on anything he said.

TG- You have no comment to make even on that?

B- Nope.

TG- Uh-huh- will you be releasing a report at the end of this year on the Committee's work or evidence thus far?

B- The resolution requires us to do it as soon as practical.

TG- Yeah- Mr. Blakey, I just want to mention something. As far as I'm concerned, I've heard stories that there is evidence that there WERE conspiracies in BOTH the JFK and King cases. I won't say who said that to me, but I've heard that you're going to suppress ALL of that information and that you will conclude NO CONSPIRACY reports. Is that true?

B- No comment to make on that also.

TG- Again, no comment, right?

B- Nope.

TG- Uh-huh, well, allright, look, um, I also heard that you're firing some of the staff members, and you fired Bob Lehner and Donovan Gay because of their disagreements with you in respect to the evidence in these cases, is THAT true?

B- I can't comment on that either.

TG- Uh huh, O.K., I also heard that you brought over to the CIA a top secret memo that you promised not to divulge to ANY intelligence agency, and you made copies and sent them right over to the Central Intelligence Agency. Is THAT true?

B- I can't comment on that either. Look, I signed a non-disclosure agreement that means I cannot say anything.

TG- No comment all the way down the line, right? I'll tell you something. You know, you're um, you're, you're, I, I'm going to expose your ass everywhere in this country, and I'm going to alert everyone about what you're doing, that you're a coverup artist par-excellence, and you're not going to get away with it because we're going to get the truth no matter WHAT you're doing there, and I just want you to know that we know that you're a low-life, son-of-a-bitch. Goodbye!!

Well, I trust that I have kept my word to Blakey by the facts contained herein.

Jim Garrison calls me up today. The relevant verbatim conversation follows:

TG- What's happening now is the complete takeover of the Congress by the intelligence agencies.  
 JIM- Yes, exactly.  
 TG- Exactly, and nothing short of that. But what Blakey is also doing, Jim, he is not going to ask for further fundings.  
 Jim- Oh, that's a..he's a sinister son-of-a-bitch.  
 TG- Oh he's a bastard.  
 Jim- Their investigators have made progress beyond their wildest dreams.  
 TG- Well, I called Stokes's office- he's supposed to get back to me.  
 Jim- Stokes is supposed to be allright...  
 TG- Yep, and Fauntroy too.  
 Jim- Has Blakey fooled them?  
 TG- I don't know, that's why I left the message with Stokes's secretary, the whole message of what Blakey's doing, and I told her that on several radio shows I've done now, I have already called for the immediate firing of Blakey as a coverup artist, par excellence, on that Committee who is suppressing the basic evidence for which he was assigned to investigate, and secure, and provide to the American people.  
 Jim- You can tell those Congressmen you talk to that while I didn't feel free to be quoted, as far as the newspapers are concerned, that in your conversations with me I made it clear that the investigators that have been down here have made tremendous progress and they have long since confirmed the involvement of a conspiracy, and I have not understood why Blakey grew more and more silent, but they are welcome to call me if they want me to give them some examples of conspiracy, of the kind of evidence that I've turned over to them, to their investigators.

---

Whereupon, I called Congresswoman Yvonne Burke, a member of the Committee:

YB- Hello-  
 TG- Hello, Ms. Burke?  
 YB- How are you?  
 TG- Fine, nice to talk to you. I'm calling from New York city. My name is Ted Gandolfo. I'm a 14 year researcher. First, may I commend you for what I've just heard about in reference to your being one of only 3 people who are dissenting from what chief counsel Robert Blakey is insidiously and nefariously doing there.  
 YB- What's that...?  
 TG- That he is concealing the evidence which has been accrued...  
 YB- I don't know anything about that.  
 TG- Well, I do. I've talked to Mark Lane and Jim Garrison, former New Orleans District Attorney, and to several other researchers. I've done, also, a few radio shows on this and I'm going to do another one tonight.  
 YB- I know nothing about this.  
 TG- Then may I just...I understand that..I'd just like to discuss something with you. I spoke to Mark Lane Saturday night, who told me what Robert Blakey is doing.  
 YB- Did what?  
 TG- He's fired Several investigators there because they were disagreeing with what he is doing.  
 YB- You better tell me who they are before you get...  
 TG- Well, Bob Lehner is one of them, who headed the King task force. Donovan Gay resigned because of his...  
 YB- You better be careful about that one. And who's the other one?  
 TG- Donovan Gay resigned!!  
 YB- Who's the third person? If it's those 2 people, be very careful because they were not terminated by Blakey.  
 TG- Who were they terminated by, the intelligence agencies!!  
 YB- No.  
 TG- Well, that's what I heard.  
 YB- Somebody's feeding you some bad information.  
 TG- Well, look, the point is that Blakey is covering up the evidence which has been gleaned by that Committee, OK?  
 YB- What I'd like you to do is if you will get to me...  
 TG- The point is that we know that evidence has been turned over to the Committee which proves beyond any question that there were conspiracies in the King and Kennedy assassinations

and we know that Blakey is simply covering it up and will come out with a conclusion of NO conspiracies because of the fact that he is an intelligence man who has been infiltrated into the Committee by the intelligence agencies, he is turning over documents to the CIA-

YB- What did he turn over?

TG- He turned over a top secret document which proves that Oswald had intelligence ties.

YB- Why did he turn it over?

TG- You'll have to ask him that question. He turned it over to the CIA.

YB- Was the document in English?

TG- I don't know, I just...

YB- Let me tell you-there are some vicious misrepresentations that are being circulated. Let me tell you about Bob Lehner. Many of us had serious questions of Bob Lehner's competence. We've had questions all along. Now, I don't want to say anything against Bob Lehner.

TG- You just DID!

YB- But the whole question about Bob Lehner has been fully aired by the Committee. Now, let me tell you something about Donovan Gay. Donovan is a personal friend of mine. I would never allow Donovan to be the victim of any circumstance,...

TG- I just talked to Jim Garrison. He said that as a result of the Committee investigators who have secured his information and evidence, he said that they were overwhelmed with their feelings that there was definitely a conspiracy in the JFK assassination. That information, from what he said, and from what other sources told me, will be suppressed, suppressed by Robert Blakey! Don't you think it's incumbent upon you to find out if this is true or not?

YB- You know that every time we come up for funding, someone feeds something in for someone to make an attack, did you notice that? I hope you're not a part of that.

TG- Well, you can't mess me because I've attempted to secure the truth for 14 years now. Would you like to discuss the evidence Blakey has received, proving CIA involvement to kill Kennedy, that he received from Jim Garrison?

YB- Yes, I'd like to do that.

TG- OK, good- I'll give you Garrison's phone number. It's \_\_\_\_\_ after he tells you of this evidence that Blakey is suppressing, then I call upon you to let your colleagues on the Committee know about this evidence, and then you should immediately fire Blakey!!

YB- Allright, I'll call Mr. Garrison soon.

TG- Hopefully, very soon.

YB- Yes, well, I will. I've got to catch a plane now.

TG- Thank you very much, Miss Burke, goodbye.

As you might guess by now, Garrison never received any call from Yvonne Burke, or other members of the Committee I talked to about this at the time. Since that is so, can there be ANY doubt that this was, indeed, a coverup Committee at work?? Enough said!!

ON FEBRUARY 10,1978, Jim GARRISON, BY PHONE, TOLD ME OF SOME OF THE MASSIVE EVIDENCE OF AN ENORMOUS CONSPIRACY IN THE JFK ASSASSINATION, (QUOTES FROM THIS CONVERSATION WERE PRINTED IN A PREVIOUS ISSUE..ARTICLE BY MYSELF ENTITLED, THE HSCOA COVERUP). UPON HEARING THIS EVIDENCE FROM GARRISON, I CALLED CHIEF COUNSEL ROBERT BLAKEY ABOUT IT. WE HAD A 15 MINUTE PHONE CONVERSATION, WHICH I TAPED, DURING WHICH I ASKED HIM IF MR. GARRISON AND/OR MYSELF WERE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR THERE AS WITNESSES. HE SAID WE WEREN'T. I ASKED HIM FOR HIS PERMISSION TO ALLOW ME AND GARRISON TO DO SO. HE SAID, "WRITE ME A LETTER". I IMMEDIATELY DID SO AND WROTE TO GARRISON TO DO THE SAME. HE SINCE HAS TOLD ME HE HAD DONE SO THEN. MY LETTER IS REPRODUCED BELOW:

Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel  
 House Select Committee On Assassinations  
 U.S. House Of Representatives  
 Washington, D.C.  
 20515

TED GANDOLFO, CHAIRMAN, ASSASSINATION  
 INFORMATION COMMITTEE  
 1214 First Avenue  
 New York, N.Y. 10021  
 Phone: (212) 288-1596  
 February 10, 1978

Dear Mr. Blakey,

As you instructed me to do during our phone conversation earlier today, I am writing you requesting that I appear before your Committee, along with Jim Garrison, to present you and the Committee, personally, evidence in printed and oral form, which bolsters my/our evidence that we feel proves that President John F. Kennedy was murdered by elements and personages connected with the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States. All I ask is that you/ the Committee pay for my round trip flight to and from Washington, D.C. as I cannot afford it at the present time. I am sure that Jim Garrison can and will pay for his trip himself.

May I assure you beforehand that the evidence I will present is, at the very least, prime facie, and will command your attention so that you will then subpoena corroborating materials and documents from the C.I.A. which, I feel strongly, will attest to the validity of my/our assertions in this matter. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

*Ted Gandolfo*  
 Ted Gandolfo, AIC

NEEDLESS TO SAY, THIS LETTER, NOR GARRISON'S, WAS NEVER ANSWERED BY BLAKEY & CO. YET ANOTHER COVERUP OF FACTUAL EVIDENCE TRUTHFULLY IMPLICATING THE C.I.A. IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY. IF NOT MINE, THEY KNEW WHAT GARRISON'S EVIDENCE WAS TO THIS EFFECT AND WERE AFRAID TO CALL HIM, ESPECIALLY, AS A WITNESS BEFORE THEM. TO HAVE DONE SO WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE BURST THEIR COVERUP BALLOON!!  
 TED GANDOLFO:EDITOR.

193 Pinewood Road  
Hartsdale, NY 10530

February 10, 1978

Mr. Louis Stokes  
Chairman, Select Committee on Assassinations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Louis:

As I am sure you know, I signed a non disclosure agreement for the Select Committee, given to me on July 19, 1977 by Robert Blakey. Not being a lawyer, I did not really appreciate some of the provisions of that agreement at the time I signed it, even though some things in it seemed strange to me.

In the last few months I have gone over the agreement several times, with particular attention to those strange portions. The more I re-read the agreement, the more puzzled I have become.

I was finally triggered into writing you this letter by a conversation I had with Richard A. Sprague. As you may recall I helped him and Bob Tanenbaum from November 1976 forward with the photographic evidence in the JFK case, and several other areas derived from my relationship with Jim Garrison and the Committee to Investigate Assassinations. I had no written agreement with the Committee at that time and did not ask for compensation for the work I had been doing. I had signed no non disclosure agreement and such an agreement had never been mentioned.

The first time I had any idea that the Committee would want to pay me for my assistance was some time after Dick Sprague resigned, when Mr. Blakey approached me about it through Bob Tanenbaum, shortly before Bob resigned. My recent meeting with Dick Sprague naturally led to discussion about my continuing work for the Committee. He raised the subject of the non disclosure agreement signed by each staff member, saying that he would never have enforced such a document while he was chief counsel because he believes it gives the CIA and other agencies too much power to control the activities of the Committee. It was because of that statement that I read the agreement again in the light of what he said.

I know that you had a lot of faith in Richard A. Sprague and did not personally want him to resign. For that reason I'm writing to you rather than Mr. Blakey, seeking answers to my questions.

Enclosed is a copy of the agreement with my signature. I have circled on it the paragraphs in question, and underlined the key words. My questions, Mr. Stokes are as follows:

1. Are paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 inserted for the purpose of giving the CIA power over the Select Committee to investigate the CIA's

role in the assassinations or the cover up crimes following the assassinations of President Kennedy or Dr. King? I believe those paragraphs could be so interpreted, especially if each committee member and each staff member signed a similar agreement.

2. If the purposes of paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 are not as questioned above, then how can the Select Committee, its staff or its consultants, ever discover whether the CIA was involved in the assassinations or whether the CIA, as I maintain, is still involved in covering up the conspiracies?

For example, paragraph 3 states that you as chairman, shall consult with the Director of Central Intelligence--to determine whether or not the material I might receive contains information that I pledge not to disclose.

Assuming that all committee staff people signed that paragraph, it would seem to me that you would really be hamstrung in investigating the CIA's possible role. Your staff could not be working with any documents or other materials pointing toward CIA agents' involvement in the assassinations, without you personally having to show those documents to the Director of Central Intelligence and to obtain his agreement to disclose the information to the public.

The CIA Director has the power of judging what can be released. Obviously, anything incriminating to the CIA, especially higher level people who may have been involved, would be judged unreleasable.

None of this would take on the significance that it does, were it not for my belief that the CIA itself has continued to cover up the original conspiracy and that several CIA agents or contract employees carried out the murder.

3. Is paragraph 12 really logical, or even legal? Can an agreement with a body be extended ad infinitum after the body has dissolved?
4. Paragraph 14 bothers me. It seems to say that I agree to allow the government to sue me and to bear the expenses of such a suit. Is it really legal to ask me to agree to be sued as a condition of my consulting contract? Couldn't the government sue me and collect expenses anyway if I did something wrong, without such a clause? Paragraph 16 seems to anticipate that Paragraph 14 may not stand up in court. (Or some other paragraph.)

I want to make it clear that my concerns in this matter are not related to any obligation I may have. Rather, I am concerned about the purposes of those clauses in the agreement, as they affect the investigations. I believe every staff member signed them.

I would appreciate hearing directly from you on these questions Mr. Stokes, rather than referring this letter to Mr. Blakey.

Yours sincerely,

Richard E. Sprague

LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN  
 RICHARDSON PREYER, N.C.                    SAMUEL L. DEVINE, OHIO  
 WALTER E. FAUNTROY, D.C.                STEWART B. MCKINNEY, CONN.  
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 HAROLD E. FORD, TENN.  
 FLOYD J. FITHIAN, IND.  
 ROBERT W. EDGAR, PA.

(202) 225-4624

## Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

March 2, 1978

Mr. Robert Trubey  
 2336 Divisadero Street  
 San Francisco, CA 94115

Dear Mr. Trubey:

Chairman Stokes has requested that I respond to your letter concerning the non-disclosure agreement in effect for the staff of the Select Committee.

It is not nor has it ever been the intent of the Select Committee to withhold evidence from the public pertaining to its investigations. The non-disclosure agreement does not prevent information from being disclosed. It does provide that the timing of any disclosure of information be determined by the Select Committee, or after the Select Committee's termination by the House of Representatives, or if the House should fail to act, by the agency, or department from which the information originated.

The types of information which are subject to these release provisions include: (1) Testimony given in executive session, (2) Any classifiable and properly classified information, (3) Information pertaining to intelligence sources or methods as designated by the Director of Central Intelligence and (4) Confidential (sensitive) information received by the Select Committee.

While other information which a staff member receives may not be divulged for the duration of the Select Committee's existence, it may be divulged at any subsequent time.

\* THIS STATEMENT IS FALSE!! SEE PAGE 114, PARAGRAPH # 2- T.G., AUTHOR.

LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN  
 RICHARDSON PREYER, N.C.  
 WALTER E. FAUNTROY, D.C.  
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## Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

March 7, 1978

Ms. Leona R. Willis  
 345 Arguello Blvd., #302  
 San Francisco, CA 94118

Dear Ms. Willis:

Chairman Stokes has asked that I reply to your letter concerning the public release of information developed during the Select Committee's investigations.

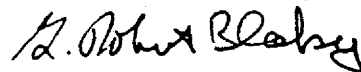
Please be advised that it is the Committee's intention that once the preliminary evidence-gathering phase of the investigations has been completed, a public presentation will be made of all the evidence which has been gathered and which has been corroborated and which is felt is credible and in no way defames any person. This evidence will be presented in open public hearings.

At the completion of its work, the Committee intends to present to the American people the type of credible, responsible, and professional report to which they are entitled.

When I took this job, I had a reputation for independence and integrity. Nothing is worth losing the reality behind that reputation. I do not know from what source you obtained the information on which your comments are based, but I can assure you that the work of the Committee, too, will be characterized by independence and integrity.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Select Committee.

Sincerely,



G. Robert Blakey  
 Chief Counsel and Director

GRB:thn

P S THIS IS A COPY OF ONE OF HUNDREDS OF LETTERS SENT TO ME AFTER I IMPELORED ALL MY LISTENERS TO WRITE TO BLAKEY & CO., CHARGING HIM WITH A COVERUP ON ONE LETTER, IN MY ARCHIVES IN WISCONSIN, BLAKEY WROTE, "NO COVERUP IS IN PROGRESS" HE HAS NO CONCIENCE!!



LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN

RICHARDSON PREYER, N.C.  
 WALTER E. FAUNTROY, D.C.  
 YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE, CALIF.  
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(202) 225-4624

## Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

MAR 16 1978

MARCH 16, 1978-T.G.

Mr. Richard E. Sprague  
 193 Pinewood Road  
 Hartsdale, New York 10530

Dear Mr. Sprague:

In response to your letter of February 10, 1978 concerning the non-disclosure agreement which you signed with the Committee, I wish to first remind you that the agreement was explicitly explained to you provision by provision by Mr. Blakey, and that you were given the opportunity to ask any questions that you desired prior to your signing the agreement. I want to assure you that the intent of the agreement is not to prevent information from ultimately being disclosed to the American public. The non-disclosure agreement only governs the timing of disclosure of information to the public. In response to your specific questions:

I. Paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 obviously are not for the purpose of giving the CIA power over the Select Committee to investigate the CIA's role in the assassination. If you read these paragraphs carefully, they clearly provide that the Select Committee, during its existence, will be in full control and have access to all information. The paragraphs do prevent you from disclosing the information, without the authorization of the Select Committee.

Paragraph 3 does state that I, as Chairman, will consult with the Director of Central Intelligence to determine whether or not material contains information which you pledge not to disclose. I, however, retain ultimate authority and I only consult with the Director of Central Intelligence - I am not bound by his opinion.

II. Paragraphs 12 and 14 are indeed legal. Should you have any specific questions concerning the legality of any of the provisions, I suggest you consult your own attorney.

- 2 -

I assure you that the very purpose of the non-disclosure agreement is to give the Select Committee full control over the conduct of the investigation, including the ultimate disclosure of information to the American public. In no manner should it be construed as the Committee being restricted in its investigation by the CIA or any other federal agency or department.

In closing, I remind you of paragraph 13 of the non-disclosure agreement which provides that you may not "indicate, divulge or acknowledge" the fact that you have been retained as a consultant until after the Select Committee has been terminated. I have seen a press release concerning yourself issued by Mr. Altmans in conjunction with a new article in Gallery magazine. I note that while you technically did not violate the non-disclosure agreement which you signed, by carefully wording the release to describe the work you had done for the Committee in the past, this is the exact kind of exploitation of a consultant relationship that the Committee desires to avoid during its existence.

If you have any other questions or comments on the non-disclosure agreement, they should be addressed to Mr. Blakey as Chief Counsel.

Sincerely,



Louis Stokes  
Chairman

LS:jwc

April 5, 1978

Representative Louis Stokes  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Louis:

Thank you for your most reassuring letter of March 16, 1978. As you know I have great faith in your own personal integrity and your goals as discussed with you at lunch nearly a year ago. I understand the necessity for non disclosure and sensitive discretion in the way the Select Committee is proceeding. I believe I understand it more than most researchers because of my close working relationship with the staff and the committee ever since it started.

You can rest assured that it is my intention to continue to assist you and to support your efforts right up to the finish line. I want to avoid as much as you do any exploitation of my relationship to the committee that would cause problems for you or for me, especially with the media.

In this regard, the press release you mentioned in your letter from Gallery magazine was initially prepared by their public relations department, and included a statement that I am a consultant to the Select Committee. I asked them to delete the statement and they insisted on retaining something about my assistance to the committee in order to help establish my credibility with their readers. After some discussion I was able to get them to modify the statement to apply to the past work for Richard A. Sprague and Henry Gonzalez.

There will be another article in the June 1978 issue using this same statement. I believe I mentioned the article to you several months ago. It is about the CIA weapon system developed by Charles Senseney at Fort Detrick, Maryland using rocket propelled flechettes carrying paralyzing poison launched by an umbrella. I describe in the article the evidence pointing toward the use of this weapons system in Dealey Plaza. The article will appear on May 2 on the newsstands.

I read your March 16 letter, on March 22, upon my return from a trip to Japan and a vacation. I contacted Gallery asking them to delete entirely the statement about me and the Select Committee. They told me it was too late, that the issue had already gone to press. However, they did agree to delete the statement from any

ARTICLE BY TED GANDOLFO - 1214 FIRST AVENUE - NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021

PAGE ONE

TITLE: ASSASSINATION COMMITTEE SURRENDERS TO INTELLIGENCE FORCES  
TED GANDOLFO CALLS CHIEF COUNSEL "LEGAL HIT MAN FOR ORGANIZED CRIME"  
CHARGES COMMITTEE HAS BEEN "CAPTURED BY FBI AND CIA"

Ted Gandolfo, the chairman of the Assassination Information Committee, says that the Chief Counsel of the House Select Committee On Assassinations, G. Robert Blakey, is a "legal hit man for organized crime" and that he had permitted the Committee to be "captured by the FBI and CIA." Gandolfo added that the Committee had recently abused a key witness in the Kennedy assassination inquiry so severely that the witness, an elderly man, "had broken down and was reduced to tears in the Committee's hearing room." "A reason," said Gandolfo, "that the Committee questions witnesses behind closed doors is that the American people would not stand for their abusive questioning in public." Gandolfo added that "witnesses have been denied counsel of their choice by the Committee and denied an opportunity to testify in public." "The Select Committee has combined the worst of two eras. Unlike the Warren Commission of the 1960's which permitted witnesses to testify in public if they insisted upon that right, the Select Committee adheres to its policy of secrecy. Unlike Joe McCarthy of the 1950's, the Committee does not permit witnesses to be represented by counsel of their choice. I now understand how Dr. Frankenstein felt when he looked up one day and saw the monster begin a rampage."

The key figure in the surrender of the Select Committee On Assassinations to the intelligence interests is Robert Blakey, its present Chief Counsel. Charging that Blakey had "odd and recent connections" with organized crime characters, Gandolfo said:

"On February 4, 1976, Robery Blakey associated himself with Noe Dalitz, one of the early activists with organized crime in America.

On that date, Blakey, for a substantial sum of money, sold his 'expertise' to Dalitz as an 'expert' in the area of organized crime. Blakey refuses to disclose how much money he was paid leaving only that question in doubt. Blakey refers all questions regarding his service to Dalitz to his attorney, Louis Nizer. Nizer is also the attorney for Moe Dalitz. Nizer also wrote the introduction to the Warren Commission Report in which he stated that only "neurotics" clinging to a "sordid interest" would believe that the Warren Commission Report could be doubted or should be investigated. Blakey, his client, is OSTENSIBLY investigating the Warren Commission Report. Nizer wrote in his Warren Report preface that the issue of the JFK assassination was now closed and that only "neurotics" clinging to "pride or a more sordid interest" would refuse to accept the Report findings.

Blakey was recommended for his position on the Select Committee by Assassination Committee member Congressman Christopher Dodd, who had been a law partner with indicted former FBI Director, L. Patrick Gray. Many of the most frightening and recurring questions which the Kennedy, and later the King assassinations presented were those dealing with the roles of the intelligence organizations. The Church Committee has revealed the criminal excesses of our intelligence agencies, and their close cooperation with organized crime. The original chief counsel for the Assassination Committee, Richard A. Sprague, told me when he guested on my cable T.V. "Assassination U.S.A." show recently, that he refused to yield to the demand of the intelligence agencies that he and his staff sign "non-disclosure agreements" Those agreements would have given the FBI and the CIA the authority to decide what the Select Committee could disclose. Blakey quickly entered into those agreements and then required Committee personnel to sign the agreements which prohibited each of them, himself included, from releasing or commenting upon ANY information relating to "substance or procedure" that was learned through contact with the Committee.

The Report of the Select Committee on Assassinations of January 25, 1978, submitted with the budget request, states, "All staff

members on the Committee have received or are in the process of receiving 137  
'top secret' security clearance. The FBI, as an accommodation to the  
Committee, conducts the background investigations for these security  
clearances. The CIA then reviews the background investigations done by the  
FBI. After consultation with the FBI and CIA, the full Committee makes  
the determination regarding an individual's security clearance."

Those very police agencies which have participated in a  
COVERUP of the facts in these assassinations as shown by the Church  
Committee, are now charged with passing on the eligibility of those who  
would judge their conduct. Blakey said to one charter staff member, of the  
several he recently fired: "The CIA would be more comfortable if you were  
gone." The CIA has not explained how this activity does not violate its  
charter prohibition against domestic activities.

The Rules of the Committee, formulated with the assistance  
of Congressman Don Edwards of the Constitutional Civil Liberties Committee,  
have been flagrantly violated under the leadership of Chairman Louis Stokes  
and Counsel Blakey. Subpeonaed witness Robert McKeown was not allowed to  
have his attorney present, was abused, insulted, and threatened, was not  
allowed a recording or transcript of his testimony, and was not permitted  
a public hearing. Witness Jerry Ray and James Earl Ray have been told that  
they may not have an attorney of their choice. Their sister has been told  
that although she cannot afford an attorney, she will not be provided with  
counsel.

The House Select Committee On Assassinations must be freed  
from the stranglehold of the intelligence agencies; it must deal with the  
CONFLICT OF INTEREST presented by Counsel Blakey's ties with organized  
crime and Louis Nizer, defender of the Warren Report, and with its own  
violation of the Rules, before it can pursue THE TRUTH about the assassinations  
of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *End - T. S.*

|                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN    |                            |
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| YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE, CALIF. | CHARLES THONE, NEBR.       |
| CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONN.      | HAROLD E. SAWYER, MICH.    |
| HAROLD E. FORD, TENN.           |                            |
| FLOYD J. FITHIAN, IND.          |                            |
| ROBERT W. EDGAR, PA.            |                            |

Select Committee on Assassinations  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4624

May 15, 1978

Mr. Richard Sprague  
 193 Pinewood Road  
 Hartsdale, NY 10530

Dear Mr. Sprague:

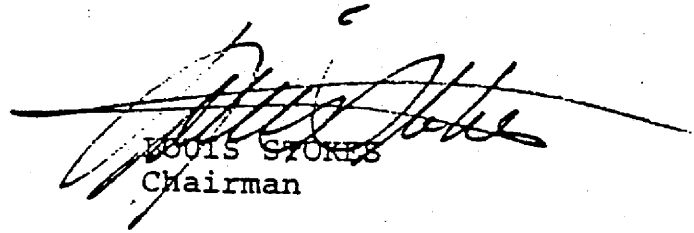
Thank you for your thoughtful letter of April 5 and I hope that you will excuse my delay in responding.

I appreciate your expression of confidence in me and your reassurance of your continued support. With regard to the matter of the press release, I understand your situation and it was most thoughtful of you to advise me in advance about the article in the June issue of Gallery magazine.

Your letter has been sent on to the Committee staff in order that they might share your recommendations about Richard Case Nagell.

Thank you again for your continuing support.

Sincerely,



LOUIS STOKES  
 Chairman

LS:thn

SELECT COMMITTEE TO HOLD OPEN PUBLIC  
HEARINGS - FULL MEDIA COVERAGE DOUBTFUL

by Ted Gandolfo

The House Select Committee on Assassinations Chairman, Louis Stokes, went to the floor of the House of Representatives on June 26, 1978 to announce the schedule of open public hearings to be held by the Select Committee to (in his words) "in which the Committee intends to examine the evidence it has uncovered in both investigations".

Upon being apprised of this information, I personally contacted by phone, various news networks including CBS, NBC, ABC and others, including the Public Broadcasting Station in New York and Washington. They all said the same thing, that they did NOT intend to provide "live" coverage, as with Watergate, to the people, but that they merely intended to cover the proceedings as "straight" news stories in their network news broadcasts/telecasts.

As a direct result, the very same media outlets which have lied continuously about these murders for more than fourteen years will again be involved in the same kinds of suppressions of the relevant information and will again be a party to continued rapings of the rights of the people of the USA to know the TRUTH. For, it was the voices of millions upon millions of the people of this country, across the land, that demanded there be a Congressional Investigation of the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. And now, the major media has decided that there be no coverage of this most important event. I think it is therefore incumbent that these millions of people DEMAND from these networks that they reverse this odious decision of non-coverage.

Based on very recent and numerous conversations I had with Mark Lane, I am of the firm conviction that the Select Committee will sustain and perpetuate the cover-up which was first instilled and propagated by the Warren Commission. Lane told me that inside sources had told him that the Committee had already reached its conclusions: they are that Oswald was the lone assassin, but that he fired only TWO shots, not three, and that James Earl Ray WAS the assassin of King, but that he was aided and abetted financially by his brother, Jerry Ray.

With the contemptuous Robert Blakey as Chief Counsel, the Committee will closely adhere to the so-called "investigations" of the past, and therefore, there may be little hope of the truth in these cases being made known to the people. But the public should be granted the opportunity of watching and hearing everything that transpires when the Select Committee goes public, so that they will be fully informed of the deceptions and obfuscations of truth which emanate from its chambers!

Therefore, I am calling upon EVERYONE to write to their representatives in Congress, and to the major media network stations, demanding that there be coverage of ALL of these hearings.

Only if and when the voices of the people rise and are heard can we avert the contemplated "BLANKET OF SILENCE" by the establishment media. The right to know is an all-consuming one and should permeate our entire society.

Remember - Watergate was just the tip of the iceberg!



193 Pinewood Road  
Hartsdale, NY 10530

August 3, 1978

Mr. Robert Blakey  
Select Committee on Assassinations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Bob:

Following our telephone conversation on Tuesday August 1, I checked with Bob Cutler, my co-author on the Umbrella Weapon System article in Gallery June 1978. Bob told me he left with Mr. Preyer and with you, photographic material showing that The Umbrella Man (TUM) was quite probably J. Gordon Novel.

Your news photo of him reinforces that belief for both of us. I did not have that portion of the Couch film from WFAA and so had never seen TUM's face as clearly as it appears there. The Bothun photo of him has a light reflection around his nose, as I'm sure you know.

We have a 1962-3 photo of Novel taken from the same angle as the Couch, film of TUM and a photo comparison convinces us more than ever that Novel is TUM. Mr. Preyer no doubt told you back in April that Novel is in a jail in Georgia, framed for a crime he and Jim Garrison, his former lawyer, both claim he didn't commit.

Best regards,

Dick Sprague

DS/mc

P.S. I am still waiting for a response to my letters to Louis Stokes about attending the hearings beginning August 14.

cc: L. Stokes  
R. Cutler

AS EVERYONE KNOWS, THE SINE QE NON OF THE WARREN COMMISSION'S, AND HSCOA'S FINDINGS THAT ONE AND ONLY ONE BULLET (C.E.#399) WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE NON-FATAL WOUNDS INFLICTED ON PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND GOVERNOR CONNALLY WAS TESTIFIED TO DR. THOMAS GUINN BEFORE THE HSCOA ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1978. HIS ANSWER WAS, IN AND OF ITSELF, DESTRUCTIVE TO THEIR FINDINGS ON THIS MATTER. I WILL NOW QUOTE FROM THE TAPE RECORDING OF THAT TESTIMONY..QUESTIONED BY STAFFER...  
Q- "AND I CLOSE WITH THIS QUESTION, DR GUINN. SINCE THERE WERE NO FRAGMENTS FROM PRESIDENT KENNEDY OTHER THAN SKULL SHOTS (PLURAL), IN ACTUAL FACT, USING YOUR SCIENTIFIC METHODS, YOU CANNOT SHED ANY LIGHT ON WHETHER OR NOT THE BULLET THAT PASSED THROUGH GOVERNOR CONNALLY ALSO PASSED THROUGH THE PRESIDENT. IS THAT A CORRECT STATEMENT?"

A- "THAT'S CORRECT! THESE RESULTS ONLY SHOW THAT THE 399 PRISTINE BULLET, SO CALLED SUCH A BULLET MATCHES THE FRAGMENTS IN HIS (CONNALLY'S) WRIST. THEY GIVE YOU NO INFORMATION WHATSOEVER ABOUT WHETHER THAT BULLET WENT THROUGH PRESIDENT KENNEDY SINCE IT LEFT NO TRACKS AND, FOR THAT MATTER, IT DOESN'T EVEN SAY THAT IT WENT THROUGH GOVERNOR CONNALLY, BECAUSE IT LEFT NO TRACKS THERE EITHER."

THIS ALARMING TESTIMONY, BY A QUALIFIED EXPERT ON BALLISTICS, ABSOLUTELY PROVES THAT THERE EXISTS NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER THAT THE "SINGLE BULLET THEORY" IS VIABLE, CORRECT OR SUBSTANTIATED!! THIS TESTIMONY, IN AND OF ITSELF, COMPLETELY DESTROYS NOT ONLY THE WARREN COMMISSIONS FINDING BUT ALSO THE HSCOA'S AS WELL!

THIS TESTIMONY BY DR. GUINN WAS UTTERED AFTER DR. GUINN ASSURED THE HOUSE COMMITTEE THAT HE PERSONALLY EMPLOYED THE USE OF, NOT ONLY SPECTOGRAPHY, BUT ALSO NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES AS WELL. AS EVERYONE KNOWS, THERE IS NO MORE DEFINITIVE TESTING AND ANALYSIS/RESULTS THAN THAT OBTAINED BY NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSIS EXAMINATIONS. AS ATTORNEYS PROCLAIM IN COURT CASES, I REST MY CASE, GENTLEMEN!!

193 Pinewood Road  
Hartsdale, New York 10530

September 22, 1978

Representative Yvonne Burke  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mrs. Burke:

I don't know whether you recall our meeting on July 21, 1977 when Jack White, Robert Groden and I made presentations to the J.F.K. subcommittee of the Select Committee on Assassinations. You may remember my showing a summary of photographic evidence of conspiracy in the Kennedy assassination. You asked some very pertinent questions which I answered about how to obtain films and photos from media organizations that were stonewalling at the time.

I am truly sorry that you have missed the first three weeks of the J.F.K. Hearings because I feel that your presence would have created at least a minority of one against the carefully orchestrated cover up that is now taking place. I had great faith in the committee, especially after a luncheon meeting with Louis Stokes in 1977 and after the presentation to you.

I want you personally to know that I have now lost all of that faith. The farce that is going on is really almost unbelievable to an honest researcher. All witnesses (except Cyril Wecht), all panels employed by the committee, the staff and the committee members doing the questioning, obviously made up their minds a long time ago that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin, that there was no conspiracy and that the Warren Commission was right.

I cannot understand how this came about. As the most likely committee member to still keep an open mind, I would like to ask your opinion.

*Yours sincerely,  
Dick Sprague*

Copy to L. Stokes - Sept 23, 1978

(TURN PAGE) →

|                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN    |                            |
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Select Committee on Assassinations  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 3360 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4824

October 10, 1978

Mr. Richard Sprague  
 193 Pinewood Road  
 Hartsdale, New York 10530

Dear Mr. Sprague:

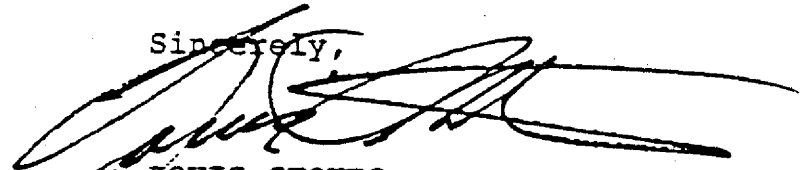
I was greatly disturbed by your letter of September 23, 1978 in which you stated that, "I have one last hope that what we are witnessing in your hearings is a charade meant to fool the FBI and the CIA. If it is, you have fooled me. If it is not, your statements to me over the past year about getting at the truth were all meaningless. I have lost all faith in you and the committee."

I must say that I deeply regret the fact that you have lost faith in the performance of my committee. We have attempted to do a thorough, competent and professional job which would be a source of pride for you and other concerned Americans.

I should state here for the record, Mr. Sprague, that I find nothing inconsistent in my statements to you over the year indicating that the committee would be seeking the truth and nothing but the truth during the course of the investigation and the testimony that the committee has received during its public hearings. Perhaps you are confused because I did not explicitly state that the truth the committee is seeking is not your truth or my truth, but truth supported by the weight of the evidence.

Thanks again for your past and current concerns. I assure you that the committee will make every effort to tell the whole story to the American people.

Sincerely,



LOUIS STOKES  
 Chairman

LS:icmj

193 Pinewood Road  
Hartsdale, NY 10530

October 30, 1978

Representative Louis Stokes  
Select Committee on Assassinations  
U. S. House of Representatives  
3369 House Office Building, Annex 2  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Louis:

I appreciate your responding to my September 23 letter. I am truly sorry to be so disturbing to you concerning the committee's hearings. I wish I could be more complimentary and positive about your work.

I could not agree with you more that the "truth supported by the weight of the evidence" is what we are all after. I'm enclosing for your information one more copy of the document I gave to Henry Gonzalez, Richard A. Sprague, Bob Tasenbaum, and you in 1976 and 1977.

Unless you call the witnesses listed on pages 4-6 of this document, Louis, you have not dealt with the most important evidence of all. How can you possibly claim to have unearthed anything approximating the truth, unless you and the rest of the committee interrogate with strength, the following important witnesses that you missed:

Richard Case Nagall, James P. Hosty, Louis Ivon, Victor Marchetti, Gordon Novel, Ronald Augustinovich, Mary Hope, Manuel Garcia Gonzalez, William Seymour, Emilio Santana, Guy Cabaldin, Major L.M. Bloomfield, Harry Williams, Sylvia Odio and Jim Garrison.

The document explains how each of these witnesses was involved in the assassination or investigations of it. It is based, not just on my research, but on painful hours of investigative efforts by many, many people, including Jim Garrison's professional staff, the Committee to Investigate Assassinations and others.

I understand that James P. Hosty is finally ready to tell his real story, at the risk of physical harm to

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himself and his family. You have not called him. Richard Case Nagell has been ready to testify for a long time. Despite my requests to Dr. Blakey and to you, he has not been called and no effort has been made to locate him through the only person who knows where he is, Dick Russell.

If you will pardon my saying so Louis, something about just those two failures stinks, not to mention all of the others.

It is not too late to save your reputations. You can still call those witnesses in December. I hope you do.

Yours sincerely,

Dick Sprague

193 Pinewood Road  
Hartdale, NY 10530

November 24, 1978

Representative Louis Stokes  
Select Committee on Assassinations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
3369 House Office Building, Annex 2  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Louis:

I am still waiting for a reply to my letter of October 30, 1978. I thought I should write again to remind you that the witnesses you should call in December are not going to be around much longer. I'm afraid that Gordon Noval, Richard Case Nagell, James Hosty and Warren de Bruceys, in particular may go the same way that Regis Kennedy, William Sullivan, and George de Mohrenschildt went. You really must call them before they die.

Regis Kennedy reportedly died of natural causes the day before you were to talk with him. I do not believe that. How many more key witnesses have to die before you would be convinced? Kennedy, de Bruceys and Hosty were Oswald's points of contact in the FBI, receiving his reports on the conspiratorial group planning JFK's assassination. I have known this since 1971 directly from Hosty's own lips via Carver Gaten and Jim Cochran. Regis Kennedy also knew why the FBI was searching for Clay Shaw under his alias Clay Bertrand in New Orleans, before Dean Andrews received that phone call from him about defending Oswald. Kennedy may also have been one of the three agents who took the Babushka lady's film away from her. At least she told me he was one of them from his photo.

So Regis Kennedy had to die. So do Warren de Bruceys and James Hosty. If they die of "natural causes" in the next month or two, don't say I didn't warn you.

Nagell and Noval are in even greater danger. Nagell may now be safe. He fled the country recently. However, the CIA has tentacles everywhere, so he will not really be safe

wherever he is. Novel could easily be killed, since he is in prison. That is one of the easiest places for the death squad to catch up with him.

As I have had told you in previous letters, the reason you must call Novel is that there is a very strong possibility that he is the umbrella man. If you laugh at that and try to tell me that you found the umbrella man, Mr. Witt, I'll laugh right back at you and tell you that farce you put on for the American public didn't fool anyone with his eyes even half way open. In addition to the obviously planned sequence of events and the way in which Mr. Witt surfaced, his umbrella was certainly not the one used in Dealey Plaza. It was the wrong size, had the wrong number of ribs, and was missing the two round white bulbs on either end when folded up.

No, Louis, Mr. Witt was either planted upon you or else your staff planted him. I'll give you the benefit of the doubt for the moment and assume that you do not know he was a plant. If you let it go as is, you and Mr. Preyer and the rest of the committee are going to look pretty silly.

You absolutely must call as witnesses, Gordon Novel, and at the other end, Charles Sensenay and the CIA people associated with Fort Detrick, Maryland, where that umbrella launching system was made. Incidentally, two Bulgarian intelligence agents have recently been assassinated in England with an umbrella weapon using poison flechettes, very similar to the one used on JFK.

I would appreciate a response to this letter telling me what you plan to do about those witnesses.

Best regards,

Dick Sprague



LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN

RICHARDSON PREYER, N.C.  
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Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3369 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

(202) 225-4624

December 4, 1978

Mr. Dick Sprague  
193 Pinewood Road  
Hartsdale, New York 10530

Dear Mr. Sprague:

Thank you for your letter of November 24, 1978.

I am aware of the amount of time you have spent analyzing the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and your interest in the work of the Select Committee on Assassinations since its inception.

However, I regret that under our Rules, it is impossible for us to respond to your letter in a manner which would reveal the substance or procedure of our investigation, or the names of those persons who will be called to testify before the committee.

The committee is, of course, grateful for your suggestions and those of the many other concerned citizens who have taken the time to write.

Sincerely,



LOUIS STOKES  
Chairman

LS:jl

# JFK Assassination FORUM

Number 32  
January 1979

If the two photographs below, which were published in the 15 January 1979 issue of Newsweek, depict Messrs Blakey and Stokes as somewhat dumbfounded and nonplussed, it is probably because they were as surprised as the rest of us, including the critical and research community, were, when the House Committee announced a conspiracy verdict in their Interim Report on the JFK and Martin Luther King assassinations!

Blakey, Stokes: A case for conspiracy



At this stage we cannot comment too much on this bombshell and must await the Final Report. The 600-page Report and up to 40(!) volumes of evidence, exhibits and scientific analysis is due to be published about 30 March. We will include all details, ordering information and costs etc. just as soon as we are advised.

It is impossible to believe that last-minute evidence by acoustic experts Weiss and Aschkenasy turned the Committee around. We were informed by reliable sources that, even as late as mid-December that they were headed towards a lone-assassin conclusion to their two-year probe and that massive segments of their Final Report had, in fact even been written BEFORE their Public Hearings into the JFK assassination commenced last September. What changed their minds to such a radical extent?

Ed Tatro's following article is an excellent examination but bear in mind two important points before becoming too estatic at the recent news. (1) The Committee have recommended that the inquiry into the true facts behind the Dallas murder now be handed over to the U.S. Justice Department for their action. If Robert Blakey is "rewarded" for his recent efforts as Chief Counsel to HSCA as the successor to Griffin Bell as Attorney-General he will AGAIN be in charge of any new official investigation. How about that?? (2) As the Committee have seemingly cleared of implication in the JFK assassination, any government agencies, the Soviet and Cuban governments, Organized Crime and anti-Castro Cuban groups, just who does that leave as the possible assassins?

Of course, as Richardson Preyer (Chairman of the JFK Subcommittee) and the (London) Observer columnist Laurence Marks have pointed out - the Dealey Plaza ambush could "be a conspiracy of two lone nuts."

Enough said - for the moment!!

AN OVERVIEW OF THE HSCA PUBLIC HEARINGS

by Edgar F. Tatro

Although my occupation has not allowed me to keep as vigilant a watch on the House Select Committee on Assassinations as I would have liked,

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I saw, heard, and read enough to obtain an overview of what took place and I didn't like it. If it were not for the diligent and meticulous acoustical experts, Dr Weiss, Ernest Aschkenasy and Dr Barger, and their efforts, the Warren Commission would have been almost totally reincarnated, give or take a few lies. At any rate, all members of the "critics", big and small contributors, deserve an apology from the government, the media and all those closed-minded, allegedly patriotic, but actually gullible and blind individuals who derided us and threatened us by various means for years. Since little has been truly developed that various critics hadn't already determined before, I, for one, wouldn't accept it anyway, but out of a burning, self-righteous pride, I'd like to hear a mass apology.

Where to begin a diatribe directed at the HSCA is difficult, since there is so much to criticize ~~(even before their report is published)~~. The cursory examination of Commander James J. Humes, who conducted a medical "fiasco" which was politely termed an "autopsy" and the lack of extensive ballistics tests to demonstrate that CE399, the magic bullet of the even more mythical and absurd single bullet theory, was even remotely possible is absolutely inexcusable and unforgivable for all time.

The friendly treatment of Commander Humes was an indication of another Warren Commission trend into which HSCA would trap itself. As its predecessor, the Congressional investigators, whether conscious of it or not, divided witnesses into friendly and unfriendly camps. Humes was merely toyed with for ten minutes whereas individuals such as Dr Cyril Wecht and Dr Mark Weiss, whose testimony indicated conspiracy, were relentlessly interrogated for hours. Dr Wecht, who in my opinion was treated more like a criminal than a Forensic Pathologist, didn't crack under the pressure, so he was merely ignored. Instead of allowing logic and common sense to prevail over the medical evidence, a popularity vote of eight to one decided the issue for the Committee. The Acoustical experts, fortunately, couldn't be ignored or dismissed, although a Chicago firm gave it their best effort to challenge those findings, but failed to do so.

On the other hand, "The Umbrella Man" - allegedly, L. Stephen Witt - was trusted beyond belief. The Committee believed, in fact, that he was "The Umbrella Man", believed that the umbrella he presented to them was the same one in question, and believed his far-fetched, albeit possible explanation for his actions apparently without any substantiation to support any of his contentions. Now, I have no opinion as to the guilt or innocence of "The Umbrella Man", but I do not appreciate the superficial manner with which he was treated. I found Representative Stokes' feeble attempt at humour when he suggested that the umbrella be pointed away from himself when it was opened for display as distasteful. If Witt had employed an umbrella gun on November 22, 1963, would he have been stupid enough to bring it with him to Washington? If the umbrella was a visual coordination signal to others, what would opening it now prove? This was intended to be a mature investigation into the assassination of the President of the United States, not a cartoon carnival.

If the parading of the alleged "Umbrella Man" before the public was an attempt to "get the critics", such a practice is also distasteful, and downright disgraceful. Robert Cutler, key author of the umbrella research, has steadfastly analyzed and researched this case for many years. The "critical community" should be applauded for turning over every rock and inspecting every scintilla of evidence, not ridiculed if one concept does not hit paydirt. Would it have been wise to ignore the possible ramifications of such an odd character with an umbrella in 65° weather on a sunny day? Finally, I vehemently deplored Stokes' praising of Witt as if he had performed a great duty for his country and contributed to the investigation when just minutes before he had candidly admitted that he would not have voluntarily stepped forward even if he had known they were

looking for him. Stokes' praising of a man for obeying a legal subpoena can only be compared to the plastic compliments dished out every day on Hollywood's bland TV talk shows.

The one aspect of the "Umbrella Man" scenario of which I did approve was his photograph being published by the mass media as a last ditch effort to identify and subsequently subpoena him. As a rule of thumb, such a method might be dangerous, but fifteen years have passed us by so it was a "nothing ventured, nothing gained" proposal. I don't understand why photos of other potentially key unidentified figures were not published for the same purpose. Why weren't all the unknown mystery men, some arrested, some not, of that day, published along with the "Umbrella Man's" photo? Unless there are some solid leads privately available - ~~(I do know of two such cases)~~ - I can't comprehend why only the "Umbrella Man" along with another photo and one composite drawing were isolated. Was that just a propaganda game?

~~There are many other things that puzzle me about this Congressional Investigation.~~ I don't understand how the eight forensic pathologists who essentially support the Warren Report were selected and how they could legitimately support those conclusions. I do know that some of these men have close associations with previous government panel medical judges. Regardless of their motives, Dr Cyril Wecht made a shambles of the single bullet theory and properly chastised the Committee for the absence of new ballistics tests, properly performed this time. I don't understand how forensic pathologists, Dr John Nichols and Dr Charles Wilber, who have both published irrefutable medical evidence citing conspiracy, cover-up and possible fabrication of medical materials, could be ignored.

Likewise I question why I should trust the ballistics experts brought in, when I know other experts, who are equally qualified, who adamantly disagree with these officials who were allowed to testify. I question the validity of the Neutron Activation Analysis by Dr Vincent Guinn. Harold Weisberg's criticisms of Guinn's previous connection to the original investigation are sound. I also question if it is convenient that the Tague curb scar, which has long been suspected as another assassin's responsibility, no longer possesses sufficient metal for testing. ~~It is~~ ~~the~~ ~~old~~ ~~ploy~~ ~~of~~ ~~stacking~~ ~~the~~ ~~deck~~ ~~was~~ ~~displayed~~ ~~in~~ ~~full~~ ~~force~~ ~~again.~~

I am curious to know why Sylvia Duran, the key witness as to whether Oswald ever visited the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City, did not testify. We now know that the Mexico City phone tape was NOT Oswald's voice. We have known since the beginning that the Mexico City photos were NOT Oswald's mug, but the face of a still-unidentified man. Critics have reasonably questioned the possibility of an Oswald impersonator or impersonators. The fingerprint, body scars and height discrepancies, and even Hoover's documented suspicion mandate that Sylvia Duran ~~heard~~ ~~any~~ ~~of~~ ~~us~~ ~~be~~ ~~sure~~ ~~that~~ ~~Oswald~~ ~~is~~ ~~Oswald's~~ ~~grave?~~ ~~I~~ ~~know~~ ~~how~~ ~~to~~ ~~find~~ ~~it~~ ~~but~~ ~~wouldn't~~ ~~it~~ ~~be~~ ~~easy~~ ~~to~~ ~~know~~ ~~and~~ ~~not~~ ~~blame~~ ~~me?~~ **SHOULD HAVE BEEN**

I can't believe that the HSCA can rule out any organization as conspiring to kill President Kennedy, particularly since they can't name another gunman. Such reasoning is absurd. The intricate labyrinth of names and associations pertaining to this case and other political crimes exposed by Peter Dale Scott, George M. Evica, Robert Sam Anson and others is overwhelming. How could any committee make such a naive statement and consider itself honest and rational? Stokes admits that the CIA, the FBI and the Secret Service did a lousy job, but that there was no deliberate cover-up. Will someone please define "deliberate" for me? Orwell's "two plus two is five" has come home to roost!

A few other points of wonder come to mind. I wonder why the Committee

felt the motorcyclist "accidentaly" left on his Channel One button. I wonder if the wayward Police motorcyclist who left the motorcade route has been ignored. I found Chief Counsel Blakey's hypothetical conclusion, based upon not even a shread of evidence or testimony, that Robert Kennedy destroyed his brother's brain and brain tissue slides, absolutely incredible. It's amazing how these people only accuse the dead!

I wonder how any sane member of that Committee thinks they have satisfactorily answered all the questions pertaining to all the untimely deaths of the last decade and a half by showing that the 100,000 trillion to one odds that these deaths were of an innocent nature was an inaccurate compilation. That was the greatest piece of statistical gobbledygook I have ever heard in my lifetime. Either investigate the particular murders in question or just plain shut up. Numerical fallacious arguments prove nothing and waste valuable time, money and manpower.

I wonder if all the materials submitted to either Representative Gonzalez and/or former Chief Counsel Richard A. Sprague, who both resigned, made it to the appropriate hands when Blakey took command, assuming one might call him "appropriate". I wonder if Image Enhancement was performed on the photo and blow-ups showing a man-like figure holding a rifle-like object on the grassy knoll south, the knoll across from the famous one, ~~the knoll across from the famous one~~. The figure was discovered by diligent researcher Emory Brown. I wonder how the Committee can still justify their case against Lee Harvey Oswald, if they have carefully inspected the palmprint, the paperbag, the curtain rods photos, the perch photos, the ammunition source, the postal receipt discrepancies, the Givens' story, the Riva modification rifle source, the notorious Oswald photos, ad nauseum. Was the dedicated and prolific work of Harold Weisberg, ~~the dedicated and prolific work of Harold Weisberg~~, Mark Lane, Josiah Thompson, Fred Newcomb and others simply buried at the outset?

*Richard E. Sprague*

I realise that government cannot investigate the government. Leon Jaworski is three time losing proof of that. However, I shiver at the possible depths of this committee's conflict of interest. Mark Lane ~~stated on Radio~~ stated on Radio that Representative Dodd was a law partner of the former FBI Head, L. Patrick Gray, of notorious Watergate fame. I have read published reports that G. Robert Blakey had previous legal associations not only with Louis Nizer, the Warren Report preface writer, but also with Moe Dalitz who is reputed to be the Head of the Syndicate in Cleveland. Carl Oglesby reminds us that a Dalitz associate's name was discovered in Jack Ruby's address book. If true, what a mess!

Maybe much of what I have written will be easily dismissed when the HSCA Final Report is published, but I seriously doubt it. I hope that they will make everything available to those of us concerned, but I doubt that too. There is something quite twisted in the fact that we have to pay out money to purchase ~~reports and documents~~ reports and documents which show that we have been diddled with again. ~~That which will be accomplished by the Justice Department and the FBI with the material which ends up in their hands. After all, they are part of the disease, not the cure!~~ Justice Department spokesmen have ~~already~~ expressed publicly their lack of desire to pursue the case. Thus, the CIA, ~~the FBI, the CIA, the FBI, the CIA, the FBI~~ can smile once again, as if they had ~~ever~~ stopped smiling.

However, one good thing came out of all of this. The old rogues are ~~retiring or dying off, or in some cases, being picked off. Their replacements are filling in. At least we will know who the new creeps are to whom we will need to devote our attention.~~ *OPERATORS OF THE CRIME*

Edited & published by: Harry Irwin, 32 Ravensdene Crescent, Ravenhill, Belfast BT6 ODB.

*Thanks to Blakey & Company*

# Crime

## 'Kennedy Probably Assassinated As Result of A Conspiracy!'

*Assassinations Committee report takes world by surprise*

The report by the House Assassinations Committee, released at the end of the year, concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald was probably not alone in the responsibility for the murder of John F. Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

The \$5.8 million investigation also differed with the FBI and other government agencies in their conclusion that James Earl Ray was alone in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, April 4, 1968.

Although the committee had been leaning toward the conspiracy theory, it was the acoustical evidence presented by the same firm which exposed the 18-second gap in the infamous Watergate tape, which apparently tipped the scales. Two experts from the firm testified at the committee's final hearing on Thursday, December 28, on their analysis of a recording made from an open police microphone on Dealy Plaza. The experts swore with a 95 percent certainty that there were not three but four shots fired that day, and that the fourth may have come from the famous grassy knoll!

In our last issue of JILE we reported on the dissenting testimony of Doctor Cyril H. Wecht, Coroner at Pittsburg, and head of the Pittsburg Pathology and Toxicology Laboratory. While the national media made light of Wecht's dissenting testimony and exhibits, JILE chose to present his views because to us they represented logical answers to the perplexing unanswered questions. Perhaps now Doctor Wecht's thinking will be better received.

The interim report calls upon the Justice Department to consider reopening the two murder cases, and to re-evaluate its procedures for handling assassinations. Specifically it calls upon the Justice Department to make full use of the resources of other governmental agencies and of technological and scientific evidence.

"The Committee believes, on the basis of the evidence available to it, that President John F. Kennedy was probably assassinated as a result of a conspiracy.

The committee is unable to identify the other gunman, or the extent of the conspiracy," said the panel known officially as the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

The committee did say that it believed that neither the Soviet or Cuban governments were involved in the Kennedy murder but, "the available evidence does not preclude the possibility that individual members, (Cubans), may have been involved."

### Oswald, Ruby, and New Orleans Crime Czar Carlos Marcello Linked?

The final report of the committee will say that it cannot resolve testimony which indicated that Oswald and Ruby were somehow linked to the New Orleans crime chief. In the final report the committee will assert that a number of "respected citizens" of Clinton, Louisiana testified before the committee that they were certain of associations and meetings between Oswald and one David Ferric, a known employee and associate of Marcello.

The Clinton residents first testified at a trial which generally discredited former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. Garrison was perhaps the first public official to go public with the theory of Cuban/organized crime involvement in the Kennedy murder.

The committee said it did not believe Cuban groups opposed to the government of Fidel Castro were involved in the Kennedy murder, "but the available evidence does not preclude the possibility that individual members may have been involved."

Similarly, the committee said it did not believe that "the national crime syndicate of organized crime was involved as a group, although individual members might have been."

The panel stated flatly that the Secret Service, FBI, and the CIA were not involved in the murder. It did point out that in its opinion, the Secret Service

"was deficient in the performance of its duties."

Specifically, the committee said their investigation showed the Secret Service failed to properly analyze information which was available to it in connection with Kennedy's trip to Dallas. It also pointed out that the Secret Service agents in the motorcade "were inadequately prepared to protect the president from a sniper." The report also scores the Justice Department for "failing to exercise initiative" in assuming control of the FBI's work in investigating the murder. It also scored the FBI for "performing with varying degrees of competency."

The panel said the FBI adequately investigated Oswald both before and after the murder, but that "it failed to investigate adequately the possibility of a conspiracy to assassinate the president." The committee scored the FBI for not sharing information more freely with other concerned government agencies.

The committee report also gave failing marks to the Warren Commission, appointed by President Johnson and headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren. The report allows that the Warren Commission conducted a thorough investigation of Oswald, but failed to thoroughly investigate the possibility of a conspiracy.

"This deficiency was attributable, in part, to the failure of the Commission to receive all the relevant information that was in the possession of other agencies and departments of the government," the panel said. This would refer to the fact brought out in testimony before the House Committee that the CIA had been aware of assassination plots against Castro at the time Oswald visited the Cuban embassy in Mexico City. The CIA failed to tell the Warren Commission about it.

Join  
**I.P.P.A.**

Use membership  
application on page 2

UPI 9N  
BULLETIN

1ST LEAD SHOOTING

DALLAS, NOV. 22 (UPI)-- PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND GOV. JOHN B. CONNALLY OF TEXAS WERE CUTDOWN BY AN ASSASIN'S BULLETS AS THEY TOURED DOWNTOWN DALLAS IN AN OPEN AUTOMOBILE TODAY.

MORE JT 1241PCS

UPI AION DA

1ST ADD 1ST LEAD SHOOTING DALLAS (9N DALLAS XX TODAY. THE PRESIDENT, HIS LIMP BODY CRADLED IN THE ARMS OF HIS WIFE, WAS RUSHED TO PARKLAND HOSPITAL. THE GOVERNOR ALSO WAS TAKEN TO PARKLAND.

CLINT HILL, A SECRET SERVICE AGENT ASSIGNED TO MRS. KENNEDY, SAID "HE'S DEAD," AS THE PRESIDENT WAS LIFTED FROM THE REAR OF THE WHITE HOUSE TOURING CAR, THE FAMOUS "BUBBLETOP" FROM WASHINGTON. HE WAS RUSHED TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM IN THE HOSPITAL.

OTHER WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS WERE IN DOUBT AS THE CORRIDORS OF THE HOSPITAL ERUPTED IN PANDEMONIUM.

THE INCIDENT OCCURRED JUST EAST OF THE TRIPPLE UNDERPASS FACING A PARK IN DOWNTOWN DALLAS.

REPORTERS ABOUT FIVE CAR LENGTHS BEHIND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE HEAR  
MORE 144PES

UPI A11N DA

2ND ASS 1ST LEAD SHOOTING (9N DALLAS) XXX DALLAS.

REPORTERS ABOUT FIVE CAR LENGTHS BEHIND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE HEARD WHAT WOUNDED LIKE THREE BURST OF GUNFIRE.

SECRET SERVICE AGENTS IN A FOLLOW-UP CAR QUICKLY UNLIMBERED THEIR AUTOMATIC RIFLES.

THEY DREW THEIR PISTOLS, BUT THE DAMAGE WAS DONE.

THE PRESIDENT WAS SLUMPED OVER IN THE BACKSEAT OF THE CAR FACE DOWN. CONNALLY LAY ON THE FLOOR OF THE REAR SEAT.

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL AT  
MORE 145PES

UPI A12N DA

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL AT ONCE WHERE KENNEDY WAS HIT, BUT BULLET WOUNDS IN CONNALLY'S CHEST WERE PLAINLY VISIBLE, INDICATING THE GUNFIRE MIGHT POSSIBLY HAVE COME FROM AN AUTOMATIC WEAPON.

THERE WERE THREE LOUD BURSTS.

DALLAS MOTORCYCLE OFFICERS ESCORTING THE PRESIDENT QUICKLY LEAPED FROM THEIR BIKES AND RACED UP A GRASSY HILL.

# House Assassinations Probe

## A Challenge for America

*From the House Assassinations Committee probe*

By U. S. Congressman Floyd J. Fithian

It has been more than 15 years since the murder of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas. Because of its impact on the course of world history, the assassination has been viewed by many as the most heinous crime of recent time.

Yet we cannot say today with any degree of certainty that we know why John Kennedy was killed. Evidence proves beyond a reasonable doubt that shots fired by Lee Harvey Oswald from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository were responsible for the president's death, but we cannot name any other individuals involved with Oswald in the apparent conspiracy to commit the murder.

As a member of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, I believe the remaining questions pose a challenge to this nation — a challenge which results from what we learned during our two-year probe of the deaths of President Kennedy and the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

Until 1976, I was one of the citizens who resisted the notion of re-examining the Kennedy assassination. As an historian, I knew that every generation formulates conspiracy theories to explain the assassinations of prior generations. I told those who questioned me about the issue that although the Warren Commission may not have gone far enough in its investigation, reopening the probe at this time seemed likely to be unproductive.

But when I was pressed by some young constituents — students at Purdue University who had studied the "critical literature" and viewed the Zapruder film — I realized that many unanswered questions deserved further scrutiny. A Gallup Poll released in December 1976 indicated that 81 percent of the American people believed that individuals other than Lee Harvey Oswald, whom the Warren Commission identified as the lone assassin, were involved in the slaying. So when the House faced a vote on whether or not to establish a select

committee with a charge to investigate the Kennedy and King killings, I voted with the majority in favor of the new panel. At the opening of the 95th Congress, I was appointed as one of the committee's 12 members, perhaps because of my prior professional experience as a historian and archival researcher.

*Indiana Congressman Floyd J. Fithian served for two years as a member of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, charged with investigating the murders of President John F. Kennedy and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*A professional historian before his election to Congress in 1974, Fithian brought a solid background in research and analytical ability to the committee. His skills in cross-examination opened areas of understanding in both the Kennedy and King cases, and he is credited with playing a key role in convincing the committee to pursue acoustical tests which proved the existence of a second gunman in Dealy Plaza.*

*Fithian is a member of the House Committees on Agriculture and Government Operations. He is a 20-year veteran of the Navy and Naval*

staff worked quietly outside the public view. Our meetings, almost always in executive session, enabled the committee to function much as a grand jury would. We received testimony behind closed doors, we counseled among ourselves, but our work was not yet to the stage where public attention would be appropriate.

Once the bulk of evidence had been assembled, the committee began public hearings. In August and mid-November, we focused on the murder of Dr. King. We questioned James Earl Ray, who has recanted his murder confession and now seeks a new trial, and we investigated his family and known associates. Through



*Representative Floyd Fithian Reserve and has lived on a farm most of his life. He still owns farmland near Buck Creek in Tippecanoe County.*

After some initial fireworks resulting from a personal dispute between the committee chairman and chief counsel — both of whom subsequently resigned — the committee assembled a staff of investigators, attorneys, and researchers and began months of painstaking work.

Hundreds of volumes of agency files were carefully scrutinized. Thousands of witnesses were interviewed around the world, and sworn testimony was taken from many of them (including some who were unwilling to cooperate). Physical evidence was minutely examined with sophisticated equipment and techniques, the most advanced currently available.

Throughout 1977 and into the summer of 1978, the committee and its

extensive field investigation, the committee was able to destroy Ray's alibis and provide evidence that he had, in fact, stalked Dr. King across the country in the weeks prior to August 8, 1968, the day Dr. King was shot and killed in Memphis. We concluded that Ray was involved in a conspiracy to kill Dr. King, but that the lone assassin on that day in Memphis was, in fact, James Earl Ray. The evidence is so complete as to make this conclusion irrefutable.

We pursued a similar course in investigating the Kennedy assassination. Our work was largely behind the scenes until the public hearings began. Over the two-year investigation, the committee received testimony from the witnesses of all character: former President Gerald



# House Assassinations Probe

Ford, who was a member of the Warren Commission; Cuban Premier Fidel Castro; powerful and minor figures in organized crime; Marina Oswald Porter, who was married to the alleged assassin; John Connally, who rode in the limousine with the president and was also hit by gunfire in Dealy Plaza; and teams of scientific experts in such fields as ballistics, pathology, acoustics, photo analysis, and neutron activation analysis.

The public hearings were only a part of the wide-ranging work of the committee. What began to emerge from the hearings on the Kennedy murder was the outline of a report similar in conclusion to that of the Warren Commission: that the available evidence could not prove the involvement of anyone other than Lee Harvey Oswald in the assassination, and that he, acting alone, had killed President Kennedy.

In the final days of the committee's statutory life, however, a startling scientific finding emerged. Acoustical tests of a tape recording made at the time of the assassination pointed to a 95 percent probability that four shots had been fired at the presidential motorcade in Dealy Plaza — not three, as the Warren Commission had concluded. The tests fixed the third of the four shots as coming not from Oswald's perch in the

Texas School Book Depository, but from a grassy knoll in front of the president's limousine. That shot did not hit the president, the experts testified, but the evidence that the shot had, in fact, been fired appeared uncontrovertible.

None of the committee's other evidence precluded the possibility of a conspiracy. With this new evidence based on acoustical science, we were able to conclude that John Kennedy probably had been the victim of a conspiracy to commit murder — although participants in the conspiracy other than Lee Harvey Oswald cannot be determined.

Assassination "buffs" over the years have speculated on a variety of conspiracy theories. This speculation has led to lucrative book contracts and lecture tours for more than a few individuals.

Some have claimed that President Kennedy was killed by anti-Castro Cubans, whose motive might have been their anger over the United States' failure to support the invasion force which resulted in the Bay of Pigs tragedy. Some have seen conspirators in the governments of the Soviet Union or Cuba or in U.S. government entities such as the CIA, the Secret Service or the FBI. Some have argued that Kennedy was killed by elements of organized crime who were

feeling the impact of toughened Justice Department investigation and prosecution under Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

Based on one of the most extensive criminal investigations in modern history, the committee concluded that the governments of Cuba and the Soviet Union were "not involved" in the assassination, according to the official findings; nor were U.S. government agencies.

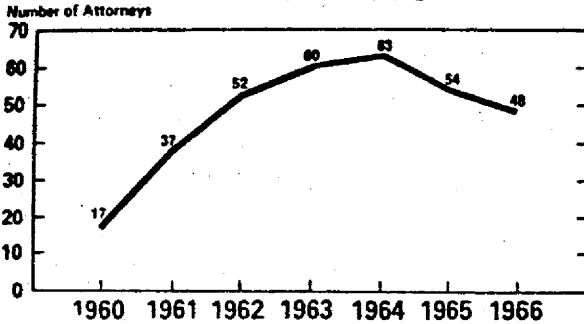
But the possibility of involvement in the conspiracy by individuals in anti-Castro Cuban groups was not ruled out. And in the 17-page summary of findings released on December 31, 1978, the committee concluded:

*The Committee believes, on the basis of the evidence available to it, that the national syndicate of organized crime, as a group, was not involved in the assassination of President Kennedy, but the available evidence does not preclude the possibility that individual members may have been included.*

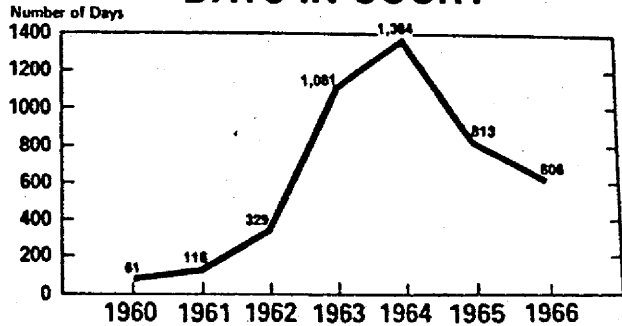
As an individual member of the committee, I am convinced that our best chance of discovering who was behind the conspiracy to kill President Kennedy rests in a continued investigation of organized crime. The question of whether organized crime figures were

## Organized Crime Program

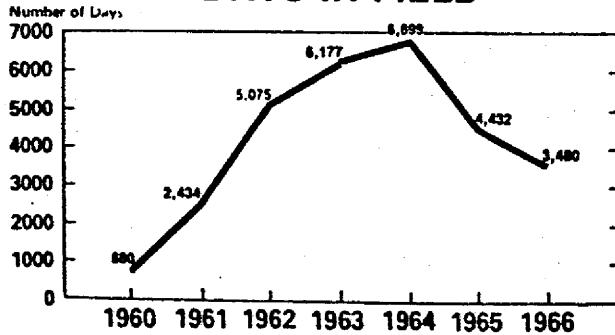
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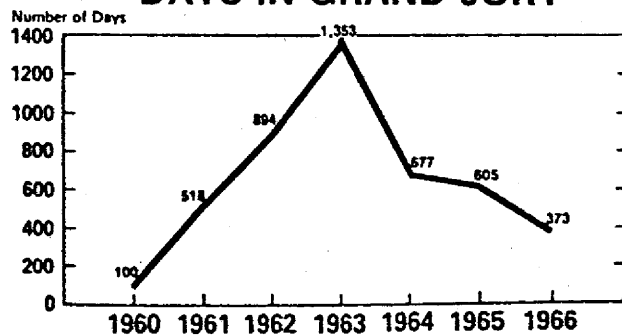
### DAYS IN COURT



### DAYS IN FIELD



### DAYS IN GRAND JURY



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice.

# House Assassinations Probe

involved in the plot to kill the president is no longer academic, as a result of the circumstantial evidence developed by the committee during its probe.

The evidence, all of which will be released this spring in the committee's multiple-volume final report, includes a great deal of troubling material pointing to possible involvement in the murder by organized crime figures. Although association by itself does not imply conspiracy, the evidence now available raises some questions which merit further investigation by the Justice Department:

— Largely unnoticed by the Warren Commission is a significant amount of evidence linking Oswald to known figures in organized crime, particularly during the time he spent in New Orleans.

— Jack Ruby, Oswald's murderer, was deeply involved with organized crime, and he had significant contact with individuals acquainted with Oswald.

— La Cosa Nostra's plans to kill Fidel Castro, with the cooperation of the CIA, establish the fact that organized crime figures would not hesitate to kill a political leader — even a chief of state — to further their objectives.

— Organized crime had a practical motive to seek a quick end to the Kennedy administration. An examination of Justice Department statistics indicates a dramatic increase in successful government efforts against organized crime from 1961 to 1964 — a trend which dropped off sharply after the end of the Kennedy presidency.

Organized crime had the *means* to kill John Kennedy. It had a  *motive*. And it had the  *opportunity*.

When the committee set out to investigate organized crime, it established a crack task force within the staff. Field investigators were dispatched throughout the country and, in some cases, to other parts of the world. Some of the investigators were employees of local police departments temporarily detailed to the HSCA investigation. As a special consultant, we hired Ralph Salerno, who had been the chief investigator of organized crime for the New York City Police Department. In fact, on the day of Salerno's retirement from his post as NYPD Supervisor of Detectives, the New York Times commented that he perhaps knew more about La Cosa Nostra than any nonmember in the United States. His research for the committee was of vital importance.

Most traditional investigative techniques — such as following leads and obtaining voluntary testimony from

witnesses — yielded little in this phase of the investigation.

Skillful interrogation elicited only the most meager information from witnesses, who understandably feared retaliation if they talked too much. I'm sure many potential witnesses recalled the fate of Johnny Roselli, the reputed associate of Chicago Mafia boss Sam Giancana. On the eve of his testimony before the Senate's Church Committee in 1975, where he was to testify about Mafia-CIA operations, Roselli disappeared. It wasn't until several months later that his body was found, cut into pieces and stuffed in an oil drum, floating in a Florida canal.

The traditional committee hearing produced little valuable information from organized crime figures. Carlos Marcello, alleged to be the second most powerful organized crime leader in the United States, listed his occupation before the committee as a "vegetable merchant." Santos Trafficante, probably number three in the current LCN pecking order nationwide, told us that he was retired, and pleaded ignorance of answers to all but the most innocuous questions.

But the committee could use a number of investigative tools which are not ordinarily available to law enforcement agencies or prosecutors. Since our investigation was a legislative fact-gathering probe rather than a criminal investigation aimed at prosecuting someone, we could use some valuable and perhaps unusual techniques.

Court-accepted rules of evidence did

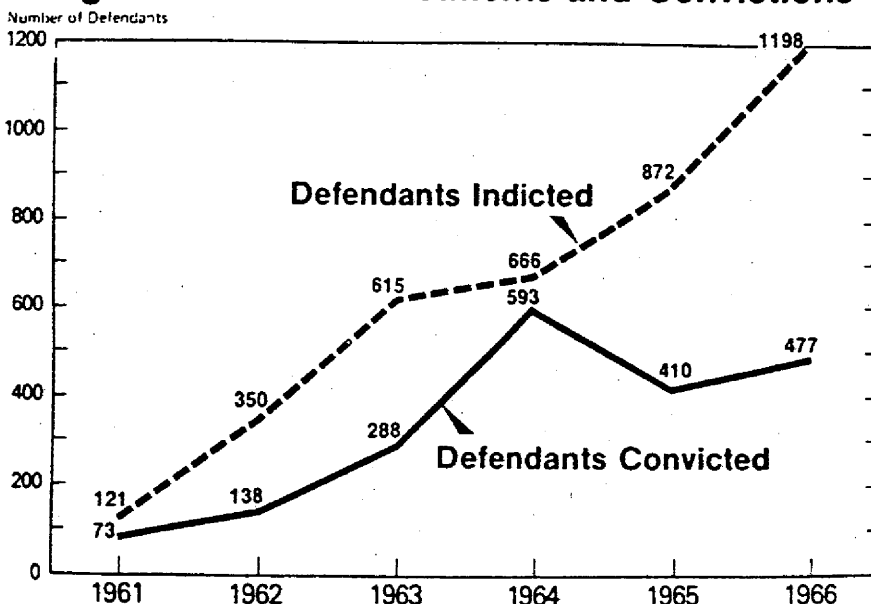
not apply to the committee's work. Material which for one reason or another would have been suppressed in a court of law was vital to our probe, and it was introduced into the record. This imposed on the committee a unique responsibility to screen and carefully weigh the evidence presented to it for its credibility. Although some "bum" evidence was received, the overall result was a more complete picture of organized crime as a whole. For example, we were able to make extensive use of transcripts of wiretaps made before and after the assassination, some involving key crime figures.

We found the congressional subpoena an especially valuable tool to obtain the testimony of figures such as Trafficante, the reputed crime boss from Florida. We used the threat of a contempt of Congress citation to compel more than one witness to answer questions which we posed in closed-door sessions.

We also made extensive use of so-called "use immunity" — a practice made possible through the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970. Federal legislation to authorize "use immunity," incidentally, was originally proposed by Attorney General Robert Kennedy in 1963.

"Use immunity" promotes witness cooperation by offering a built-in incentive for the witness to testify with as much detail as possible. Unlike the common "transactional immunity," through which witnesses are immunized from prosecution on crimes about which

## Organized Crime Indictments and Convictions



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Justice.

# House Assassinations Probe

they testify, "use immunity" blocks a prosecutor from using any of the specific evidence cited by the witness in any subsequent prosecution of that witness.

As HSCA Chief Counsel Robert Blakey observed: "Since use immunity imposes a burden on the prosecution to demonstrate that all of the evidence it introduces against an immunized witness was obtained independently of the immunized testimony, the witness vastly increases the prosecutor's burden by including more and more information in his testimony. In short, a witness' protection under use immunity is only as good as his testimony is detailed."

The committee found especially valuable the transcripts of wiretaps from an 18-month period surrounding the Kennedy assassination, which were reviewed and analyzed by Ralph Salerno.

by informants for the first time. Wiretaps had been placed on key crime leaders nationwide. Prosecution of figures in La Cosa Nostra was increasing dramatically. As Ralph Salerno observed: "The end of an era had come, and they recognized it. A tremendous financial empire was being very seriously threatened."

And those involved in organized crime — from family leaders on the national "commission" to hoodlums on the street — were aware of how badly they were being hurt by the Kennedy push against organized crime.

Wiretap transcripts provide insight into that recognition. New York crime leader Michelino Clemente told friends on May 2, 1962:

*Bob Kennedy won't stop today until he puts us all in jail all over the country. Until the Commission meets*

*(obscenity). . . Do you know what this man is going to do? He ain't going to leave nobody alone.*

Journalist Jack Anderson concluded, rightly, in January of 1962: "Organized crime is under attack. For the first time, the full forces of the federal government have been thrown into the battle against it."

And it appeared that things would get worse for La Cosa Nostra. Just a month before his brother's assassination, Attorney General Kennedy had gone before Congress to ask for more legislative tools to fight organized crime. He had asked Congress to authorize an electronic surveillance law, and he wanted an immunity statute which would compel testimony (which we finally got in 1970, after both brothers were dead).

So in November of 1963 — with John Kennedy in the White House and his brother running the Justice Department — the picture for organized crime was very bleak, indeed. Bleak enough, in my opinion, for individual members of organized crime to seriously consider killing the president.

For if John Kennedy no longer sat in the Oval Office, it would only be a matter of time before his brother would leave the Justice Department. The enmity between Bobby Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon Johnson was well-known.

So organized crime had a motive to assassinate the president. Other evidence developed by the committee and by the critical community points to the means that could have been used, and prove that the opportunity was available.

But as with many investigations of organized crime, the evidence available is circumstantial. And many of the individuals whose knowledge might provide the missing links in the investigation are now dead. Who knows what the committee may have been able to piece together if men such as John Roselli, or Sam Giancana, or Jimmy Hoffa, or even J. Edgar Hoover, were still alive? The remaining questions may never be resolved, and historians doubtless will debate the issue for years to come.

But anyone who examines the evidence accumulated by the committee, including all of the scientific data in our final report, cannot seriously doubt that the bullets which killed John Kennedy were fired by Lee Harvey Oswald from that warehouse window. Those who claim otherwise either do not understand the scientific data or, as in the case of pathologist Cyril Wecht, choose to ignore it for personal reasons. Most of the questions which have troubled these assassination "buffs" for many years



During a break in the committee hearing, Representative Fithian (center) confers with the chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, Representative Louis Stokes of Ohio (left), as special counsel I. Charles Mathews (between Stokes and Fithian) and G. Robert Blakey (right), chief counsel and director of the committee investigation listen in.

These transcripts provide the best inside look at LaCosa Nostra since the congressional testimony of mafioso Joe Valachi shortly before the Kennedy assassination. And they offer evidence of organized crime's motive to kill John Kennedy.

Organized crime was being hurt by the Kennedy Administration — badly. Under Attorney General Robert Kennedy, who operated with the full confidence of his brother in the White House, the Justice Department had launched a massive battle against organized crime.

The organization had been penetrated

*and puts its foot down, things will be at a standstill.*

A few months earlier, the organized crime kingpin of Philadelphia had told a business associate:

*See what Kennedy done. With Kennedy, a guy should take a knife, like one of them other guys, and stab and kill the (obscenity), where he is now. Somebody should kill the (obscenity). I mean it. This is true. Honest to God. It's about time to go. But I tell you something. I hope I get a week's notice. I'll kill. Right in the (obscenity) White House. Somebody's got to get rid of this*

# House Assassinations Probe

have been answered by our investigation.

In light of our findings, a larger question looms before us as concerned American citizens. Whether or not La Cosa Nostra plotted to kill President Kennedy to end the federal government's stranglehold on organized crime, the ultimate goal was accomplished shortly after Kennedy's death. Statistics

Administration, is nothing short of public and official apathy.

Our question today, then, is whether or not we are willing to pick up the banner which fell 15 years ago in Dallas. Our challenge is to renew the war on organized crime, at whatever cost, to eliminate this cancer from our society. And each of us has a role to play.

First, we must develop citizen

fought for. We have more sophisticated scientific techniques which could be used, and we have a better basic understanding of La Cosa Nostra from which to begin. All that we lack is the commitment to get the job done.

If organized crime posed a challenge to our society in the early 1960s, it is an even greater threat today. It remains the "private government" which Attorney General Kennedy warned us about. It remains unaccountable for its actions. It still rests, as Robert Kennedy said, "on a



Representative Floyd Fithian at House Select Committee on Assassinations hearings.

demonstrate what law enforcement officers who worked on organized crime during that period recall so well: after the Kennedy administration, the war on organized crime was reduced to a skirmish. The number of personnel working in the Justice Department's organized crime program was reduced, as was the effectiveness of their prosecution and investigation.

Ralph Salerno was leading the NYPD organized crime strike force at the time of the president's death, and his testimony before our committee shed light on what happened after that dark day in Dallas:

*Following the death of the president, my unit in the New York City Police Department was not reduced. FBI men were not transferred en masse to do something else. But the leadership was not there. The driving force was not there, and the commitment in government at a very high level was not there. I believe that is reflected in those (statistics) more than anything else.*

Since the mid-1960s, organized crime has been free to operate in the United States in an atmosphere which, when compared to that in the Kennedy

support for the war on crime. Especially in light of present budget constraints, any move to upgrade the effort against organized crime must begin at the grassroots level. Only an energized and involved citizenry can propel national leaders into action on this matter.

Second, we need to have better cooperation among various federal agencies and among federal, state, and local units of government. That was one key to Kennedy's success in the fight against organized crime. When the Attorney General sought cooperation among federal agencies to fight organized crime in 1962, people responded in part because they knew that he was acting with the support of his brother in the White House. But that degree of cooperation is still possible to achieve, if the will is there.

And third, we must have leadership for this fight and a commitment to it at the very top level of government. Even beyond the Justice Department, this commitment must emanate from the White House.

We actually have better statutes on the books for this fight than we had in the early 1960s, including the wiretap and immunity laws which Robert Kennedy

### Are we willing to pick up the banner which fell 15 years ago in Dallas?

base of human suffering and moral corruption."

If organized crime was involved in the conspiracy to assassinate the president of the United States, then this "private government" may indeed be more successful than we have ever believed in imposing its will on our most cherished public institutions.

But whether or not John Kennedy died as the result of a Mafia-inspired conspiracy, the challenge facing us today remains: to marshal public will behind a national commitment to fight organized crime, and to win that fight!

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION  
 COUNTY OF MARION, INDIANA  
 JIM (Journal) of Indiana Law Enforcement Officers, Inc. Sept. 28, 1978

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 Indiana Professional Police Ass'n, Inc. Indianapolis, IN 46227  
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Signature: Patrick J. Flanagan, Managing Editor

# Testimony

## Doctor Wecht Testifies Before House Assassinations Committee

*Testimony now may be most insightful  
assessment of assassination*

Doctor Cyril H. Wecht, Coroner of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, (Pittsburgh), a practicing forensic pathologist, law degree recipient and Fellow, College of American Pathologists, gave what may well prove to be the most insightful and correct assessment of the events of the murder of John F. Kennedy.

Doctor Wecht was the first to voice the opinion that as many as four shots had been fired. Subsequent acoustic analysis of a recording made from the open microphone on a Dallas Police motorcycle have proven Doctor Wecht to be correct.

This same acoustic analysis has established the irrefutable fact that the second shot took place exactly 1.6 seconds following the first shot! Of particular interest to this case is the question of the possibility that a less than expert marksman using a bolt action rifle fitted with a scope, could have fired the first shot, operated the bolt, aimed and squeezed off the second shot within 1.6 seconds. Oswald was rated by all testimony as being less than an average marksman, and the Mannlicher Carcano rifle he used was fitted with a scope. Experts have attempted to rapid fire this rifle in a vain attempt to prove that Oswald could have fired all the shots in



*Doctor Cyril H. Wecht, sole dissenter on the nine-member panel of pathologists. Once vilified for his attack on the single bullet theory, he may now well be vindicated.*

the known time frame. One was able to come very close to the 1.6 second interval but the scope had been removed from the rifle!

As you read Doctor Wecht's testimony pay careful attention to the case he

makes for the trajectory of the shots, the angle at which the first shot passed through President Kennedy's upper back and neck. Then consider where Governor Connally was sitting in relation to President Kennedy. Pay attention to the entrance wound in Governor Connally, (just next to his right arm pit), and ask yourself if it is possible for one bullet to perform the damage as ascribed to it in the Warren Commission Report, and reaffirmed by the other "experts" of the House Assassinations Committee panel on pathology.

We have just learned from a highly reliable source that the timing between the first shot and the second when synchronized with the now famous Zapruder motion picture film of the assassination, fits perfectly with the facts as Doctor Wecht saw them. The acoustic evidence has proved to be the straw which broke the camel's back.

We spoke with Doctor Wecht by phone concerning the above matters. His statement concerning the timing of the film and the acoustic evidence when synchronized was: "Hell, this blows the case open! It completely discredits the single bullet theory. When you take into consideration the 1.6 seconds between shots, you have to believe that there was a second gunman."

## Testimony

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

What follows is the testimony of Doctor Cyril H. Wecht before the House Committee on Assassinations. It has been edited to delete repetitive questions and answers. In a few instances words or phrases have been added in order to help the reader to more easily understand the meaning of the sentence. When such editorial insertions appear they are indicated by [ ] which set out the added words and or phrases.

Doctor Wecht was kind enough to furnish JLE with an official transcript of his testimony before the House Committee. He was also generous enough to include photos made from the famous Zapruder film, and his schematic illustrations of the bullet trajectory based on the angles established by the previous investigators in the employ of the Warren Commission and other responsible investigative bodies.

In the opinion of this writer Doctor Wecht's testimony when taken together with the acoustic evidence, clearly puts the lie to the Warren Commission's single bullet theory. It should come as no surprise to any of our readers that Doctor Wecht has had an extremely difficult time getting his testimony before the public, the national news media, etc. As many of you are detectives with your police agency, some of you are coroners, and a few are eye forensic pathologists, I'd be most interested in your views after you have read and carefully considered the facts as presented by Doctor Wecht.

**Chairman Stokes.** The Chair recognizes Professor Blakey. **Mr. Blakey.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Our next witness, the one dissenting member of the autopsy panel, Dr. Cyril Wecht, currently serves as coroner of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He holds numerous editorial positions on the boards of medical and legal publications, and he has written on a wide variety of medical and legal subjects, and in particular, the assassination of President Kennedy.

**Chairman Stokes.** The committee calls Dr. Wecht. Will you please stand and raise your right hand to be sworn? You solemnly swear the testimony you will give before this committee is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

**Dr. Wecht.** I do.

**Chairman Stokes.** Thank you. You may be seated. The Chair recognizes Staff Counsel Andrew Purdy.

**Mr. Purdy.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Dr. Wecht,** did you request to testify today?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, I did.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, what are the major conclusions of the forensic pathology panel with which you are in disagreement?

**Dr. Wecht.** The major disagreement is the single bullet theory which I deem to be the very essence of the Warren Commission report's conclusions and all the other corroborating panels and groups since that time.

*It is the sine qua non of the Warren Commission report's conclusions vis-a-vis a sole assassin. Without the single bullet theory, there cannot be a single assassin, whether it is Oswald or anybody else.*

I am in disagreement with various other conclusions of the panel. I am most unhappy and have been extremely dismayed by their failure to insist upon the performance of appropriate experiments, which I believe could have been undertaken with a reasonable degree of expenditure of time, energy and money to

once and for all show whether a bullet 6.5 millimeter, copper-jacketed, lead core piece of military-type ammunition could indeed strike a rib and a radius in a human being and emerge in the condition which Commission Exhibit 399 is today.

I am extremely unhappy about the fact that a greater and more intensive effort was not made to locate the missing pieces of very important medical evidence in this case, which I pointed out back in the summer of 1972. Not that I was the first to learn of this, but amazingly, nobody had made public disclosure prior to that time. I have raised some questions concerning the head wound [to the President] and the possibility, albeit remote, of a second shot fired in synchronized fashion from the right side of the lower-right rear, synchronized with the head shot that struck the president in the back of the head.

And this is related to a few pieces of evidence and, again,



*The infamous "pristine bullet," Warren Commission Exhibit 399 and JFK Exhibit F-95. Note that it is only scarred by the rifling in the barrel of the Mannlicher Carcano used by Lee Harvey Oswald.*

emphasizes the necessity of having the brain to examine. These are the major areas.

There are, of course, numerous facets of all of these disagreements that are related to the so-called single bullet theory.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, is it your opinion that no bullet could have caused all of the wounds to President Kennedy and Governor Connally, or that C.E. 399 could not have caused all of the wounds to both men?

**Dr. Wecht.** Based upon the findings in this case, it is my opinion that *no* bullet could have caused all these wounds; not only 399, but no other bullet that we know about, or any fragment of any bullet that we know about in *this* case.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, at this time, I would ask you to examine what has been entered into evidence as JFK Exhibit No. F-95, which is the bullet C.E. 399. I would also like to ask that Exhibits F-102 through D, which are photographic enlargements of this bullet, be entered into evidence at this time.

**Chairman Stokes.** Without objection, they may be entered into the record.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, is it correct that you asked to use this particular exhibit in your presentation today?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, I did. I submitted slides. These are blow-ups of those slides.

**Mr. Purdy.** Could you please explain why you feel this exhibit supports your contention that C.E. 399 could not have caused all of the wounds to both men?

**Dr. Wecht.** Commission Exhibit 399 is demonstrated with a side view. It shows the copper jacket to be completely intact, unscathed with no deformity, mutilations or markings. [Here is] another side view. The small defect at the tip is where a piece of metal was properly taken by the FBI for spectographic analysis.

The third photograph shows the nose, the penetrating

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portion of the missile which is completely unmarked and without any scathing at all.

The fourth photograph shows the base of the bullet which shows the only area of deformity, what I would refer to as some flattening with indentation of the meta-prim and focal extrusion of the inner lead core. Those are the only deformities.

I will not engage in semantical quibbling with my friend and colleague, Dr. Baden, whether you can be near "pristine" or fully "pristine." It is a near pristine bullet, again, with the only deformity being demonstrated at the base, as we saw on F-102.

Commission Exhibit 572 represents two bullets of identical ammunition to 399, 6.5 millimeter, copper-jacketed, lead core military-type ammunition which were fired under the auspices of the Warren Commission, I believe, at the Edgewood Arsenal, sometime in 1964.

These two bullets in C.E. 572 were fired into cotton wadding, striking nothing, coming to rest in that soft material.

Please note that at the base of those two bullets, one sees, in my opinion, even more extrusion and deformity of the lead core than one sees in 399, from the impact of the firing mechanism.

Commission Exhibit 583 represents a bullet that was fired through the carcass of a goat. It broke one rib of the goat, a smaller bone than that of a gentleman, Governor Connally's size, six-foot-four.

I want to emphasize this because I realize this learned body has studied these, but many people miss the fact that it is substantially different. They think maybe it is a visual distortion. The reason this bullet looks bigger is because it is flattened. Not only is there significant extrusion at the base, but this apparently larger bullet is deformed due to its flattening, the bullet which broke one rib in the goat carcass. And Commission Exhibit 856 represents a bullet that went through the wrist of a human cadaver breaking the distal end of the radius.

I would like to emphasize that these are not my selections.

They are bullets selected by the Warren Commission. I can only assume that, for their purposes, since the single bullet theory was their creation, they chose the bullets they felt would be best for their vested interests.

I now come back to Commission Exhibit 399 and I ask anybody - forensic pathologist, ballistics expert, criminal attorney, investigator - to look at 399 which, under the single bullet theory, is alleged to have broken both a rib and a radius bone and contrast it with the bullet which was fired through the carcass of a goat breaking only a rib, or the bullet which was fired through the wrist of a human cadaver breaking only a radius bone.

This is the dramatic evidence which was produced and developed under the auspices of the Warren Commission, and it is this kind of evidence that I wanted to have reproduced by other experiments, I strongly disagree with the statement that has been made by my colleague, Dr. Baden, that perhaps it couldn't be done, it might be too much trouble, and so on - I don't know how much he emphasized that today, it was discussed in the past with members of the staff and in our group -- and what he did discuss today, that this [test] could not be simulated.

I take strong exception to this. We are now in 1978 with technological advancements and greater armamentarium than could be simulated in 1964; I have great wonderment as to what the problem is 14 years later.

Mr. Purdy. So Dr. Wecht, it is your opinion, that were tests to be conducted to simulate these wounds, such tests could be done sufficiently similar to the wounds in question to have an accurate illustration?

Dr. Wecht. Let me point out, these tests I am referring to, have been performed, in fact, by a pathologist, Professor John Nichols, University of Kansas School of Medicine, a full-time academician, who shot through ribs and wrists. I know Dr. Nichols. He is not an independently wealthy man. He was able to do this; he was able to get the materials; he was able to set up the experiments and follow through.



View of the nose, taken from above. Note the removal of a small bit of the case (at 9 o'clock). This was taken by the FBI for examination.

This bullet is, under the Warren Commission's findings, responsible for passing through President Kennedy's neck, through Connally's back, shattering five inches of rib, then exiting to fragment the distal radius bone in his wrist, ricocheting from there and lodging in his thigh - all unscathed!



View taken of the base of the projectile. According to the experts, it is deformed because of the force of the propellant blast.

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Why our panel of distinguished experts with all our expertise and his staff representing a very prominent committee which, in turn, represents the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, why such tests could not be performed is beyond me. I feel constrained to say that they were not performed because people knew full well what the results would be.

I also want to take strong exception with the statement that if one were to shoot through bones that are not innervated and vascularized as they are in living human beings, one cannot be sure that one is getting similar reactions. Here, we are not talking about how the president's body would have reacted to the head wound. No. We are talking only about whether a bullet, [so test fired]. . . what the condition of that bullet would be if it went through these bones.

There is no problem in setting up such an experiment.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, is it your opinion, then, not only the conclusion of the forensic pathology panel that C.E. 399 is inconsistent with the head wound, you feel it is demonstrably false, is that correct?

**Dr. Wecht.** It is absolutely false.

**Dr. Wecht.** I got involved back in '65 with the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. For the past 12 or 13 years, I have repeatedly, limited to the context of the forensic pathologist, numerous times implored, beseeched, urged, in writing, orally, privately, collectively, my colleagues, to come up with one bullet, that has done this. I am not talking about 50 percent of the time plus one, five percent or one percent -- just one bullet that could have done this.

I also heard reference today by Dr. Baden that, yes, we have seen such bullets, not in the military setting, but we have seen them in civilian life. I can only say to you as a member of the panel, at no time did any of my colleagues ever bring in a bullet from a documented case of the commonwealth of such and such or the state of such and such versus Jones or Smith and say, "here is a bullet in a documented case, there is the crime lab's report, it broke two bones in some human being, and look at it, its condition is pristine."

I stand here today, and I wonder where the bullet is? Maybe it will be presented by the next member of the majority who has conveniently been sandwiched on the other side of me sometime tomorrow.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, what is the basis for your opinion that the positions of President Kennedy and Governor Connally in the limousine are inconsistent with the single bullet passing through both men?

**Dr. Wecht.** The physical relationship of the two men clearly demonstrates the physical impossibility of the trajectory attributed to Commission Exhibit 399; specifically the horizontal angles with which it would have had [in order to strike] the president and Governor Connally. Absolutely impossible.

**Mr. Purdy.** Mr. Chairman, I would ask at this time that Exhibits marked JFK Exhibits numbers 229, 272, and 244 be placed up on the board and admitted into evidence.

**Chairman Stokes.** Without objection, they may be entered at this point.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, at what point along the film do you feel corresponds with the time when President Kennedy and Governor Connally were supposed to have been hit, according to the single bullet theory?

**Dr. Wecht.** Commission Exhibit of — I am sorry — an exhibit of this panel, of this Committee, of 229, which is a blow-up of Zapruder frame 193, demonstrates the president and Governor Connally just before they go in behind the Stemmons Freeway sign. Both gentlemen are turned to the right facing the crowd and their right arms are extended in a wave of greeting or



*These photos made from the Zapruder 8mm motion picture taken in Dallas show the progression of events as they happened.*

*(Top) President Kennedy can be seen waving to the crowd as the limousine is about to pass the Stemmons Freeway sign.*

*(Middle) Kennedy and Connally with raised hands waving to the crowds as the car begins to disappear behind the sign.*

*(Bottom) 9/10s of a second later Governor Connally emerges, unhurt, from behind the sign.*



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(Top) Two frames later, Kennedy's hands begin to rise toward his throat while Connally is still unhurt.

(Middle) Kennedy's hands both raised to his throat while Connally is unaware of the event in the rear seat. Note that Connally is still holding his hat, and where his wrist is in relation to his chest. It appears that he is resting his forearm against the padded side of the door — the distal end of the radius bone in his forearm appears to be on a level with the lower aspect of his right arm pit.

(Bottom) From the opposite side of the car, the Connallys and the Kennedys seconds before they reached the Stemmens Freeway sign.

recognition. This exhibit, 272, is a blowup of Zapruder frame 222 and shows Governor Connally after emergence from behind the Stemmons Freeway sign, and F-244, which is a blowup of Zapruder frame 225, shows the president and Governor Connally.

In my opinion, Zapruder frame 193 clearly demonstrates that neither gentleman had been shot.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, if I might ask you, based on F-229 what is the basis for your opinion that neither man had been struck by a bullet in that photograph?

**Dr. Wecht.** There is absolutely no external physical manifestation. No reaction of any kind on their part of a voluntary or involuntary nature which would even suggest they have been struck by a missile.

**Mr. Purdy.** Is it possible that either or both men have been struck by bullets but are not yet manifesting a reaction?

**Dr. Wecht.** In my opinion, without any question, no.

**Mr. Purdy.** Referring to F-272, which corresponds with Zapruder frame 222, is it your opinion that Governor Connally is indicating a reaction to being struck in that photograph?

**Dr. Wecht.** No, absolutely not.

**Mr. Purdy.** Referring to F-244, is there any indication on that photograph that either or both men have been struck by a bullet?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes. President John F. Kennedy has definitely been struck, as seen on F-244, Zapruder frame 225. Governor Connally, in my opinion, has not yet been struck, as of that frame.

**Mr. Purdy.** Referring again to F-244, what is the earliest, prior to that point, that President Kennedy would have to have been struck?

**Dr. Wecht.** I would say probably somewhere, based upon the timing of the Zapruder film, and counting the frames. I would put it back somewhere about a half a second, maybe even a little bit more, somewhere along there.

I do want to point out at this time, if I may, because there is some confusion on this, sometimes there has been deliberate misrepresentation of the period of time during which the two gentlemen are behind the Stemmons Freeway sign. That is a period of 0.9 seconds. I emphasize that because we see in F-229 that indeed Governor Connally is sitting directly in front of the president. We see in F-244 that Governor Connally is still seated directly in front of the president.

When we bring up the question of the trajectory, that hopefully we will get into later, they say, "ah, but we cannot know what happened when they were behind the Stemmons Freeway sign." I just think it is important for the record to reflect upon the fact that what, presumably, they are asking us to speculate upon is that in that 0.9 second interval, the president bent down to tie his shoelace or fix his sock. He was shot then and then sat back up. I do not mean to be flippant, this is a very serious matter, but I would suggest it is a movement the most skilled athlete, knowing what he is going to do, could not perform in that period of time.

This is very important to understand, because we see their positions before and immediately afterward. I think it is pure poppycock, an insult to this committee, for anybody to suggest we can't really determine trajectory because we don't know the physical relationship between the two men when the president was shot, and when they say, *under the single bullet theory*, John Connally had also been shot.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, what was the nature of the wound through President Kennedy that indicates to you that he would have reacted as quickly as you indicate to being struck?

**Dr. Wecht.** He was struck in the back. There are a variety of

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nerves that interverte the skin, the musculature, blood vessels, and so on. He, as indeed Governor Connally, were both healthy, adult males, in a very vibrant, dynamic sensitive situation, tuned very much to their environment, and there is no question in my mind that the reaction would have occurred immediately, in an infinitesimal moment.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, you have already gone into the issue of trajectory and [spoken about] the photography, to some extent, why do you believe the president and the governor were not lined up in such a way that a bullet could have passed between them.

How certain are you that they could not have been lined up behind the sign when they were out of the view of the camera?

**Dr. Wecht.** I am absolutely certain for the reasons I have already given as demonstrated on these films. There is simply no way in the world that the kinds of changes of positions of these two men under the single bullet theory could have been accomplished. There is no physiological way in which it could have been performed. So there is no basis to speculate on why such a movement would have occurred.

Quite literally, John Connally would have had to have moved a foot or more to his left and then moved back, and/or the president would have had to have almost leaned out of the car and then to have come back to his position. And I am not being the least bit facetious. That is what would have had to have occurred in that 9/10ths of a second interval if we are to assume that this bullet went through the two men in the fashion attributed to it in the single bullet theory.

**Mr. Purdy.** I would like to ask at this time that the two items marked JFK Exhibits F-320 and F-273 be entered into the record.

**Chairman Stokes.** Without objection, they may be entered into the record.

**Mr. Purdy.** If we could keep those photographs up also. Dr. Wecht, is it correct that you asked that these diagrams be used during this questioning?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, I did.

**Mr. Purdy.** For the purposes of the formulation of these diagrams, how was it determined where the men were seated in the car and the angle the bullet would have struck President Kennedy on?

**Dr. Wecht.** The positions of the two men were formulated in this schematic representation based upon my review of the Zapruder film, originally at Life Magazine Headquarters in 1966, at the National Archives in 1972, and repeated under the auspices of this forensic pathology panel last year and this year. Also based upon my review of the Nix and Muchmore films, my review of the testimony and accounts of numerous people involved, including Governor and Mrs. Connally, Mrs. Kennedy and other eye witnesses. All of these things together, plus the discussion that we have just been through, would indicate to me that this is a far and most reasonably accurate representation of the positions of the Kennedys, the Connallys and the two Secret Service Agents, Greer and Kellerman, who were sitting in the front seat.

**Mr. Purdy.** What is it about the normal paths of bullets which leads you to the conclusion that these two diagrams illustrating the photographs permit you to conclude that the bullet did not pass through both men?

**Dr. Wecht.** The inescapable fact that unless a bullet, especially one fired from a high speed weapon, reasonably high speed, approximately 2000 feet per second muzzle velocity — unless it strikes something of firm substance, such as bone or something else, that bullet will travel in a straight line.

**Mr. Purdy.** Mr. Chairman, I would ask at this time that the

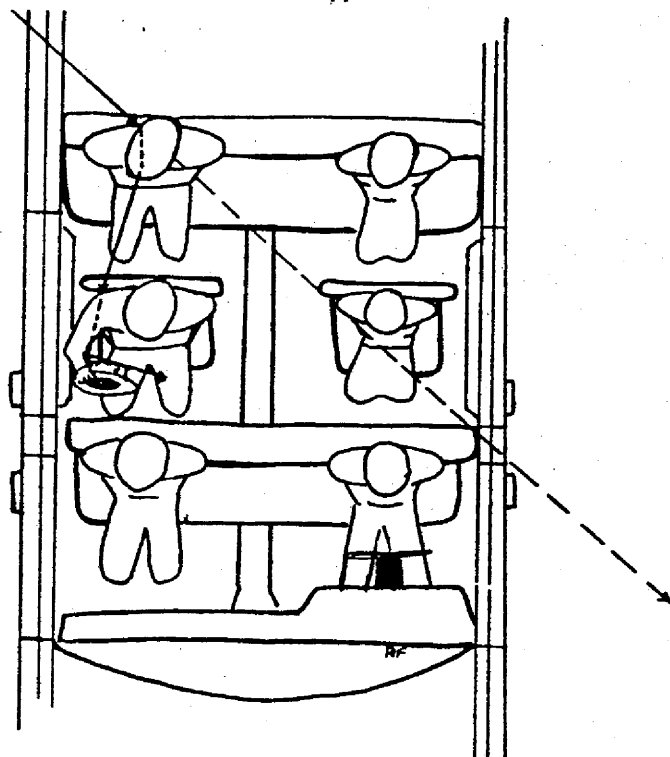
item marked JFK Exhibit F-245, which is a blowup of frame 230 of the Zapruder film, been entered into the record.

**Chairman Stokes.** Without objection, it may be entered into the record.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, in your opinion, could Governor Connally have incurred the damage to his wrist which is described in medical reports and still be holding the hat as shown in this photograph?

**Dr. Wecht.** No, absolutely not. In F-245, which is a blowup of Zapruder frame 230, we are told under the single bullet theory that Governor Connally, for a period of approximately *one and a half seconds*, has already been shot through the right chest with the right lung pierced and collapsed, through the right wrist, with the distal end of the radius comminuted, and the radia nerve partially severed.

I heard some vague reference to a nerve in the prior testimony but I didn't hear the follow-through discussion I was waiting for about nerve damage. There was nerve damage, yes, to the radial nerve. And the thumb, which holds this large Texas white Stetson, is required to be in apposition with the index or



Top view: Impossible path of the pristine bullet, crux of the single bullet theory.

index and middle fingers to hold the hat, [is still normal and the hat] is still being held, and Governor Connally is *not* reacting.

This is again a very alert individual, under special circumstance, and I do not believe or accept for one moment the story, we must accept under the single bullet theory, that this gentleman, at this point, *one and half seconds previously*, has clearly been shot through his chest, through his wrist, and into his left thigh.

**Mr. Purdy.** Is it, your opinion, based on this exhibit, JFK F-245, that Governor Connally has not been injured in any way?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, that is my opinion.

**Mr. Purdy.** Is it possible that he had been injured prior to this frame but has not yet manifested a reaction?

**Dr. Wecht.** No, I do not believe so, not given the nature and

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extent of his wounds, and the multiplicity of the areas damaged. I do not believe that.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, given the nature of his wounds, how long after the time that he is struck is the earliest he would manifest a reaction?

**Dr. Wecht.** Well, a fraction of a second, again, an infinitesimal moment. It is possible that a fraction of a second earlier he could have been shot, although I do not believe it.

Please keep in mind that now we must correlate that with the governor's own version, and remembering that this bullet was traveling 2000 feet per second muzzle velocity, much faster than the speed of sound.

Please keep in mind that it does not seem at all likely. I doubt that it is possible he had already been struck.

**Mr. Purdy.** Mr. Chairman, I would ask at this time that items marked JFK Exhibits F-246 and F-247, which correspond with Zapruder frame numbers 236 and 237, be entered into the record.

**Chairman Stokes.** Without objection they may be entered into the record.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, from your examination of these photographs, do you conclude that Governor Connally has been struck?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, I believe F-246, which is a blowup of Zapruder frame 237, demonstrates that Governor Connally has now been struck.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, what is it about his actions which lead you to the conclusion he has been struck?

**Dr. Wecht.** The body is turning, the cheeks are puffing out, there is a noticable grimace on his face. In contrast, for instance, to F-245, Z-frame 230; and there seems to be some dislevelment of his hair. These features can be seen very dramatically also one frame later, F-247, or Zapruder frame 238, which I remind you is only a one-eighteenth of a second interval, and you can see the hair movement, the twisting of the body. There is no question in my mind that the governor has now been hit.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, referring again to the Exhibits F-229, F-272 and F-244, which are the frames immediately before and the frames after the sign, you discussed the fact that the men did not line up in a horizontal trajectory. Could you say why, in your opinion, they did not line up in a vertical trajectory?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes. The panel, to the best of my recollection, was in unanimous agreement that there was a slightly upward trajectory of the bullet through President John F. Kennedy. That is to say, the bullet wound of entrance on the president's back, lined up with the bullet wound of exit in the front of the president's neck, drawing a straight line, shows that the bullet had traveled slightly upward, vertically, slightly, but upward.

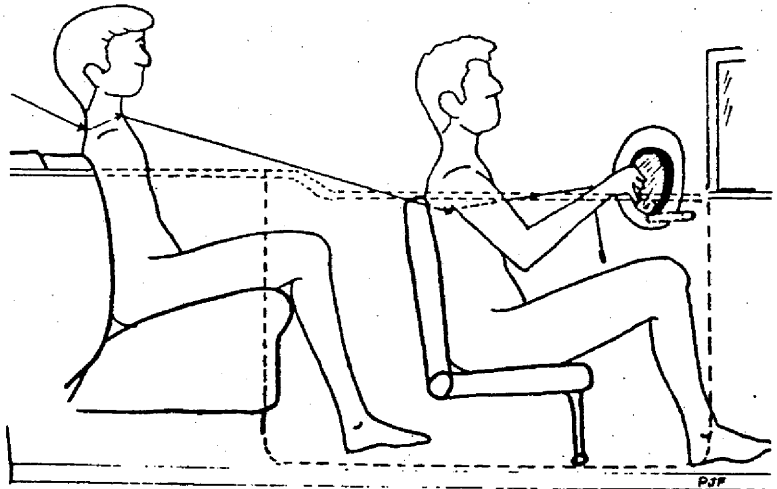
This is extremely important for two reasons. One, under the single bullet theory — with Oswald as the sole assassin, or anybody else, in the sixth floor window, southeast corner of the Texas School Book Depository Building, you have the bullet coming down at a downward angle of around 20 to 25 degrees, something like that, maybe a little bit less. It had originally been postulated, I think, by the autopsy team, and the initial investigators, at considerably more — how in the world can a bullet be fired from the sixth floor window, strike the president in the back, and yet have a slightly upward direction?

There was nothing to cause it to change its course. And then with the slightly upward direction, outside the president's neck, the bullet then embarked upon a rollercoaster ride with a major dip, because it then proceeded (under the single bullet theory), through Governor Connally at a 25 degree angle of declination.

To my knowledge, there has never been any disagreement among the proponents and defenders of the Warren Commission report or the critics, about the angle of declination in John

Connally — maybe a degree or two. We have that bullet going through the governor at about 25 degrees downward. How does a bullet that is moving slightly upward in the president exit and then proceed to move downward 25 degrees in John Connally. This is what I cannot understand.

My colleagues on the panel, are aware of this. We discussed it, and what they keep coming back to is, "well, we don't know how the two men were seated in relationship to each other." I don't care what happened behind the Stemmons Freeway sign, there is no way in the world that they can put that together, and likewise on the horizontal plane, the bullet, please keep in mind,



Side view: Path of the "magic" bullet. Warren Commission's findings labeled "impossible."

entered in the president's right back, I agree; exited in the anterior midline of the president's neck, I agree; and was moving thence by definition, by know facts, on a straight line from entrance to exit, from right to left.

And so, with that bullet moving in a leftward fashion, it then somehow made an acute angular turn, came back almost two feet, stopped, made a second turn, and slammed into Governor Connally behind the right armpit, referred to (medically) as the right posterior axillary area.

The vertical trajectory of this bullet, 399, under the single bullet theory is absolutely unfathomable, indefensible, incredible.

**Mr. Purdy.** I would like to examine JFK Exhibit 84, which has already been entered into the record, which is an x-ray of Governor Connally's wrist, and, Dr. Wecht, could you tell us whether you believe that CE-399 could have caused the injuries to the wrist of Governor Connally?

**Dr. Wecht.** No, I do not. I would like to emphasize that this is what referred to medically as a comminuted fracture. I have been negatively impressed by repeated efforts on the part of my fellow panelists, and others, to minimize the nature of the severity of this fracture. They imply it was really a slight linear nondisplaced fracture.

It was a comminuted fracture with substantial displacement — and comminuted means fragmented.

Also, again, despite the testimony of my colleague, my predecessor here today, I must take strong exception. He has indicated the radius apparently is just not that big a bone. As this distinguished committee and members of the staff saw yesterday, Governor Connally, is I think, about six foot four, his weight, 200 pounds, approximately. He is a big man. That is the distal end of the radius where you can see the bone begins to

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fan out. It (is) indeed a heavy bone. To suggest that it is no thicker than a phalanx, a finger bone, in a 10-year-old child, is not fair. It is not an accurate representation.

I say that a bullet striking the distal radius the region above the eight small wrist bones [it is one of the two large bones coming down from the elbow to the wrist] a bullet striking and causing that damage, and which had previously damaged and destroyed, pulverized, five inches of the right fifth rib, could not have emerged in the near pristine condition of Commission Exhibit 399.

In that relationship, I also want to point out I heard testimony here today, as I heard discussed previously by our panel to the effect that we don't really know if the right fifth rib was damaged, exactly and how much, and whether it was struck directly, or whether the fracture might have been caused by implosion, or whatever. I know indeed what the operating surgeon on Friday, November 22, 1963, at Parkland Hospital

rear of the head, as has been presented here today.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, what evidence is there which supports the possibility that there was a shot from the side or from the lower right rear?

**Dr. Wecht.** Very meager, and the possibility based upon the existing evidence is extremely remote. There is a small piece of some material present at the base of the external scalp, just above the hairline, which has never been commented on before except by me following the '72 investigation of the material at the Archives, and later commented upon by this forensic pathology panel.

There is a total deformation of the right side of the cranial vault with extensive fractures of the calvarium, the top portion of the skull, and extensive scalp lacerations and loss of soft tissue, so that we cannot know exactly where the exit wound was. It is, therefore, possible that the extensive deformity of the scalp, underlying galea, underlying bone calvarium, could also

### "I think four shots were fired!"

said he found when he explored Governor Connally's chest. He found five inches of that bone *literally* pulverized.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, is it your opinion that CE-399 could not have caused the wounds other than the wrist of Governor Connally? I take it from what you have just stated about the damage to the rib, that you do not believe that CE-399 could have caused the damage to Governor Connally's rib, is that correct?

**Dr. Wecht.** Let me make sure I understand your question. Are you asking me could 399 have caused the damage to the rib alone, if one were to assume it struck no other bone?

**Mr. Purdy.** Correct.

**Dr. Wecht.** That is a possibility that I would accept, that I cannot rule out — if it struck the rib alone.

**Mr. Purdy.** Is it possible that CE-399 could have caused all of the wounds of Governor Connally, other than the wrist?

**Dr. Wecht.** Only the rib and then a fragment or a portion of the left thigh, yes, that is another possibility that I cannot exclude.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, earlier today Dr. Baden testified on behalf of the forensic pathology panel that the wound in Governor Connally's back was such as to lead the majority of the panel to conclude that the bullet which struck him had struck something else first. Do you agree with that interpretation?

**Dr. Wecht.** No. I do not feel that there is any such definitive evidence, although there is a possibility the bullet might have struck a small branch or some leaves coming in. I cannot rule that out, but I think the fact that the scar on Governor Connally's back is in a horizontal plane is more consistent with the shot having been fired from the right side, the right rear, entering with some degree of a tangential nature.

**Mr. Purdy.** You stated earlier that you have a disagreement with the certainty of the forensic pathology panel's conclusion that the president was struck in the head with only one bullet. If the president was struck by a second bullet in the head, how close in time to the first bullet do you think the other one came?

**Dr. Wecht.** If the president had been struck in the head with a second bullet then it would have been fired in synchronized fashion simultaneous with the shot that did strike him in the

be the locus of the second shot of some kind of frangible ammunition which would not have penetrated deeply or at all through the calvarium.

I want to emphasize this is extremely remote but I have pointed it out because it is a possibility. The question of the president's movement after he was struck in the head makes us direct our attention toward such a possibility and, of course, the absence of the brain and the failure of the original pathologists to have conducted (studies that are) routine; perfunctory in any kind of autopsy. The brain is fixed in formalin, in order to serially section the brain 10 to 14 days later. The absence of the president's brain and the inability, or the failure, of the staff to obtain [the brain], all of these things, I believe, make it important to just raise the possibility, remote as it may be, that a second shot might have struck the president in the head in synchronized or simultaneous fashion.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, to what extent would having access to the brain itself have enabled a final determination as to whether or not the remote possibility of a shot from the side is supported or refuted by the evidence?

**Dr. Wecht.** Well, examination of the brain would help a great deal. Of course, if the bullet had not penetrated through the calvarium then there would be no evidence of a second bullet track in the soft brain tissue.

If it had penetrated partly, or even a fragment or two, then certainly at that time, and even today, if the brain had been properly preserved and fixed and the formalin solution changed every so often, one would be able, I believe, to tell whether there were only one bullet track, that is, from the right upper occipital region down to the lower right temporal parietal area. The brain would be extremely important to help us determine whether more than one missile had penetrated or a fragment of a second missile might have penetrated the brain along with the one that we do know definitely penetrated. I am in agreement with the description presented here today regarding the shot through the head.

**Mr. Purdy.** Dr. Wecht, does the present state of available evidence permit the conclusion, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, that there was *not* a shot from the side which struck the president?

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**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, with reasonable medical certainty I would have to say that the evidence is not there. I have already said it is a remote possibility and I certainly cannot equate that with reasonable medical certainty.

The Chair will recognize Counsel Gary Cornwell.

**Mr. Cornwell.** Dr. Wecht, first, so that we might understand the reasons for the disagreement about the single bullet theory between you and the rest of the medical panel, let me ask you whether you have had access to any data or information that the rest of the medical panel members have not had access to?

**Dr. Wecht.** The only thing that I am personally knowledgeable of was the frame by frame study in blown-up fashion of what I was informed then was the primary copy of the Zapruder film on huge lighted tables at Life Magazine headquarters in 1966. Aside from that, I do not know of anything that I have seen that they have not seen.

**Mr. Cornwell.** And do you feel that your expertise in the field of forensic pathology differs in a substantial way from the expertise of the other panel members in that field?

**Dr. Wecht.** Insofar as professional scientific expertise related to formal training in forensic pathology, and practice in the field of forensic pathology in a medical-legal investigative facility are concerned, I would say I am not aware of any major or substantial difference.

**Mr. Cornwell.** Then would it be fair to state that the difference of opinion between you and the other panel members, as again to principally the single bullet theory, is based strictly or derived strictly from a difference of opinion based on the same evidence from persons of similar backgrounds and training?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, clearly, Mr. Cornwell, it is a difference of opinion. However, I should like to supplement that answer by saying that I believe this is not in the realm of interpretive or speculative or conjectural opinion *but is related to things which I truly believe do not even require the expertise of a forensic pathologist to see and interpret.*

**Mr. Cornwell.** Just so we understand for sure what your testimony is as to the possibility of a head shot on the right; you have called it a remote possibility —

**Dr. Wecht.** Remote possibility.

**Mr. Cornwell.** In a court of law, what would be the normal role of opinions to only *that* degree of certainty?

**Dr. Wecht.** You are more of an expert than I, Mr. Cornwell, however, I won't take the easy way out and evade your question in that fashion. I am *sure* that every judge I have been involved with would not permit such testimony to go in.

But, of course, there are other differences, too. As you know, they work the other way involving the fact that this is not a court of law.

**Mr. Cornwell.** So, just again to understand that part of your testimony, would it be fairly accurate to state that what you have suggested basically is that this is not a normal case and that, therefore, it is sort of because it was the president who was killed that we would like to know as much as absolutely possible, and if we had had more data, such as the brain, we might even been able to do away with all speculation on the subject; is that correct?

**Dr. Wecht.** I am not sure if I completely follow you. Let me say, and please stop me if I am not being responsive, that had I been involved in the original investigation, then I certainly would have done those things that I have talked about — the examination of the brain in its formalin fixed state, approximately two weeks afterwards, which incidentally they started to do on December 6, 1963, but which they then aborted. The last sentence of that supplemental report is something like, "No

sagittal sections of the brain were made in order to preserve the specimen." Quote, unquote. Were this case brought to me in consultation as a medical legal expert, not involving the president but just somebody who was able to retain an independent forensic pathologist, I would (indeed) raise the same points to the attorney, whichever side, the District Attorney or the defense attorney, and ask them to look into it.

You see, what I would be permitted to testify to subsequently at a trial would be one thing, but I would raise these things investigatively in advance of the trial. It would make no difference, were it the president, you, me, Mr. Jones or Mr. Smith.

**Mr. Cornwell.** Directing your attention, next, to the single bullet theory. As I understand your testimony, it is not that one bullet of the Mannlicher Carcano type, would not have been powerful enough to go through the neck, the chest, the wrists and imbed itself in the thigh, is that correct, as a matter of mere power?

**Dr. Wecht.** I believe that it is possible for that kind of ammunition to go through those several portions of a human body.

**Mr. Cornwell.** And if the single bullet theory is not correct, how many bullets, in your view, did strike the two occupants of the car?

**Dr. Wecht.** I believe the president was struck definitely twice, one bullet entering in the back, and one bullet entering in the back of the head. I believe Governor John Connally was struck by a bullet; and I believe another bullet completely missed the car. I think there were four shots most probably fired. I eagerly await the results of the consulting firm your committee has retained concerning their interpretative studies of the motorcycle policeman's tape [recording] from that day, as to whether or not they have definitely found evidence of four shots having been fired.

But, your question was, "how many bullets struck the occupants." I believe there is definite evidence for three. There is a possibility of more, but I can't really introduce evidence which would corroborate more than three.

**Mr. Cornwell.** If I could direct your attention again to, I believe it was Exhibit 294 showed deformations on various bullets, and simultaneously I would like to ask if we could show the witness 399, the actual bullet. Have you had a chance to look at the exhibit?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, sir.

**Mr. Cornwell.** The question I would like to direct your attention to is under what circumstances does deformation of a bullet occur?

**Dr. Wecht.** I believe that a bullet striking a dense object, such as the distal end of a radius in an adult male, like John Connally, there would be deformation of a measurable degree.

**Mr. Cornwell.** Then, using the example of the wrist you just used, would it be accurate to state that such a bullet perhaps could have gone through the neck without experiencing substantial deformation if it went through the neck of the president alone?

In other words, that's not where you would expect substantial deformation?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, that's correct. There would not have been deformation of a substantial degree. As a matter of fact, based upon the description which we have by documented record and testimony of the physicians who examined the president at Parkland Hospital emergency room, the small even-edged, round symmetrical wound they thought at that time, mistakenly, was an entrance wound, I would say that the bullet was not deformed, it was not wobbling or tumbling and it had not

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straightened out from a wobbling course only to start wobbling again.

**Mr. Cornwell.** Let's again use the hypothetical of just going through the governor's chest. Could it have gone through the chest alone, nothing else, and suffered no more deformation, in your opinion, than 399?

**Dr. Wecht.** You mean after emerging from the president's neck?

**Mr. Cornwell.** Either way, or both, if the hypothetical carries, tell me both ways.

**Dr. Wecht.** *I do not believe it could have gone through Governor Connally's chest because the horizontal and vertical trajectories would not have permitted that course for that bullet.*

**Mr. Cornwell.** I am not asking about trajectories, I am just talking about if a bullet went through the chest alone.

**Dr. Wecht.** In a hypothetical situation?

**Mr. Cornwell.** Yes, sir.

**Dr. Wecht.** Doing what we believe the bullet did in President Kennedy's upper chest and neck area, and then doing what we know the bullet to have done in Governor Connally's chest; is that your question?

**Mr. Cornwell.** Let's assume the trajectory is lined up for purposes of discussion.

**Dr. Wecht.** The answer is, I think it would be *possible* for a bullet to have emerged with a relatively minimal degree of deformity having gone through those two parts of the human anatomy of two human beings.

**Mr. Cornwell.** All right. Then, let's skip the wrist for a moment. Could it also have embedded itself to the degree that it did in Governor Connally's thigh or that some bullet apparently did and suffer no great deformity in that process?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, that would be possible.

**Mr. Cornwell.** So, it is the wrist that is primarily the problem?

**Dr. Wecht.** Well, when you put the wrist on top, it is a cumulative thing, yes, because the rib cannot be totally ignored in a cumulative sense with the wrist. It is rib and wrist together. Rib alone, I recognize the *possibility* of a bullet doing that damage and emerging in this condition.

**Mr. Cornwell.** Let me then rephrase it, it is the wrist which is primarily the problem, that's the one that you would expect the greatest deformation to occur in?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, especially with rib and wrist combined. The wrist alone, as I have already said, I believe, would have produced more deformation than we see here.

I just want to say that [a hit on] the rib, followed by [a hit on] the wrist would place greater physical stress on the bullet than wrist alone.

**Mr. Cornwell.** Even though the two of them were probably separated by some air between the two, is that correct?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, it is a cumulative effect.

**Mr. Cornwell.** It then simply boils down to, the proposition that 399 could not have gone through the wrist and remained in that good a condition?

**Dr. Wecht.** I don't know what you mean by "simply" because I am also including — if you are limiting it to that, the answer is yes, but my criticism of the single bullet theory includes *much more than just deformation.*

**Mr. Stokes.** Dr. Wecht, you were one of a panel of nine eminently qualified forensic pathologists; is that correct?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, sir. I was one of nine.

**Chairman Stokes.** And you do not quarrel with my categorization of them, the other eight, as being eminently qualified, do you?

**Dr. Wecht.** No.

**Chairman Stokes.** Now, with all of you being men of your profession in which you are certainly jealous of your reputation in the field, is there any reason why these other eight men would take the position they have taken based upon anything other than medical certification?

**Dr. Wecht.** Mr. Chairman, you would have to ask them that question. I do not mean to be either evasive and certainly not disrespectful, but it would be presumptuous of me to speculate on that.

*There are some things involving some present and former professional relationships and things between some of them, and some people who have served on previous panels. In fact, two of the members of this panel have been previously involved. One under the auspices of CBS with the government's implied permission and delight, if not expressed sponsorship, and another one with the Rockefeller Commission.*

There are things of this nature, but you would have to ask them about whatever particular motivations or thoughts they

***"It simply boils down to the proposition that 399 could not have gone through the wrist and remained in that condition."***

may have. I can only do my very best, sir, to present to you the evidence as I have interpreted it and give you my conclusions and opinions therefrom.

**Chairman Stokes.** Perhaps you can help me in this respect. Assuming I am the average American citizen who has been sitting out here today and listening to these hearings and viewing it on television as they are across the country, and when they hear the testimony as it has been reflected through Dr. Baden of the eight other forensic pathologists, as related to your testimony, tell me, what should the average American believe in terms of the medical evidence that has been presented here today? Should they believe them or should they believe you?

**Dr. Wecht.** Well, I would give anything within reason to be able to find out what people who have been able to take the afternoon off and observe these hearings believe. I know that as of 1975, in a national poll conducted by CBS, certainly an agency which has not been particularly sympathetic to the critics of this business, about 85 percent of the American public was found to disagree to reject one or more major conclusions of the Warren Commission report.

I am also mindful of the fact that in numerous other national surveys conducted by top pollsters in the past 12, 15 years, more than 50 percent of the American public has always expressed negative feelings concerning the Warren Commission report.

As I am aware of your distinguished professional reputation prior to becoming a member of Congress, as a trial attorney, the idea, the reality of forensic scientists disagreeing in a court of law is, of course, nothing that is foreign to you.

I have witnessed it and participated in it many times. The numerical superiority that my eight colleagues have over me is something that I cannot reflect upon. It is in your hands. I have been in that position. I can only hope (you will excuse the possible seeming lack of modesty) that just maybe, and the number fits anyway with nine people, that just maybe this might

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be analogous to a Supreme Court Justice who sometime in the past expressed a dissent which in 10, 20 or 30 years became the law of the land.

I can only hope, sir, that might be the case here today.

**Chairman Stokes.** I have some other questions, but my time is expiring.

The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Devine.

**Mr. Devine.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no questions. I just say to Dr. Wecht, I think you would probably agree that reasonable men of credibility on the same set of facts can reach different conclusions without questioning the motives of the others; isn't that true?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, sir, I do when there are reasonable differences of facts based upon interpretations. When things relate to hard, physical reality, then, sir, I cannot go along with that statement.

**Mr. Devine.** You don't say this is an exact science what we are talking about, do you?

**Dr. Wecht.** I believe, sir, such things as straight lines in relationship to horizontal and vertical trajectories, positions of two human beings, measurements of the Zapruder film, the timing of it, the timing of the test-firing of the Mannlicher Carcano weapon, I believe, sir, these fall very much into the realm of the hard physical sciences as opposed to the kind of things that we, as physicians, are often involved in — did the heart attack follow the emotional or physiological distress; did the cancer come about after the blow to the breast — those are in the realm of speculation and reasonable differences.

In my opinion, I think the evidence discussed today, the physical measurements, the laws of mathematics of physics, and so on, I believe, sir, that these do not fall within the realm of reasonable differences of opinion.

**Mr. Devine.** I am sure the other members of your panel would disagree with your conclusion.

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, sir, I am sure they would.

**Chairman Stokes.** The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. Dodd.

**Mr. Dodd.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Dr. Wecht.** Thank you for your testimony. You certainly articulated the issue before us today rather well. I would like to pursue one area of questioning with you, if I could, in the time allotted to me.

Your expertise is as a pathologist. That is your area of expertise. What I am getting at is, you don't have an expertise in photo analysis, it is really as a pathologist; isn't that correct?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, sir, except to the extent that photography, studying of wounds, and things of that nature, are related to the practice of forensic pathology.

**Mr. Dodd.** Aside from the condition of C.E. 399, the bullet, I gathered from your testimony that many of your conclusions regarding the single bullet theory rests to a large extent on the Zapruder film; is that a fair assessment?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, I would say the Zapruder film is very important.

**Mr. Dodd.** For instance, as to the positions of both President Kennedy and Governor Connally in the car, the appearances of both President Kennedy and Governor Connally at various frames in the film footage, and so forth.

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, sir.

**Mr. Dodd.** What I am trying to suggest by this line of questioning is that your expertise, using photographs and so forth, rests on making assessments of cadavers of after-the-fact circumstances, looking at wounds or photographs of wounds after a shooting, a killing has occurred, is that correct, generally speaking?

**Dr. Wecht.** Generally speaking, it so happens that I do a great deal of medical-legal consultation work in all kinds of

personal injury actions, medical malpractice, products liability, workmen's compensation, thousands of cases in the past decade and a half, and I have had an opportunity and am called upon quite frequently to become involved in matters of medical-legal, forensic scientific nature which may not necessarily be related to a dead body.

**Mr. Dodd.** I wonder if you might refresh my memory as to the various frames in the Zapruder film. You seem to have a very good working knowledge of the various numbers of frames. The frame I want to get at is the frame where you see, first of all, Governor Connally showing appearances of being shot, what frame was that?

**Dr. Wecht.** That was frame Zapruder 237, I believe.

**Mr. Dodd.** And how many frames after that was the first appearances of President Kennedy showing evidence of being shot?

**Dr. Wecht.** Well, in the head wound, that was Zapruder film 313, the earlier one of the president emerging from behind the Stemmons Freeway sign, I think that was 225. So that is then about 12 frames earlier that we see the president's reaction.

**Mr. Dodd.** What I am getting at here is given the fact there is a very limited amount of medical knowledge with regard to body movements, predictable body movements when an individual is shot, given the fact that there are apparently one or two or three or four instances where you have had the opportunity to actually see film footage of someone being shot, given the fact that your expertise is as a pathologist and not as a photo analyst, how can you state conclusively as you do, aside from the appearance of 399 and others, that, in fact, there was not a single bullet theory, given the fact there is this limited amount of knowledge?

**Dr. Wecht.** That is very easy, sir, in this case. The fact, the pattern that you set forth, would indeed be extremely applicable, for instance, to the head wound. What about the president, did he move backwards, how could he have moved backwards, should he have moved forward, and so on? That is indeed something that I have always said I can't be sure of, whether it is opisthotonos, a neuromuscular reaction or whatever.

But given the wound, Mr. Dodd, in the president's back, and knowing its trajectory, knowing it did not strike bone, and knowing it was moving slightly upward, doesn't make any difference, sir, what we may postulate about Mr. Kennedy's or Mr. Connally's movements. We know in looking at the pictures and from their eyewitness testimony, and from all of the bystanders and everybody, we know that there is just no way in the world that —

**Mr. Dodd.** Did I understand your statement, it doesn't make any difference?

**Dr. Wecht.** No sir, not in this case. Not in this case because we have the bullet moving upward through President Kennedy [exiting] and then moving downward at a 25 degree angle of declination. There is just no way in the world the bullet could have done that. I have never heard an explanation from my colleagues, they just come back to the plausibility and argument —

**Mr. Dodd.** You misunderstood me. I was using your testimony those various frames of body movements were part of the evidence to indicate that it would be impossible for a single bullet to pass through both individuals.

**Chairman Stokes.** Time of the gentleman has expired but the witness can finish his answer.

**Dr. Wecht.** Thank you, Mr. Dodd. I apologize for not understanding your question. I agree with what you just said, and that is evidence that clearly demonstrates to me that it was impossible for 399 to have done what is attributed [to it] under the single bullet theory.

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**Chairman Stokes.** The gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. Ford.

**Mr. Ford.** I have but one question. Doctor, in supporting your theory, somewhat different from the panel, the spokesman, Dr. Baden, made the point that their findings were based upon the lack of any evidence to support any other possible alternative.

Tell me, have you been privy to any other information outside of the information that this panel has been reviewing for sometime?

**Dr. Wecht.** No sir, other than what Mr. Stokes had asked me about before that, examination of the primary copy of the Zapruder film at Life Magazine in 1966, nothing else. I also hope that I have kept more of an open mind and have also recognized that it is not my responsibility. I do not mean that I am disinterested or unmindful of the significance, but it is not

**Mr. McKinney.** On the trajectory point, then; it is your opinion that there is no way the president could have been in any kind of position when he was behind that sign which would have allowed the bullet to go through low to high, rear to the front, and still have it in line to hit Governor Connally?

**Dr. Wecht.** No sir, not at the point where it struck Governor Connally, not with the angle of declination that it proceeded on through the governor.

May I just add very briefly, Mr. McKinney, of course, something that we all realize, but I would like to have on the record, that for all practical purposes, when the bullet struck President Kennedy, it was striking Governor Connally. At 2000 feet per second it is incalculable, it is the kind of time that you and I with our reflexes and our speech and our watches can't even measure. So all of that happened in an infinitesimal moment.

**"This kind of examination would not be tolerated in a routine murder case . . . Involving an ordinary citizen, let alone a president."**

my responsibility to retroactively justify and defend the investigation that was done, which I think was extremely superficial and sloppy, inept, incomplete, incompetent in many respects, not only on the part of the pathologists who did this horribly inadequate medical-legal autopsy but on the part of many other people.

*This is the kind of examination that would not be tolerated in a routine murder case by a good crew of homicide detectives in most major cities of America on anybody just a plain ordinary citizen, let alone a president.* So I don't get blocked, Mr. Ford, by the fact that I can't answer everything. I am fast to admit that I can't answer everything, although on one of the photos which we then didn't have a chance to get into, one that I requested Mr. Purdy to enlarge, I show that the bullet that went through President Kennedy's neck could have continued on over the left side of the car; and I would like to say, sir, that that diagram was made years ago, before I knew for certain that there was an upward trajectory from the back to the neck with an upward trajectory. That suggestion that I made years ago now in my mind assumes much greater reality.

**Mr. Ford.** I don't have any further questions, Mr. Chairman. I yield back my time.

**Chairman Stokes.** Time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. McKinney.

**Mr. McKinney.** Doctor, this committee has obviously got to sit here and evaluate two very extremely different positions, so in looking at your conclusions, if you were to take the three elements, the trajectory of the bullet, the condition of the bullet, or the film, which would you say, in your hypothesis, is the most important part of that picture; the most important issue?

**Dr. Wecht.** Well, Mr. McKinney, the trajectory is to some degree related to the Zapruder film. If I had to list those in priority, sir, I probably would say the trajectory would be number one, because these are to me straight line measurement calculations.

The condition of the bullet, number two, and the Zapruder film, which I must tie in back to the trajectories as number three.

This is hard to do, but on the spur of the moment, I would list them in that order.

The bullet is through the president and through John Connally. I cannot possibly imagine anything, and I have never heard anybody who was there in the car, behind the car or the motorcycle policemen, and so on, ever suggest that something of a dramatic nature and it would have had to have been dramatic - occurred vis-a-vis the physical relationship of these two men at that precise fraction of a second behind the Stemmons Freeway sign.

**Mr. McKinney.** Were you aware of the fact that the radiologists for the Committee that examined the x-rays of the President and the x-rays of Governor Connally, didn't find any metal chips or fragments in President Kennedy's neck or Governor Connally's chest?

**Dr. Wecht.** I am aware of the former, sir, and I believe the latter, too, insofar as the radiologist is concerned. With regard to the latter, a metal fragment in Governor Connally's chest. I am mindful of the information that I do not recall from our panel but which I am aware of, I think, from Earl Goltz' column, a reporter in Dallas, and from other news media, that a bullet fragment supposedly was removed from Governor Connally's chest, given by the nurse to a Dallas policeman standing outside, who then gave it to an FBI agent.

**Mr. McKinney.** Have you ever seen any proof of this?

**Dr. Wecht.** I seem to recall, Mr. McKinney, and it is vague that there was some testimony, if not some kind of documentation on the receipt that was given to the policeman by the FBI agent, but I am vague on that, sir.

**Mr. McKinney.** If it were true that there were no traces of metal found in either one of these areas, that could explain the condition of the bullet, couldn't it?

**Dr. Wecht.** No sir, because then after emerging from the chest it would have had to have struck the wrist, and as I have already explained, I could not believe that it would have been possible to produce comminuted fracture and to have emerged in the pristine condition. Then, of course, I must again come back to the trajectory, that even with the absence of metal in the president's neck and the governor's chest, there is no way that that same bullet could have gone through those two portions of the anatomy of the two gentlemen.

**Mr. McKinney.** Thank you very much, Doctor.



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**Chairman Stokes.** The gentleman from Indiana, Mr. Fithian.

**Mr. Fithian.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Doctor, if the acoustical tests were to set up the exact time of the shots, and if it were possible to determine through photoanalysis the precise alignment of the bodies, and these two things turned out to be consistent with the single bullet theory, would you change your views?

**Dr. Wecht.** If the acoustics test and more knowledge of the physical relationship of the two men, both of which, if I understand your question, sir, would permit physically — the passage of the bullet in the fashion that is attributed to it, I would say that such information would go a long way in making me doubt my long held beliefs, and it is all that I would ask, beyond a couple of simple experimental studies with the shooting of this kind of ammunition through some bones, and that would do it for me.

**Mr. Fithian.** And, finally, the bullet itself that penetrates Governor Connally's wrist, would it have to have gone through the bone to fracture it?

**Dr. Wecht.** I believe with this kind of comminuted fracture, yes, it would have had to have gone through the bone. I have heard arguments advanced in our discussions and prior to that, that the bullet just traversing near the soft tissues of the wrist would have produced that kind of fracture. I do not accept that at all.

**Mr. Fithian.** I am not very good at medical analysis. That is why we have you. If the bullet went through the bone, wouldn't there have to be some sort of a hole where it went through, or the fracture itself would have to be wide enough to let the bullet go through? Unless it was a glancing blow?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes sir. If the bullet went through more or less in the middle of the bone then there might be a hole, but the bullet would not have had to have gone through directly through the mid-portion. A passageway with the bullet striking some portion of the bone could produce that kind of comminuted fracture. It would not have to leave a hole. As a matter of fact, very often they will not leave precise holes but will cause shattering of bones. I do not believe such shattering would occur by approximal passage of the bullet without some direct contact with the bone.

**Mr. Fithian.** Finally, Mr. Chairman, I didn't quite understand your response to Congressman Dodd, but I believe I understood the gist of it, and that is, that your interpretation presented here today is really based on other than forensic pathological evidence. Isn't that generally true? Because we are talking about photographic alignment of bodies and things that have really nothing to do with the actual physical evidence taken, either photos of the body or medical examinations of the body?

**Dr. Wecht.** I would not be able to accept that characterization because, in fact, the kinds of things that we are dealing with here arise in many homicide investigations; the study of photographs, the study of wounds, the study of the physical relationship of bodies to inanimate objects and to other people, eye witness testimony, direct interviews with people, and so on.

**Mr. Fithian.** But these are not medical things, are they?

**Dr. Wecht.** What I am trying to say, is they all fall within the purview, indeed, of a functioning, practical forensic pathologist, and we would consider them, yes, within my realm and within the realm of any other forensic pathologist's overall review and evaluation of the case. The kind of thing that I have done many times and I am sure my colleagues have, too.

**Mr. Fithian.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no further questions.

**Chairman Stokes.** The gentleman from Michigan, Mr. Sawyer.

**Mr. Sawyer.** Just a few questions. I was going to ask you what your theory was as to what happened to the other bullet that hit one of these people if it wasn't found in the car and no place that was hit. I deduced from an answer you gave to one of the other questions that your view is that it passed over the top of the car after going through the president's back and neck?

**Dr. Wecht.** I think, sir that that is a very real possibility.

**Mr. Sawyer.** Then your theory is it must have been fired from the street?

**Dr. Wecht.** No sir, from a position much lower than the sixth floor. If it were in the Texas School Book Depository Building, and that is a possibility I do consider, it would have been from a lower floor. You would see, sir, if you had the entire physical terrain laid out for you, that you would be able to get that kind of a trajectory.

**Mr. Sawyer.** Do you feel if you were to eliminate President Kennedy from *this* bullet, and assume that it is other than a single bullet, now we have just a bullet striking, to begin with, Governor Connally, and going through him, as it did, and through his wrist, would you accept that the bullet, number 339, could be in its present condition?

**Dr. Wecht.** No sir, not having fractured the fifth right rib and the distal end of the radius, I do not agree that by excluding President Kennedy, would be able to accept 399 as the subject missile.

**Mr. Sawyer.** Then what would you conclude happened to that bullet?

**Dr. Wecht.** Well, as you know, sir, there were two large fragments of bullets found on the floor of the car in the front area, I think the Warren Commission Exhibits 567 and 569, and then there are other possibilities that one can get into speculatively about fragments or a fragment from the head, fragments from the governor's chest. There are different possibilities that one can consider.

**Mr. Sawyer.** But if the bullet that passed through the president's head shows from rather multiple fragments of that that are available to match those two major fragments on the floor, it would be the same bullet, then what would be your idea whatever happened to the bullet that hit Governor Connally, if it is not 399?

**Dr. Wecht.** Well, the bullet that struck Governor Connally in the chest and into the thigh might be 399, or the bullet that struck the governor in the wrist and then in the thigh could be 399, but I do not believe that 399 would be the bullet that caused all the wounds.

**Mr. Sawyer.** Just come back for a minute. I asked you in the first place if we were to eliminate the president from 399 and just assume that it is the bullet which hit Governor Connally and did all the damage to Governor Connally could you then accept that 399 would be that bullet?

**Dr. Wecht.** No sir.

**Mr. Sawyer.** You could not?

**Dr. Wecht.** No sir.

**Mr. Sawyer.** And you can't, other than claiming that it could be the two particles that were found on the floor, two major particles, you wouldn't have any idea what did happen to the bullet then that hit Governor Connally?

**Dr. Wecht.** No sir, but I would like to point out, if I may reflect back to what I said before, I assume no responsibility for the investigation that was conducted.

**Mr. Sawyer.** I totally understand that.

**Dr. Wecht.** When one considers all the things that happened and did not happen, missing pieces of evidence and documents that were destroyed, and so on, I have no idea what might have happened in Dallas that day.

**Mr. Sawyer.** Coming to one of the two things that bothers me the most, this bullet apparently struck the Governor's wrist or the distal end of his arm with sufficient force to comminute

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the bones, or for people that don't understand maybe comminuted or maybe I don't, I understand it to be shattering it into multiple pieces.

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes sir, fragmentation.

**Mr. Sawyer.** I have heard it described as a bag of bones, in effect, by doctors.

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes sir.

**Mr. Sawyer.** Why that fierce an impact on something as free and as relatively light as an arm and hand wouldn't have itself knocked that away from the hat, that seemingly held without moving. Do you have any explanation for that?

**Dr. Wecht.** That is why I say, sir, that as we look at Zapruder film [frame] 230, which, according to the Warren Commission report, is a moment in time approximately one and a half seconds after the governor is alleged to have already

**"Common sense tells us  
that no bullet can do  
anything like that."**

been shot through the wrist and continues to hold his hat, I cannot accept that. I find it incongruous, and I do not consider it, as my colleague who testified earlier, said something, whatever his words, not unusual. I consider it very unusual.

**Mr. Sawyer.** Laying aside the nerve question, just the impact on something as free swinging and yet as solid as an arm bone, and with now a reduced velocity significantly below the muzzle velocity at that point, it just appears to me unreasonable that that in itself would not have knocked that hand, just by the force of it, without regard to nerves. So it wouldn't be holding that hat just like it was.

**Dr. Wecht.** I agree, then, he would have lost his hat some point later on. He has the hat in 230. I agree with you.

**Mr. Sawyer.** Well, fine, that is all.

**Mr. Preyer.** I just have one question. I understood you earlier in your testimony, to say something to the effect that your fellow panelists refused to conduct experiments because they knew what the result would be. Did I misunderstand you?

**Dr. Wecht.** That essentially is correct, they refused to go along with me pressing for the performance of these tests, and now I am speculating, because I feel that as they considered the evidence of the bullets fired at Edgewood Arsenal in 1964, they were pretty certain that in their own experience they could not look forward to coming out with another 399.

Yes sir, I did say that, and that is exactly what I meant.

**Mr. Preyer.** Well, you have testified that they are eminent pathologists, forensic pathologists. Are you accusing them of bad faith in refusing to conduct experiments?

**Dr. Wecht.** Professional eminence and competency, sir, I believe are not exclusionary of some preconceived biases and prejudices, and vice versa. I recognize their competency. I will not apply any derogatory comments to them. I would prefer to let the facts speak for themselves, and the facts are, Judge Preyer, that they have not been at all interested, and you heard, sir, the testimony from my colleague, Dr. Baden, in pursuing this because they are not sure that they would be the same; for example the bone of a dead person is not the same as the bone of

a live person, and what would it mean, and then Dr. Baden talked about machine gun fire, etc.

We are not talking about movements of bodies, we are talking here about the shooting of bullets through inanimate objects, namely bones, recovery of those bullets to see whether they can even begin to compare to Commission Exhibit 399. And I frankly must say that I do not see the relevance of the comments that my friend and colleague, Dr. Baden, had made before in response to those questions about machine guns, and so on and so forth. I have seen no reason why it poses a great problem for people to be retained by this committee, this staff functioning at the pleasure and discretion of the committee, to have such experiments arranged.

**Mr. Preyer.** Listing all of the evidence that we have heard here today on the behavior of bullets, I must say it impresses on me once again the limits of common sense. Common sense tells us that no bullet can do anything like that; but common sense tells us the world is flat, too, and we know the world is round, and so I think there are limits to how rationally we can think about the course of this bullet under such circumstances.

**Mr. Fithian.** In Congressman Edgar's absence, we talked earlier about a question, let me ask it for him, since he is not back from voting, Doctor.

Your testimony that the bullet that exited the throat on a rising plane; is that determined by the bullet path through the body?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes sir, and the study of the panel of all the information, pictures, materials, photographic enhancements, x-ray report, of the president and so on.

**Mr. Fithian.** Now, if the body, therefore, were in some position other than you thought it was, that is, with a forward lean, would that alter where you expected the bullet to continue to go?

**Dr. Wecht.** If the body were in a substantial forward lean it could alter it somewhat in terms of the vertical angle, but that lean would have to be very substantial to fit in with the 25 degree angle of declination, and I repeat, forgive me for being redundant, but I think the pictures just rule out to the reasonable person such an absolutely unexpected movement - I do not mean to be flippant - but clearly the president had no way of knowing he was going to be shot and he wasn't trying to dodge a bullet. He was sitting there, waving to the crowd, and then the car went behind the Stemmons Freeway sign. He wasn't familiar with in terms of his blocking Mr. Zapruder's picture - He didn't know he was being blocked out from Mr. Zapruder's camera, he was just waving to the crowd, and he was sitting in that position in 225, Zapruder frame 225. There is just no way to account for, or speculate on, such a dramatic movement in less than one second.

Then, of course, we have the horizontal angle as well as the vertical angle to contend with.

**Chairman Stokes.** Time of the gentleman has expired. The gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Edgar.

**Mr. Edgar.** Doctor, at the beginning of your testimony, you talked about the interest that you have in obtaining the brain for further analysis, and some criticism of our committee and its staff for not doing enough to secure that brain. Is that correct?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes sir; whoever it is that is responsible, I have raised the question and have put it in writing, that if an eminent group of House of Representatives members, a bipartisan group, does not have the authority, then I ask the question, who does?

**Mr. Edgar.** Are you aware of all the steps that our committee has taken to secure the brain tissue?

**Dr. Wecht.** Only what I have been told by Professor Blakey, by members of the staff. I have not spoken with any member of

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the House, any member of your committee.

**Mr. Edgar.** What would you have done more than the listing that we have provided you of the actions that we have taken in order to secure the missing brain?

**Dr. Wecht.** I would get the best trained investigators, homicide detectives, or their equivalent and with an attorney for proper legal guidance and so on. I would do this under the imprimatur of the honorable chairman of this committee. I would go back to day one, and work up with Admiral Berkley and then over to the National Archives on April 26, 1965. I would get the people who were in charge of the Archives. *I would depose them under oath.* I would follow right through with Mrs. Lincoln, Senator Robert Kennedy's then secretary, who is supposed to have been involved in some way. *I would follow through with everybody under oath,* and I would, please correct me if I am wrong, I would use the power of subpoena, which I think your committee has. Maybe I am wrong about that.

**Mr. Edgar.** If all those actions were taken and the missing brain was still not made available to the committee, what then would you do?

**Dr. Wecht.** Well, then, of course, I do not suggest that anybody be put in jail, but I do suggest, Mr. Edgar, that at that point it would be a matter of record, we would know what had happened to that information, to that evidence, and we would know who is responsible for it and that would be the end of it.

I certainly do not ask anything superhuman and I do not suggest that somebody necessarily be fined or incarcerated, but if this has happened, then I would readily stand corrected. If it has not been done in that kind of intensive fashion, then I must with all due respect, say that something is missing.

I reject and find it personally insulting when comments are made like, those expressed by Mr. Burke Marshall in the past, that it is ghoulish, and so on. To ask where the president's missing brain is, and who removed it from the National Archives.

Even one of the forensic pathologists, before he became a member of this panel, *a forensic pathologist*, had made a similar statement, when I was an earlier critic — They have all come around now to recognizing that it was a horrible autopsy. For 10 years you must understand they felt I was being unduly critical, now they understand what a *ridiculous* job was done. He said, (this forensic pathologist), that I was being a ghoul in trying to pursue the brain's location.

I am not suggesting it be made the cover of *Time* or *Newsweek* magazine. The examination would be performed in the most private, discreet circumstances by a competent neuropathologist or forensic pathologist. That is all I am talking about.

**Mr. Edgar.** I appreciate your concern and I don't think that in my question I was indicating that it was all a problem of being ghoulish.

**Dr. Wecht.** Not you, sir.

**Chairman Stokes.** Thank you, Dr. Wecht. I think I have one, maybe two more questions.

As a forensic pathologist, are you automatically qualified also as a ballistics expert?

**Dr. Wecht.** No, sir, except with regard to the impact, damage, trajectories and relationships of bullets to the human body. As a separate, distinct science, not related to human wounds, the answer would be no, I am not a criminalist or a ballistics specialist.

As a forensic pathologist, I am involved very frequently in the evaluation of gunshot wounds, different kinds of ammunition, weaponry, etc., in its relationships to wounds

inflicted upon the human body, angles, degree, mortality, ability of the victim to have moved, walked, talked, direction of fire, sequence of shooting and things like that.

**Chairman Stokes.** And would it be fair to say, also, that most of your experience in terms of the wounds has been with gunshot wounds as opposed to rifle wounds?

**Dr. Wecht.** Yes, sir, by far, many more handguns but a fair number through the last 20 years I have been in pathology, since I started my training, have involved rifles, carbines and, of course, shotguns, but predominantly, as I am sure in every jurisdiction in this country, the great percentage of gunshot wounds in murders, suicides and accidents involve handguns.

**Chairman Stokes.** Dr. Wecht, at the conclusion of any

**"They have all come to recognize that it was a horrible autopsy. . .that a ridiculous job was done."**

witness' testimony before this committee, he is entitled to five minutes in which to explain his testimony or to in any way amplify or expand upon it. On behalf of the committee, I extend to you at this time the five minutes, if you so desire.

**Dr. Wecht.** I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the Members of the House Select Committee on Assassinations for having afforded me this opportunity to meet.

I am particularly grateful of the fact that you gentlemen have seen fit to stay here for this time, and I am deeply appreciative of the personal courtesy that has been extended to me.

I should like to thank Professor Blakey for having recommended to the committee that I be permitted to testify, something certainly that he did not have to do. I have enjoyed working with all the members of the committee and especially with Mr. Andy Purdy, who has been most helpful, extremely cooperative and who was, I think, extremely adroit in handling of the elicitation of my direct testimony today.

I would want to say that I am pleased that hearings of this nature are being conducted. I am very sorry that they were not conducted back in 1963 or 1964 when more people were around and more fresh evidence could have been obtained.

I think that whatever the truth may be, and hopefully, we will ultimately come to know it, that there is much that must, as a matter of record, be pointed out with regard to the manner in which these things have been handled. I think that, for instance, our panel was charged with addressing ourselves to the performance of the autopsy in this case and in the words, I think, of Professor Blakey, to set forth in our final report, as part of everything else, a protocol, a *modus operandi* in cases of this nature that would stand for all times for the foreseeable future in forensic pathology (which I wholeheartedly agree with).

I believe this has not been done thus far, although I have not seen the final draft of the proposal. I do not feel that this should be done because of any *ad hominem* criticism of the three

## Testimony

pathologists who were involved in the autopsy, but because it is important to have such a protocol should any case like this ever arise in the future.

I believe that the federal government should address itself to this question of what will happen if any particular figures, be they congressmen, senators, judges, cabinet officers, vice president, so on, are assassinated. God forbid it should ever happen again, but it is not an impossibility certainly. What would happen in that kind of a case, where would the post-mortem examination be performed, what would be the conduct of the medical-legal investigation?

I would like to say there have been all kinds of speculations in this case through the years and all kinds of input from many people. I believe that I would be less than candid if I did not

expert on that. Just some general beliefs that are, indeed, related to my political biases. I am sure. But I think that it is most important that this scientific evidence, not to denigrate the significance or importance of any other evidence and the competency of all the people and the tremendous work that other panels, individuals in this committee and staff, may have done and that will be deliberated upon, reviewed and analyzed and discussed in the days and weeks ahead, but I must say that this is the foundation, because as long as the single bullet theory is clung to, then whether people consciously or subconsciously realize it, they are able to hold on to the sole assassin theory. Everything else at that point becomes either academic or speculative—did Oswald know Ruby, was Oswald going to the Ruby home, what was J.D. Tippit doing there—important things probably that this group of human beings, given the

***The moment you abandon the single bullet theory is the moment you are into Black's Legal Dictionary definition of a criminal conspiracy.***

express publicly what I have said many times to others and in other public forums, that I feel that in the past, there has been a mental block, there has been an impediment, a formidable obstacle, indeed, which I recognize [as being of] a political nature that I think prevents many individuals from just letting it all hang out in this case. *I think that this comes back to the single bullet theory because it is clearly recognized by everybody that the moment you abandon the single bullet theory, that is the moment that you are into two people who were shooting, that is the moment that you are into Black's Legal Dictionary definition of a criminal conspiracy as well as the definition of the statutes of every jurisdiction and the federal government of this country.*

I think that this is recognized by many people and I think it is a step that many individuals find some difficulty in considering.

The president is gone, beloved as he may have been. We cannot bring him back. This would be of such a nature, the concept of political assassination, in effect, a political coup d'etat, that we simply cannot consider it ever occurring in this country. It can happen in the totalitarian nations of Eastern Europe, it might happen in the emerging nations of Asia and Africa, it certainly can be expected to happen in the banana republics of Central America, it might even happen in a Western democracy, but never, never in our country. I think that it can happen. Whether it did or not, I do not know.

Obviously, I have no personal knowledge of who the assassins were and what their motivations were. I am not an

absence of the major actors in this drama today, will never be able to answer.

I very much hope that this evidence will be thoroughly reviewed. The fact that it is an eight to one decision, so to speak, of this forensic pathology panel, hopefully will not sway the members of this committee, especially those of you who are attorneys, and Judge Preyer, who has been both an attorney and a member of the judiciary, and that you will consider the evidence on its own merits.

I hope that it will be possible for definitive evidence to emanate from the tests being conducted by the Boston firm, that more investigation will be permitted, that Professor Blakey's committee and staff will continue to be funded through your committee.

I thank you, sir, for your courtesy. And I hope that something of a definitive nature will emanate in the weeks ahead.

**Chairman Stokes.** Thank you, Dr. Wecht, very much, personally for being a member of this very distinguished panel of medical experts.

We thank you for the time you have expanded on behalf of this committee working with that panel of experts and certainly for the point of view you have expressed here today. We are indeed grateful to you for that, also.

So, we think you certainly have performed a service, and we thank you for having been a witness here today.

**Dr. Wecht.** Thank you, sir.

**Chairman Stokes.** Thank you.

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by adding after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

"(3) Under the authority of subsection (A) (1) (B) (1), the Secretary shall provide for demonstration projects, in at least three States and at least one of which is located in a rural area, which relate to the provision of preventive health services: (including basic health screening, referral, and health education) to the elderly throughout the State through traveling health care practitioners (other than physicians, but including public health nurses) who provide such services in or through different public and private nonprofit facilities (including churches, schools, and senior citizen centers). The Secretary shall report to Congress on the results of such demonstration projects not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this paragraph."

**UNAUTHORIZED EXAMINATION ON SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS MATERIALS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STOKES) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, recent newspaper and other media accounts have carried the story that materials in the possession of the former Select Committee on Assassinations were examined in an unauthorized fashion last summer. As the former chairman of the select committee, I am making these remarks to report to my colleagues the facts of the matter.

The Select Committee on Assassinations faced an important and complex task. The House mandated the committee to look into the facts and circumstances surrounding the deaths of two of our Nation's greatest leaders, President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Death is not a pleasant subject, and its details can be gruesome. One of the least pleasant of the tasks that faced the committee was the examination of the photographs made during the autopsies of these two men. Anyone who knew them in life would be disturbed viewing their photographs in death.

The photographs that were made in connection with the autopsies of President Kennedy and Dr. King have never been made public. Good taste dictates that they never be. The Warren Commission that examined President Kennedy's death in 1964 did not publish them, and the select committee's final report on the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. King will also not make the photographs of either of them public.

Mr. Speaker, the Select Committee on Assassinations took extraordinary care that the autopsy photographs were not used in an unauthorized fashion.

There are segments of the press that are so lacking in good taste that they might well have published them if they could have obtained access to them. The select committee made every effort to employ only the most trustworthy persons, but even then, only those with a need to use the autopsy photographs in their work were given access to them.

The autopsy materials were kept in a separate safe in the security room of the offices of the select committee. The

committee's classified files were kept in the same room, but in separate safes. The general files of the committee were housed in another area entirely. It was necessary to sign in and out on a log-book to secure access to classified files. Access to the autopsy materials could only be secured by the personal permission of the chief counsel given separately every time access was sought.

Each notebook that contained a set of the autopsy photographs was separately numbered and the use of each book was recorded on a log every time it was examined.

In July of last year the staff of the select committee discovered that a Central Intelligence Agency employee had obtained unauthorized access to the autopsy photographs of President Kennedy. The staff made this discovery with the assistance of the District of Columbia Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Central Intelligence Agency. The facts are as follows:

A researcher on the Assassinations Committee staff secured permission of the chief counsel to get access to the Kennedy autopsy materials. Access was obtained in the morning. The materials were taken from the safe, and the safe door was closed but not locked. They were to be used in another room by the committee's medical artist to prepare drawings of the President's wounds.

When he returned later that day to return the photographs, he found that the safe had been opened and another notebook had been taken out of the safe. One photograph of the President that was enclosed in a plastic cover had been ripped out of the notebook and the photograph taken out of its cover.

The chief counsel of the committee was immediately notified and he ordered the staff to undertake an investigation to determine who had obtained unauthorized access to the materials. The fingerprints of each member of the staff who had authorized access to the safe were matched against fingerprints that were lifted from the books that had been removed from the safe, the plastic covers in the books, and the inside of the safe door. None of the staff fingerprints matched the lifted fingerprints. The fingerprints of a Central Intelligence Agency employee were then matched to the lifted prints.

The match was made by the District of Columbia Police and double checked by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Speaker, this matter was handled by the District of Columbia Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in a competent and confidential fashion and the committee is grateful to them for their assistance.

To understand how the Central Intelligence Agency employee obtained access to the safe it is necessary to understand the role he played with the committee. The select committee had access at the Central Intelligence Agency to the agency's classified files. Notes were taken by the staff on the files. Those notes were brought by an agency courier under seal to a special area in the committee's offices where they were locked in a safe to which only the Central Intelli-

gence Agency had the combination. Nothing else was kept in that room. An agency employee was available during working hours in the room to give the staff access to the notes. The safe could only be opened in the presence of the Agency employee and a staff member. If it was necessary to use the Agency notes in connection with a regular file of the committee, the regular file was brought to the special area. If it was necessary to use the committee's classified files in connection with the staff notes either the classified file would be brought to the special area or the staff notes were brought to the classified files in the security room. The Agency employee always accompanied the staff notes if they were removed from the special area. But the Agency employee was not authorized to be out of the special area unless he was accompanied by a staff member. He was not authorized to have access to the autopsy materials.

When the Agency employee's fingerprints were matched to the lifted fingerprints, permission was obtained from the Agency to interview the Agency employee. The employee's permission was obtained to record the interview. The employee denied having access to the autopsy materials when he was interviewed on one day. He was then interviewed a second time on a succeeding day. He did not admit any wrongdoing. He refused to be interviewed any more.

The Central Intelligence Agency conducted an investigation of the matter. Its investigation began after the committee asked permission to talk to the employee and before the committee brought the details of the unauthorized action, including the fingerprints, to the Agency's attention. The Agency's investigation included interviews and the use of photographs.

Additional photographs were taken after the details of the committee's investigation were brought to the attention of the Agency. The committee was given access to everything that the Agency obtained in its investigation and certain additional materials that the committee requested.

The committee staff members who conducted the investigation are satisfied that there was no evidence uncovered that the Agency directed the employee to obtain access to the autopsy materials. They also believe on the basis of what they know that the Agency did not direct the activity of the Agency employee in this regard. The Agency employees who conducted the Agency's investigation are satisfied that the motive for obtaining unauthorized access was mere curiosity. The committee staff members are not satisfied that the motive has been established; they believe mere curiosity is not consistent with the fingerprint evidence. But in the absence of a full and truthful confession by the Agency employee or the others, if any, who were in league with him—or substantial new evidence all recognize that the matter of motive cannot be ultimately resolved.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to emphasize several points:

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June 28, 1979

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First. No evidence was uncovered that anything was taken;

Second. No evidence was uncovered that anything was misused, other than in the unauthorized examination itself;

Third. No evidence was uncovered that anyone has profited from these acts;

Fourth. No evidence was uncovered that anyone other than the employee himself was involved in what he did;

Fifth. The employee has been discharged from the Agency; and

Sixth. To my knowledge, no disciplinary action has been thought necessary or taken against any other Agency employees in connection with the incident.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what additional action can be taken in this matter. I considered it closed in July 1978 after the committee and the Agency did all they reasonably could be expected to do. I consider it closed now. Nevertheless, if the House or any of its relevant committees seeks to inquire into the matter further, I will assist in any way possible. It is enough to add that speculation about the matter beyond the evidence at hand is unjust to all concerned. No one wishes to know the truth more than I do. But the irresponsible circulation of rumor and myth only feed paranoia; they do not quench the thirst for knowledge.

At this point I include the following:

[From the Washington Post, June 18, 1979]

**CIA OFFICER RIFLED FILES OF HILL PANEL**

(By George Lardner, Jr.)

The House Assassinations Committee discovered last summer that its most sensitive files had been rifled, and then traced fingerprints on them to an officer of the CIA, according to informed sources.

The incident involved surreptitious entry of a combination safe at the congressional committee's offices, the sources said. The safe was reserved for physical evidence of President Kennedy's assassination, including the autopsy photos, X-rays and other articles, such as the so-called "magic bullet" that wounded both Kennedy and Texas Gov. John B. Connally.

Apparently nothing had been taken, but the sources said, there was no doubt that the files in the safe had been tampered with. For instance, they said the autopsy photos of the head shot that killed Kennedy had been taken out of their slip cases and were left in a drawer inside the three-drawer safe.

"It looked as though someone had just run out," one source said.

After several inquiries by a reporter this week, the CIA acknowledged that it has dismissed the individual in question, but indicated that it plans no further action.

"We're satisfied that it was just a matter of curiosity [on the individual CIA officer's part]," said CIA spokesman Herbert Hetu.

Asked whether it might have been a matter of conscious CIA spying on a congressional committee, Hetu replied, "Good lord, no."

The unauthorized entry was discovered when committee staffers arrived at work early one morning last summer, probably in July sources said.

"Blakey [the House committee's chief counsel, G. Robert Blakey] was told right away," one source recounted. "Only three or four people were supposed to have access to that safe. And I understand that one of them said he'd locked it the night before."

Fingerprint experts from the D.C. police department, where several committee staffers had old friends, were called in. By then, someone had thoughtlessly had the documents rearranged neatly, so that there were other

prints on them and on the safe. But the security-conscious committee reportedly had fingerprint records of everyone who worked there, both those with access to the safe and those who had no business being there.

Sources said the only unauthorized set of prints the police found belonged to Regis T. Blahut, a CIA liaison officer who had been detailed to assist the committee with the CIA records it needed for its investigations.

"His fingerprints were all over the place," one source reported. "On the photos, inside the safe, and on all sorts of different packages."

Particularly telling, another source indicated, was the fact that some of the prints were found on autopsy photos themselves rather than the plastic sleeves in which they had been enclosed.

The episode reportedly produced a great wave of anxiety within the CIA, which has been claiming for several years that it has learned its lessons and that its domestic spying and misdeeds are a relic of the past. In any case, the agency launched an intensive internal investigation, including polygraph examinations of Blahut and perhaps a number of his superiors.

In a brief telephone interview with The Washington Post, Blahut denied any wrongdoing. He acknowledged that his fingerprints had been found on the documents in question, but insisted that there was an innocent explanation. He refused, however, to say what that was.

"There's other things that are involved that are detrimental to other things," he said. Asked what he meant by that, he refused to elaborate.

"I signed an oath of secrecy [with the CIA]," he said. "I cannot discuss it any further."

Sources quoted Blakey, who was kept informed of the CIA's in-house inquiry, as having stated on several occasions that Blahut had been given three polygraph examinations in all and that he had failed them in important respects.

"He denied he did it, and he flunked that," one source said. "They also asked him whether anyone ordered him to do it. He said no one, and he flunked that."

Blahut, who said he worked for the CIA office of security, insisted that he had come through the tests with his credibility unblemished.

"I've already defended myself to my employers," he said when asked about the incident. "As far as I'm concerned, that's all cleared up."

Blakey, who has been working on the now moribund Assassination Committee's final report in recent weeks, refused to comment. Sources said he seized on the incident last year and used it as leverage to get the CIA to cough up a number of documents it had been holding back from the committee. Some of the records reportedly pertained to Lee Harvey Oswald's visit to Mexico City in September 1963.

"There was a marked improvement," one former staffer recalled. "All of a sudden, they were giving us everything we wanted. Blakey kept saying he wanted to go slow, to let them [the CIA] conduct the investigation. . . . But I think he'd have to admit we wanted better cooperation."

Asked one question after another about the incident, including the identification of the CIA officer's fingerprints, Blakey kept saying: "I won't discuss the matter." Asked if he would deny it, he said, "No."

Most members of the House committee apparently were kept in the dark. Even the chairman of the subcommittee that investigated the Kennedy assassination, Rep. Richardson Preyer (D-N.C.), said he was unaware of it when queried by a reporter. Later, after checking with Chairman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), Preyer declined to comment beyond saying:

"Blakey and Lou [Stokes] were handling the CIA stuff. I don't have my nose out of joint about it. Talk to Lou."

Stokes declined to talk. "The matter was terminated," he said. "There's no need for me to comment."

It was not clear what other CIA officials might have been given polygraph tests before the inquiry was dropped although sources said that one of Blahut's superiors, Scott Breckinridge of the CIA inspector general's office, had been expected to be given one. There were also reports that CIA Deputy Director Frank Carlucci had offered "in a magnanimous way" to take one.

Breckinridge is a veteran CIA official who served as the agency's chief liaison officer with the Senate Intelligence Committee during its 1975-78 investigations of the intelligence community. He also wrote the top-secret CIA inspector general's report in 1967 on CIA assassination plots against Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

Breckinridge retired recently. He could not be reached for comment. CIA spokesman Hetu said his retirement had nothing to do with the rumormongering of the House committee's safe.

As for Carlucci, Hetu told a reporter, "He doesn't remember having said what you said he said."

[From the Washington Post, June 19, 1979]

**CIA PROBE INTO RIFLED FILES CALLED SUPERFICIAL, SELF-SERVING**

(By George Lardner, Jr.)

The Central Intelligence Agency's investigation of the rifling last year of a congressional committee's files by one of its officers was aimed primarily at getting the CIA off the hook, according to informed sources.

"They investigated it to get out of it themselves, not to find out whether somebody else was involved," said one knowledgeable source.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that the most sensitive files of the House Assassinations Committee had been rifled last summer by a CIA liaison officer who had been assigned to help the committee.

The CIA responded by saying that the officer in question, Regis T. Blahut, had been dismissed. CIA spokesman Herbert Hetu said the agency was "satisfied" that the incident had been simply "a matter of curiosity" on Blahut's part.

Sources close to the committee sharply disputed the CIA's assertions. One said "the circumstantial [evidence] is overwhelming" that more than "curiosity" was involved.

CIA officer Blahut, this source said, "went into a room where he wasn't supposed to be without one of our officers being present."

There, the source said:

"He opened a safe, and pulled out a drawer.

"He took a ring-binder notebook out of the drawer, he ripped a plastic case out of the notebook and he took a picture out of the plastic case.

"He fled when he heard a noise, and then he lied about it."

According to this source, both CIA Director Stansfeld Turner and CIA Deputy Director Frank Carlucci were informed bluntly by the committee's chief counsel, G. Robert Blakey, of what the committee regarded as the shortcomings of the CIA inquiry.

Hetu denied this. In a telephone interview yesterday, he also denied that the CIA had conducted a shortsighted, self-protective investigation. "We did check outside and inside [the agency]," he said.

Hetu also maintained that Blahut had every right to be in the room where the safe was located.

The rifled safe was reserved for physical evidence from the Kennedy assassination and, at the time, contained at least the grisly autopsy photos. The safe containing

CIA records and other materials that Blahut was supposed to safeguard was in another room, sources said.

Committee staffers discovered the incident one afternoon last July after a committee lawyer had gone into the room, with Blakey's permission, to inspect some of the autopsy photos. He left the room briefly to speak with Blakey and returned to discover that one of the notebooks he had not touched was out of place.

If it were just curiosity, why should you have to take photos out of an unused book in order to see them? Why not just look at them?" one source said.

As for Blakey, sources said, he had always been "paranoid" about the possibility that some of the gruesome Kennedy autopsy photos might get out and destroy the committee's reputation.

"No one who has seen those photos would have any doubt that they should not be made public," one source said. "The one thing that would have done us [the House Assassinations Committee] in would have been for those photos to be publicly released. We were never satisfied that someone else wasn't involved."

Of the CIA's investigation, one source said, "all they investigated was whether he [Blahut] had any connection with the agency [in doing what he did] . . . They asked [Blahut] on a polygraph [examination] whether he had any connection with the agency in doing what he did. And he passed when he said he didn't have any connection. But they didn't ask whether someone else had authorized him to do it."

Turner enunciated the agency's view yesterday afternoon in one of his "Director's Notes" to all CIA employees: "A media report today suggests that there was something sinister involving the agency and the files of the House Assassinations Committee. I want to assure you that this is simply not the case. Our investigations revealed an error in judgment by a contract employee as a custodian for CIA material with the committee. He acted alone and out of curiosity and was dismissed."

[From the Washington Star, June 18, 1979]

#### CIA FIRES OFFICER WHO RIFLED FILES

A CIA security officer, found to have sorted through sensitive files of the House Assassinations Committee, has been fired, an agency spokesman said last night.

The security officer, Regis T. Blahut, was assigned to guard CIA documents being used by the committee in its investigation of the assassination of President John Kennedy, said spokesman Herbert Hetu. "He saw the committee's files and picked them up, which was dumb," Hetu said.

After an internal CIA investigation, he said, "we were totally convinced" Blahut was not encouraged "from outside or inside the CIA" to examine private committee documents.

"That would be the immediate question, but we felt certain it was just a matter of curiosity and poor judgement," Hetu said. "We dismissed the guy and that was it."

A Washington Post story in today's editions quoted unnamed sources as saying the incident involved "surreptitious entry of a combination safe at the committee's offices," but Hetu said no safe was involved as far as he knew.

The Post said the safe was reserved for physical evidence of the Kennedy assassination, including autopsy photos, X-rays and the bullet said to have hit Kennedy and Texas Gov. John B. Connally.

There are no allegations that anything was taken.

Blahut could not be reached for comment last night, but The Post quoted him as acknowledging that his fingerprints had been found on some of the documents. However,

he denied any wrongdoing, citing a CIA "oath of secrecy" in declining to elaborate, the newspaper said.

[From the Washington Post, June 28, 1979]  
HOUSE PROBING CIA 'BABYSITTER' WHO RIFLED FILES ON JFK

(By George Gardner, Jr.)

The House Intelligence Committee has started an investigation of a CIA officer's snooping last year in the offices of another congressional committee.

Members of the Intelligence Committee, which has oversight authority over the CIA, were informed of the inquiry last week by Chairman Edward Boland (D-Mass.). Committee staffers had already interviewed the CIA's director of security, Robert Gambino, about the incident following a report in The Washington Post.

The Post, quoting informed sources, reported that the most sensitive files of the House Assassinations Committee had been rifled last summer and fingerprints on them traced to a CIA liaison officer assigned to the committee.

The assignment, it has since been learned, was made under a CIA program code-named "MH/Child," which sources described as encompassing a variety of so-called "babysitting" chores.

The agency dismissed the liaison officer in question, Regis T. Blahut, last August and then dropped the matter. In a memo to all CIA employees last week, CIA Director Stansfield Turner took the position that Blahut had "acted alone and out of curiosity."

Since then, the CIA has also been insisting that Blahut, who had been employed by the agency's Office of Security, did not rifle the Assassinations Committee's files and did not even enter the safe where the files were kept.

However, the agency has refused to say what it thinks did happen, beyond describing it as—in the words of CIA spokesman Herbert Hetu—"something dumb."

According to informed sources, the incident took place one afternoon last July after an Assassinations Committee staffer had started inspecting some of the materials in a combination safe reserved for physical evidence of the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy.

Sources said he took what he wanted and left the room. According to one version, he left the safe door closed but unlocked; according to another, the safe door might have been left slightly ajar. In any case, sources said, when he returned, he found a book of Kennedy autopsy photos inside the safe in obvious disarray.

Blahut's fingerprints were found on the inside door of the safe. They were also found on one of the gruesome autopsy photos, which had been taken out of its plastic case, sources said. The plastic case itself had been torn from its notebook binder.

The CIA's Hetu, however, declares that Blahut "did not enter the safe to get the notebook."

Asked how it was then that Blahut's fingerprints were found on the inside of the safe door, Hetu said this must have happened when Blahut was "putting it [the book of photos] back in the safe."

Asked why Blahut would do that if he hadn't taken the book from the safe to begin with, the CIA spokesman said, "I don't know. Ask Blahut."

Hetu also declined to give the CIA's version of what happened, insisting that it would serve "no purpose."

Blahut, who reportedly failed CIA polygraph tests in several important respects concerning the incident, declined to comment. He has said there is an innocent explanation, but he has refused to say what that is.

Sources said there were at least three

personnel shifts and changes within the CIA's Office of Security following the incident last summer and the recent publicity over it, affecting, among others, Blahut's immediate supervisor. Hetu said there was no connection.

"We're satisfied that what he [Blahut] did, he did on his own," the CIA spokesman told a reporter. "None of the things [personnel shifts and resignations] you've described had anything to do with that. . . . We're satisfied the guy did something dumb. He looked at a book he wasn't supposed to look at. And we fired him after we assured ourselves that he wasn't tasked [to do what he did] by anyone either inside or outside the agency."

Sources close to the committee maintained that the CIA's investigation was aimed primarily at getting the agency off the hook and was not thorough enough to eliminate suspicions that more than "curiosity" might have been involved.

Blahut had been assigned to help the Assassinations Committee with the CIA files it needed in its inquiries. Sources described the MH/Child project, under which the assignment came, as a sort of "babysitting" function that also includes escorting visitors to the CIA headquarters building at Langley.

□ 2230

#### NRTA-AARP SETS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 1979

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PEPPER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

• Mr. PEPPER. Mr. Speaker, the National Retired Teachers Association and the American Association of Retired Persons are widely recognized organizations concerned with the welfare of older Americans. These organizations have recently published their 1979 legislative policy and 1979-80 joint State legislative committee policy guidelines. This year's program emphasizes the importance of the demographic, economic and employment trends in terms of legislative policy for current and future retirees and the Government programs which assist them. The National Retired Teachers Association and the American Association of Retired Persons represent over 12 million members and emphasize that as the older population expands and changes, Federal programs must respond.

Because I would like to share some highlights of their national legislative objectives with my fellow Congressmen, I would ask that the following article be inserted in its entirety at this point in the RECORD:

#### THE 1979 NRTA-AARP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES ECONOMIC POLICY

As inflation is our major economic problem, steps must be taken to reduce drastically the annual rate and provide the elderly with an increased measure of compensation for the inflation losses they suffer.

To these ends, the federal government should coordinate monetary and fiscal policies, reduce government spending, balance the federal budget, strongly enforce anti-trust policy, deregulate those economic sectors where price competition would be improved, promote competition and productivity, use economic "controls" where necessary (as in the health sector) and develop innovative "tools" to use in the fight against inflation.

CHAPTER THREE

AFTERMATH



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ARTICLE

with the testimony of all of the doctors at Parkland Hospital who saw the body, and their death certificate. Their testimony says that the back of the head was blown away, where an entry wound is now placed by Dr. Fisher.

We were coached, Grossen says of the expert consultants to the Committee. "We were not allowed to talk about certain things, about what we wanted to talk about." Congressman Fauntroy, in one instance, had begun to ask

Grossen questions about the gunman on the Grassy Knoll (who appears in films and photographs), but the Congressman was interrupted and silenced by the Chairman.

This is how the Warren Commission conducted its inquiry, also.

NEUTRON ACTIVATION ANALYSIS UPDATE

---by Edgar F. Tatro, Braintree, Mass.

The HSCA's most convincing scientific evidence to substantiate the single bullet theory was developed by means of neutron activation analysis conducted by a leading authority in this field, Dr. Vincent P. Guinn, Professor of Chemistry at the University of California. Dr. Guinn's dramatic expert testimony revealed that his new N.A.A. tests indicated that there was evidence of only two bullets in the assassination and that fragments from Governor Connally's wrist originated from CE399, the magic bullet. The lower jaws of many Warren Commission critics must have hit the floor with this latter bombshell of information. However, this apparently compelling, blockbuster testimony, as is so often the case, tends to fizzle considerably upon a closer inspection.

the data and make sense of it all. Mr. Brown wrote a superb article about his findings in the November, 1976 issue of The Continuing Inquiry. Ironically, he had contacted Dr. Guinn to obtain the necessary education for his own research findings which opened a massive can of worms. One of Dr. Guinn's reports entitled, "forensic neutron activation analysis of bullet lead specimens," stated that antimony concentrations are very uniform in bullet lead specimens within individual bullets, within individual boxes of bullets, and within individual lots of bullets; that antimony was the chief focus of his work; and that bullet lead specimens with antimony standard deviations greater than three percent apart clearly indicated that those bullets or fragments in question derived from different lots.

Because of the complexity and scarcity of JFK assassination N.A.A. information, perhaps a brief history would be appropriate. On Nov. 23, 1963 the FBI conducted spectrographic tests on selected bullet fragments and specimens recovered that day, but the boys of Efrem Zimbalist Jr. fame would only state that the metallic remnants were only "similar" in metallic composition. Such evasive wording led most critics to suspect that different bullets had been detected.

For years critics have reasonably questioned where could Oswald have obtained only four bullets with no evidence of any others in sight. What if the N.A.A. results indicated that the fragments came from at least different lots and perhaps completely different types of commercial ammunition altogether which Emory Brown had readily considered. Well, my friend toiled over the data and the N.A.A. results confirmed his suspicions. CE399 and the "alleged" Connally wrist fragments did not exactly equate, but were within the allowed three percent differential for antimony. Brown deduced that CE399 and the wrist fragments may have originated from similar type bullets, but not the same bullet. A similar three percent equating was determined to exist between one large auto fragment, the three small auto fragments, and two fragments removed from the president's head. However the two groups would not match each other. In one instance the distinction in antimony concentration differed as much as seventeen percent. Therefore a second gunman seemed an assurity.

The Atomic Energy Commission became the next place of business. In May, 1964 the AEC conducted N.A.A. tests on these bullet fragments with three specimens inexplicably excluded, one large auto fragment, windshield scraping, and the Tague curb scar. For years the fact that such tests had been conducted was a guarded secret. Still more years would pass us by before we would receive a suspicious little Hoover document indicating "minor variations" did exist. Finally, through the diligent legal efforts of Harold Weisberg, the fifty-seven pages of N.A.A. handwritten notes were released, but the grapevine whispered that the results were "inconclusive."

Of course most of Brown's theorizing herein was based upon the assumption that Dr. Guinn's research paper was accurate and all inclusive, that is, all bullet lead specimens, including Carcano bullets, had been considered.

Enter my friend and fellow colleague, Emory Brown, who had the determination, foresight, intelligence, and fortitude to muddle through

In 1978 I received a Guinn Research Document

from Dr. John Nichols, forensic pathologist from the University of Kansas Medical Center, which emphatically stated that Mannlicher-Carcano bullets had tremendous heterogeneous concentrations of antimony. (This document can be found in HSCA, Volume one, Appendix C, page 543). Such is the irony of life that the exception to the rule would be these bullets. Although I have reasons to question the veracity of Dr. Guinn, who conducted this work with materials provided to him by Dr. Nichols, I have no reason to doubt the integrity of Dr. Nichols, who deserves only praise for his contributions to unraveling this fiasco. At any rate, if Mannlicher-Carcano bullets do not possess homogeneous strains of antimony, Guinn's 1970 research is grossly invalid and unfortunately so is much of Emory Brown's dedicated effort as a result of Dr. Guinn's mistake. (One can only wonder if Guinn made any other errors as a consultant for the HSCA).

Guinn's N.A.A. testimony confirmed what Dr. Nichols had sent to me months prior, the heterogeneous nature of antimony in Carcano bullet lead specimens. He then announced his historical findings to the panel. His new N.A.A. statistics do correspond with the 1964 AEC tests, but some serious problems have surfaced.

First, Dr. Guinn denied any previous association with the Warren Commission. Perhaps technically this is an accurate statement. However, Guinn did perform an N.A.A. test on the casts of Oswald's cheeks to determine if any nitrates, not found by the routine paraffin test, could be detected. Guinn's permission to borrow such crucial physical evidence in the mystery of the century obviously was not a low level decision. Common sense dictates that at least high echelon FBI administrators with close ties to Warren Commission personnel allowed this scenario to take place. In August, 1964 Guinn said, "I cannot say what we found out about Oswald because it is secret until the publication of the Warren Commission Report." Despite the fact that his findings were not published in the Warren Report, which is fishy unto itself, does the above quote cited from the New York World-Telegram and Sun of August 28, 1964 sound like a man totally disassociated from the Warren Commission?

Secondly, Guinn explained that he was unable to perform any analysis on the same three specimens which had been excluded by the AEC in 1964. Guinn claimed that the case enclosing the windshield scrapings was simply

devoid of metal; that CE569, a large auto fragment, was merely a bullet's copper jacket and finally, that the scrapings from the Tague curb scar were worthless cement particles he deduced that the FBI's spectrographic tests had consumed the valuable metal from the windshield and the curb. Why didn't the AEC cite these explanations in 1964 if such was the case?

In the January, 1979 issue of The JFK Assassination Forum, I questioned whether the absence of metal from the Tague curb was the truth or a governmental convenience since the lack of copper allowed only two possible alternative explanations for its existence one, a head shot fragment which improbably flew approximately 280 feet off its course or two, a non-copper jacketed bullet which missed its target completely and that would spell conspiracy. The solution to the mystery is lost without neutron activation analysis and the HSCA had no idea how James Tague had been shot.

Another oddity which Guinn admitted to reporters, regrettably after his testimony, was the inexplicable mystery as to why the tested fragments in 1978 do not match the tested fragments in 1964 in either weight, size, or number. Frankly, how the hell can that be? Of particular interest are the discrepancies in the number of fragments removed from Governor Connally's wrist which has been a source of controversy for some time now. Several years ago Dr. Nichols published three separate photos of CE842, the wrist fragments one taken in 1964, one in 1967, and one in 1968, and the difference in fragments perceived of the same exhibit is spelled out in sinister photographic black and white.

Finally Guinn testified that the wrist fragments came from CE399. He was told that the wrist fragments were the wrist fragments, but could he be the witting or unwitting victim of a switch? In 1964, metal was removed from the nose and base of CE399 for the 1964 tests. In fact Dr. Nichols has published articles indicating that CE399 was weighed prior to the removal of these pieces, that the weights of these amounts were not divulge that a flake fell off CE399 in January, 1967, and that the National Archives had refused to weigh the flake or reweigh CE399 for him. However, the key point to cite is the fact that the metal recovered from CE399's base has never been accounted for. Maybe the wrist fragment

aren't the wrist fragments. Maybe they're CE399 fragments hidden away for sixteen years. Even the chain of transfer of CE399 is totally unreliable; a few fragments would be simple enough to put aside. Frankly, at this point, anything is possible.

One last addendum was recently sent to me by fellow researcher, Peter Erbe, who corresponded with nurse Andry Bell, who drew for him the approximate number and size of the fragments she claims were removed from Governor Connally's

179  
wrist. In her own words, Nurse Bell wrote, "the fragments we removed in surgery were more than was needed to support the 'one bullet' theory." If her perceptions are honest and accurate, my head swirls with the possible deceptions that have been perpetrated upon all of us all these years. No matter how dramatic, compelling, or convincing the "hard" scientific evidence appears to be, I have learned in life to assume nothing except perhaps that the government cannot investigate the government.

Reprinted below is Nurse Bell's response to Erbe's question about the Connally fragments.

14. I believe you were present during surgery on Governor Connally in Operating Room 5 at Parkland Hospital beginning around 1:00p.m.. Could you please tell me Ms. Bell the number, size, and shape of the lead fragments removed from the Governor's body during the course of surgery by doctors Shaw and Gregory? Again, did any of them possess any distinct color?

P.S. →  
RETYPED  
FOR  
CLARITY  
PURPOSES  
BY MYSELF,  
Ed GANDOLFO;  
ORIGINAL  
S TOO  
LIGHT TO  
READ -

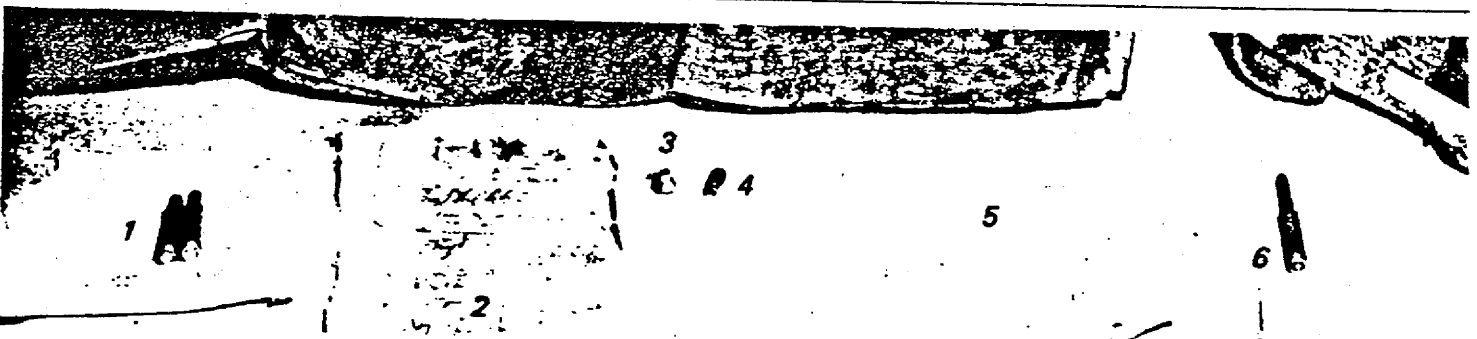
*Four or five grayish fragments - removed from Governor Connally's body during surgery - difficult to remember now, but rough, irregular, flattened shape - no real uniformity in size -*



*Do not recall weight*

*Unable to mark any fragment due to size and configuration.*

→  
BOTH TYPED  
WRITTEN WORDS  
RETYPED AND  
WRITTEN OVER  
FOR CLARITY -  
TOO LIGHT  
ORIGINALLY, E.G.



And then we have this portion of a photograph from page 88 of Chief Curry's book, which the Chief captioned, "3. A metal fragment from the arm of Governor Connally." The fragment is much too large to have come from bullet 399! Was Chief Curry mistaken? Or was he trying to tell us something?

THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON ASSASSINATIONS  
COVERUP.

BY TED GANDOLFO

SEPTEMBER 8, 1982

The House Select Committee On Assassinations was established on September 17, 1976 by an overwhelming vote of the House Of Representatives by a vote of 280 to 65. The Committee's mandate was to fully investigate all of the circumstances surrounding the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Very shortly thereafter, I sent to each member of the Committee copies of 35 hours of crucial tape-recordings including CBS-TV and NBC-TV reportage of the entire date of November 22, 1963, beginning 14 minutes after the first bulletin was announced that shots had been fired at President Kennedy in Dallas. Up until the day the House Committee On Assassinations was established, I had compiled what is acknowledged to be the largest tape-recorded Library in the world relating to the JFK assassination, nearly 4,000 hours total.) In late 1976, Richard A. Sprague was chosen to be the Chief Counsel of the Committee, and at that time, a number of us researchers indicated that we were very pleased with his selection. We felt that Mr. Sprague was the very best choice to be the Chief Counsel of that Committee.

Some people disagreed, however, especially after the first press conference that he held in Washington upon assuming that position when he said, "Every single document from the files of the FBI and the CIA that was relevant to either murder would be subpoenaed", and that "Every single witness would be called who was within the continent of the United States, or Hawaii, or Alaska who had information relevant to either of the two murders." Mr. Sprague fully intended to interview in depth every competent researcher and to use their information in his investigations. He also in-

tended to obtain and study the evidence of Jim Garrison's investigation conducted in 1967.

Sprague's idea was to investigate the possible involvement of the CIA and the FBI in the two assassinations and in the subsequent coverups. During the time that Mr. Sprague was the Chief Counsel, the Select Committee On Assassinations issued an Interim Report dated March 28, 1977. On pages 8 and 9 of that report, under the title "Development Of The Investigation Into The Assassination Of President John F. Kennedy", here are some of the published statements made.

1) "The Select Committee is actively pursuing several new leads which indicate that Lee Harvey Oswald was associated with CIA supported Anti-Castro groups and which suggest that his reported Pro-Castro activities and possibly his alleged trip to Mexico City may have been deliberately designed to mask those associations."

2) "The Warren Commission had concluded that Jack Ruby never knew Oswald and had never seen him before Nov. 22, 1963. The Committee staff has spoken with a witness who has never been previously interviewed and who stated that in November of 1963, prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, the witness was personally introduced to Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby."

3) "On January 27, 1964, members of the Warren Commission met in Executive session to discuss evidence which had surfaced indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald was an undercover FBI informant at the time of assassination. Specifically, the evidence indicated that Oswald was employed by the FBI from September of 1962 up until the assassination at a salary of \$200 a month. His FBI number

was allegedly either 172 or 179. 18

The evidence came from two sources, but the Commission did not investigate the matter, and simply accepted a statement by J. Edgar Hoover, that Oswald was not an informant for the FBI."

4) "Recently, an FBI informant advised the Committee that he had seen an FBI agent and Lee Harvey Oswald meeting together on numerous occasions in various New Orleans bars. The informant states that he had previously denied seeing Oswald and the agent together because he was threatened by the agent. The agent has denied the informant's charge." (The informant was Orest Pena, and the agent who threatened him was said to be FBI agent Warren Dubreys.)

5) "A witness, who was an FBI Security Code Clerk in the New Orleans Field Office from 1961 to 1966 alleges that the FBI agent sent a teletype to all of it's offices 5 days before the assassination warning of a reported conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy on his proposed trip to Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. The witness further states that the teletype disclose that a militant revolutionary group was to be involved in the assassination. The FBI has denied sending such a teletype."

6) "The Committee has information which, if corroborated, establishes links between Lee Harvey Oswald and the CIA. Documents in the possession of the FBI, some of which are in the public domain, indicate that the Bureau destroyed relevant evidence and proffered misleading statements to the Warren Commission. Our analysis of the investigative procedures of Federal Agencies is a potential subject of action by our Committee and the Congress."

These are some of the areas of investigation that the Committee, under the leadership of Richard A. Sprague were pursuing. And in that same month of March, 1977, the campaign against Mr. Sprague began and I think that, as we look back on it now, we can see that the campaign was coordinated by the Intelligence organizations of this country. The first clue that was true was that Jeremiah O'Leary

LETTER I SENT TO CLIFF FENTON-  
OF COURSE HE NEVER ANSWERED IT.

Ted Landolfo  
Chairman: Assassination  
Information Committee  
1214 First Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10021  
July 25, 1982

Dear Mr. Fenton,

After our phone conversation today, it is crystal clear to me, as it will be to many other researchers and citizens I will communicate this to on the many radio shows I do across the country, why you passed the CIA and FBI "security clearance check" which all members of the staff of the House Select Committee on Assassinations were subjected to as printed in the HCOA Report (Page 7) dated January 25, 1978. I can imagine how very pleased those agencies were having you on the staff. You are, indeed, a "Company Man". By refusing to verify to me the fact that when the HCOA sent you + other investigators to New Orleans to view and hear the evidence that Jim Garrison had of a definite mammoth conspiracy involving elements of the CIA, according to what Garrison told me by phone, which I taped, in 1978, that all of you were convinced of this CIA conspiracy to murder President Kennedy. When I asked you about this today, you refused to tell me about it, and this evidence was suppressed totally in the HCOA Final Report. How does it feel to personally know that you, raped the trust and faith the American people had placed in your hands, that is, to ascertain the full truth about the JFK/King assassinations? You, Blaney, Stobers and others now join the long list of cover-up artists of the facts, beginning during the "investigation" conducted in 1964 by the Warren Commission. I promise you that I will attempt to expose your HCOA cover-ups on every radio show I appear on in the future. You are all a genuine disgrace to the country you live in. Words fail to adequately describe what bastards you all on the HCOA really are.

Yours in disgust, Ted Landolfo. P.S. the truth will out.

THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON ASSASSINATIONS  
COVERUP.

BY TED GANDOLFO

SEPTEMBER 8, 1982

The House Select Committee On Assassinations was established on September 17, 1976 by an overwhelming vote of the House Of Representatives by a vote of 280 to 65. The Committee's mandate was to fully investigate all of the circumstances surrounding the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Very shortly thereafter, I sent to each member of the Committee copies of 35 hours of crucial tape-recordings including CBS-TV and NBC-TV reportage of the entire date of November 22, 1963, beginning 14 minutes after the first bulletin was announced that shots had been fired at President Kennedy in Dallas. Up until the day the House Committee On Assassinations was established, I had compiled what is acknowledged to be the largest tape-recorded Library in the world relating to the JFK assassination, nearly 4,000 hours total.) In late 1976, Richard A. Sprague was chosen to be the Chief Counsel of the Committee, and at that time, a number of us researchers indicated that we were very pleased with his selection. We felt that Mr. Sprague was the very best choice to be the Chief Counsel of that Committee.

Some people disagreed, however, especially after the first press conference that he held in Washington upon assuming that position when he said, "Every single document from the files of the FBI and the CIA that was relevant to either murder would be subpoenaed", and that "Every single witness would be called who was within the continent of the United States, or Hawaii, or Alaska who had information relevant to either of the two murders." Mr. Sprague fully intended to interview in depth every competent researcher and to use their information in his investigations. He also in-

tended to obtain and study the evidence of Jim Garrison's investigation conducted in 1967.

Sprague's idea was to investigate the possible involvement of the CIA and the FBI in the two assassinations and in the subsequent coverups. During the time that Mr. Sprague was the Chief Counsel, the Select Committee On Assassinations issued an Interim Report dated March 28, 1977. On pages 8 and 9 of that report, under the title "Development Of The Investigation Into The Assassination Of President John F. Kennedy", here are some of the published statements made.

1) "The Select Committee is actively pursuing several new leads which indicate that Lee Harvey Oswald was associated with CIA supported Anti-Castro groups and which suggest that his reported Pro-Castro activities and possibly his alleged trip to Mexico City may have been deliberately designed to mask those associations."

2) "The Warren Commission had concluded that Jack Ruby never knew Oswald and had never seen him before Nov. 22, 1963. The Committee staff has spoken with a witness who has never been previously interviewed and who stated that in November of 1963, prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, the witness was personally introduced to Lee Harvey Oswald by Jack Ruby."

3) "On January 27, 1964, members of the Warren Commission met in Executive session to discuss evidence which had surfaced indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald was an undercover FBI informant at the time of assassination. Specifically, the evidence indicated that Oswald was employed by the FBI from September of 1962 up until the assassination at a salary of \$200 a month. His FBI number

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The evidence came from two sources, but the Commission did not investigate the matter, and simply accepted a statement by J. Edgar Hoover, that Oswald was not an informant for the FBI."

4) "Recently, an FBI informant advised the Committee that he had seen an FBI agent and Lee Harvey Oswald meeting together on numerous occasions in various New Orleans bars. The informant states that he had previously denied seeing Oswald and the agent together because he was threatened by the agent. The agent has denied the informant's charge." (The informant was Orest Pena, and the agent who threatened him was said to be FBI agent Warren Dubreys.)

5) "A witness, who was an FBI Security Code Clerk in the New Orleans Field Office from 1961 to 1966 alleges that the FBI agent sent a teletype to all of its offices 5 days before the assassination warning of a reported conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy on his proposed trip to Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. The witness further states that the teletype disclose that a militant revolutionary group was to be involved in the assassination. The FBI has denied sending such a teletype."

6) "The Committee has information which, if corroborated, establishes links between Lee Harvey Oswald and the CIA. Documents in the possession of the FBI, some of which are in the public domain, indicate that the Bureau destroyed relevant evidence and proffered misleading statements to the Warren Commission. Our analysis of the investigative procedures of Federal Agencies is a potential subject of action by our Committee and the Congress."

These are some of the areas of investigation that the Committee, under the leadership of Richard A. Sprague were pursuing. And in that same month of March, 1977, the campaign against Mr. Sprague began and I think that, as we look back on it now, we can see that the campaign was coordinated by the Intelligence organizations of this country. The first clue that was true was that Jeremiah O'Leary

of the Washington Star newspaper played a leading part in the campaign. The Church Committee Report in 1976 revealed Mr. O' Leary to have been listed by the CIA in its own files as a "Propaganda Asset" of the CIA. The Church Committee also revealed that Mr. O' Leary was listed by J. Edgar Hoover as a man who would, and DID, publish false material about the death of Dr. King at the request of the FBI, something he had done regularly in the past, and something which he began doing AGAIN in terms of the coordinated attacks of Mr. Sprague. And they were coordinated. David Burnham of the New York Times was also brought in, from Philadelphia, and he launched a series of attacks on Mr. Sprague also. All of this was CRUCIAL to the takeover of the House Select Committee because Sprague HAD to be removed. And Burnham wrote 5 stories in the N.Y. Times. One of them was placed on the FRONT PAGE of the Times. The most recent article that he relied upon dealt with a story written seven years ago, and he went to the morgue of the Philadelphia newspapers to get it. Mr. Burnham stated in these articles that Mr. Sprague used incorrect prosecutorial procedures to convict a person unjustly. The story was absolutely untrue. After these stories by Burnham were written, they were followed by an editorial statement of congratulations for Mr. Burnham for having utilized his investigative skills in attacking Mr. Sprague. The campaign against Sprague continued and, because of it, it was determined that if Sprague remained as Chief Counsel, the Committee's continuance would be voted down and abolished unless Sprague quit, at which point, Sprague quit, saying that he did not come there to PREVENT an investigation from taking place. A man named Robert Blakey came in as the new Chief Counsel, a man APPROVED OF by the FBI and CIA. Mr. Blakey's background had been as an attorney for the U.S. Department Of Justice. He immediately made it clear that NO files would be secured from the FBI or the CIA about Lee Harvey

Oswald or anyone else, and I can state authoritatively that although the Committee was empowered to subpoena ALL of the documents which it thought relevant by an Act Of Congress, in 1976, not one single page has been subpoenaed from the FBI or the CIA under Blakey's leadership, NOT ONE SINGLE PAGE. A researcher on the Committee named Donovan Gay, who was the Chief researcher for 16 months, the man who was the keeper of the most important secrets in Washington, D.C. the evidence which had come in about the deaths of Pres-

## JFK ASSASSINATION

ident Kennedy and Dr. King, was fired from his position by Mr. Blakey. Blakey told him, "You can no longer be here because the CIA said that we would have a better relationship with the Committee if you were removed." And so, Mr. Gay was fired.

On March 10, 1978, Bob Lehner was fired also. He was the attorney in charge of the King case. Blakey explained that he was being fired because he wanted to bring in someone from the Dept. Of Justice who would be APPROVED OF by the CIA and the FBI.

When this congressional investigation first began, we all thought the Select Committee was going to investigate the circumstances surrounding the murders of President Kennedy and Dr. King. Part of the circumstances were examined by the Church Committee of the U.S. Senate which in 1976 issued a report saying that the FBI and the CIA, at the very highest levels, starting with the Director of each organization conspired to lie to the Warren Commission, to MISLEAD the Warren Commission. And part of the job of the House Select Committee was to investigate the COVERUP of the facts surrounding the two assassinations, the COVERUP perpetrated by both the FBI and CIA. Now, it had all been reversed. Instead, the FBI and CIA are investigating the House Committee On Assassi-

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nations and determining for THEM who can be hired and fired. Mr. Blakey made it plain. NO ONE was hired or retained who had not been CLEARED FIRST by the FBI and the CIA, and, I suppose the bottom line of all of this is, even the investigators in the field, some of whom were the very best investigators in this country on the subject who did uncover crucially important information were compromised by the conduct of the chief counsel, Robert Blakey. I will give you but one example. One investigator named Gaeton Fonzi uncovered a document related to the JFK assassination that was so potentially explosive that it may be the single most important discovery since the Committee was established. It is called "The Spanish Document", the code name for it. Mr. Fonzi, who uncovered it, gave that document to Mr. Blakey with the understanding that it could only be shown to a very small group of people with the "need to know" within the Committee and to no-one else. Mr. Blakey AGREED. After the investigator left his office, Mr. Blakey had many copies of the document made and then sent one over immediately to the offices of the CIA in Langley, Virginia, thereby forever compromising the integrity of that investigator. There were early indications of what Robert Blakey would do. His professional experience included the fact that he worked for the U.S. Dept. Of Justice from 1960 to 1964, and on the very day that Blakey was hired to be Chief Counsel of the Select Committee, he held a press conference, The date was June 20, 1977. During that press conference, he gave indications of what he was going to do, and what he was NOT going to do. Here are some quotes of questions put to him by the news reporters there and his answers to them.

Question: "Your description, Mr. Blakey, of the manner in which this investigation will be conducted, at least from a philosophic standpoint, is directly at odds from which we have been told up to this point by your predecessor Mr. Sprague. He told us that these

are 2 murder investigations. You are telling us that this is NOT the case, that you are investigating as a LEGISLATIVE matter?"

Blakey: "That's correct."

Question: "You intend to restructure the investigation? As I understand it, in the beginning, the Committee was going to take a very broad scope look at all of the evidence, all of the documents, etc. Are you going to restructure this investigation?"

Blakey: "Those decisions will be reached, but frankly, I doubt they will be made public."

Question: "So the Committee is staying on that course and intends to cover all the ground?"

Blakey: "I'm not terribly sure that we have a common understanding of what it's purpose is. It is my understanding that this is a legislative committee pursuing a legislative investigation, and NOT pursuing 2 murder investigations. During the course of that legislative investigation, I would hope that all the questions people might think relevant IN THIS CONTEXT will be answered."

Question: "All questions relevant to the 2 murder investigations which they are NOT investigating?"

Blakey: "I think that is fair to say."

At no time since he gave that press conference has Mr. Blakey indicated that there is any reason at all to doubt the truthfulness of what he said then. Nowhere has he violated his original prejudices and original statements he made that day. A survey was conducted on February 5th and 6th, 1978, of the thirteen people who were on the Select Committee from the outset of their work there. Each of them has said that they had seen massive evidence which proved beyond question that there were definite conspiracies in the murders of JFK and Dr. King, but that what had occurred was the absolute CIA and FBI takeover of that Committee.

On January 25, 1978, the Committee issued a ten page interim report on their procedures. In a chapter entitled, "Security Considerations," on page 7 they state:

"Security breaches could undermine the Committee's ongoing relationship with Executive Agencies which furnish information to the Committee only upon the condition that the information BE KEPT SECURE. As a result, the Committee has adopted stringent security procedures.

All staff members on the Committee have received or are in the process of receiving TOP SECRET SECURITY CLEARANCE.

The FBI, as an accomodation to the Committee, conducts the background investigations for these security clearances. The CIA then reviews the background investigations done by the FBI. After consultation with the FBI and CIA, the full Committee makes a determination regarding an individuals security clearance." A COMPLETE TAKEOVER of that Committee by the CIA and FBI, and NOWHERE was this development reported by the news media. So we began to see a continuation BY CONGRESS of the coverup which originated with the Warren Commission Report in 1964, which was immediately proclaimed by all segments of the media as being "The greatest in-

vestigation in the history of criminology."

The media said that BEFORE they had read one single word of allegedly "supportive evidence" contained in the 26 volumes. During two of many shows I did on KGO radio in San Francisco, in 1978, I informed the large listening audience of the suppressions of crucial information by Robert Blakey. I requested the listeners write letters to Blakey asking him to respond to two things in particular. Number one was an appeal to him to abolish the "Non-Disclosure Agreement" perpetrated by the CIA and FBI and secondly, to answer the charges made by myself and other researchers that he was covering up vital information which resided in the Committee's files.

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**Ted Gandolfo's**

**"ASSASSINATION U.S.A." NEWSLETTER**

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The dialogue, below, between Judge Jim Garrison and myself has been confirmed by Robert Blakey, himself, during a conversation I had with him on September 20, this year during which he admitted, for the first time EVER that there was, indeed, a Clifford Fenton Report re Garrison's evidence of direct C.I.A. involvement in the JFK assassination. But Blakey lied to me when he said that Garrison's evidence, given to Fenton, was published in both the 12 HSCA JFK volumes and in the Committee's Final Report. More about this later.

On a copy of a letter sent by Mr. Blakey to one listener, who sent a copy to me, dated Feb. 16, 1978, Mr. Blakey wrote, "No coverup is in progress." On another copy of a letter to another listener dated March 2, 1978, Blakey wrote, "While other information which a staff member receives may not be divulged for the duration of the Select Committee's existence, it MAY be divulged AT ANY SUBSEQUENT TIME." Both of these statements are provably false. The "Non-Disclosure Agreement" is for LIFE, and secondly, there exists in my personal files (taped and printed) ample evidence of a gigantic coverup of the facts, primarily orchestrated by Mr. Blakey. On Feb. 11, 1978, the former New Orleans District Attorney, now Judge, Jim Garrison, who had conducted his own investigation of the JFK murder in 1967, called me on the phone. We talked for half an hour.

Here are some quotes, from listening to the tape of that conversation, from Mr. Garrison. "Since I last talked to you, Ted, I've talked to the investigators that are based here in New Orleans that have just come back here from Washington, and they are very enthusiastic and they have been stimulated by the attitude up there in Washington in the increased interest in the New

Orleans scenario and the new assignments they have been given. In the last 2 weeks, the interest in New Orleans which has been mounting in recent months has absolutely doubled, and some of the top people who were here last month are coming back again in the next ten days or so. They are especially interested in Clinton, Louisiana, where we found Clay Shaw and David Ferrie with Oswald, and they are coming back here to go on their second trip to Clinton. These are the top investigators and legal people from Washington. They are satisfied now that they feel that there is so much momentum, and especially enthusiasm about the New Orleans developments, that there would be an EXPLOSION." Later in the conversation:

Garrison said, "They (the Committee) have TAPE RECORDED MEETINGS IN WHICH THEY ARE SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSING THE ASSASSINATION WITH CLAY SHAW AND DAVID FERRIE PRESENT...DETAIL I asked Garrison, "You're talking about what Perry Raymond Russo said?"

Garrison answers, "No, no, SINCE THEN. They have gone beyond that, into NEW AREAS we hadn't reached yet. We had the right people but we didn't have ALL THEIR MEETINGS...PEOPLE

PRESENT AT THE MEETINGS. I wish I could tell you of the progress they have made. ITS PAST CONSPIRACY, ITS PAST PRIMA FACIE, ITS SOLID EVIDENCE ON TAPE. I mean there's NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, but it doesn't seem to be reaching... Blakey seems to have cotton in his ears ON PURPOSE."

I then told Garrison that I had called Congressman Louis Stokes, Chairman of the Committee, and also Congresswoman Yvonne Burke, a member of the Committee, informing them of the nefarious coverup practices being employed by Mr. Blakey, and that they both strongly denied that he was doing this. I also told Garrison that I had also called Congressman Christopher Dodd, also a member of the Committee, and that Mr. Dodd had told me that he hadn't seen ANY evidence of a conspiracy in the JFK case. Garrison replied, "Ted, the next time you talk to a Congressperson on the Committee who says they've seen no evidence of a conspiracy, why don't you tell them to do something like this. Why don't you say, without warning to Blakey, why don't you just call the Chief Investigator on the JFK case and ask him if there has been any evidence of a conspiracy. By the time Clifford Fenton finishes speaking, it will be about 6 hours later. That will be the end of Blakey." There were other things discussed that day between Garrison and myself, but the above will provide a small indication of some of the conclusive evidence of a massive conspiracy, involving persons affiliated with the CIA.

This evidence was totally suppressed and NONE of it was ever published in the twelve volumes of the HSCOA Final Report relating to the JFK assassination. Recently, on July 25, 1982, I had a phone conversation with Clifford Fenton during which I told him of some of the above statements made to me by Mr. Garrison, and I asked Mr. Fenton if these statements were true. Mr. Fenton vehemently REFUSED to confirm or deny or even to discuss the

matter, stating to me that, "all of the evidence which the Committee had was in their Final Report." When I told him that Garrison's evidence was definitely NOT INCLUDED in the Report, and when I again asked him if he personally saw and heard the conclusive evidence, in Garrison's office and elsewhere, of a CIA conspiracy to kill JFK, he became livid with rage and hung up the phone on me.

For another indication of the coverup which was conducted by Mr. Blakey and the Committee, I return again to the January 25, 1978 Interim Report of the Select Committee, page 8—it states, "In both the Kennedy and King investigations, a careful analysis of all the ballistic evidence available is being conducted both to evaluate the investigations that were performed regarding each assassination, as well as enable the Committee to reach an independent conclusion concerning the identity of the assassin or assassins. Ballistics tests serve to identify the rifles that fired bullets found at the scene of a shooting. The Committee has assembled a panel of ballistics and firearms experts to perform such an analysis."

Shortly before this Interim Report was issued, I had a phone conversation with a member of the investigative staff on the Committee. He will remain nameless because of the secrecy oath agreement which he signed, but he is an unimpeachable source of information, and during that conversation he told me that the Committee had ALREADY conducted precise neutron activation analysis and spectrographic analysis of the complete bullet and the fragments of a bullet, or bullets, found in the presidential limosine and also of the slug which was recovered from Dr. King's body.

He told me that these tests proved conclusively that they were fired from at least 2 different rifles in the JFK assassination, and that the slug removed from Dr. King's body was proven to NOT have come from the rifle

allegedly fired by James Earl Ray.

This crucial evidence also is nowhere to be found in the Committee's Final Report. It was completely suppressed by that Committee.

In June, 1978, I wrote in my personal notebook, the following information. The title is "Assassination Committee Surrenders To Intelligence Forces." I will quote a brief portion of what I wrote that day. "The Chief Counsel Of the House Select Committee On Assassinations, G. Robert Blakey, is a 'legal hit man for organized crime' and he has permitted the Committee to be 'captured by the FBI and CIA.' The key figure in the surrender of the Select Committee to the Intelligence interests is Robert Blakey, it's present Chief Counsel.

In charging that Blakey had odd and recent connections with organized crime characters, it is a fact that on February 4, 1976, Blakey associated himself with Moe Dalitz, one of the early activists with organized crime in America. On that date, for a substantial sum of money, he sold his expertise to Dalitz as an 'expert' in the area of organized crime. Blakey refused to disclose how much money he was paid, leaving only that question in doubt. He refers all questions regarding his services to Dalitz to his attorney, Louis Nizer. Nizer is also the attorney for Dalitz. Nizer wrote in his preface to an edition of the Warren Report that the issue of the JFK assassination was now closed and that only "neurotics" clinging to "pride or a more sordid interest" would refuse to accept the Report's findings.

Now, Blakey, his client, is OSTENSIBLY investigating the Warren Commission Report. Blakey was recommended for his position by Committee member, Congressman Christopher Dodd, who had been a law partner with indicted former FBI director L. Patrick Gray. Many of the most frightening and recurring questions presented by the JFK and King assassinations are those dealing with the roles of the

Intelligence Agencies. The Church Committee has revealed their criminal excesses and their close cooperation with organized crime.

When the original Chief Counsel, Richard A. Sprague guested on my weekly cable TV show entitled "Assassination U.S.A.", along with researcher Richard E. Sprague, Richard A. Sprague told us that he refused to yield to the Intelligence Agency's demands that he and his staff sign "Non-Disclosure Agreements" as this would have given the FBI and CIA the authority to decide what the Committee could disclose. Blakey quickly entered into these agreements and then required Committee personnel to sign agreements which prohibited each of them, including himself, from releasing or commenting upon any information relating to "Substance Or Procedure" that was learned through Committee contact. Thus, those very police agencies which have participated in a coverup of the facts in these assassinations were now charged with passing on the eligibility of those who would judge their conduct. Blakey said to one charter staff member, of the several he fired, "The CIA would be more comfortable if you were gone." The CIA has not explained how this activity does not violate it's charter prohibition against domestic activities.

The HSCOA should have been freed from the stranglehold of the Intelligence Agencies. It should have dealt with the CONFLICT OF INTEREST presented by Blakey's ties with organized crime and Louis Nizer, defender of the Warren Report, and with it's own violation of the rules, before it could have pursued the truth about the assassinations of King and Kennedy. Other evidence of the Committee's coverup include the following:

Undoubtedly, the most eminent forensic pathologist in this country is Dr. Cyril H. Wecht of Pennsylvania. He was past president of the American Academy Of Forensic Sciences and has personally conducted more that 20,000 autopsies in his illustrious career. Dr. Wecht testified before the Se-

lect Committee in open public hearings in 1978 about what he had observed when he viewed the secret autopsy photographs and X-rays of President Kennedy's body in 1972 at the National Archives.

Dr. Wecht stated that it was his firm opinion, as a result of viewing and studying this material, that shots had to have been fired and had to have struck the President from at least 2 different locations in Dealy Plaza that day. His most expert testimony was completely disregarded by the Committee.

When I recently called Robert Blakey, I asked him why the Committee chose not to believe Dr. Wecht's testimony. His answer to me was "Because Wecht was **WRONG.**" Undoubtedly, a more truthful answer would have been that Dr. Wecht's testimony, completely demolishes both the Warren Reports and the Souse Select Committee's basic conclusions... that both shots which struck the President were fired from above and behind him. Richard E. Sprague, the photographic genius of the JFK case, the only man who owns every photograph and film taken of the JFK murder that day, and who was, in fact, paid consultant for the Committee, and also Robert Groden, also a photo analyst, both presented showings of all these photos and films taken that day in Dallas, including the famous "Zapruder film", and based solely on this photographic evidence alone, they proved beyond question that there was indeed a conspiracy in the presidential assassination. This evidence was also completely disregarded by the Committee.

The whole series of Hearings was like a rehearsed play, a Blakey extravaganza.

That is, until a little bit of scientifically based evidence came along to spoint it all. That is the acoustical evidence proving at least one shot from the grassy knoll was fired. Professors Mark Weiss and Ernest Aschkenasy in sworn statements made to the Committee in open public hearings stated that as a result of

highly scientific acoustical tests performed on a tape recording which was made on an open microphone on a motorcycle of a Dallas policeman in Dealy Plaza that day, that they both were 95% certain, or better, that at least 4 shots had been fired at President Kennedy, the 3rd of which was identified as having been fired from the grassy knoll behind a wooden fence located to the right-front of the presidential limosine in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, exactly where two-thirds of the witnesses were never called to testify before the Warren Commission or, for that matter, before the House Select Committee either, as to what they had heard or what they saw. But the House Committee concluded in it's Final Report that one shot fired from the knoll "completely missed striking the President." One wonders how they were able to make that determination, since it is a known fact that approximately one hour after JFK was pronounced dead in Parkland Hospital; two doctors who observed and attended the president's wounds called a press conference. These two doctors were Malcolm Perry and James McLelland.

Dr. Perry stated that the wound at the front of JFK's throat was "an ENTRANCE wound." Dr. McLelland stated that the cause of death was "the result of a bullet which struck the president IN THE RIGHT TEMPLE." During the aforementioned telephone conversation I had with Robert Blakey recently, I asked him to explain why these two doctors were not called to testify before the House Select Committee. His answer was that he didn't intend to answer any further questions from me, and he hung up the phone on me at that point.

As a result of the aforementioned acoustical evidence of a shot fired from the right-front of JFK, several meetings in the basement of the Pentagon and in Langley, Virginia must have been required. The net result: Admit a simple conspiracy of just two people. That is what the Committee and Blakey have done.

The Congress is finished. The

CIA and FBI and Blakey saw to that. The field is wide open to the Intelligence Agencies, Blakey and their lackies to establish for once and for all that only 2 people were involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. No organization or group in America has the power to stop the CIA/FBI, Blakey and Company from doing this. The Congress, The Justice Department, The Courts, The Media, The Executive Branch in toto, NONE of them can combat the power of the CIA/FBI. This has been demonstrated over and over again since 1963. The only person I know of who served in any capacity with the House Select Committee On Assassinations and who is courageous enough to discuss the matter at all is a man I am proud to call a friend and colleague. That man is researcher Richard E. Sprague. I heartily commend Mr. Sprague for that all-too-rare courage and for his belief in the RIGHT of the people to know the TRUTH about the murder of our beloved President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963.

The only way that the people of this country will ever learn the complete truth about these 2 assassinations would be if *other* people who were employed by the HSCOA would also come forward, and tell the people about the evidence which they saw or heard about during the Committee's existence.

I am of the firm conviction that this country will remain a nation of, by and for the people, as our heritage so proudly proclaims, if, and only if, we find out, *finally*, the truth about who killed John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. Then, and only then, can we be successful in the prevention of future assassinations of the great political leaders of our times. Only then can we TRULY be free.

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**TELL YOUR FRIENDS  
ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER**

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G. Robert Blakey  
Former Chief Counsel  
House Select Committee On Assassinations  
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South Bend, Indiana

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Phone: (212) 288 1596  
Sept. 10, 1982

**AN OPEN LETTER TO G. ROBERT BLAKEY**

Dear Mr. Blakey,

At the outset, let me inform you that many copies of this letter are being sent all across this country to fellow long-time researchers, radio and TV stations I have appeared on as guest expert on the JFK assassination, newspapers, magazines, newsletters, and also to many people across this country who still write me inquiring as to the mammoth coverup of evidence perpetrated by the HSCOA and especially by yourself.

When I recently spoke to you by phone on August 21, 1982, I asked you several questions, among them the following, and your answers; 1- Jim Garrison, former New Orleans District Attorney, now Judge, told me in 1978, that a team of 5 investigators headed by Clifford Fenton were sent to Garrison's office in New Orleans and also to Clinton, Louisiana on several occasions and that, among other things, they secured tape-recorded conversations in which the assassination of President Kennedy was being discussed by, among others, voices identified as being contract employees of the Central Intelligence Agency, and that those tapes had been turned over to the HSCOA (yourself included). Your answer to me was that that information was not true, implying that Mr. Garrison was lying. No, Mr. Blakey, it is you who is lying about this crucial information. YOU suppressed it.

2- I asked you why you allowed the infamous "Non-Disclosure Agreement" to be forced to be signed by everyone who served in any capacity on the Committee, and I told you that, since it was undoubtedly a CIA/FBI document, that that resulted in the ABSOLUTE TAKEOVER of that Committee by the very agencies which The Church Committee, in 1976, concluded, at the very highest levels of each agency, LIED to the Warren Commission, MISLEAD the Warren Commission, and failed to provide much crucial information to the Warren Commission. Your answer was that the CIA and FBI DID NOT issue that secrecy oath but that the members of Congress who comprised the HSCOA issued it. That was another LIE by yourself to me. I have obtained a complete copy of that document and it is, beyond question, a CIA/FBI document.

3- I asked you why the most brilliant and expert Forensic Pathologist in this country, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht's testimony, given in open public hearings before you and the Committee, was not believed and relied upon. Your answer to this was simply the following, and I quote you, Because Wecht was WRONG. I wonder on what basis you were able to make that judgment and evaluation, since, in ANY TRUTHFUL INVESTIGATION, the VERY BEST expert/s should be relied upon. Wouldn't a more truthful answer by yourself have been that Dr. Wecht's testimony, if believed and relied upon, totally destroyed the Warren Report's, and ultimately the HSCOA conclusions that all the shots which were fired ~~that~~ that day which struck the president and Governor Connally were fired by Lee Harvey Oswald and him alone?

I will now ask you the following questions which are imperative:

1) Since it is a fact that the Committee and you summoned and called to appear before the Committee ten researchers/critics of the Warren Report, why did you exclude the two most prodigious compilers of the public data on the two murders under investigation? I refer to Mae Brussel, who has accumulated the largest PRINTED files on these cases.

and I refer to myself as well. I have a tape-recorded library in the world relating to the JFK assassination, beginning 14 minutes after the first bulletin was announced that shots had been fired at President Kennedy in Dallas, and continuing to the present time. If you'll recall, one of the investigators you fired, Donovan Gay, told you I was willing to provide you and the Committee with very important tape copies and, if you'll also recall, I spoke to you on the phone about this very soon after you became Chief Counsel. You refused to tell me why you did not want to secure my tapes (approximately 4,000 hours at the time), or why I was not included among the other researchers to appear before your Committee.

2) Since it is a fact that about one hour after JFK was pronounced dead, Doctors Malcolm Perry and James McClelland held a press conference at Parkland Hospital. Dr. Perry stated that the wound in the front of JFK's neck was AN ENTRANCE WOUND. Dr. McClelland stated that the

cause of death was the result of "A BULLET WOUND OF THE RIGHT TEMPLE." Why didn't you call these two doctors to testify before your Committee?

3) Since it is a fact that TWO-THIRDS of the witnesses in Dealey Plaza stated that at least one shot had been fired from behind a wooden fence atop a grassy knoll situated to the right-front of the presidential limosine, why weren't these witnesses who are still alive never called to testify before your Committee, especially a woman named Jeanne Hill who stated to a reporter at the scene at 3:09 p.m. the following: "Mary (Looman) started to take the picture as the president became right even with us. Three shots- we looked at him and he was looking at the middle of the street-three shots rang out and he grabbed his chest- and a look of pain on his face and fell across towards Jackie and she-uh-fell over him and said, 'My God, he's shot.'" And-uh- there was an interval and then three or four more shots rang out." (Question by reporter) "Did you see the person who- who fired the..." (Answer) "No, I didn't see any person fire the weapon." (Question) "You only heard it?" (Answer) "I only heard it and I looked up and SAW A MAN RUNNING ALONG THE TOP OF THE HILL." P.S. I have this on tape-recording from NBC TV.

4) Since it is a self-admitted fact that pathologist Commander James J. Humes "destroyed by burning in my fireplace certain preliminary draft notes relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy", why is it that when he was questioned about this before your Committee, you blindly accepted his feeble (and obviously untrue) explanation that he did this because "There were smudges of blood on this paper (notes). Why wasn't he questioned further about this in a more probing fashion?

5) Why was it necessary to, at the last moment, concede to the fact that at least one shot had been fired from the grassy knoll area (based on the acoustical evidence), when the photographic evidence supplied to you and the Committee by, among others, Richard E. Sprague and Robert Groden PROVES BEYOND QUESTION that at least one shot emanated from that exact area? And on what possible basis did your Final Report state and conclude that the shot fired from the knoll missed the president when the photographic evidence ALONE proves the contrary?

6) Why wasn't the information contained in the following books relied upon and further investigated in all aspects:

- a) "Rush To Judgment" by Mark Lane.
- b) "Accessories After The Fact" by Sylvia Meagher.
- c) The "Whitewash" series of books by Harold Weisberg.
- d) "Six Seconds In Dallas" by Josiah Thompson. (In this book, Mr. Thompson proves conclusively that the violent backward and to the left movement of JFK's head and body was entirely too fast to be attributed to any "neuromuscular spasm" that has continually been asserted by the Warren Report apologists. To refuse to accept Mr. Thompson's expert analysis is also tantamount to a refusal to accept the validity of Newton's second law of motion, i.e. CAUSE AND EFFECT.)

e) As did the Warren Commission, you and your Committee completely accepted the veracity of the SINGLE BULLET THEORY. Why didn't you and the Committee attempt to attempt to duplicate identical conditions using simulated bones and flesh comparable to those which were penetrated

to determine if ANY BULLET would remain in the almost pristine condition as #399?

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f) Since it is a fact that NOONE, including riflemen rated as MASTER by the FBI have ever been able to accomplish the feat of marksmanship attributed to Oswald, (3 shots with 2 hits in 5.6 seconds), and since it is also a fact that in his last and final shooting tests while serving in the Marine Corps, Oswald, Marine records stated, that he was regarded as A RATHER POOR SHOT. How was it possible for you and the Committee, as did the Warren Commission before you, to reconcile these two aspects truthfully?

g) Why weren't the following persons (who we feel had a vast amount of information to give relating to the JFK assassination) called to testify before your Committee: E. Howard Hunt, Richard Helms, James Angleton, Gerald Ford and, of course, why wasn't Jim Garrison called either, among several others?

g) Why did you deny Mark Lane the right to represent Jerry Ray before your Committee, calling it a "conflict of interest" if he did so, when, in fact, the REAL conflict of interest is your appointment to be Chief Counsel, since it is a fact that you are represented by your personal attorney, Louis Nizer, who has been, and remains, one of the staunchest defenders of the Warren Report's conclusions, as he himself stated/wrote in an early edition preface to the Report.

h) Isn't it odd that although the CIA controlled News Media combined to completely discredit your predecessor as Chief Counsel, Richard A. Sprague, which ultimately led to his being forced to resign, isn't it odd that not one faction of that same media ever found or published anything at all derogatory about you during the entire time you were the Chief Counsel? They were very happy to have you there serving in that most important capacity, weren't they?

In conclusion, let me state my opinion, shared by many, that you are unquestionably A COVERUP ARTIST without equal. In view of what is written here and also the fact that, as you yourself told me on the phone, the testimony taken in Executive Sessions is being suppressed from the citizens of this country for 50 years, at least, it is odiously clear that the COVERUP of the factual evidence by you and the HSCOA far surpasses the original one perpetrated by the Warren Commission in 1964. It took us researchers/critics many years to convince over 90 per cent of the people of the complete fraudulence and inaccuracies of the Warren Report's conclusions. It may very well take a considerable amount of time to completely reveal your COMPLETE coverup as well, but other researchers and historians will follow us in the future. They also will be dissatisfied with what you and the HSCOA have perpetrated, and I feel confident that this will come to pass eventually because, as Martin Luther King used to oftentimes say, "The truth, though crushed to the earth, will rise again." As I've previously mentioned, copies of this letter are in the process of being sent to many people and organizations throughout this country. I can well imagine that you will be receiving a lot of mail in the very near future. Although I think it is safe to say that as you will not, and in fact CANNOT answer me truthfully as to the questions and charges I have here submitted to you, I feel equally certain that you will not answer the many letters you will be receiving soon on this subject. I would personally LOVE to debate this issue with you in any public forum you may choose to do so in. But, alas, I'm being a bit naive, aren't I? You'll not do that either. So, I'll simply close by saying that eventually, despite your efforts to the contrary, THE TRUTH WILL OUT.

Contemptuously yours,

*Ted Gansoff*



Received this on Jan. 10, 1983  
Ted Gandolfo

U.S. Department of Justice  
Criminal Division

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RECEIVED

1983 JAN -5 PM 3:00

OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BILL GREEN

Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

January 3, 1983

The Honorable Bill Green  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

Reference is made to your recent referral to the Department of Justice of a letter from Mr. Ted Gandolfo, Chairman of the Assassination Information Committee. You will recall that Mr. Gandolfo indicated that "suppressed information" connects "contract employees" of the Central Intelligence Agency with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) reported its conclusion in a 1979 final report that the assassination of John F. Kennedy was probably the result of a conspiracy. That conclusion was based upon the opinions of experts hired by the Committee who reported a 95 percent probability that noises on a police communications dicta-belt were caused by gunshots originating at two different locations almost simultaneously.

The HSCA conducted extensive hearings and financed expert research addressing numerous assassination conspiracy theories. It appears that the conspiracy theory raised by Mr. Gandolfo was considered by the HSCA and was expressly found to be without merit by that Congressional body. The HSCA final report explains in detail the reasons for the HSCA determination that the CIA was not involved in the assassination.

The Department was asked by the Committee, in its final report, to reevaluate the acoustical evidence, which was the basis of the Committee's assassination conspiracy theory. There was some concern regarding the accuracy of the Committee's acoustical research because of the severe time constraints imposed upon the researchers performing that work. The Department arranged for a review of the methodology of the HSCA experts, but not of the evidence itself, by the FBI Technical Services Division. The Department also contracted for a much broader National Research Council (part of the National Academy of Sciences) study of the acoustical evidence. In order to assure independence from Department of Justice control of the National Academy of Sciences study, the National Science Foundation was asked to oversee the

study. In this manner, the Department was able to avoid all involvement in decisions regarding the scope of the study and composition of the scientific panel.

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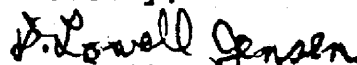
The FBI released a report on December 1, 1980, which concluded that the HSCA experts had not scientifically proven their conclusion that gunshots were fired from two different locations at the time of the assassination. In May, 1982, the National Academy of Sciences panel completed its work. Its 96-page report included an analysis of the actual acoustical evidence, the previous HSCA work, and the FBI report. While it was critical of aspects of both the HSCA and FBI studies which preceded it, its primary conclusion was that the HSCA acoustics research methodology was flawed. The Academy determined that the HSCA acoustical analyses did not demonstrate that there was a grassy knoll shot and that the sounds evaluated by the HSCA experts actually occurred one minute after the President was shot and the motorcade had been instructed to go to the hospital. Further, the National Academy of Sciences report discouraged undertaking additional expensive studies of this evidence on the grounds that the strength of the demonstration that the HSCA conclusion was invalid was so great that the likely results of further study would not justify the cost of such research. It should be noted that the National Academy of Sciences questioned both the HSCA experts and the FBI experts during the course of its two-year study, and that it confronted both groups with its intended conclusions before they were finalized. The National Academy of Sciences has advised the Department that neither group of experts provided any contradictory explanation for the findings of the National Academy of Sciences. Since the May, 1982, publication of the report, neither the FBI nor HSCA experts have contacted the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice with any alternative explanation for the findings of the National Academy of Sciences.

In view of the HSCA request that the Department review the scientific evidence in the assassination investigation, and in view of the preliminary results of that review, the Department has not expanded its current investigation to encompass theories found to be without merit by the HSCA. Absent additional requests from the Congress, similar to the referrals in the HSCA final report, and absent the discovery of new evidence, the Department does not intend to further explore allegations of C.I.A. involvement in the assassination.

The Department is now reviewing the results of all investigative activity in this matter, including the HSCA hearings and final report, acoustical study results, and FBI reports. It is our intention to make a full report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, since the HSCA no longer exists, early next year. I have requested that a copy of that report be provided to your office.

Your interest in this matter of mutual concern is appreciated.

Sincerely,



D. Lowell Jensen  
Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division



U.S. Department of Justice  
Criminal Division  
Washington, D.C. 20530

ATT: D. Lowell Jensen  
Assistant Attorney General

Ted Gandolfo, Chairman:  
Assassination Information  
Committee -  
1214 First Avenue -  
New York, N.Y. 10020  
(212) 288-1596  
January 12, 1983

Dear Mr. Jensen,

I am responding to your letter to Congressman Bill Green dated January 3, 1983 relating to my assertion that the Central Intelligence Agency was deeply involved and directly responsible in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963 in Dallas, Texas.

In your afore-mentioned letter, you state, "It appears that the conspiracy theory raised by Mr. Gandolfo was considered by the HSCA and was expressly found to be WITHOUT MERIT by that Congressional body. The HSCA final report explains in detail the reasons for the HSCA determination that the CIA was NOT involved in the assassination." After this statement by you, you devote the entire following statements to the acoustical evidence adduced by the HSCA, and NEVER AGAIN return to my charges. In a masterful display of unrelated gobbledegook, and I cannot believe it yet, you entirely FAIL to ask ANY related RELEVANT questions pertaining to my assertions. Even a moron would see through the thinly veiled obfuscations of ANY interest at all in my assertions, to wit: If your Injustice Department was truly interested in the reasons for my charges, wouldn't you have asked something like, "What evidence does Mr. Gandolfo have to substantiate the validity of his assertions?" I can tell you are really interested in what I may say in this regard, aren't you? But I must confess that this latest unconcern by you was and is entirely predictable by me, knowing of the Injustice Department's long-time dedication to suppress the truth in this matter. A classic example is the illegal tactics you employed against Jim Garrison to thwart his truthful investigation and findings re the Clay Shaw trial in 1969.

Getting back to your "answer" relating to my assertions, let's analyze them now. In refutation to your "answer" relating to the HSCA "clearing and absolving" the CIA of the crime, some comments are necessary:

I) The HSCA, in general, and chief counsel Robert Blakey in particular, perpetrated the greatest FRAUD ever witnessed. I have PROOF that Blakey definitely suppressed KNOWNCIA complicity in the crime, to wit:

a) He completely suppressed the Cliff Fenton Report, obtained by from Jim Garrison, which PROVES BEYOND QUESTION CIA direct involvement in the crime, and I mean OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE OF THAT!! Blakey, a Company man beyond question, was sent there to the HSCA to put distance between the CIA and the crime. I have documents in my personal files which PROVE THIS FACT!! Therefore, your statement about the HSCA absolving the CIA is entirely and absolutely MEANINGLESS. Blakey's appointment to that most important position on the HSCA is comparable to Nelson Rockefeller's appointment to the Rockefeller Commission "to investigate intelligence agencies possible involvement in the JFK murder". (turn)

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Blakey's and Rockefeller's appointments are synonymous with "the dogs guarding the sheep".

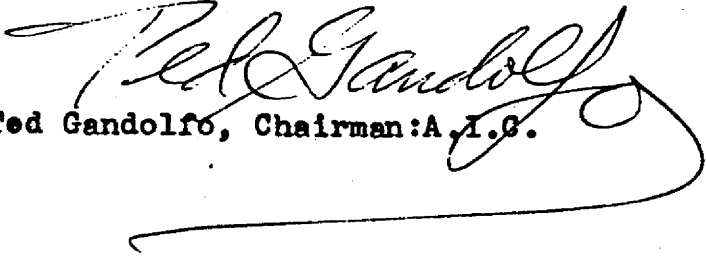
I have it on unimpeachable authority from several persons employed by the HSCA, who will remain nameless because they, through Blakey, were FORCED to sign CIA and FBI originated "Non-Disclosure\*agreements", an insidious, illegal document which, never-the-less CONTROLLED ALL INFORMATION relating to the CIA complicity, as well as FBI complicity in the King murder. This was an ingenious move by the Agency and Bureau which resulted in the many odious suppressions of the Known evidence of Intelligence Agencies direct involvements in the 2 crimes under "investigation". So, despite your double-talk wherein you cite the HSCA conclusions, as though it was a TRUTHFUL investigation", is totally subterfugeous and meaningless to me, and others.

Therefore, I am now asking for your consent to have me appear before your department of "Justice", and, if allowed to do so, I will offer and present absolute PROOF of CIA involvement in the JFK assassination, and also, absolute proof that the HSCA, directed by Robert Blakey, issued a completely erroneous report to the American people in 1979.

Therefore, if, for the first time in my memory concerning the JFK assassination, the Injustice Department is interested in, and willing hereafter to inform the public of these, my, disclosures, I will see you in Washington, pending approval from you and the Department.

Hoping to hear from you very soon, I remain,

Very truly yours,

  
Ted Gandolfo, Chairman: A.I.C.

\* The date is now August 17, 1983. I STILL have never received ANY answer to this letter sent more that 7 months ago to the Injustice Dept.

Ad-nauseum..T.G.

Who - - - - is Ron Rosenbaum?

presence of eight to ten military intelligence agents in Dealey Plaza. Also military intelligence personnel or former personnel handled various aspects of the motorcade protection and the translation of Marina's testimony into English and let's not forget the "routine" destruction of Oswald's military intelligence file either.

If a reasonable individual considers all of these unaccounted for secret service-military types swarming about Dealey Plaza, the preponderance of earwitness, eyewitness and even nosewitness testimony, (nine people mostly in the parade smelled gunpowder and the wind was blowing counter to the motorcade which discounts the Oswald window), suggesting a frontal shot, and if one adds the research of Fred Newcomb's unpublished Murder From Within and David Iifon's Best Evidence, both of which clearly substantiate a secret service-military coup d'etat, Rosenbaum is a fool to belittle the military accusations of Penn Jones.

Rosenbaum concludes his condemnation of Jones by stating that "all Penn offers is the despair and futility of mourning one lost witness after another", that he is a mourner, unable to stop grieving like the rest of "us". Speak for yourself!

Have you looked at America since 1963, ~~since 1963~~ The deterioration of quality education? The breakdown of the family unit? The abuses of power by federal agencies, large and small? The insanity of legal interpretations? The disappearance of the puritan work ethic? Assassinations? Cover ups? The mishandling of sex, drugs, rock and roll, television and Atari clones? Inflation-Recession? Our constant involvement with little wars all over the globe? The threat of annihilation by MX missiles? The inability to walk the streets alone? The threat of nuke puke - China syndromes from nuclear reactors? The invasion of privacy through domestic mail and phone espionage? The dominance of Tri-Lateral Commission economy and their puppets - Mondale, Glenn Cranston, Bush, Anderson, Carter? Fake energy shortages? The reincarnations of Ford, Nixon and Jaworski? In essence, the emergence of Orwell's 1984? Look around Rosenbaum. If other John Kennedys had surfaced, the moaning for a broken America might not have been necessary. There is much reason to grieve but not for the death of just one man.

Penn Jones is not a loser. True cynics commit suicide and Jones, despite his shortcomings, is a fighter and he is partly responsible for 80% of America's not accepting the Oswald-did-it nonsense. Criticize if you must, but "detached amusement" is repulsive and classless.

Aside from Rosenbaum's aside disrespect for men who have devoted their lives to upholding certain precious values and giving patriotic dignity and style from his ~~black~~ sense of black comedy, facetiously implying that the assassination

Who - - - is Ron Rosenbaum?

might have been the handiwork of the Beatles, whose principal architect, the slain John Lennon, also worked for world peace, his prime weakness is his inability to distinguish between what is significant to unraveling the mystery and what is simply intriguing, but leads to nothing definitive.

Rosenbaum desires scientific proofs. Well, don't we all, but he demands a smoking gun videotape be brought to his front door via certified mail. He constantly writes of Twilight Zone eeriness in his essay, but he apparently wants Matt Houston television simplicity for a solution. There is a subtle innuendo in his writing that indicates his faith in the Ramsey Acoustics Panel which disputes the HSCA findings, but the Ramsey Panel was created by government fixtures, namely, the Justice Department and the National Academy of Sciences (who ignored my Cancellare requests), and everyone knows or should know that to trust the government's investigation of the government is foolhardy.

Subsequently, if the four shots are a minute late, what are those sounds? Dr. Mark Weiss and Ernest Aschkenasy, who impressed the Hell out of me as I watched the hearings, are positive that the sounds are supersonic in nature and that they originated from Dealey Plaza or a duplicate Dealey Plaza. Now I'm not going to drown in what Rosenbaum accurately depicts as an "endless swamp of dispute" which Orwell warned was a major weapon of Big Brother, but once again, what are these supersonic sounds? Or are Barger and his associates totally out to lunch?

Rosenbaum also leans toward the mafia connection which means he trusts G. Robert Blakey, another naive acceptance of blind faith. Rosenbaum writes that the "committee took a lot of time painstakingly and convincingly corroborating the circumstantial details of the story," but the story is first, just that, "circumstantial", and secondly, the credit belongs to Robert Sam Anson's They've Killed The President and other earlier researchers who first discovered the mafia connection, not the HSCA.

The organized crime link is a powerful, but somewhat superficial one in one respect. Let's face it. Marcello, Hoffa, Trafficante and the boys did not conduct that autopsy. Nor did they control the chains of transfer of the miracle bullet, the lip-dented carcass shell, the questionable long paper bag, the rifle palmprint, ad nauseum. Did Carlos Marcello control the secret service entourage and the Pathesda naval crew? Did Jimmy Hoffa destroy JFK's brain, brain tissue slides and chest x-rays? Rosenbaum apparently lacks the perspective to see that the assassination was more than a major mob hit.

Isn't it also fair to ask why the committee did not pursue

(CONTINUED)

Who The Hell is Ron Rosenbaum?

Lifton's accusations in the same manner as they did the mob theory instead of incredibly assuming that since the Secret Service was in possession of JFK's body that all was safe and sound? Lifton is correct in his premise that the best evidence is the physical evidence and not Ruby's phone calls which are obviously of immense interest, but they are not the quintessence of the mystery before us.

Rosenbaum attempts to demean the experimental photographic blow up work conducted by researchers, but has he forgotten that the HSCA's forensic photographers emphatically state that Willis #5 depicts a man at the grassy knoll wall possessing "a very distinct straight lined feature". Do you think he's sweeping the knoll with a broom, Ron? Isn't that a mantle of some kind of scientific proof? You still want the videotape?

Why is the Moorman figure still being ignored? Why is the Cancellare figure still being ignored? Why doesn't Rosenbaum mention these subjects instead of toying with the hypothetical Badge Man? Why does he ignore the committee's photographic conclusion that the boxes of the TSBD perch were moved within two minutes after the shooting, an impossible feat for Lee Harvey Oswald who must be confronted by Officer Baker and Roy Truly on the second floor in approximately ninety seconds or less? Either he hasn't done his homework or he would just rather ridicule Gary Mack's Black Dog Man and Badge Man instead of establishing some truths.

In the end Rosenbaum commits the cardinal sin of all. He tends to accept the single bullshit theory based upon Dr. Vincent P. Guinn's neutron activation analysis that Connally's wrist fragments originated from CE 399, the miracle bullet. Thus Rosenbaum is tempted to swallow the Warren Report in toto, but he and Josiah Thompson, who has obviously not kept vigilant pace with the rest of us, must be unaware of my article specifying the missing CE 399 remnants, the drawings of Connally's fragments by Nurse Audrey Bell sent to me by researcher Peter Erbe, the unreliability of Guinn's credibility and the discrepancies in the size, weight, and number of the fragments between the FBI's N.A.A. tests and Guinn's. Again "government investigating government" haunts us.

Therefore Rosenbaum has no right to proclaim himself *Exigente*. He's too ignorant of the ongoing research to judge any of us. The most important quote in his tome comes from Thompson who believes in the theory of evidentiary mutilation, that "some pieces of the puzzle have their edges shaved off or pieces never in the puzzle have been brought in" and I agree wholeheartedly.

Rosenbaum wisely accepts this premise, then somehow feebly, almost embraces the Warren Report findings. For a second his see-saw in mid-air, resists the temptation and concludes his

CONTINUED

evaluation by playing agnostic. The Demanding One takes no stand. Fearing that he might leap into the absurd, he makes no leap at all. With all that we know, Wesiberg's declassified documents, Lifton's two coffins, Shaw and Harris' arrested suspects and mysterious license plates, Meagher's meticulous dissection of all the physical evidence, Jones' domino theory, Earl Golz's diligent, investigative reports, Cutler's architectural tracts, Evica's tracking down of the rifle's origin coupled with my own research of the bullets origin from apparently the same source, the destroyed evidence, the ignored witnesses, the media brainwashing ad infinitum, how could any human being, other than Gerald Ford, be that stupid?

Eighty percent of adult America believe in conspiracy. Twenty percent believe The Warren Report . . . and then there is the insufferable Ron Rosenbaum . . . the vacillating choke who sells magazine articles, but accomplishes nothing except hurting people who have worked so very hard for twenty years. Boo!

Have no fear, Ron. If you stumble onto the "mantle of scientific proof", that magical, mystical "dangerous knowledge" of your Hardy Boys fantasy, I trust you won't even recognize it. END

\*\*\*\*\*

We are proud to count Edgar Tatro as a friend, and grateful to him for his answer to Ron Rosenbaum. We have long known this is an impossible fight. Tatro knows it too. But we loved this democracy; we hated to see it die. We continue to try to tell the truth as we see it--and as the evidence indicates. There has never been a shortage of prostitutes---both those who use beds, and the more deadly ones who use typewriters.

The first one can be avoided, but if you publish off the chosen line, you must expect to encounter the second kind. And it is the second kind who are most deadly to a democracy. I think it is safe to say Ron Rosenbaum falls in this category.

In this fast falling lost world now days-- *AS THIS COUNTRY HURLES TOWARDS TOTALITARIANISM* the bravest people are the ones who choose to tell the truth. Our decadent society must surely reach its peak soon, and we owe it all to likes of sold-out traitors to democracy such as ~~Bob Kennedy~~ **ROBERT BLAKEY**

So we thank you, Edgar Tatro for the fine factual article. In this country now built on lies-- we are happy to present some truth.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RULED SUICIDE:** The bizarre hanging of Maj. Gen. Robert G. Ownby, 48, who was found dead last week with his hands tied and a "terrorist" note pinned to his sweater; by the county medical examiner in San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 19. Investigators discovered that the Army Reserve general was heavily in debt and that the note had been typed on a machine traceable to Ownby.

NEWSWEEK/JANUARY 30, 1984

The death of General Ownby was announced with 3 different stories. One statement made was that he had blood on his face, and it appeared he had been beaten. Later this fact was not mentioned in television reports. And the most obvious statement -- the fact that the General had bound his hands behind his back with a military belt. Anyone who has ever worn a military belt knows that it is difficult enough to fasten it in front with one hand -- much less fasten it in back with one hand. Just how the General did this -- remains to be seen.

The final ruling was suicide. The press made a big build-up over the fact that Ownby had been deeply in debt and the note on his body had been traced to his own typewriter. Yet no one ever explained Ownby's feat of fastening his hands behind his back with a military belt. I guess the press and media still believe in Santa Claus.

Mirror Mirror on The Wall  
Who's The Dumbest of Them All?  
By Edgar F. Tatro

Americans have always been fascinated with statistics. In recent years we have been deluged with compilations of every sort - The Guinness Book of World Records, The Book of Lists, Blackwell's worst dressed personalities, the top ten films of yesteryear and the top one hundred hits of rock history to mention only a few.

Even Johnny Carson gets into the act. Ed McMahon will mockingly thank Johnny for citing every show which failed to air on television this year for obvious weaknesses and Ed is thankful for now knowing "everything there is to know about null and void TV shows", but Carson interjects, "Not so, Camel Breath", and proceeds to review a parody of fabricated shows designed to split our sides in hysterical laughter.

In keeping with this trend, I figured it was time to compile a "JFK Assassination Stupid Documents List" just for the Hell of it. Of course, any educated student knows that such a list could fill up twenty-six volumes with ease, so I decided to detail a small list of "My Favorite House Select Committee on Assassinations Absurdity Documents List". Unfortunately, when it comes to historical laughter rather than hysterical laughter, the American people remain the butt of the jokes.

1. The Blakey Mannlicher-Carcano Firing Test Document  
(HSCA Volume VIII p.p. 183 - 185)

Have you ever seen a little kid try to jam a puzzle piece into a place which appears appropriate, but just won't fit? The kid becomes persistent and shoves the damn edge in place anyway which bends the jigsaw piece beyond repair, buckles the whole side of the puzzle and ultimately wrecks the complete enterprise.

In the world of propaganda this conceptual fallacy is known as selected preference which essentially means to select only evidence which substantiates a previously established hypothesis or desired result. Fred Fewcomb, my friend, and author of Murder From Within often referred to selected preference as the process of the lawyer-trained mind, that is, having a preconceived answer before one starts and omitting any evidence which repudiates the original claim. Winning, not justice, is all that counts.

Chief Counsel and Director of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, G. Robert Blakey, supplied us with what I consider to be a classic example of selected preference and the most idiotic document of the congressional investigation to date.

Since the acoustic tests had mandated that the time differential between shots #1 and #2 was only 1.66 seconds and since the FBI Carcano tests in 1964 had stipulated that Oswald's rifle could not be fired twice in less than 2.3 seconds, then, assuming that the

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Page 2

Mirror Mirror (cont'd)

acoustics tests were valid, the only way to salvage the sacred single bullshit theory and the sole assassin from behind nonsense was to discover a flaw in the FBI's original premise. Otherwise, two killers from the rear flank would be undeniably confirmed.

Blakey issued a memorandum dated March 22, 1979 which detailed the result of firing a carcano but employing iron sights rather than a telescopic sight in an attempt to lessen the time to fire two shots in succession. Blakey had theorized that using iron sights and not the scope would save valuable time and condemn Oswald forever as the lone TSBD assassin or lone rear assassin.

It's bad enough that Blakey's ego deceived him into thinking that he had discerned "The" piece of ballistical magic that the FBI experts had overlooked, which is preposterous because Hoover wanted to nail Oswald as much as anyone did, but his foreshadowing exposition includes the following gem; "From knowledge of the difficulty involved in so shooting, it may be possible indirectly to infer something about the probability, as opposed to the possibility that Oswald did so. Nevertheless even the most improbable event may have occurred".

Now what the Hell does that mean! The "G" in G. Robert Blakey must stand for gobbledygook. Now if I decipher my Orwellian Newspeak carefully, Blakey is saying that Oswald "probably" used the iron sights instead of "possibly" using them and even if Blakey can't prove Oswald did use the iron sights because Blakey simply can't prove it and/or because there is no reasonable motivation for Oswald to use the iron sights, maybe Oswald did anyway.

Of course, his rationale (and I am being kind in calling it that), proves nothing. Blakey is utilizing a fallacy known as appeal to ignorance which maintains that a statement is true because it cannot be disproven, which is utterly illogical. I can take off my shoe and pound on the podium of the United Nations and declare that a chocolate cake is floating in the Martian atmosphere because you can't prove otherwise, but that doesn't make it a verity. Unfortunately, more doublespeak follows.

Blakey informs us that the Oswald rifle is in such a deteriorated state that a similar weapon was used for the tests. Well, doesn't that end that! What is the purpose of this insanity? Blakey's charade was invalid from the start.

Then (get this now!) the shots were fired at stationary targets from a twenty foot tower. The TSBD perch was three times that height and President Kennedy was not posing for an artist in Dealey Plaza! But it gets worse. Much worse. Ulcer victims should stop reading at this point.

Four rifle experts fired shots and we are told that by using iron sights, they reduced the time considerably. In fact Officer



Page 3  
Mirror Mirror (cont'd)

B.L. Miller and Officer Joe Masson only took 1.9 seconds between shots #1 and #2 which is impressive, Blakey, but it's not good enough!

The four experts could not accomplish the necessary task and need I dare cite Oswald's last mediocre USMC rifle proficiency evaluation, a 191, one point from failure, a score which the head of USMC records in Washington, D.C., USMC Lt. Col. Allison G. Folsom felt relegated Oswald to the status of "a rather poor shot".

If all this madness doesn't surpass a rubber room in Bedlam, Blakey outdoes even himself in the following sentence, HSCA, volume VIII, p. 185, item (2), which is a pitiful matter of congressional record - "It is apparently difficult, but not impossible -- at least with only minimal practice with the firearm used -- to fire 3 shots, at least two of which score 'kills', with an elapsed time of 1.7 seconds or less between any two shots, even though, in the limited testing conducted, no shooter achieved this degree of proficiency".

I've read and analyzed thousands of government documents for two decades, but that sentence is the quintessence of stupidity. Please give Blakey the Buffoon Award of the decade for that brainchild. Are we to assume that further tests would accomplish the feat? After all, the shooter in the TSBID would have only had one opportunity. What horse manure! Yes sir, cram that puzzle piece in there, Blakey, just like a pre-school toddler.

Finally Blakey and Deputy Chief Counsel Gary Cornwell, both inexperienced riflemen, fired two consecutive shots within 1.5 seconds and 1.2 seconds respectively, but only by "point aiming" the rifle. You see! They finally did it! So there, skeptics!

Now if anyone out there believes that Lee Harvey Oswald, "a rather poor shot" sporting what is known in rifle circles as the Italian "humanitarian rifle", accurately "point aimed" from a sixty foot perch at a moving target, under extreme pressure, from an awkward angle with a tree partially obstructing his view, and fired three shots at the President of the United States, twice hitting his target, within a minimum of 1.66 seconds between the first two shots, you've been ingesting ISD for too long.

2. The CIA Oswald 201 File Caper  
(HSCA Report pp. 200 - 204)

Did you ever ask someone a straight forward question and their reply was "not necessarily"? Wasn't that that infuriating? Well, the HSCA's handling of Oswald's 201 file is a master lesson of alternative choices, not necessities, we-don't-knows, and no proofs either way.

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Mirror Mirror (cont'd)

The CIA officially opened a 201 file on Lee Oswald on Dec. 9, 1960. Over the years all kinds of oddities and discrepancies about this file have led to some mighty heavy allegations, but the most serious declarations originated from former CIA agents themselves. In a national tabloid, approximately 1977, CIA personnel Bradley Ayers, Patrick McGarvey and Victor Marchetti, famous author of the The CIA and The Cult of Intelligence, all accused Oswald of being a CIA intelligence operative. Ayers said, "Oswald was either a contract agent, working for them full time or he was on some kind of assignment for the CIA". McGarvey stated, "If a guy has a 201 file, that means he's a professional staff employee of the Organization". Marchetti concluded, "Basically, if Oswald had a 201 file, he was an agent."

Around this time I was utilizing the Freedom of Information Act to obtain from the CIA certain documents unrelated to the 201 file, but I very nicely asked if the three former agents were correct about their assertions and what was the CIA's position on this matter. Sometimes if a researcher is very gentle, the cloak-and-dagger boys answer a question . . . sort of.

I had to write twice, but Gene Wilson, the CIA's Information and Privacy Coordinator wrote to me on February 13, 1978 and said, "In answer to your question, please be advised that the fact that the CIA maintained a 201 file on Lee Harvey Oswald does not at all signify that he had any relationship with this agency. Contrary to any such reports you may have heard, 201 files in the CIA are merely collections of biographic information about separate individuals, and their relationship with the Agency or lack of such, plays no part in the assignment of a 201 number".

First, the reports were not "heard" by me. I read them. Secondly, what Wilson was essentially saying was that a 201 file does not necessarily indicate a CIA relationship. Of course, he never denied that Oswald was an agent either so the answer was somewhat helpful, but not a total commitment to clarity by any stretch of the imagination.

Meanwhile the HSCA made a weak effort to find solutions to various anomalies in the Oswald 201 file. The congressional sleuths claimed that Oswald's file having been posted as "restricted" and the thirteen month delay of the opening of this file after his October 31, 1959 alleged defection were "not uncommon". How reassuring. The Committee also found no evidence of a dual filing system. How impressive. They accept the Lee "Henry" Oswald miscue as a simple bureaucratic error and were incredibly unable to fathom the true significance of the notation, "AG", which could either indicate an "actual or potential defector to the East or the Sino/Soviet Block including Cuba," the acceptable solution or a code used to aid in preparing computer listings of occupational groupings or intelligence affiliations, the ugly answer. How such a discrepancy could be left dangling as such boggles my

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Mirror Mirror (cont'd)

mind. Also various documents dated improperly such as "radar operator, U.S. Marine Corps, as of 60" were considered trivial errors or ignored.

The one issue brought into the open for which the Committee deserves some applause involved the CIA's use of a faked 201 file complete with forged documents, cleverly backdated, to cover up the employment of the ZR/Rifle Project, a code name for the assassination of foreign political leaders, also known euphemistically as "Executive Action". Therefore, if such a scheme can be perpetrated once, it could have occurred more than once and any statements written by the CIA or HSCA stating that "the existence of a 201 file does not necessarily connote any actual relationship or contact with the CIA" will not alleviate too many fears.

However, in the HSCA nitty gritty land of stupidity, the 201 file's whopper revolves around the magical question, "Were 37 documents missing from Oswald's 201 file?" We are never assured of anything.

The CIA wants us to "assume" that the Oswald file is "up-to-date" and that one of the periodical update machine listings was inaccurate, but even the Committee was unsatisfied with swallowing that assumption. They felt that explanation "incomplete". How quaint!

But they did accept as "plausible" the explanation that the 37 documents were placed in a special sensitivity file elsewhere or were presently in the hands of some CIA analysts. Ah, here it comes reader, The Wacko Award of the 201 file mystery belongs to the following sentence of pure dribble - "...the 37 documents were, in fact, available; but they were not located in the file at the time." Pardon my skepticism, but as Dirty Harry would say, "Swell!" How can the HSCA be so naive as to trust the CIA!

Considering Lee Harvey Oswald's mysterious CC7-type history and considering the many controversial mysteries previously cited such as the "AG" notation and the fake ZR/Rifle files for assassination capabilities, the accepting of the CIA's innocent explanation for 37 missing Oswald documents as "plausible" without explicit confirmation and substantiation is the sign of a gutless, naive, and/or stupid committee. Shouldn't the CIA have produced the 37 documents to allay the suspicions? If the documents were elsewhere, where is elsewhere? If CIA analysts were perusing them, who are these men and why are these documents under examination now?

Maybe they're in a legitimate holding tank. Maybe everything is business as usual. Then again they might be visiting JFK's brain and Nixon's 18½ minute tape extravaganza in an Orwellian memory hole. Thanks for six million dollars of maybe-maybe notes.

Continued....

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Mirror Mirror (cont'd)

3. The Incomplete Autopsy  
(HSCA Volume VII pp. 14-15)

One of the blockbusters of the Kennedy Assassination nightmare occurred at the trial of Clay Shaw in New Orleans in 1969 during the testimony of Colonel Pierre Finck, who had been one of the attending pathologists at the autopsy. During the legal proceedings, Alvin Oser, Executive Assistant District Attorney, was attempting to ascertain why the wound which allegedly entered the President's back and allegedly traversed his body and allegedly exited his throat was not dissected to prove that the first chapter of the single bullet theory was a fact. Since it is the sine qua non of forensic pathology that a bullet always leaves a traversing path, the laying open of the track would have been the most obvious and irrefutable means of substantiating or ridiculing the one shot controversy.

Oser cleverly and persistently hounded Colonel Finck until he cracked. Like Lucy trying to evade Ricky Ricardo's wrath for an obvious wrong doing, Finck avoided answering the question, "Why didn't you dissect the track of the bullet wound in President Kennedy's neck?" But on the seventh attempt, Oser, an insightful lawyer who had impressed me during my private conversations with him at various court intermissions, coupled with the authoritative pressure of Judge Edward Haggerty hovering above him, Colonel Finck finally admitted, "As I recall, I was told not to, but I don't remember by whom."

Colonel Finck had finally succumbed and told the jury that someone whom he couldn't recall had instructed him not to complete the autopsy of the President of the United States of America. Whew! The critical means of clarifying the direction and number of bullets which had penetrated the President's body had been conveniently aborted by some individual in an autopsy room dominated by Pentagon generals and admirals.

The implications of Colonel Finck's admission are suspicious and gargantuan and Finck, under possible penalty of perjury, had not offered his information readily, but only when pressured to do so by a competent lawyer and an honest judge. Failure to examine the missile track in President Kennedy on orders from a high ranking military official was evidence of conspiratorial whitewash of the highest degree.

Ah, but almost a decade later here come the congressional investigators to the rescue. George Orwell must have turned over in his grave like a spin-and-dry washer when the HSCA decided to investigate the matter and determined that "it was Dr. Humes and not any Army general or other person who made the decision not to dissect the back entry wound."

Essentially the HSCA came to the dubious conclusion that the neck wound was innocently left unexamined based upon Dr. Michael

Continued....

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Mirror Mirror (cont'd)

Baden's rhetorical question, "Now that was your decision as opposed to somebody else's decision?" and Humes' sheepish surrender, "Yes, it was mine."

Congressmen in Washington expect us to believe the word of Commander Humes, a shell of a man who speaks in riddles, a man who has had to live with the shame of this medical mockery for years, a man who had Dr. George Burkley overseeing all of his written autopsy work as evidenced by Burkley's initials of approval which were hidden from us for a decade, a man whom we are told made a four inch error in the location of the head wound, a man who burned certain preliminary draft notes, a man whose credibility has more holes in it than a moth-riddled wool sweater.

How can the HSCA mental midgets expect us to accept that Humes made the decision? Finck makes it clear that although he could not pinpoint the origin of the order, that Humes certainly was excluded from the source.

Remember Finck had reluctantly given this information in that 1969 courtroom. Why would he fabricate a story like that which surely did not please his military godfathers upon his return home? Humes would have been an acceptable "easy out" for Finck to blame the order on since he was not a qualified forensic pathologist in the first place. If Finck had done so, the big brothers could say that Humes ignorantly, but innocently did not grasp the grave consequences of his decision.

It is also foolish to believe, as Finck implied that maybe a Kennedy family representative, such as General McHugh, terminated the crucial task to expedite the autopsy, McHugh, a Kennedy loyalist, would have wanted the truth and besides, he wasn't running the show. The Humes-did-it assumption is not only an example of sheer, stupid, and unfounded speculation, but it is also a biased attempt at rewriting history and therefore properly belongs on our list of assassination absurdities.

#### 4. Oswald's Military Intelligence File (HSCA Report pp. 221 - 224)

Most Americans love to blame the assassination of President Kennedy on the C.I.A just because they're the "bad guys" who are notorious for killing people all over the globe. Some others select the FBI. Some real fools still point the finger at Communists and the newest fad for target practice is the Mafia.

However the means, motive and opportunity for assassination and more importantly, cover up, leads inescapably to a military coup d'etat ....with a little help from their Secret Service pals. The autopsy fiasco in a naval hospital, the infamous "shut up" memorandum to all autopsy personnel, the 8 to 12 military

Continued....

intelligence agents in Dealey Plaza cited by Lt. Col. Robert E. Jones, the "stand down" orders given to the 112th Army Intelligence Unit stationed at Fort Sam Houston, the presence of unidentified military intelligence agents riding around in police cruisers, the apprehension of an Army intelligence agent, James Powell, inside the TSBD after the shooting coupled with the initial handling of most of the physical evidence, including the body, as well as the motorcade order and assignments by the Secret Service is overwhelming evidence that the assassination was a military act.

As such Lee Harvey Oswald's military intelligence file which was never given to the Warren Commission may have possessed indispensable information to the true identity of Oswald and all of his James Bond antics. Unfortunately, the Department of Defense saw fit to destroy the Oswald file sometime in 1973. The Defense Department claims that "The Oswald file was destroyed routinely in accordance with normal files management procedures, as are thousands of intelligence titles annually." Also the military powers that be were unable to determine who was responsible for the file's destruction.

What is more absurd? The destruction of a military intelligence file belonging to the alleged assassin of a United States President or the evaluation of such a blatant cardinal sin of all cardinal sins as "routine" and "normal"? Gimme a break!

Now let's add HSCA salted orange juice to the psychological laceration provided by the Department of Defense propagandists. The HSCA who accepted the CIA's explanation for the 37 missing 201 file documents as "plausible" now became courageous hellions on wheels by calling the destruction of the military intelligence file of Lee Harvey Oswald as "extremely troublesome". What whimpering chokes! These congressional cowards give euphemisms and understatement a bad name. Washington must be inundated with single digit IQ disease to expect anyone to swallow such insane gibberish.

Yes, the FBI, CIA, and Mafia are by no means boy scouts, but even these organizations could learn a thing or two about political audacity from the Pentagon. In retrospect, the HSCA couldn't teach anyone anything because its yellow streak is too deep and wide.

5. Parkland Versus Bethesda  
(HSCA Volume VII pp. 37 - 39)

There is no need to belabor the discrepancies in the wound descriptions as reported by the Parkland doctors in Texas and the Bethesda doctors in Maryland. A Texas throat wound with a sharp, surgical tracheotomy cut approximately 3-5mm. is observed at Bethesda as a 7-8cm wound with "widely gaping irregular edges". Likewise a Texas description of the head wound as 5 by 7 cm of the right occipitoparietal area transforms via Bethesda into a large irregular hole some 13-17cm across extending from the occipital

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region and including mostly parietal but also some of the temporal region. Add the famous FBI quote of pre-autopsy head surgery and the David Lifton theory, that John Kennedy's body was tampered with between Parkland and Bethesda in order to remove conspiratorial bullets and transform the wounds to appear more in line with a solo assassin from the rear, raises its macabre head.

The HSCA admits that it is a "theoretical possibility" that both Parkland and Bethesda doctors are correct about their observations "if someone had altered the body while in transit from Parkland Memorial Hospital to Bethesda Naval Hospital".

Frankly I was shocked to realize that HSCA members at least had enough imagination to consider the alterations as theoretical possibilities, but the old political horses slapped those blinders and feed bags on almost immediately thereafter.

The HSCA then assumed its way into mindless oblivion by continuing to say that "This possibility, however, is highly unlikely or even impossible. Secret Service agents maintained constant vigilance over the body from Parkland to Bethesda and stated that no one alter the body."

Now if the HSCA could prove that Lifton was wrong by developing a reasonable explanation for the multiple hearses and two coffins or by ascertaining that Robert Kennedy and Jackie had decided to observe JFK's body in the casket one more time as the entourage approached Bethesda and JFK was still resting peacefully inside, then they would stand on solid ground.

Of course such an investigation was not totally possible since Lifton's Best Evidence was published after the HSCA's demise, but the point is still fundamental to the truth. The HSCA merely disregarded the alteration theory because of its blind faith in the Secret Service.

Another fallacy is at work here known as appeal to integrity which succeeds because people believe in statements uttered by sources of unquestionable honesty. Ah, there's the rub! Who is a source of unquestionable honesty? The Warren Commission survived on this fallacy alone for years. I would show three hours of slides shattering the single bullet theory into fragments only to hear some patriotic oaf ask, "But why would Earl Warren lie?"

The HSCA sunk into fallacious feces when it trusted the praetorian guard as beyond reproach. No one is beyond reproach, especially when it comes to political assassination and especially the Secret Service. Just ask Julius Caesar or Thane Eugene Cesar for that matter.

#### 6. The TSBD Poltergeist Award

Researchers throughout the years have convincingly argued

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that there is reasonable doubt that Oswald could have shot the President, hidden the rifle, rushed down four flights of stairs, and purchased a Coke prior to the arrival of Officer Baker and Roy Truly on the second floor which took ninety seconds or less. The controversial debate has see-sawed endlessly, but the HSCA photographic experts have confirmed Oswald's alibi.

The forensic photographers of the HSCA destroyed the Warren Report and the HSCA report with one sentence - "There is an apparent rearranging of boxes within two minutes after the last shot was fired at President Kennedy", but no one in Washington seems to be intelligent enough to realize it.

It was hard to accept the time constraints placed against Oswald to accomplish the feat in lightning speed, but if boxes were being rearranged within two minutes after the assassination, it is explicitly clear that Oswald was not moving them. It was simply impossible for him to do so.

Lillian Mooneyham's testimony indicated carton movement after the shooting. Richard Sprague's photographic research citing suspicious perch rearrangements reinforced Mooneyham's observations and shattered the sanctity of the official perch photos. Now there is photographic proof from an official government source. Unless there is someone out there dumb enough to suggest that there was a poltergeist spirit inhabiting the TSEB on November 22, 1963, then unidentified conspirators were rearranging the TSEB perch. Once that is established, the motive for the rearrangement implies evidentiary fabrication to implicate Lee Harvey Oswald. Otherwise why bother risking such an operation.

How could Congress fail to grasp the relationship and significance between Oswald's alibi and the moving boxes? This lack of coordinating judgment is incredible and inexcusable.

7. Let's Blame The Dead Award  
(HSCA Volume 7 pp 23 - 33)

A bullet always leaves a bullet path. Despite all the theories bandied about for twenty years, there is only one definitive way to determine the number and direction of shots which hit President Kennedy in the head and that is to dissect the brain. This probably will never occur since the President's brain, brain tissue slides, blood smears, and photographic slides of all of these materials disappeared sometime prior to October 31, 1966. The general public would not learn of these missing materials listed under item 9 in official inventories until discovered by forensic pathologist, Dr. Cyril Wecht in August, 1972.

The Committee worked diligently in an effort to locate the missing materials and develop a chain of transfer. Their final conclusion was "that Robert Kennedy either destroyed these materials

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or otherwise rendered them inaccessible" and they just might be right this time . . . maybe.

The HSCA's chain of transfer begins at Bethesda Naval Hospital then to the Executive Office Building in Washington, then to the National Archives under Evelyn Lincoln's guidance, when on April 26, 1965 an itemized inventory was made which included the materials in question, then allegedly to Angela Novello, Robert Kennedy's personal secretary and Herman Kahn, Assistant Archivist for Presidential Libraries to another area of the National Archives and finally on October 29, 1966, the official deed of gifts transfer day, the materials were discovered missing.

The evidence which suggests RFK may have destroyed the materials results from a conflict in testimony between Evelyn Lincoln and Angela Novello. Lincoln claimed that in May, 1965 RFK ordered Novello and Kahn to move the footlocker elsewhere and Lincoln said she gave the keys to Novello at the time of the transfer. RFK and Kahn are deceased so Novello was the only other person who could provide information and she denied handling autopsy materials, the footlocker, and any keys.

However during the October, 1966 transfer a National Archives memorandum dated November 4, 1966 entitled "Inspection of Materials Relating to The Autopsy of President John F. Kennedy" states that Novello produced the footlocker key for the second inventory. If so, Novello is an apparent liar, a Robert Kennedy loyalist, but still a liar which is what the HSCA discreetly concluded.

The HSCA cannot be faulted this time for its thorough investigation of the RFK brain destroyer theory. However they can be criticized for not considering other alternatives simultaneously. It is very convenient to blame the dead.

First, who maintained custody of all these materials at the Executive Office Building until the 1965 transfer to the National Archives? Answer: the Secret Service! Uh-Oh! Consider Fred Newcomb's Murder From Within and David Lifton's Best Evidence and the Secret Service spells means, motive, and opportunity.

Secondly, on April 26, 1965 who itemized the inventory? Answer: Robert Bouck, U.S. Secret Service Agent, Admiral George Burkley, the President's physician and "other Secret Service personnel". Assume that Bouck and Burkley are innocent ( and assume that for only a second, please), who are these "other Secret Service personnel"? Also Bouck was "uncertain" about Burkley's custody of the brain for that day, but assumes everything is legitimate now. There is a lot of assuming going on here.

Regarding the Lincoln-Novello contradiction, can we trust the Archives memo of November 4, 1966 that Ms. Angela Novello

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produced the footlocker key? I would love to know Novello's reaction to the HSCA's conclusions.

Also Mrs. Lincoln said the materials first came to her in boxes and she put the materials in one day's time into a footlocker provided by Archives personnel. Who gave her the locker and who had previous access to the keys provided? Also how good was the security in Lincoln's office the day that boxes littered the place? In fact how good was the security in Lincoln's office at any time?

Maybe the HSCA is right. Their theory is reasonable, but their story is circumstantial and not as tidy as their ten page dissertation makes it out to be. There are lots of other possibilities and lots of loopholes, especially when one considers the hands of the Secret Service were present throughout the whole ordeal and remember that the Committee considered the Secret Service beyond reproach when it came to wound alterations. Isn't it obvious that John Kennedy's brain is not the only one missing in Washington D.C.

#### 8. The Chest Cavity Photographs (HSCA Volume 7 p. 12)

The internal photographs of President Kennedy's chest might be the most crucial pieces of evidence in determining the authenticity of the single bullet theory. If photos showed a "missile" or f'chette or good sized bullet fragment or a whole bullet inside the President, the Oswald scenario would be crushed. Commander Humes is positive that these photographs were taken and he's rarely sure of anything. The autopsy photographer, John Stringer, supports Humes' belief. However Admiral Burkley denies that interior chest photographs were taken.

The Committee takes up the gauntlet of courage again and concludes "There is no evidence that such photographs exist" and drops the matter. Are we to assume that they agree with Burkley? And these pieces of evidence were not included in item 5 so let's not blame Bobby for their disappearance, ok?

Well, the Committee didn't blame anyone. They just ignored the issue which implies through silence that Burkley is correct.

Who is Admiral George Burkley? His approval of Humes' autopsy documents including the infamous Boswell back chart, his "third thoracic vertebrae", no throat wound death certificate, his lack of Warren Commission testimony despite his presence in the motorcade, at Parkland Memorial Hospital and at Bethesda Naval Hospital, his coziness with Bethesda's commanding officer, Captain R. O. Canada and his access to the brain and other missing materials does not insure within me a feeling of security, but it's clear that the HSCA considered him beyond reproach also.

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Mirror Mirror (cont'd)

## 9. The Acoustics Tests

The acoustics tests have become a complex labyrinth and frankly I raised my white flag in dizzying surrender long ago. I don't know who or what to accept any longer and I refuse to jump into the jungle of masochistic quicksand.

However even an acoustical novice can attack one aspect of the tests conducted and that is the re-enactment. The re-enactment only included shots from two locations, the famous grassy knoll and the alleged Oswald window.

Over the years various researchers have alleged or theorized a number of possible shooting origins. Penn Jones cites the Records Building roof and the sewer drain. Harold Weisberg is curious about a figure in a second floor Dal-Tex window. Emory Brown has shown me blow ups of a figure in a third floor Dal-Tex window. Emilio Santana claimed to be a Dal-Tex roof shooter. Robert Cutler, in addition to his non-supersonic, shooting umbrella man, convincingly indicates a possible TSBD southwest window shooter. I am intrigued by the Cancellare figure situated upon the grassy knoll south as is Robert Groden and Emory Brown. Fred Newcomb really went out on a limb and accused William Greer, the JFK limousine driver, of being the assassin. Perhaps all of these "snipers" can be innocently dismissed, but by firing shots only from two positions, apparently to save money and time, the HSCA may have blown the whole investigation.

If the HSCA experts found fifteen coefficient matches and determined four were shots and six were false alarms, what are the other five undetermined impulses? Are they all false alarms? Are some of them shots from an area other than the grassy knoll or Oswald perch? If so, where?

Whoever is correct about the acoustics results, one thing is certain. To limit the re-enactment to two sites was just plain stupid!

## 10. Who Didn't Do It?

The House Select Committee on Assassinations admits that they were unable to identify the other gunman or the extent of the conspiracy. Well, no one is perfect. What is outlandishly dumb to me is their absolving almost everyone on Earth without knowing who did it. "Two plus two is five," moans Orwell.

The day after the Committee had closed its doors, I wrote a blistering diatribe of the HSCA which was published in The JFK Assassination Forum in Belfast, Ireland in January 1979. My comments still hold up - "I can't believe that the HSCA can rule out any organization as conspiring to kill President Kennedy,

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particularly since they can't name another gunman. Such reasoning is absurd . . . . How could any committee make such a naive statement and consider itself honest and rational?"

Hey, Did you notice in the HSCA Report index, p. VI, they wrote, "The Committee was unable to identify the other gunmen or the extent of the conspiracy"? On page 95 it's corrected, but subconscious truth surfaced partially in the table of contents.

In all frankness, the HSCA was never really stupid or naive or irrational. They were just dishonest rodents with the brains of foxes. They were concerned with looking good, not being good. They were selected preference masters. They weren't detectives; they were sly politicians. They placated everyone, the Russians, the Castroites, the Anti-Castroites, the Federal agencies. They even gave the critics credibility by declaring probable conspiracy, but tempered it by blaming a dead man again and stuck in "probable" as a safety valve. They tried to be all things to almost all people, but accomplished virtually nothing, then buried their classified files more efficiently than their predecessors and now can whine that it's the Justice Department who won't pursue their efforts, which they must have known all along.

When one considers these twenty years, despite their occasional bunglings, the big brother puppets have effectively protected the assassins of John Kennedy from justice, but they lost the faith of the American people in doing so and that is a costly price to pay to kill one man and cover it up.

THE END

By WILLIAM P. BARRETT

Staff Writer

**FRANKLIN** — Billie Sol Estes cited the electric chair, in addition to prison, as reasons he refused to tell a grand jury in Franklin anything about the suspicious deaths of four people connected with Estes, sources here say.

Estes' purported declaration came during his secret testimony last week to a Robertson County grand jury investigating the June 3, 1961, death of Henry H. Marshall, a U.S. Agriculture Department official in nearby Bryan. Estes, granted immunity from prosecution, said former President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered the killing out of fears that Marshall could tie an LBJ political operative to Estes' multimillion-dollar frauds.

A Johnson family friend, Malcolm E. "Mac" Wallace, killed Marshall with five rifle shots after trying to fake a suicide by using carbon monoxide, Estes added.

The jury last week changed a 23-year-old ruling of suicide to homicide and then said no one could be charged because those responsible were dead. Johnson,

Wallace and a third alleged plotter, former Democratic Party official Clifton Carter, all died in the 1970s. Historians and Johnson aides have denied that LBJ was involved. . . .

The Marshall case had been reopened after U.S. Marshal Clint Peoples of Dallas persuaded Estes to testify.

According to various sources, Estes' expressed fear of capital punishment came in an exchange initiated by Peoples, who was allowed to remain in the grand jury room.

The 73-year-old marshal reportedly mentioned four other cases where "a similar situation exists." He apparently was referring to people connected with Estes who died during a federal investigation and whose deaths were attributed to suicide.

Peoples asked Estes to name the cases, but Estes allegedly balked. District Attorney John Paschall reportedly inquired "off the record" whether the people involved in the four cases were also involved in Marshall's death.

Sources said that Estes, glaring across the room, responded, "I would say off the record I wouldn't tell you nothing that



Billie Sol Estes

would send me to the penitentiary or the electric chair."

Paschall didn't press the matter, sources say, after Estes pulled out a white index card containing a recitation of his right not to incriminate himself and indicated he would invoke it.

Several lawyers contacted Sunday night said Estes would not have to fear a death penalty.

ESTES CITED ELECTRIC CHAIR IN REFUSAL TO DISCUSS DEATHS  
Dallas Times Herald  
March 26, 1984

Mr. Ronald Reagan  
President Of The United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ted Gandolfo, Chairman: Assassination  
Information Committee  
1214 First Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10021

October 18, 1984

Dear Mr. President,

I am sending you this letter in the hope that a grave miscarriage of justice may yet be rectified. It involves the fact that very crucial evidence and information relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has been, and definitely was, entirely SUPPRESSED and COVERED UP by the House Select Committee On Assassinations in general and by their Chief Counsel G. Robert Blakey in particular. I will refer to just one, of many, items of evidence in this regard. On February 11, 1978, I had a long conversation with former New Orleans District Attorney, now Judge, Jim Garrison. During our conversation, which I tape recorded, he told me that the House Select Committee On Assassinations had sent a team of investigators, headed by Mr. Clifford Fenton, to Mr. Garrison's office to secure the evidence that Garrison had accumulated during his investigation of the JFK assassination in 1967 to 1969. Garrison told me that as a result of the Committee's

10-investigators viewing and hearing this evidence, that they ALL were convinced of a MASSIVE conspiracy to murder JFK. Garrison also told me that these investigators also obtained, from New Orleans and also Clinton, Louisiana, TAPE-RECORDINGS in which the assassination of JFK were being discussed by, among others, voices which were identified as being CONTRACT EMPLOYEES OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. On these tapes, they were discussing how they were going to assassinate President Kennedy in Dallas on November-22, 1963.

This evidence was COMPLETELY SUPPRESSED in the House Select Committee On Assassinations Final Report and, in fact, Mr. Garrison was not even called to testify before the Committee at all!!

I am certain you will agree that this matter should be immediately brought to the attention of the Justice Department so that they may conduct a full investigation into this most important suppressed information and evidence so that the interests of TRUTH, HONOR AND JUSTICE may fully be served. I will be only too happy to send to you a copy of this most important conversation between Mr. Garrison and myself.

Therefore, I implore you to write to me as soon as possible regarding the above information which I trust you'll agree with me is of the most VITAL IMPORTANCE! I will be awaiting your, I sincerely hope soon, reply.

*Ted Gandolfo* Respectfully yours, Ted Gandolfo:A.I.C

THE FINAL COVER UP

BY RICHARD E. SPRAGUE  
HARTSDALE, N.Y.

How The CIA Controlled The House Select Committee On  
Assassinations

Introduction:

The final report of the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), issued in 1979, concluded that a conspiracy existed in the assassination of President Kennedy. This news should have delighted hundreds of researchers who had disagreed with the no-conspiracy finding of the Warren Commission. The fact that it did not, is due to the HSCA conspiracy being a simple one, with Lee Harvey Oswald still firing all but one of the shots from the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository Building. The existence of another shooter and another shot, from the grassy knoll, was "proved" by the HSCA, based primarily on acoustical evidence presented in the very last month of their public hearings. Dr. Robert Blakey and Richard Billings, chief counsel and report editor for the HSCA, co-authored, in 1981, a book, "The Plot to Kill the President", following the publication of the HSCA's final report. The book claimed that the other shooter and Oswald were part of a Mafia plot to kill JFK.

To over simplify the current (1985) situation, most JFK researchers feel that the American public had been deceived once again. The HSCA reaffirmed all but one of the Warren Commission's findings, including even the famed single bullet theory. The simplified conspiracy finding is now subject to review by the

Justice Department and the FBI because it is based on very questionable acoustical evidence. Justice commissioned the so-called Ramsey Panel<sup>1</sup> to review this evidence, in 1981, under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences. It found no evidence from the acoustics that a grassy knoll shot was fired. So, we are back to no-conspiracy and Oswald being the lone assassin. And even if there was a conspiracy, Blakey claims it involved the Mafia and not the CIA. The HSCA report and all of its volumes of evidence omitting any reference to CIA involvement, concluded that the CIA was not involved, and did not reveal any evidence that the HSCA staff had collected showing that CIA people murdered JFK, and that the CIA has been covering up that fact ever since.

Any followers of CIA activities connected with the JFK assassination, since 1963, must ask the question, how did they do it? How did the CIA turn things completely around from the 1976 days when Henry Gonzalez, Thomas Downing, Richard A. Sprague, Robert Tanenbaum, Cliff Fenton and others were pursuing the truth about the assassination, to essentially the same status as when the Warren Commission finished its work? How did they produce the final cover up? The answer is that the CIA controlled the HSCA and its investigation and findings from the early part of 1977, forward. The methods they used were as clever and devious as any they had used previously to control the Warren Commission, the Rockefeller Commission, the Garrison Investigation, the

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<sup>1</sup> Chaired by Prof. Norman Ramsey of M.I.T.



Schweiker/Hart Committee<sup>2</sup> and the efforts of independent researchers.

The Situation in 1976:

In 1976, Henry Gonzalez, member of the House from Texas, and Thomas Downing from Virginia, were both convinced there was a massive conspiracy in the JFK assassination. They introduced a joint bill in the House which resulted in the formation of the HSCA and an investigation of the JFK and King assassinations. Gonzalez believed there were at least four conspiracies in the assassinations of JFK, MLK, Robert Kennedy and in the attempted assassination of George Wallace. He introduced an original bill to have the House investigate all four and the cover ups and links among them. Downing was primarily interested in the JFK case and his original bill dealt only with that conspiracy. Mark Lane and his committee members and supporters around the country joined forces with Coretta King and the Black Caucus in the House to pressure Congressmen and Tip O'Neill to investigate the King and John Kennedy assassinations. The net result was a merging of the Gonzalez and Downing bills into a Final HSCA bill dealing with only two of the cases.

In the fall of 1976, with Downing as chairman, the HSCA selected Richard A. Sprague, from the Philadelphia District Attorney's office, to be chief counsel. Sprague hired four professional investigators and criminal lawyers from New York

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<sup>2</sup> Senators Richard Schweiker of Penn. and Gary Hart of Colo. formed a sub-committee of the Church Committee.

City. They were very good and completely independent of the CIA and FBI, having been trained by one of the best professionals in the business, D.A. Frank Hogan of New York.

Sprague and his JFK team, headed by Bob Tanenbaum, attorney, and Cliff Fenton, chief detective, were going after the real assassins and their bosses, whether this led them to the CIA or FBI or anywhere else. Sprague had already made it clear to the HSCA that he would investigate CIA involvement, and subpoena CIA people, documents and other information, whether classified or not. He had also had meetings with several researchers, including the author, and made it known privately that he was going to use the talent and knowledge of every reliable researcher on a consulting basis. He had contacted Jim Garrison in New Orleans and informed him he would be following up on all of his information and leads. He had initiated an investigation of the CIA activities in Mexico City connected with the JFK assassination, including information supplied to Sprague by the author.<sup>3</sup>

R.A. Sprague and Tanenbaum were aware of the CIA connections of the individuals involved in the JFK assassination in Dealey Plaza, in Mexico City, in New Orleans and in the Florida Keys.

They had, in November 1966, exposed the entire HSCA staff to all of the photographic evidence showing these people in Dealey Plaza and elsewhere. They were aware of the assassination planning meetings held by CIA people in Mexico City and knew who the higher level conspirators were. They had initiated searches for

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<sup>3</sup> The author became an advisor to Richard A. Sprague as soon as he was appointed counsel to the HSCA.

# THE ASSASSINS' NAMES

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the real assassins; Frenchy, William Seymour, Emilio Santana, Jack Lawrence, Fred Lee Crisman, Jim Braden, Jim Hicks, et al. They were planning to interview CIA contract agents, Richard Case Nagell, Harry Dean, Gordon Novel, Ronald Augustinovich, Mary Hope and Guy Gabaldin. Cliff Fenton had been appointed head of a team of investigators to follow up on the New Orleans part of the conspiracy which had included CIA agents and people; Clay Shaw, David Ferrie, Guy Bannister, Manuel Garcia Gonzalez, Sergio Arcacha Smith, Gordon Novel and others. They were going to contact people who had attended assassination planning meetings in New Orleans.

From the photographic evidence surrounding the sixth floor window, as well as the grassy knoll, Sprague, Tanenbaum and most of the staff knew Oswald had not fired any shots, knew no shots came from the sixth floor window, and knew there had been shots from the Dal Tex Building and the knoll. They knew the single bullet theory was not true, and knew there had been a well planned crossfire in Dealey Plaza. They were not planning to waste a lot of time reviewing and rehashing the Dealey Plaza evidence, except as it might lead to the real assassins.

They had set up an investigation in Florida and the Keys, of the evidence and leads developed in 1967 by Garrison. Gaeton Fonzi was in charge of that part of Sprague's team. They were going to check out the people in the CIA that had been running and funding the No Name Key group and other Anti-Castro groups. Seymour, Santana, Manuel Garcia Gonzalez, Jerry Patrick Hemming,

Loren Hall, Lawrence Howard, Frenchy and Cubans, Rolando Masferrer and Carlos Prio Socarras were to be found and interrogated.

Tanenbaum and his research team had seen the photo collection of Dick Billings from Life Magazine which was, by 1976, deposited in the Georgetown University Library's JFK assassination collection. The No Name Key people and others showing up in Garrison's investigation appeared in these photos with high level CIA agents.

In 1977, Henry Gonzalez, who was far more supportive of a CIA conspiracy idea than Tom Downing, was to become chairman of the HSCA. Downing did not run for re-election in 1976 and was retiring. At that point, December 1976, Gonzalez and Sprague were of the same mind and getting along fine. Researchers were very pleased with the way things were going and believed Sprague would expose the CIA's involvement in the JFK cover up.

The CIA's Problem:

Given this background of the HSCA status in late 1976, it can easily be seen that the CIA was up against much more serious opposition than it ever had been before in the JFK murder and cover up. They had ruined Jim Garrison's reputation and curtailed his investigation by various dirty trick means. They had been in solid control of the Warren Commission by the simple expedient of having four of the Commissioners belonging to them; Dulles, Ford, McCloy and Russell. They were also able to kill enough people who knew the truth, to slow down any truth seeking that might have taken place. They also hid documents, destroyed and altered evidence, lied about other evidence, and bald facedly

admitted that they wouldn't tell the President or the  
if Lee Harvey Oswald had been a CIA agent (which he

In the Rockefeller Commission situation they were in  
control of that attempt to reinforce the Warren Commis-  
sions findings. And in the Church Committee investigation, the  
Hart subcommittee on the JFK case was very limited and  
did in what they could do.

In the new situation, in Richard A. Sprague and his  
colleagues with so much knowledge of the CIA's role in the  
cover up, they faced a crisis. They knew they had  
several things to turn it around and to continue to keep  
the American public from realizing what was happening. Here is  
what they had to do:

1. Get rid of Richard A. Sprague. *Thru the CIA controlled media*
2. Get rid of Henry Gonzalez.
3. Get rid of Sprague's key men or keep them away from  
CIA evidence or keep them quiet.
4. Install their own chief counsel to control the  
investigation. *Clay*
5. Elect a new HSCA chairman who would go along, or who  
could be fooled.
6. Cut off all Sprague's investigations of CIA people.  
Make sure none of the people were found or bury any  
testimony that had already been found, or murder CIA  
people who might talk. *Do the remainder of these*
7. Keep the committee members from knowing what was happening  
and segregate the investigation from them.

8. Create a new investigative environment whose purpose would be to confirm all of the findings of the Warren Commission and divert attention away from the, who-did-it-and-why approach.
- \* 9. Control the committee staff in such a way as to keep any of them from revealing what they already knew about CIA involvement. *By use of the "non-disclosure agreement"*
10. Control committee consultants in the same way, and staff members who might leave or who might be fired.
11. Continue to control the media in such a way as to reinforce all of the above.
12. Continue to murder witnesses or assassins in emergency situations if necessary.

The CIA successfully did all twelve of these things. The techniques they used were much more subtle and devious than those they had used before, although they did continue with murders of potential HSCA witnesses and with media control.

How The CIA-Did It:

The first step taken by the CIA was to use the media they control, along with some members of Congress they control, and two planted agents on the staff of and consulting for, Henry Gonzalez, to get rid of both Henry and Richard A. Sprague. In taking this step, they used the old Roman approach of divide and conquer. They made Gonzalez and his closest staff assistant, Gail Beagle, believe that Sprague was a CIA agent and that Gonzalez must get rid of him. They also made Gonzalez believe that some of his other associates, both in the HSCA and outside,

CIA

were CIA agents. At the same time, they used the media to attack Sprague mercilessly. The key people in doing this attack on Sprague were three CIA reporters, George Lardner of the Washington Post, Mr. Burnham of The New York Times, and Jeramiah O'Leary of the Washington Star. In all HSCA committee meetings and in Rules Committee and Finance Committee meetings, these three reporters sat next to each other, passed notes back and forth, and wrote articles continually attacking and undermining both Sprague and Gonzalez, as well as the entire committee. the CIA had the support of top management in all three news organizations in doing this.

Gonzalez eventually tried to fire Sprague, was over-ruled by the committee, and then resigned from the committee. Sprague eventually resigned, because it became obvious that the CIA controlled members of the Finance and Rules Committees and other CIA allies in the House, were going to kill the committee unless he resigned. There are many more details to this story, which requires a book to describe. Suffice it to say, the CIA accomplished their first two goals by March 1977. The next steps were to install a CIA controlled chief counsel and to get a chairman elected who could be fooled or coerced into appointing such a counsel. Lewis Stokes was a perfect choice for chairman. He was, and probably still is, a good and honest man. But he was completely bamboozled by what the CIA did and is still doing. The selection and implementation of a CIA man as chief counsel had to be done in an extremely subtle manner. It could not be obvious to anyone that he was a CIA man. Stokes and the other

committee members had to be fooled into believing they had made the choice, and had picked a good man. Professor Robert Blakey, an apparently scientifically oriented, academic person, with a history of work against organized crime, was the perfect CIA choice. Once Dr. Blakey took over as chief counsel, he accomplished goals numbered 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 very nicely. The fourth and fifth goals having been achieved, Blakey set about the other parts of his assignment very rapidly after he arrived. For Goal 3, he fired Bob Tanenbaum, Bob Lehner, and Donovan Gay, three loyal Sprague supporters, quickly.

The Non Disclosure Agreement:

The most important weapon used by the CIA and Blakey to pursue goals 9 and 10 was instituted within one week after Blakey arrived. It is by far the most subtle and far reaching technique used by the CIA to date. It is called the "Non Disclosure Agreement" and it was signed by all members of the committee, all staff members including Blakey, all consultants to the committee, and several independent researchers who met with Blakey in 1977. Signing the agreement was a condition for continued employment on the committee staff or for continuing consulting on a contract basis. The choice was, sign or get out.

The author signed the agreement in July 1977, without realizing its implications at the time, in order to continue as a consultant. The agreement is reproduced in full at the end of this article. The author's consulting help was never sought after that and the obvious objective was to silence a consultant and not use

Exhibit A



his services.

This CIA weapon has several parts. First, it binds the signer, if a consultant, to never reveal that he is working for the committee (see paragraph 13). Second, it prevents the signer from ever revealing to anyone in perpetuity, any information he has learned about the committee's work as a result of working for the committee (see paragraphs 2 and 12). Third, it gives the committee and the House, after the committee terminates, the power to take legal action against the signer, in a court named by the committee or the House, in case the committee believes the signer has violated the agreement. Fourth, the signer agrees to pay the court costs for such a suit in the event he loses the suit (see paragraphs 14 and 15).

These four parts are enough to scare most researchers or staff members who signed it into silence forever about what they learned. The agreement is insidious in that the signer is, in effect, giving away his constitutional rights. Some lawyers who have seen the agreement, including Richard A. Sprague, have expressed the opinion it is an illegal agreement in violation of the Constitution and several Constitutional amendments. Whether it is illegal or not, most staff members and all consultants who signed it have remained silent, even after three and a half years beyond the life of the committee. There are only two exceptions, the author and Gaeton Fonzi, who published a lengthy article about the HSCA cover up in the Washingtonian magazine in 1981.

The most insidious parts of the agreement, however, are paragraphs 2, 3 and 7, which give the CIA very effective control over what the committee could and could not do with so called

"classified" information. The director of the CIA is given authority to determine, in effect, what information shall remain classified and therefore unavailable to nearly everyone. The signer of the agreement, and remember, this includes all of the Congressman and women who were members of the committee, agrees not to reveal or discuss any information that the CIA decides he should not. The chairman of the committee supposedly has the final say on what information is included, but in practice, even an intelligent and gutsy chairman would not be likely to override the CIA. Lewis Stokes did not attempt any final decisions. In fact, the CIA did not have to do very much under these clauses. The fact that Blakey was their man and kept nearly all of the CIA sensitive information, evidence, and witnesses away from the committee members was all that was necessary. Stokes never knew what he should have argued about with the CIA director. It is this document which proves beyond doubt that the CIA controlled the HSCA.

The author attempted to point out to Stokes in a letter dated February 10, 1978, copy included herein,<sup>1</sup> the type of control the agreement gives the CIA over the HSCA. Stokes replied in a March 16, 1978 letter, also included herein,<sup>2</sup> that he retained ultimate authority and was not bound by the opinion of the Central Intelligence Director. He also claimed that paragraphs 12 and 14, on extending the agreement in perpetuity and giving the government the right to file a civil suit in which the signer will pay all costs, were legal. He said in the letter that the purpose of the agreement was to give the HSCA control over the

<sup>1</sup> Exhibit B

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit C

conduct of the investigation including control over the ultimate disclosure of information to the American public. That is a key admission about what has actually happened. The only question is, who is controlling the information in the heads of the staff investigators who discovered CIA involvement? Was Louis Stokes working for the public or for the CIA?

Examples of CIA-Control:

Some specific examples will serve to illustrate how well the CIA techniques have worked and are still working.

Garrison Evidence and Witnesses Example:

As mentioned earlier, when Blakey arrived, an investigating team headed by Cliff Fenton, reporting to Bob Tanenbaum, had already been hard at work tracking down leads to the CIA conspirators generated by Jim Garrison's investigation in New Orleans. This team eventually had four investigators, all professionals, and their work led them to believe that the CIA people in New Orleans had been involved in a large conspiracy to assassinate JFK. As Garrison told Ted Gandolfo, a New York City researcher, the Fenton team went much further than Garrison, in locating witnesses and other evidence of assassination planning meetings held in New Orleans, Mexico City and Dallas. In fact, they found a CIA man who attended those meetings, and who was willing to testify before the committee. The evidence was far more convincing than the testimony presented at the trial of Clay Shaw. The Shaw Trial, CIA people were involved in meetings in addition to the one brought out in the trial. Clay Shaw, David Ferrie, William Seymour and others were involved. Fenton's team

*Handwritten notes:*  
Fenton's  
12/1/68  
Garrison  
wrote.

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discovered a lot of other facts about how the CIA people planned and carried out <sup>the</sup> assassination . Their report about the conspiracy was solid and convincing and they were convinced. The CIA, through Robert Blakey, buried the Fenton report. Committee members were not told about the team's findings. The evidence was not included in the HSCA report, nor was it even referred to in the volumes. The witnesses in New Orleans were never called to testify. That included the CIA man at the meetings. Fenton and the other three members of his team, having signed the non-disclosure agreement, were legally sworn to secrecy, or at least they thought so. To this day they refuse to discuss anything with anybody.

There may also have been threats of physical violence against them. There is no way to determine this. However, Fenton and the others are well aware of the witnesses that the CIA murdered just before they were about to testify before the HSCA. These included: William Sullivan, the FBI deputy under J. Edgar Hoover, who headed Division V, the domestic intelligence division; George de Morenschildt, Oswald's CIA contact in Dallas; John Roselli, the Mafia man involved in the CIA plots to assassinate Castro; Regis Kennedy, the FBI agent who knew a lot about Clay Shaw, alias Clay Bertrand, in New Orleans and who was one of Lee Harvey Oswald's FBI contacts; Rolando Masferrer, an anti-Castro Cuban murdered in Miami; and Carlos Prio Socarras, former Cuban premier, killed in his garage in Miami.

TO BE CONTINUED...

With the knowledge of these murders, Fenton and his team would not have required any more than a gentle hint, to keep quiet.

Frenchy Example:

The "tramp", Frenchy, who appears in seven photos taken in Dealey Plaza, is one of the most important CIA individuals in the JFK assassination. Researcher Bill Turner discovered that Frenchy had been in the Florida Keys working with CIA sponsored anti-Castro groups. Richard A. Sprague and Bob Tanenbaum knew about his role, and intended to go after him when the HSCA restored its subpoena power and obtained enough money. They were aware of the evidence that Frenchy fired the fatal shot from the grassy knoll. They had assigned a team of investigators to follow a lead to Frenchy provided by the author in the early part of 1977.

Unfortunately, the CIA managed to keep both the subpoena power and the funds away from the committee until after they had forced the resignations of Gonzalez, Sprague and Tanenbaum. The power and funds were restored after Stokes was elected and after they installed their own man, Blakey. The investigative team remained, however, and they did search for and find Frenchy. But Blakey and the CIA suppressed that fact, and suppressed anything they may have learned from Frenchy. He is not mentioned in the report and was not called as a witness. The author dares not reveal the source of the above information because of the danger to staff people from the non-disclosure agreement.

Nagell, Dean, Novel, and Augustinovich:

The Garrison investigation and a subsequent series of investigations by the author and other members of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations in 1967 - 1973, turned up several witnesses who were willing to talk privately about the CIA assassination team that murdered JFK. Harry Dean and Richard Case Nagell had been Lee Harvey Oswald's CIA contacts while he was in Mexico City and knew about assassination planning meetings held in Guy Gabaldin's apartment. Dean knew about William Seymour, CIA contract agent, attending those meetings and how Seymour had been pretending to be Oswald on many occasions. Novel knew how the CIA had covered up the truth about the assassination and how they went to extreme lengths to ruin Jim Garrison and his investigation. Novel had been employed by the CIA in this effort. Augustinovich and his friend, Mary Hope, had attended some of the Mexico City meetings.

Richard Russell and the author tracked down all four of these witnesses prior to the arrival of Robert Blakey at the HSCA. Russell interviewed them and knew they would be willing to talk, given protection and some form of immunity. The author presented their names and their involvement to Richard A. Sprague, Henry Gonzalez, Lewis Stokes and Robert Tanenbaum in the fall of 1976. This was done as part of the author's consulting assignment for the HSCA. The names were in a memorandum to Sprague, which outlined the overall JFK conspiracy and the CIA's role, along with a recommendation of the sequence in which witnesses should be called. The idea was to base each witness interrogation on

what had been established from interviewing prior witnesses, working slowly from cooperative witnesses, to non-cooperative witnesses, to actual assassins, to higher level CIA people.<sup>(1)</sup> The highest level people, E. Howard Hunt and Richard Helms, would be faced with accusers.

As indicated earlier, Sprague and Tanenbaum could do nothing and did nothing up to the day they left. By early 1978 it became obvious that Blakey had done nothing about calling these CIA witnesses. The author initiated a series of letter exchanges with Blakey and Stokes, reminding them of these witnesses, and the possibility that their lives could be in danger prior to their being interviewed by HSCA. Dick Russell had obtained an agreement from Nagell to meet with the committee, but no contact had been made up to April 5, 1978, the date of the author's first letter to Stokes on this subject.<sup>(2)</sup> Nagell was hiding in fear of his children's lives, not so much his own life. He was a real CIA agent and knew how they operated. Russell was the only person who knew where Nagell was. In the April 5th letter, a recommendation was given to Stokes that the committee contact Nagell

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1 The names of the witnesses in the memo were:

Cooperative Witnesses:

Louis Ivon (Jim Garrison's chief investigator), Richard Case Nagell, Harry Dean, James Hosty, Carver Gaten, Warren du Bruys, Regis Kennedy, Victor Marchetti, Gordon Novel, Manuel Garcia Gonzalez, Harry Williams, Jim Garrison, George de Mohrenschildt, Charles Sensenay, Mary Hope and Jim Hicks.

Non-Cooperative Witnesses or Assassins or Planners:

Ronald Augustinovich, Guy Gabaldin, Frenchy, William Seymour, Emilio Santana, Jack Lawrence, Jim Braden, Sergio Arcacha Smith, Fred Lee Crisman, William Sullivan, Carlos Prio Socarras, Rolando Masferrer, Major L.M. Bloomfield, E. Howard Hunt, and Richard Helms.

through Russell, and contact the other witnesses on the original list. Stokes wrote on May 15, 1978 that the Nagell matter had been referred to Blakey for follow up. Blakey never mentioned it by telephone or by letter.

By September 1978, when the public hearings had begun, there was no indication that Blakey was going to call the CIA witness. Nagell was standing by but had not been contacted. The published, intended witness list did not contain any of these CIA names. The author wrote to Stokes and Representative Yvonne Burke on September 22 and 23, 1978 (copies reproduced herein) expressing dissatisfaction with the committee's failure to call the CIA witnesses, and suggesting that if they did not, history would eventually catch up with them. The names were repeated in the letter to Burke, and specific mention made that the committee had never contacted Richard Case Nagell. Louis Stokes sent back a letter dated October 10, 1978 which is reproduced at the end of this article. It is what one might call a non-answer, stating "that the committee will make every effort to tell the whole story to the American people." Seven years later (1985) it can be said that the committee did not make an effort to call the most important witnesses and therefore did not tell the whole story. Nor did their report even mention these witnesses or any of the evidence exposed earlier by the CIA or Jim Garrison. Louis Stokes was either totally fooled or he is part of the CIA's cover up.

The author responded to Stokes' non-answer letter of October 10th with two more letters, dated October 30, 1978 and November

(1) Exhibit E

(2) Exhibits F & G

(3) Exhibit H



(1)  
 24, 1978, both reproduced herein. Stokes finally answered them on December 4, 1978 with another non-answer letter, herein reproduced. (2) He says the committee cannot reveal the procedure of the investigation or the names of those persons who will be called to testify before the committee. This implies they were planning to call more witnesses in December 1978. The committee's life ended on January 1, 1979. The CIA witnesses were never called nor ever mentioned right up to the very end and the report was silent about them.

The Umbrella Man:

One last example illustrates the way the CIA and Blakey worked together to cancel out any evidence linking the CIA people and/or techniques used in the JFK assassination. For many years, various researchers, including Josiah Thompson<sup>3</sup> and the author had speculated about the role of a man appearing in the photographs in Dealey Plaza with an open umbrella. He became known as "The Umbrella Man", or TUM for short. Thompson speculated that TUM had been giving the various shooters in Dealey Plaza visual signals with the umbrella, and the author agreed this could have been true.

In 1976, the Church committee took the public testimony of Charles Sensenay, a CIA contract weapons employee at the Army Chemical Center in Ft. Detrick, MD. Sensenay described a system used by the CIA in Vietnam and elsewhere, for killing or paralyzing people with poisons carried in self propelled Fle-

(1) Exhibits I and J (2) Exhibit K

<sup>3</sup> In the book "Six Seconds in Dallas", Thompson showed photos of TUM.

cts. The darts were self propelled like solid fuel  
and launched silently and unobtrusively from a number of  
including an umbrella. A CIA catalog of available  
apons shows a photograph of the umbrella launching  
and photos of the Flechettes which were self propelled  
of the hollow spokes of the umbrella. They could even  
ned through soda straws.

archer Robert Cutler, former D.I.A. officer, L. Fletcher  
and the author did some additional research on the  
phic evidence and the weapon system, especially research  
movements of JFK in the Zapruder film and various photos  
and a friend he had with him in Dealey Plaza. The friend  
vo way radio device. As a result of this research, an  
was published in Gallery magazine in June 1978. The  
presented the hypothesis that TUM launched, from his  
a, a poison Flachette at JFK, which struck him in the  
at Zapruder frame 189, causing complete paralysis of his  
body, hands, arms, shoulders and head, in less than two  
s. The photos show this paralysis and the timing matches  
stimony given by Sensenay about how fast the CIA poison  
and what its paralyzing effects look like.

ether one agrees with this hypothesis or not is incidental  
t Blakey and the HSCA did in reaction to it. Until the  
of 1977, official investigators for the HSCA, or any of  
edecessors, had shown no more than passing curious interest  
4. They just paid no attention and did not take the  
rcher's ideas seriously. On August 8, 1977, the author

informed Robert Blakey, in a letter of that date, about the TUM hypothesis. The letter concerned a discussion the author and Blakey had on July 21, 1977, two days after the non-disclosure agreement had been signed. Blakey had said that if there was a conspiracy it would not have involved a very large number of people. He was probably already laying the foundation for a small, Mafia type, conspiracy involving Oswald and a Mafia friend, backed by a few Mafia Dons.

The August 8th letter maintained that the CIA had been involved and that it had been a massive intelligence operation, rather than a conspiracy in the sense Blakey was using the term. The CIA Flechette, umbrella launching weapons system, if indeed it had been used by TUM, the letter pointed out, would be solid proof of high level CIA involvement, since that system would not have been available to lower level agents or contract people.

Blakey did not respond right away to this letter and the author decided to make the TUM hypothesis public by publishing it with Cutler as co-author, in the spring of 1978, in Gallery magazine. Contact was also made with Senator Richard Schweiker who had been the member of the Church Committee responsible for interrogating Charles Sensenay. Schweiker agreed to try and find out from Sensenay what had happened to the umbrella launchers he had constructed for the CIA; that is, who in the CIA had had access to a launcher.

The information to be published in Gallery had been generated by Bob Cutler and the author independently of any information obtained from the HSCA, but the safest approach seemed to be an

application to them for permission to print the article under the terms of the non-disclosure agreement. So, on January 9, 1978, the author submitted a draft of the Gallery article to Blakey and, on January 16, 1978, <sup>he</sup> wrote back stating that publishing the article would not violate the terms of the non-disclosure agreement. <sup>(1)</sup> The article was published in the June 1978 issue of Gallery which actually appeared in May 1978. Blakey knew in advance when it would appear.

On August 3, 1978, the author wrote to Blakey stating that photographic evidence showed a high probability that TUM was actually Gordon Novel, the CIA contract agent from New Orleans, who had been hired to ruin the Garrison investigation. <sup>(2)</sup> The reason that some new photo evidence was just then coming to light was that the committee had discovered a never before seen film of TUM and had released a frame from this film to the press in July 1978. Shortly after the TUM photo was released by the HSCA, with an appeal to him to come forward, an unknown caller contacted Penn Jones in Texas to tell him he knew who TUM was. Penn visited Louis Witt, having been given his address, and upon seeing him, jumped to the conclusion that he was TUM. This led to Mr. Witt appearing before the committee in their televised hearings and making the claim he was TUM. He showed the umbrella on TV that he claimed he used.

It was immediately obvious to Bob Cutler and the author that Witt was not TUM. He displayed the umbrella he said he had used in Dealey Plaza and it contained the wrong number of spokes. His height, weight and facial appearance did not match TUM's, and his

(1) Exhibit L

(2) Exhibit M

description of his actions did not match at all the actions TUM took, as shown in the photos. On November 24, 1978, the author wrote to Stokes telling him he had been fooled by a CIA plant, or by his own staff, planting Mr. Witt, and that he should call Gordon Novel as a witness because it was likely that Novel was TUM. HSCA never did call Novel as a witness. Novel had visited the HSCA during the days Richard A. Sprague was still there, but he had not mentioned being in Dealey Plaza or that the CIA had hired him to ruin Garrison. Blakey and Stokes avoided contacting Novel.

Now, the important thing to focus on, in this example, is the sequence of events. The HSCA had done nothing about TUM until they were faced with the possibility of a public article linking TUM to the CIA through a CIA weapons system and through Gordon Novel. They also found out that Senator Schweiker was looking into the CIA end of it. At about the time the Gallery article was being widely read, the HSCA suddenly released to the press a photo of TUM and asked that people identify him or that he come forward. The photo did not show his umbrella or where he was sitting in Dealey Plaza, nor did the release mention the umbrella or the theories about it. Just his photo. An earlier photo used by Cutler and the author to identify Novel as TUM was not released.

In a surprisingly short time after the photo appeared, an unknown person calls a well known researcher and leads him to Louis Witt. Witt in turn lies about who he was and where he was, by claiming to be TUM. Blakey and the committee put Witt on

center stage as though it was a play, and eliminate the TUM problem by pulling off a charade. The fine hand of the CIA can be seen in this whole series of linked events. Blakey had to have known what was going on, and he knows today that Witt was not TUM and the high probability that TUM was Gordon Novel, CIA agent.

The extreme lengths that the CIA and Blakey went to in this charade, made one believe that the umbrella probably was the Charles Sensenay weapon. Otherwise, why bother with TUM?

Goal Number Eight:

What has been presented so far in this article represents direct actions by the CIA to cover up CIA involvement. Blakey played another important role and that was to achieve the eighth goal on the list, namely to change the public impression of HSCA's main effort. Researchers who concentrated on attacking the Warren Commission's Dealey Plaza or Tippitt shooting findings had created a big problem. If Oswald had fired no shots, then he must have been framed. If Oswald was framed, the evidence against him was planted, and multiple gunmen were involved. All of this line of reasoning would point to a very well organized and very well planned conspiracy, which would in turn point to an intelligence style involvement.

So, Blakey set out from the beginning to create an investigative environment and image that appeared to be based on a highly scientific, objective study of the Dealey Plaza evidence. The overall objective of this approach was to prove "scientifically" that the Warren Commission was right, and that Lee Harvey Oswald

fired all the shots that had struck John Kennedy, Governor Connally and policeman Tippitt. That required scientific proof of the single bullet theory, among other things. Blakey did just that. Right up to the moment when the acoustical evidence on the Dallas police tape reared its ugly head, only one month from the end of the life of the committee, Blakey managed to control and manipulate the Dealey Plaza evidence to back up the Warren Commission completely. The author described how Blakey did this in an earlier article. One of his "magical" methods was to split up the scientific work into sub committees or panels of advisors, and various staff groups, and keep them all from communicating with each other. Thus, even though the medical panel gave testimony showing an upward trajectory of the single bullet (399) shot, the trajectory panel turned it into a downward trajectory. The photographic panel was so isolated they never did see the most important evidence of the sixth floor window, inside and outside.

The photo panel had a number of government and military people on it, as did all of the other panels. Thus it was not surprising that they testified that the fake photos of Oswald holding a rifle were not fakes. Blakey rode roughshod over the evidence that these photos were fakes, presenting only one witness, Jack White, to show why they were fakes, and giving him a very rough time. Other researchers, like Fred Newcomb and the author, who had done a lot of work on the fake photos, were not called and not consulted by the photo panel or Blakey and his

are many more examples of how Blakey managed this public TV, too numerous to describe here. The important result of this drastic change of investigative approach compared to that existing under Richard A. Sprague, was the attention of the public during the hearings away from the evidence and the witnesses pointing to the real assassin. The fact that Oswald was framed and did not fire any bullets provided an additional shield for the CIA and in effect completed the cover up.

In the spring of 1985, the CIA appears to have underwritten a final cover up engineered by Robert Blakey with the help of a few murders of key witnesses and the existence of a secret, illegal, non-disclosure agreement silencing the committee members, and consultants. The situation facing the American public appears to be hopeless. The CIA effectively controlled all three branches of government when the chips were down and have had no problems controlling the fourth branch, the media, or the independent researchers. By what means can the American public combat this awesome power? It is hard to see there is any means available. And we have now passed 1984. Would an election of Edward Kennedy to the White House in 1988 change anything? If he lived through a full term following an election campaign, it probably would. The public would react to that by saying, "he would be assassinated." Somehow they have received the messages about what has been going on in the United States.



# Court of Appeal

FOURTH CIRCUIT  
STATE OF LOUISIANA

210 CIVIL COURTS BUILDING  
421 LOYOLA AVENUE  
NEW ORLEANS LOUISIANA 70112

DANIELLE A. SCHOTT  
CLERK OF COURT

WILIAM V. REDMANN  
CHIEF JUDGE

JAMES C. GULOTTA  
PATRICK M. SCHOTT  
JIM HARRISON  
DELLA A. BARRY  
ROBERT J. KLEES  
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CHARLES R. WARD  
DAVID R. M. WILLIAMS  
JOAN BERNARD ARMSTRONG

JUDGES

December 30, 1985

Mr. Frank Krstulja  
3514 Kinney Street, Apt. 3  
Los Angeles, California 90065

Dear Frank:

Thank you for your recent letter about "A Farewell to Justice",\* the book which I recently completed and which is presently under consideration by a publisher. About all I can say concerning it is that, of the three books I have done, I am satisfied that it is by far the best. Nevertheless, most of the replies I have received from the publishing world to date conclude - after a brief compliment - with the phrase, "however, we do not feel it is right for our house". Of course, this means that they are fearful of the consequences from the federal government of publishing the full truth about President Kennedy's assassination by the C.I.A. and the subsequent cover up of the coup d'etat by the surviving members of the government and much of the media.

Unfortunately, a communication problem between Ted Gandolfo and myself has resulted in my receiving an overwhelming number of requests for the book (still unpublished and in manuscript form only - although with multiple copies to protect the book from possible obliteration by the Ministry of Truth). Consequently, I must apologize for not being able to do more than to thank you for your interest and to assure you that I will let you know when and if a publisher can be found who has backbone enough to want to participate in revealing the simple truth about the political elimination of President Kennedy. Some of my wiser friends have told me all along that such an animal no longer exists in this country. Nevertheless, perhaps out of an excess of idealism, I worked away for the last four years on the project until I finished the final chapter.

\*Its sub-title is: The C.I.A. and the Murder of John F. Kennedy.

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Page Two

A number of the inquiries which I have received repeatedly include a sentence along the following lines: "I hope in your book you will answer your critics who allege organized crime links on your part." Let me answer that part quickly and explicitly. While I lay no pretense to being the epitome of virtue, with regard to connections with organized crime I think that you can safely place me as having approximately the same such connections as Mother Theresa and Pope Paul. What has been occurring here, quite obviously, is the C.I.A.'s dis-information machinery has been hard at work for a long time. And, in all fairness to the Agency, you cannot blame it for attempting to smear me a bit. For nearly 18 years, I have done my best to communicate its obvious involvement with the murder of Jack Kennedy and it has to do something to turn attention away from the blood on its hands.

Anyone who wishes to understand the assassination, must appreciate at the outset that the deep involvement of the Agency in the President's assassination requires that it give maximum reinforcement to the two major false sponsors which it has created: Organized Crime and Fidel Castro. Knowing this, one can determine very quickly when he is holding in his hand a book written by one of the many "authors" who serve as willing prostitutes for the Agency's dis-information operation. If the author so much as infers that Organized Crime or Castro were behind what so plainly was an Agency project - the accomplishment of a coup d'etat - then one has in his hand the typical product of one of the Agency's stable of hungry scribes.

To provide a precise example, one best seller in the last few years written by a dashing Englishman (one of the Agency's more accommodating prostitutes) refers to "a secret meeting" between the racketeer, John Rosselli, and myself (when I was District Attorney of New Orleans) in Las Vegas. The "author's" complicity in this attempted discreditation is underscored by his having had the book published without ever troubling to learn that I have never even seen John Rosselli in my life - nor have I ever had a "secret meeting" with any racketeer anywhere.

It should be enough, to conclude on that point, that this Court of Appeal, to which the people of this City elected me a Judge, has no Judges on it with past or present connections with Organized Crime - or they wouldn't be here. What is significant, however, is not the C.I.A.'s lie but its need to tell one - and to lie so badly, at that. The Agency may be powerful in some respects, but it is also desperate - desperate to conceal its demonstrable role in the murder of a President of the United States.

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Page Three

People like you, who are interested in perceiving the truth, can save a great deal of time by dismissing outright the Agency's smokescreen of a false "Mafia/Castro" assassination scenario. To anyone with a grain of intelligence it should be apparent that John Kennedy was eliminated by forces desiring the continuation of the Cold War - an artificial conflict draining the assets of and greatly changing, for the worse, the character of our nation. The clandestine arm for those Cold War forces was the Central Intelligence Agency - the destructive talents of which run the gambit from deception to murder. And John Kennedy - from his refusal to provide Naval Air back up for the Agency's hapless attempt to invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs all the way to his decision in 1963 to withdraw totally from South Viet Nam - was in the process of cutting off the lifeline of the Cold Warriors.

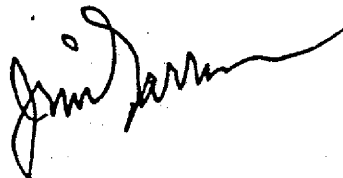
There you are. Without having planned to do so I have just described my new book in several sentences. The question now remains whether or not there is left a publisher in America who cares enough about this country to participate in communicating the truth and in bringing to an end the government's rewriting of history before it has gone too far.

In summary, there is no mystery about who killed Kennedy. Nor is there any mystery as to why it was done. That is what my book explains.

But to find in America today a publisher with some courage . . . there, indeed is a mystery still to be solved.

Thanks for asking about my new book.

Regards,



Dear Ted: SENT TO ME BY DICK E. SPRAGUE

Feb. 4, 1986

Here is the Carver Gaten/James Hosty story written in the first person. Use it as you see fit. You can try to obtain the Gochenour affidavit from HSCA records.

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In March of 1971, I made a presentation on the photographic evidence of the JFK assassination at the University of Victoria on Victoria Island in British Columbia, Canada. Since I had to pass through Seattle, Washington on the way to Victoria, I contacted an assassination researcher friend named Jim Gochenour, to arrange a meeting with him on my way out. Jim told me on the phone he had something very important that he wanted to tell me and could not discuss it on the phone. On March 29 I met him and one of his close assassination research friends at the Seattle airport, where they blew my mind with the story that follows.

I should preface this story by telling you that Jim was then a student at the University of Washington, and so was his friend. There were many assassination research groups at that time on university campuses, and Washington had a good sized one. My presentations were made to many university groups in those years, and I got to know people like Jim very well. Jim was living in a rooming house on the campus, that was either owned or managed by Carver Gaten. Gaten was on the administrative staff of the University, and I believe had something official to do with student housing.

Gochenour told me the following story, which was backed up 100% by his friend who had been privy to the entire episode.

Carver Gaten had been visiting with a group of students at Jim's house one night, and had a little bit to drink. He told all of them this story.

Gaten had been an FBI agent in Kansas City at the same time that James Hosty was stationed there. You may remember that J. Edgar Hoover transferred Hosty to Kansas City after the assassination as a punishment. K.C. was like Siberia for FBI agents. Gaten said that he and Hosty were fast friends in K.C. and that Hosty unburdened himself to Gaten. Hosty told Gaten that Oswald was a paid informant for the FBI, and that Oswald reported to Hosty in Dallas as his control agent. He said Oswald had been reporting regularly to Hosty, every two weeks or so, on the activities of the group that were planning to assassinate the President. He had missed his regular reporting date by some days, and Hosty went to where Marina and Oswald were staying to check up on him. Hosty did not know about Oswald's other room in Oak Cliff, at that time. After the assassination, Hosty was told to get rid of any records pertaining to Oswald. His boss, Shanklin, told him to destroy the message that Oswald had left for him. We can surmise that it was not a threat to blow up the police station, or the FBI office, but rather that it pertained to Oswald's latest information on the assassination plans.

After Gochenour told me this story, which, as I said earlier, was backed up by several people who heard Gaten tell it, I promised to try and do something about it. I returned and told Bud Fensterwald about it. There was no official body to talk to, then, unless one wanted to trust the FBI, or some other government agency. Bud could do nothing and no one could until the creation of the HSCA five years later. No one had asked Hosty about it, or Gaten. The first thing I told Richard A. Sprague when he hired me as consultant to the HSCA was this story. He assigned Bob Tanenbaum and Cliff Fenton to follow it up. I gave them all of the information from Jim Gochenour and his phone number. By that time he was in Minnesota, his original home. Tanenbaum called him and Jim repeated the exact same story to Bob. Bob then called Gaten who was still at the university, and Gaten denied the whole thing, saying he did not know Gochenour.

The HSCA were then in the throes of fighting to get back their subpoena power, and to get enough funding to be able to send investigators into the field. They did have enough money to pay expenses for witnesses to travel to Washington, so they brought Gochenour back, and took his deposition, under oath. If they had been able to continue, they would have taken depositions from the rest of the people who had been there that night. Then they would have subpoenaed Gaten, and sweated the truth out of him. Hosty would have been next, probably with some form of immunity and protection, to keep him from being killed. As it turned out, the CIA got rid of both Sprague and Tanenbaum. Blakey never called Gochenour, Gaten or any of Gochenour's friends who knew the story. That is where the matter rests today. A very sad chapter.

Dick.

FROM PAUL HOCH'S "ECHOES OF CONSPIRACY" NEWSLETTER  
-9-  
2/28/86 ISSUE

(naming sensitive names.)

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THE ARTICLE BELOW WAS WRITTEN BY PAUL HOCH WHO IS ALLEGEDLY A "RESEARCHER" OF THE JFK ASSASSINATION. AS DO ALL DISINFORMATION EXPERTS, HE ATTEMPTS TO DISCREDIT JIM GARRISON'S TRUTHFUL INVESTIGATION AND EVIDENCE WHICH THE CIA HAS LONG ATTEMPTED GOING BACK TO 1967. IN MY OPINION, ANYONE WHO CONTINUES THIS IS ADHERING TO THE "LINE" PUT OUT BY THE CIA TO DISCREDIT THE ONLY TRUTHFUL INVESTIGATION OF THIS CASE UP TO THE PRESENT TIME. THE HSCOA TOTALLY DISREGARDED GARRISON'S EVIDENCE OF A MASSIVE CONSPIRACY TO KILL JFK BY THE CIA, AND THIS TRIPE OF THE SOBT AS SEEN BELOW IS, IN MY OPINION, A FURTHER ATTEMPT BY CIA "PROPAGANDA ASSETS" TO NEGATE GARRISON'S OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE TO THIS EFFECT. AFTER READING WHAT IS BELOW, TURN PAGE TO READ LETTER I SENT TO HOCH CONCERNING THIS TOTALLY SLANTED AND INCORRECT DIATRIBE WRITTEN BY HIM. TED GANDOLFO, EDITOR.

Jim Garrison — on the bench and off the wall:

In October 1985, Garrison told Ted Gandolfo that he was working on a new book, entitled "A Farewell to Justice." He said that "there is no question in my mind that it is the absolute and ultimate truth down to the last detail about the Kennedy assassination," but that he can not get a publisher "because they are controlled by the CIA." (This is from the first issue of Gandolfo's newsletter, "Assassination U.S.A." Write him at 1214 First Ave., NYC 10021, or ask me for information.)

Garrison sent a long letter to Louis Sproesser, a buff who inquired about this book. [#9, 30 Dec 85, 3 pp.] The book is "completed" and being considered by a publisher. Garrison has been working on it for four years.

Garrison's rhetoric has not softened over the years, and I'll be very surprised if his critical attention to the facts has improved.

Judge Garrison asserts (on Court of Appeal stationery) that "Anyone who wishes to understand the assassination, must appreciate at the outset that the deep involvement of the Agency in the President's assassination requires that it give the maximum reinforcement to the two major false sponsors which it has created: Organized Crime and Fidel Castro.... If the author [of a book] so much as infers that Organized Crime or Castro were behind what so plainly was an Agency project.... then one has in his hand the typical product of one of the Agency's stable of hungry scribes."

Garrison also disputes allegations that Organized Crime is behind him. "While I lay no pretense to being the epitome of virtue, with regard to connections with organized crime I think that you can safely place me as having approximately the same such connections as Mother Theresa and Pope Paul." Obviously the CIA's disinformation machinery is at work, he says. (Is Garrison dropping a hint about various popes? And this "Mother Theresa," usually known as "Teresa" — is she related to Vinnie Teresa?)

In particular, Garrison complains that a recent book "by a dashing Englishman (one of the Agency's more accommodating prostitutes) refers to 'a secret meeting'" between Garrison and John Rosselli. "The 'author's' complicity in this attempted discreditation is underscored by his having had the book published without ever troubling to learn that I have never even seen John Rosselli in my life..."

The reference is to p. 498 of "Conspiracy," by Tony Summers (who is,

TURN →

dashing), which accurately asserts that the CIA found such a  
ularly disturbing." Summers quotes (but does not cite) an HSCA  
Mark Flanagan, which in turn refers to an unpublished page of  
or General's Report. The allegation of a Garrison-Rosselli  
appears on page 118 of the IG Report, which is published. (See  
note 55), 4 HSCA 146-7.)  
there is a trace of validity in Garrison's complaint. The IG  
ously not an unimpeachable source, even if endorsed by an HSCA  
Garrison's overall certitude doesn't seem to need much anchoring

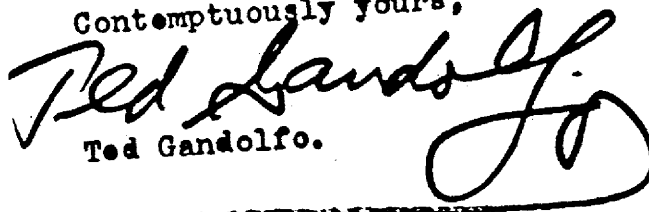
ok includes a rather good discussion of the Garrison affair, and  
ies of the interactions between Garrison, the real New Orleans  
Oswald, and the vulnerability of Clay Shaw due to his  
relevant CIA links and homosexuality.

If you want to spring to Garrison's defense, here is my \$64  
the time he arrested Clay Shaw, what serious evidence did he  
had in fact conspired with anyone to kill JFK?

Ted Gandolfo  
1214 First Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10021  
April 9, 1986

ceived your newsletter dated 2/28/86, in which you make  
arrison and myself, entitled "Jim Garrison--on the bench and off  
here is anyone who is off the wall it is you, Paul. I had recent  
with 2 colleagues, one of whom being Mae Brussell. She told me  
connected to Bud Fensberwald, who blew his CIA cover by defending  
ring Watergate. Is this why yo attack Garrison? Obviously, it is.  
Intelligently (pardon the word, intelligence) to be the absolute  
nd to be. You told me when I spoke with you that your opinion of  
wasn't as dim as mine was. Don't you know that Blakey is a cover-  
course you do!! Is that also why you like him and dislike Garrison?  
on has the TRUTH about who killed JFK? The very people you are  
ng for/with to spread this dis-information to the people, the CIA.  
estion in your rag, "at the time he (Garrison) arrested Shaw,  
vidence did he have that he had in fact conspired with anyone to  
I must be kidding!! Didn't you know that Shaw was connected with  
ich just happens to be one of the most efficient assassination  
around?? Didn't you know that Shaw was CIA? Didn't you know that  
who Shaw was involved and friendly with was also CIA? Didn't you  
ry Raymond Russo testified that he overheard Shaw and Ferrie, among  
ing to kill JFK?? Does this answer your question? Why don't you  
son? Are you afraid of the truth? No, you're just a CIA coverup  
s all!!! You're not kidding anyone, Paul, certainly not ME!!  
be publishing this letter in my next newsletter to expose your ass.  
ay, don't bother waiting for my exchange of newsletters I told you  
an forget it. I don't have to, nor do I want to, read any more of  
nd bullshit. Now you can send a copy of this to your friends in the  
luding Fensterwald. Or perhaps you will opt for ramming it up your  
I care. Deapite your, and your associates, efforts to the contrary,  
LL OUT!! This letter requires NO or desires NO answer from you  
CANNOT honestly do so.

Contemptuously yours,

  
Ted Gandolfo.

THE ADAGE THAT "ONCE A LIAR, ALWAYS A LIAR" IS TRUE, AS EVIDENCED BY MY RECENT CONVERSATION WITH FORMER CHIEF COUNSEL OF THE HSCA, ROBERT BLAKEY, COVERUP ARTIST PAR-EXCELLENCE. BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT HE KNOWS ME AND THAT I'VE GIVEN HIM LOTS OF TROUBLE IN THE PAST, I DECIDED TO USE A FICTITIOUS NAME SO THAT HE WOULDN'T LANG UP ON ME IMMEDIATELY, AND I PLAYED THE FOOL WHEN HE TOLD ME, AGAIN, OUTRIGHT LIES SO AS TO ELICIT AS MUCH INFO FROM HIM AS POSSIBLE. VERRATIM TALK FOLLOWS:

AG- HELLO, IS THIS G. ROBERT BLAKEY?

B- YES

AG- HI, MY NAME IS JOHN ROBERTSON. I'M CALLING FROM NEW YORK.

B- WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

AG- YES, I HAD TALKED TO YOU AT THE INCEPTION OF THE HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION AND I ASKED YOU A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS, AND YOU SAID YOU COULD NOT COMMENT BECAUSE AT THAT TIME, THERE WAS A NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT IN EFFECT AND YOU SAID THAT I COULD CALL YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THE INVESTIGATION AND ASK YOU THE TWO QUESTIONS THAT I'D REALLY LOVE AN ANSWER TO. MAY I ASK THOSE TWO QUESTIONS?

B- YES.

AG- NUMBER ONE, I WAS JUST WONDERING WHY WASN'T JIM GARRISON CALLED TO TESTIFY BEFORE THAT COMMITTEE? THAT WOULD BE QUESTION NUMBER ONE, OF TWO.

B- HE WAS NOT CALLED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ITSELF IN THE PUBLIC HEARINGS, BUT HE WAS EXTENSIVELY INTERVIEWED.

AG- HE WAS INTERVIEWED?

B\* YES.

AG- OH, YOU MEAN BY CLIFFORD FENTON'S TEAM?

B- OH, ER, I MEAN THE, THE, THE GUYS WERE DOWN IN NEW ORLEANS TALKING TO HIM REPEATEDLY.

AG- CLIFFORD FENTON'S TEAM.. IS THAT RIGHT?

B- WELL, FENTON WAS THE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR, I MEAN WAS THE CHIEF INVESTIGATOR FOR THE KENNEDY SIDE, AND EITHER HE OR PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH HIM..LAWYERS..TALKED EXTENSIVELY WITH GARRISON,

AG- YEAH AND FROM WHAT I'VE UNDERSTOOD FROM GARRISON THAT THE COMMITTEE ACCRUED, GLEANED, IF YOU WILL, RATHER RELEVANT INFORMATION, AND IT WAS NEVER PUBLISHED IN THE FINAL REPORT..I WAS JUST WONDERING WHY THE OMISSION OF THAT?

B- WELL, ER, ER, I, WE'D HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THE SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

AG- YEAH, HE SAID THAT THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF CIA INVOLVEMENT THAT HE TURNED OVER TO CLIFFORD FENTON...

B- WELL, THAT'S..THAT'S NOT TRUE.

AG- IT IS NOT TRUE?

B- NO.

AG- OH, I SEE..ALRIGHT, BUT HE WAS QUESTIONED EXTENSIVELY?

B- YES, AND WE DID GET EXTENSIVE DOCUMENTATION FROM HIM, INCLUDING GRAND JURY TRANSCRIPTS AND OTHER MATTERS.

AG- OF THE CLAY SHAW TRIAL YOU MEAN?

B- WELL, GRAND JURY TRANSCRIPTS AS WELL AS ER, THE, THE THE STUFF FROM THE CLAY SHAW TRIAL, YES.

AG- AND IN YOUR MIND, SIR, YOU FELT THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO DEPOSE HIM AS A WITNESS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE?

B- THAT'S RIGHT.

AG- YEAH.

B- WELL, THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE WE TALKED TO AND, INDEED, TOOK DEPOSITIONS FROM, BUT NOT ALL OF THEM ENDED UP IN THE, THE PUBLIC HEARINGS. THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WERE, WERE ONLY, I THINK, 20 SOME-ODD DAYS, AND IT WASN'T BUT A COUPLE OF WITNESSES A DAY.

AG- YEAH, I KNOW YOU WERE OVERLOADED AT THE TIME, I KNOW. I WAS JUST..IT ALWAYS STRUCK ME FUNNY AND CURIOUS WHY, SINCE HE'S THE ONLY PERSON OUTSIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT WHO CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION OF THE JFK CASE, I WAS JUST CURIOUS AS TO WHY HE WASN'T CALLED. I THINK ME...

B- WELL, THE, THE, ER, THE FUNCTION OF THE COMMITTEE WAS TO REVIEW WHAT THE WARREN COMMISSION DID, WHICH WAS THE FEDERAL AGENCY AND THEN TO REVIEW WHAT HAPPENED TO KENNEDY. THE FUNCTION OF THE COMMITTEE WAS NOT TO REVIEW WHAT OTHER PEOPLE

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DID, INCLUDING GARRISON IF HE CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION. WHAT WE WERE  
LOOKING TO IS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO KENNEDY, NOT WHAT GARRISON DID. IF  
SOMEBODY HAD INDEPENDENT INFORMATION ABOUT OSWALD OR SOMEBODY LIKE THAT, WE  
WOULD..AND GARRISON KNEW ABOUT THAT PERSON, WE WOULD TALK TO GARRISON TO  
LEARN THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON WHO HAD EYEWITNESS OR EARWITNESS TESTIMONY,  
AND THEN WE WOULD GO TALK TO THAT PERSON DIRECTLY..

FG- OH, I SEE...

B- WE REALLY WEREN'T INTERESTED IN WHAT GARRISON DID IN, IN, IN, ER, IN ITSELF. WE  
WERE INTERESTED IN WHAT GARRISON LEARNED, AND THEN THE PEOPLE FROM WHOM HE  
LEARNED IT.

FG- YES.

B- WE WERE NOT INTERESTED IN WHAT GARRISON DID. WE WEREN'T SITTING TO REVIEW THE  
GARRISON INVESTIGATION. WE WERE SITTING TO REVIEW WHAT HAPPENED TO KENNEDY.

FG- YES, OH, OF COURSE, BUT...

B- AND THE PERFORMANCE OF THE WARREN COMMISSION.

FG- RIGHT..NO, I WAS JUST THINKING BECAUSE SINCE HE DID CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION  
AS TO WHAT HAPPENED TO KENNEDY, I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE HIS EVIDENCE MIGHT BE  
MENTIONED IN THE FINAL REPORT.

B- OH IT IS, EXTENSIVELY.

FG- I BEG YOUR PARDON?

B- IT IS, EXTENSIVELY.

FG- GARRISON'S?

B- YEAH.

FG- GARRISON'S EVIDENCE IS MENTIONED IN THE FINAL REPORT?

B- WELL, ER, IT, ER, WE COULD HAVE A LONG DISCUSSION ABOUT WHAT YOU MEAN BY  
GARRISON'S EVIDENCE. EVIDENCE THAT GARRISON TURNED OVER TO US, THAT IS NAMES  
AND ADDRESSES OF WITNESSES WHO WE THEN INTERVIEWED ARE, ARE ALL OVER THE FINAL  
REPORT.

FG- AHA, AHA, AHA, OKAY, AND THE NUMBER TWO QUESTION IS, ER..

B- I THOUGHT YOU WERE AT LEAST UP TO THREE, BUT GO AHEAD.

FG- I BEG YOUR PARDON?

B- I THOUGHT YOU WERE AT LEAST UP TO THREE BY NOW BUT GO AHEAD.

FG- NO, I'M SORRY, NO.. THE OTHER ONE THAT INTRIGUED ME IS, ER...

B- REMEMBER, I'M A GENIE, YOU ONLY GET THREE.

FG- (LAUGHING) YOU HAVE A REMARKABLY GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR THERE. I'M SORRY BUT THIS  
IS A RATHER IMPORTANT ONE. I'VE JUST READ A BOOK WRITTEN BY A MAN NAMED HENRY  
KURT .. IT'S CALLED "REASONABLE DOUBT" .. YOU'VE HEARD OF IT?..

B- YES.

FG- OKAY, AND HE SAID THAT AMONG THE THINGS THE COMMITTEE, AND HE DIRECTED IT  
TOWARD YOURSELF, DID NOT SEE IS THE CIA'S '20I FILE' ON LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

B- NOT TRUE.

FG- IT IS NOT TRUE?

B- NOPE.

FG- OH, YOU SAW IT?

B- YEAH.

FG- NOW, DIDN'T THAT PROVE THAT HE WAS AN OPERATIVE OF THE CIA, SINCE HE HAD A  
'20I FILE'?

B- NO.

FG- NO? IT DID NOT PROVE THAT?

B- THAT'S RIGHT.

FG- OH, I'VE HEARD THAT IF A PERSON HAS A '20I FILE'....

B- WELL, YOU'VE HEARD WRONG.

FG- AH-HUH. DO YOU RECALL THAT FILE AND WHAT IT SAID ABOUT OSWALD?

B- YES.

FG- COULD YOU JUST GIVE ME A LITTLE IDEA?

B- HE, HE WAS NOT AN AGENT FOR THE AGENCY.

FG- HE WAS NOT?

B- HE WAS NOT AN AGENT OR EMPLOYEE OF THE AGENCY.

FG- AH-HUH, AND THAT'S ALL THE '20I FILE' SAID ABOUT HIM?

B- O-O-O-H-H-H-H-, THE 20, the,.....I MEAN, YOU, WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING  
THAT'S SEVERAL YEARS OLD.



3- (CONTINUED) SEVERAL YEARS OLD.. IN MY OWN MIND BUT, BUT LOOK, THE 201 FILE IS SIMPLY THAT HE HAD A PERSONNEL FILE AND PERSONNEL IS NOT USED IN THE SENSE OF EMPLOYMENT. IT MEANS THAT HE HAD AN INDIVIDUAL FILE UNDER HIS NAME, AND IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THAT ANYBODY... THEIR FILES ARE ORGANIZED UNDER VARIOUS.. IN VARIOUS FASHIONS..SOMETIMES IT WILL BE A PROJECT... AND THE NAME OF THE PROJECT WILL BE THE NAME OF THE FILE, AND THEN EVERYTHING IN REFERENCE TO THAT PROJECT WILL GO IN THAT FILE. SOMETIMES OTHER FILES ARE ORGANIZED AROUND PEOPLE.. AND THEN EVERYTHING IN REFERENCE TO THAT PERSON WILL GO IN THAT FILE.

RG- I SEE.

3- AND WHEN A PERSON,..AND ~~WHEN~~ A 201 FILE MEANS A PERSONNEL FILE, A PERSONAL FILE.

RG- A PERSONAL FILE.

3- YEAH, I MEAN.. IN OTHER WORDS WHEN ENOUGH INFORMATION IS ACCUMULATED ABOUT AN INDIVIDUAL, IN SEVERAL PROJECTS OR OTHER PEOPLE'S FILES, THEY WOULD MAKE A DECISION TO, TO PULL THAT OUT, I DON'T MEAN SEPERATE IT FROM, BUT I MEAN IN ADDITION TO HAVING IT APPEARING INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S PERSONNEL.. PERSONAL FILES AND PROJECT FILES, THEY WOULD CREATE ANOTHER FILE IN THAT PERSON'S NAME, A 201 FILE, AND THEN EVERYTHING, IN REFERENCE TO, LIKE FOR EXAMPLE OSWALD, EVERYTHING IN REFERENCE TO OSWALD WOULD BE IN OSWALD'S 201 FILE. HE WOULD ALSO BE IN PROJECT FILES. HE WOULD ALSO BE IN FILES ON OTHER PEOPLE. IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WAS AN AGENT.

RG- VERY INTERESTING, I ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT ONE. In conclusion no more questions, I HAVE A STATEMENT FOR YOU. THERE'S A COLLEGE CALLED THE WAYNE PATTERSON COLLEGE IN NEW JERSEY, AND THEY ARE INVITING VARIOUS PEOPLE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE JFK ASSASSINATION TO PARTICIPATE BY GOING TO A STUDIO NEAR THEIR HOMES SO AS TO BE VERY CONVENIENT FOR THEM. I WAS WONDERING WOULD YOU CARE TO PARTICIPATE? IT WILL BE TELEVISED BY SATTELITE ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

3- NO.

RG- I BEG YOUR PARDON?

3- NO!

RG- OH, YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF PARTICIPATING?

3- NO!

RG- MAY I ASK WHY NOT?

3- I'M NOT INTERESTED

RG- OH, WELL, I FIGURED THAT SINCE YOU'RE SO KNOWLEDGEABLE, PEOPLE MIGHT LIKE TO GET AN INPUT FROM YOU.

3- WELL, THAT DESCRIBES WHAT YOU THINK SOMEBODY ELSE WOULD LIKE TO DO. THAT DOES NOT DESCRIBE WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO DO.

RG- NO, I'M MERELY ASKING YOU IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE.

3- NO I WOULDN'T.

RG- ALLRIGHT, IT'S BEEN NICE TALKING TO YOU. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, AND THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS, MR. BLAKEY.

3- NO PROBLEM.

RG- THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

3- GOOD NIGHT.

RG- GOOD NIGHT.

Now, I have ~~read~~ read and listened to the tape several times.. just one question.. Since Blakey said the words "persennel files" several times before changing it to 'personal files', was that just an ordinary slip of the tengue on his part or what? Obviously, the word "persennel" means to do with employment!! Did he keep slipping, (as did Oswald when he said on New Orleans radio that "I was under the protection of the, of the, er, that is to say, I wasn't under the protection of the United States government", etc,) did Blakey keep "slipping" when he kept saying "Oswald's PERSONNEL FILES". I'll let you ponder that one. But despite the R.B. (Blakey Bullshit), we KNOW he was an employee of not only the CIA but the FBI as well.

-AND THE BEAT GOES ON-

Ted Gandelfo, editor.

Director, F.B.I.  
Attention: Assistant Director  
Criminals Investigations Division  
J. Edgar Hoover Building  
9th & Pennsylvania Streets N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
20535

250

Ted Gandolfo, Chairman:  
Assassination Information Committee  
1214 First Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10021  
(212) 288-1596  
April 15, 1986

.S. As of May 24, this letter/taped evidence was not answered by the F.B.I. I called them on May 22d and was told that they would NOT answer it at all. When I asked why not, he (name unknown) told me, "You are one of those self-styled researchers and we aren't interested in your information. I read your letter and listened to the tape. We aren't going to answer you about this." Simply put, just ANOTHER cover-up of the facts by our intelligence community.  
Ted Gandolfo

Dear Sir,

I have, today, spoken to F.B.I. Special Agent Allan Carroll, regarding a most important discovery I have very recently made relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

It is a fact that the F.B.I. ran a series of tests in early 1964 for the Warren Commission on the speed with which 2 successive shots could be fired from the 6.5 calibre, Mannlicher-Carcano rifle allegedly fired by Lee Oswald. The F.B.I. concluded that the very fastest time that 2 successive shots could be fired from that rifle was exactly 2.3 seconds. The expert riflemen employed by the F.B.I. were rated as "MASTER" riflemen. There is no higher classification than that rating. Lee Oswald, according to his Marine Corps records, was rated as "a rather poor shot".

On September 11, 1978, the House Select Committee On Assassinations heard testimony of three acoustics experts regarding this matter. They testified that the first 2 shots, according to a tape recording of the shots fired at JFK were a) fired from the rear of the motorcade  
b) were fired in exactly 1.6 seconds apart.

On the enclosed tape-recording, you will hear the most relevant testimony that day and also the sound recording of the actual shots fired at President Kennedy on November 22, 1963.

The House Select Committee On Assassination concluded, I believe erroneously, that Lee Oswald fired these first 2 shots from the rear at the president. But since, as mentioned above, the F.B.I. determined that the very fastest time this rifle could be fired twice was a minimum of 2.3 seconds, it is obvious that there exists a complete contradiction between the F.B.I. findings and the House Committee findings. Either one is correct but certainly not BOTH of these findings, obviously.

Therefore, it is my considered opinion that at least 2 assassins were firing at President Kennedy FROM THE REAR as well as the assassin who was, according to the acoustics experts and the HSCOA, firing from the grassy knoll which was located at the FRONT of the presidential limousine. This, in and of itself, PROVES that 3 assassins, not 2, were involved in the firing of the shots that tragic day.

Therefore, I implore you to investigate into this matter/evidence and thereupon make your findings relating to this discrepancy available to me as soon as you have done so.

P.S. I have spoken to my State Seator Roy Goodman's office regarding this matter

Respectfully yours,  
Ted Gandolfo



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# The CIA and the Killing of John F. Kennedy

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## PART I

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“President Kennedy, as the enormity of the Bay of Pigs disaster came home to him, said to one of the highest officials of his Administration that he wanted ‘to splinter the CIA into a thousand pieces and scatter it to the winds.’”

*The New York Times*  
April 25, 1966

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By Richard E. Sprague, Thomas G. Whittle and Kay Skinner

In preceding issues of FREEDOM, the subject of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) mind control experiments has been probed in considerable depth. Recent issues have examined the assassinations of Senator Robert F. Kennedy (See FREEDOM, January 1986) and musician John Lennon (See FREEDOM, March 1986) in light of information that these men may have been the subject of "hits" by the CIA.

In this issue, a close look is taken at the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Virtually every American alive today over the age of 30 can tell you exactly where he was and exactly what he was doing on November 22, 1963, upon first hearing the news of the much-loved president's death.

Today, most of those same Americans will tell you that they are not satisfied with the 26-volume explanation of the assassination offered to the American people by the Warren Commission.

There are a number of reasons why the Warren Commission report has been rejected by so many Americans. Not the least of these is the simple fact that its premise — that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, killed the president — is ludicrous at best; at worst it is the "big lie" which holds in place the greatest criminal conspiracy and cover-up in recent times.

**T**hey dragged me into the elevator. They brought me upstairs. They told me I had shot Oswald. That was the first time I realized what I had done. I said, 'My God . . . My God!'

Those words, attributed to Jack Ruby in early 1964, are part of the bizarre complex of events which have left the case of the assassination of John F. Kennedy unsolved for more than two decades.

Between the date of the president's killing and the date Ruby uttered those words, an interesting memorandum was generated from within the confines of the CIA's headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

Authored by CIA Deputy Director for Plans Richard Helms (later to become the agency's director), the document is headed "Testing of Psychochemicals and Related Materials." Addressed to the deputy director of central intelligence, it states:

"At the conclusion of a meeting in your office on 29 November dealing with the problem of testing of psychochemicals and related materials, you asked that I submit a short paper to you on this



UPI/BETTMANN NEWSPHOTOS

Jack Ruby: the oblivious detachment of a programmed killer.

subject. . . .

"For over a decade the Clandestine Services has had the mission of maintaining a capability for influencing human behavior. . . . If we are to continue to maintain a capability for influencing human behavior, we are virtually obliged to test on unwitting humans."

Between the lines of Helms' memo — referring to a CIA meeting held just four days after the president was buried — is the unstated message that the agency needed to buckle down and perfect its mind control methods.

"Most of our difficulty," the memorandum states, "stems from the fact that, in our opinion, the individuals to be subjected to testing must be *unwitting*. This, unfortunately, is the only realistic method of maintaining the capability, considering the intended operational use of materials to influence human behavior. In the circumstances of potential operational use of this technique, it is virtually certain that the target will be unwitting. Any testing program which does not attempt to approximate this real situation will be 'pro forma' at best and result in a false

sense of accomplishment and readiness."

One highly informed source, who asked to remain unidentified for fear of losing his life, indicated to FREEDOM that there is strong evidence that the plot to kill the president had been in progress as early as January 1961 — the month John F. Kennedy took office.

An elaborate conspiracy began its work to, among other things, build an acceptable identity for the man who would become, in the public's mind, JFK's assassin. This man was Lee Harvey Oswald.

The highly informed source named various CIA contract agents and operatives who filled key roles in the assassination plot, its execution, and the subsequent cover-up.

Additionally, as intelligence expert Colonel L. Fletcher Prouty told FREEDOM, "There is ample evidence to show

**"They dragged me into the elevator. They brought me upstairs. They told me I had shot Oswald. That was the first time I realized what I had done. I said, 'My God . . . My God!'"**

President Kennedy was killed because he was moving to end the Cold War. The Cold War was basic and essential to the support of the CIA as well as the Pentagon; it was also a necessary part of the continually expanding military-industrial complex."

Another major point of friction between the intelligence agency and the president was the unsuccessful April 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion. (See "The CIA Enters the Days of Camelot," by Colonel Prouty, beginning on page 17.)

As a result of the president's displeasure with the agency's disastrous sabotage of the invasion, three top CIA executives — Director Allen W. Dulles, Deputy Director Charles P. Cabell, and Deputy Director for Plans Richard Bissell — were fired.

The animosity felt towards John F. Kennedy by these veteran CIA executives never came up as a subject of inquiry before the Warren Commission; quite to the contrary, Allen W. Dulles was one of the seven men appointed to the commission, entrusted with investi-

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## 'THE ULTIMATE COVER-UP'

(continued from page 5)

gating the assassination.

One of the many crucial areas not addressed by the Warren Commission in its report was the culpable lack of security and protection of the fateful motorcade. Long-standing security procedures — embracing the speed of the motorcade, placement of security personnel in key positions along the parade route, and so forth — were thrown out the window.

More importantly, the motorcade route was changed shortly before the president was to ride through Dallas. The Warren Commission not only failed to probe the reason for the change of route, it deliberately constructed its findings in such a way as to misdirect future researchers. The Warren Commission's obfuscation is described well in the book, *Accessories After the Fact*, by Sylvia Meagher:

"The Warren report states that 'On the morning of the president's arrival, the [Dallas] *Morning News* noted that the motorcade would travel through downtown Dallas onto the Stemmons Freeway,' and reported that 'the motorcade will move slowly so that crowds can get a good view of President Kennedy and his wife.' The footnote to the statement refers to a cropped photocopy of the front page of *The Dallas Morning News* of November 22, 1963, showing only the headline and one column of print, with five columns blanked out. Examination of the uncropped first page reveals that the commission deleted a map of the presidential motorcade route on which the motorcade travels down Main Street, without turning on to Elm Street through the triple underpass and then to the Trade Mart<sup>1</sup>.

"In addition to excising the map that indicated no detour from Main Street along Houston to Elm, the commission asserts that 'the Elm Street approach to the Stemmons Freeway is necessary to avoid the traffic hazards which would otherwise exist if right turns were permitted from both Main and Elm into the Freeway.' But traffic patrolman Joe Marshall Smith testified [before the Warren Commission] that he knew of nothing that would have prevented the motorcade from going directly down Main Street under the triple underpass

<sup>1</sup> For an orientation to key points, see the map on page 7.

UPI/BETTMANN NEWSPHOTOS



Lee Harvey Oswald maintained a consistent story. "I didn't shoot anybody, no sir," he told the press. Subsequent investigations have borne out his claim.

and onto the Stemmons Freeway."

The last-minute change in route was instrumental in the assassination and in the subsequent framing of Lee Harvey Oswald<sup>2</sup>.

And so, on the fatal day, President Kennedy rode in an open convertible,

<sup>2</sup> A similar example of a fatal change of route would occur in June 1968, when Senator Robert F. Kennedy was led from the auditorium of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles to the hotel's pantry, where he was met by Sirhan Sirhan and at least one additional gunman. See FREEDOM's January 1986 feature, "The Killing of Robert Kennedy."

plainly visible to all. When the motorcade reached Dealey Plaza, it made the sharp right turn from Main Street onto Houston Street; then, at the next corner, it made the 120-degree left turn onto Elm Street in front of the Texas School Book Depository building, causing the huge limousine — after the second consecutive sharp turn — to reduce its parade speed to a crawl.

The young president rolled into the fatal ambush which awaited him, a proverbial sitting duck as the limousine rounded the sharp turn onto Elm Street.

The stage for the killing of the president had been set; contract killers and



# THE ULTIMATE COVER-UP

(continued from page 7)

[deleted] assets and thus are security risks wherever they are disposed of.

"Anything that can be done in the Artichoke<sup>3</sup> field to lessen the security risk will be helpful since the men must be disposed of even at maximum security risk. The urgency of consideration of this case is due to the fact that one of the men is already somewhat stir crazy and has tried to escape twice."

After his arrest, Lee Harvey Oswald was more than "stir crazy." As a man who had knowledge of the massive conspiracy, he could testify about the plot against the president, and the links that led to the highest circles of government and the financial community.

Worse, he was talking to the press.

If mind control, as described in the Artichoke document and elsewhere, had been attempted on him, it was obvious to those who had done so that their work had failed. He had to be terminated directly.

Enter Jack Ruby.

A man with well-known connections to organized crime, the nightclub owner was reportedly let in through a back entrance to the Dallas Municipal Building by a police lieutenant when Oswald was being transferred from there to the Dallas County Jail, which was located about a mile away. Ruby's mission: kill Oswald.

An audible signal (an auto horn) was

<sup>3</sup> In another 1954 CIA document, headed "Artichoke," some insight is gained into the CIA mind control program of that name. The document states that the agency was concerned with the following problem: "Can an individual of [deleted] descent be made to perform an act of attempted assassination involuntarily under the influence of Artichoke?"

"As a 'trigger mechanism' for a bigger project, it was proposed that an individual of [deleted] descent, approximately 35 years old, well educated, proficient in English and well established socially and politically in the [deleted] Government be induced under Artichoke to perform an act, involuntarily, of attempted assassination against a prominent [deleted] politician or if necessary, against an American official. . . . Because the Subject is a heavy drinker, it was proposed that the individual could be surreptitiously drugged through the medium of an alcoholic cocktail at a social party, Artichoke applied and the Subject induced to perform the act of attempted assassination at some later date. All the above was to be accomplished at one involuntary uncontrolled social meeting. After the act of attempted assassination was performed, it was assumed that the Subject would be taken into custody by the [deleted] Government and thereby 'disposed of.'"

A/B, 2, 6/11

Courier ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ 11-B/3 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Senior [redacted] G  
Chief [redacted] G LFO, Chgo. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ G

Request for ARTICHOKE Team to ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ H-813

54-02-073

1. The partial [redacted] and background material for the [redacted] [redacted] now at [redacted] are transmitted as enclosures under separate cover. This case was discussed fully with the ARTICHOKE team when they were at [redacted]. These two men are disposal problems, one because of his lack of ability to carry out a mission and the other because he cannot get along with [redacted] the chief agent of the project. Both have extensive information concerning the [redacted] assets and thus are security risks wherever they are disposed of. B/3
2. Anything that can be done in the ARTICHOKE field to lessen the security risk will be helpful since the men must be disposed of even at maximum security risk. The urgency of consideration of this case is due to the fact that one of the men is already somewhat stir crazy and has tried to escape twice. B/3
3. The immediate objective of the ARTICHOKE team would be to try to get the men to want to stay where they are for the next two or three months while we are determining the effect of the treatment and while we are working out alternate disposal possibilities, depending upon this effectiveness.
4. Your earliest possible consideration of these cases would be appreciated.

A

Enclosures:

1. Brief background on [redacted], 1 copy
2. Partial [redacted], 1 copy
3. Brief background on [redacted], 1 copy
4. Partial [redacted], 1 copy

5 February 1954

Distributions:

- 2 - Addressee, w/encs as noted
- 1 - [redacted] w/o encs

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This February 5, 1954, CIA document refers to two men who were "disposal problems." The author of the memorandum sought the help of an agency mind control team operating under the name of Artichoke.

**"It is possible that the CIA attempted to terminate Oswald as a threat between the time of the assassination and the time of Oswald's death, using some other means besides gunfire."**

used to let Ruby and his escort know when Oswald was coming down an elevator into the garage of the Municipal Building. The two men came down an elevator opposite the one carrying Os-

wald.

At 11:21 a.m. on Sunday, November 24, as a shocked nation watched the carefully orchestrated live media event, Ruby walked up to Oswald and fired a bullet into his abdomen. Oswald was taken to Parkland Hospital, the same facility at which the president died. Within two hours, Oswald was dead; a "blown agent" had been "disposed of."

The death of Oswald opened the door for the creation of the Warren Commission, and the weaving of that enormous tapestry of lies and disinformation. (Oswald's death, however, did not eliminate the need for a murder trial, which, under Texas law, must still be held. This

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# THE ULTIMATE COVER-UP

(continued from page 9)

law, however, has never been enforced in relation to Kennedy's murder.)

Those who carried out the plot now faced the hardest problems of all: how to keep a blanket on the massive conspiracy itself, and how to prevent any loose ends from unraveling.

The scope of this endeavor can perhaps best be appreciated by examining what actually *did* occur at Dealey Plaza. The following is a scenario which summarizes the most likely sequence of events. It is based on extensive, meticulous research on the subject by the co-author of this article, Richard E. Sprague. Sprague conducted personal interviews with all 75 photographers who took either still or motion pictures in the plaza that day, and made a close, personal inspection of all available photographs — which number in the tens of thousands.

It is based as well on thousands of hours of interviews with the primary sources who were witnesses to the assassination and to the bizarre series of events at Dealey Plaza before and after the assassination.

On November 22, 1963, an assassination team of four riflemen, accompanied by their radio men and several other support personnel, moved into Dealey Plaza.

One gunman and a radio man entered the Texas School Book Depository building through the freight entrance and worked their way to the roof.

Another gunman and another radio man went into the Dal-Tex building through the freight entrance on Houston Street and up a back staircase to the second floor. The Dal-Tex building, which lies across Houston Street from the Book Depository, provided the gunman with an excellent field of fire, one that commanded Elm Street along the entire distance that the shots would be fired.

The two remaining gunmen and their two companions took up separate firing positions on the grassy knoll along Elm Street. One gunman was inside the westernmost cupola of a Greco-Roman structure on the knoll. The fourth gunman and the two remaining members of the grassy knoll team were near the fence along the back of the knoll, away from any crowds that might gather to see the passing motorcade.

A man with a specially modified umbrella stood near the Stemmons Freeway



UPI/BETTMANN NEWSPHOTOS

*Intelligence expert Colonel L. Fletcher Prouty: "There is ample evidence to show President Kennedy was killed because he was moving to end the Cold War. The Cold War was basic and essential to the support of the CIA as well as the Pentagon; it was also a necessary part of the continually expanding military-industrial complex."*

sign on Elm Street accompanied by another radio man — bringing the total number of radio operators to four.

A communications coordinator worked from the Adolphus Hotel a few blocks away, testing the two-way radio communication system which linked him with the four radio men. This man then proceeded to Dealey Plaza and mingled with a large crowd near the corner of Houston and Elm streets.

Other team members stationed themselves in the crowd along Elm Street. There are clear photos of these men<sup>4</sup>.

In addition to the two gunmen and

their two companions on the grassy knoll, a fifth man took up a separate position at the corner of the wall on the knoll. Upon a visual and oral signal from this man at the wall, and upon a radio command from the communications coordinator, the team began to fire its first round of shots at 12:30 p.m. CST, just after the presidential limousine had made the difficult 120-degree turn onto Elm Street.

The man with the specially modified umbrella fired a round: his weapon was a small-bore umbrella weapon which fired

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<sup>4</sup> These men were assigned to circulate through the crowd in front of the Texas School Book Depository building and elsewhere. Following the assassination, their task was to identify themselves as Secret Service agents or FBI agents and to interrogate witnesses and officials to determine whether the real assassins had been detected.

According to sworn testimony by the head of the Secret Service detail that had guarded the president, all Secret Service agents in the motorcade had

accompanied the presidential limousine in its desperate dash to Parkland Hospital. According to his testimony, not one Secret Service agent was in Dealey Plaza from the moment they left until he himself returned at 12:55.

During this hiatus of approximately 20 minutes, clear photographs were obtained of several of those conspirators who posed as Secret Service agents as part of the rapidly mushrooming cover-up.



## THE ULTIMATE COVER-UP

(continued from page 28)

a poison-tipped flechette<sup>5</sup>. When this shot struck JFK in the throat, as visible in frame 189 of the famous film by amateur photographer Abraham Zapruder, the dart caused complete paralysis of the president's upper body, hands, arms, shoulders and head in less than two seconds.

The Zapruder film and other photographs show that this paralysis, and the timing, match testimony before Congress regarding how quickly the CIA poison works and what its paralyzing effects look like. At this moment of first impact, a large oak tree shielded JFK from the sixth floor far corner window of the Texas School Book Depository building — in which alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald supposedly crouched.

Two seconds later, at frame 225 of the Zapruder film, the gunman on the second floor of the Dal-Tex building fired his first shot, on command from his radio man.

This shot struck the now-paralyzed and helpless JFK in the back about 5¾ inches down from the collar line.

The gunman on the roof of the Texas School Book Depository fired his shot from the west end of the building upon command from his radio man between frames 230 and 237 of the Zapruder film. Using a Mauser with no telescopic sight, he fired high and to the right, hitting Texas Governor John Connally in the back. This bullet traveled through Connally's chest and entered his left thigh.

Neither of the two gunmen on the grassy knoll fired during this first round. As back-up gunmen, they would have better shots at the president after the limousine had rolled another 60 to 80 feet down Elm Street — if their guns were needed.

<sup>5</sup> A small, clear plastic missile or dart carrying poison which can be individually fired from a tube much the size of a drinking straw. This could be a single tube or a cluster of tubes. These are rockets and have no recoil, make little or no noise, have a high terminal velocity, and are hard to detect after they have entered a person's body.

The flechette device was secretly introduced in the Pentagon in 1961, and the inventor was referred to the Office of Special Operations, where clandestine activities were managed. The device was demonstrated to FREEDOM Senior Editor L. Fletcher Prouty, then the senior Air Force officer in the Office of Special Operations. From there, the inventor was taken to Fort Detrick, Maryland, where many of the most secret military and CIA

devices were developed. At Fort Detrick, a CIA contract weapons employee named Charles Sensenay worked on a project which developed, among other things, an umbrella weapon that used flechettes.

The user of the umbrella weapon could sight through a small ring or eyelet at normal eye level on the main shaft of the umbrella, lining up his target with the extended umbrella rib that held the flechette.

Moving pictures taken in Dealey Plaza at the time of the shooting — in the early afternoon on a clear, sunny day — show the fully opened umbrella rotating slowly as the umbrella man tracked his target.

These rocket devices or flechettes were accurate and reliable for moderate distances, because they

were soundless and almost impossible to locate in the body, they became a favorite for clandestine use.

In 1976, flechettes came to the nation's attention when the U.S. Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities, chaired by the late Senator Frank Church of Idaho, took the public testimony of weapons expert Charles Sensenay regarding flechette weapons.

Sensenay described a system used by the CIA in Vietnam and elsewhere for killing or paralyzing people almost instantly with poisons carried in self-propelled flechettes. (The Church Committee examined these weapons as part of its extensive probe of criminal misconduct on the part of the CIA and other intelligence organizations.)



*In October 1963, the month this photo was taken, the president called for the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Vietnam by the end of 1965.*

The communications man gave a second radio command for another round of shots as JFK passed the Stemmons Freeway sign.

The gunman in the Dal-Tex building fired his second shot between Zapruder frames 265 and 275. This bullet narrowly missed JFK, passing over the top of his head and over the top of the limousine's windshield. On its very flat trajectory, it traveled on to strike the south curb of

Main Street, breaking off a piece of the concrete curb which flew up and hit bystander James Tague in the face. This bullet either disintegrated or flew into the area beyond the overpass, and was not recovered.

Lacking a clear view of the president until frame 310 of the Zapruder film, the gunman in the cupola on the grassy knoll

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# THE ULTIMATE COVER-UP

(continued from page 30)

had not yet fired.

A second shot fired from the Mauser-wielding gunman atop the Texas School Book Depository apparently struck JFK in the upper right part of his head at frame 312 of the Zapruder film.

This bullet apparently also produced a fragment which passed through Governor Connally's wrist at frame 313 of the Zapruder film.

Almost simultaneously, at Zapruder frame 312, the gunman near the fence along the back of the grassy knoll fired his first and only bullet, a fatal head shot which sent a blood cloud flying far enough to splatter three motorcycle policemen riding some 12 to 15 feet behind the presidential limousine.

In the space of 6.8 seconds, the shooting was over.

Today, more than two decades later, the death of John F. Kennedy hovers on the edges of America's consciousness, a nightmare that just won't go away.

Twenty-six volumes of disinformation published by the Warren Commission in 1964 failed to dispel the certainty in many Americans' minds that the slaying was not the work of one "lone nut."

With the president dead, and the scapegoat unable to defend himself, the cover-up moved into high gear with rapid elimination of potential key witnesses.

The deaths of witnesses have been widely written about and well documented. As described in *The People's Almanac* by David Wallechinsky and Irving Wallace, "Accidents to witnesses are not uncommon in the case of this assassination: In the three-year period which followed the murders of President Kennedy and Lee Oswald, 18 material witnesses died — six by gunfire, three in motor accidents, two by suicide, one from a cut throat, one from a karate chop to the neck, three from heart attacks, and two from natural causes. An actuary engaged by *The London Sunday Times* concluded that on November 22, 1963, the odds against every one of these witnesses being dead by February 1967 were 100,000 trillion to one."

The list of mysterious deaths in connection with the assassination has grown through the years, and at last count was approaching the 200 mark.

Not the least of these deaths was that of syndicated columnist Dorothy Kilgallen. After being granted the opportu-

EVAS ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Testing of Psychochemicals and Related Materials

1. At the conclusion of a meeting in your office on 29 November dealing with the problem of testing of psychochemicals and related materials, you asked that I submit a short paper to you on this subject. In discussing this matter, I would appreciate it if you would consider two aspects of the problem:

a. For over a decade the Claudestine Services has had the mission of maintaining a capability for influencing human behavior; and

b. Testing arrangements in furtherance of this mission should be as operationally realistic and yet as controllable as possible.

2. Most of our difficulty stems from the fact that, in our opinion, the individuals to be subjected to testing must be unwitting. This, unfortunately, is the only realistic method of maintaining the capability, considering the intended operational use of materials to influence human behavior. In the circumstances of potential operational use of this technique, it is virtually certain that the target will be unwitting. Any testing program which does not attempt to approximate this real situation will be "pro forma" at best and result in a false sense of accomplishment and readiness.

3. If one grants the validity of the mission of maintaining this unusual capability and the necessity for unwitting testing, there is only then the question of how best to do it. Obviously, the testing should be conducted in such a manner as to permit the opportunity to observe the results of the administration on the target. It also goes without saying that whatever testing arrangement we adopt must afford maximum safeguards for the protection of the Agency's role in this activity, as well as minimizing the possibility of physical or emotional damage to the individual tested.

4. In considering possible alternatives to our present arrangement with the Bureau of Narcotics, we have considered the following:

This December 1963 memorandum from CIA Deputy Director for Plans Richard Helms to the deputy director of central intelligence refers to a meeting on November — just four days after John F. Kennedy's funeral — and contains the implication that the agency needed to buckle down and perfect its mind control techniques.

**"Former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison . . . told FREEDOM that 'if there's one thing I would stake my life on, it is that there is no mystery at all as to who killed John F. Kennedy.' The president, Garrison said, was killed by agents and operatives of the CIA."**

nity to be the first and only journalist to conduct a private interview with Jack Ruby, she told friends she had information which would "blow the JFK case sky high." Before her story could appear in print, however, she was found dead in her New York apartment. The apartment had been ransacked and all of her records and notes regarding the Kennedy assassination were missing. Her death was termed a "suicide."

The enormity of the crime of the Kennedy murder and the scope of the subsequent cover-up is perhaps unsurpassed in recent history. Information in the hands of FREEDOM indicates that President Kennedy was killed by cor-

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## THE ULTIMATE COVER-UP

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tract agents and operatives of an agency of his own executive branch of government — the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, who conducted an intensive probe of the Kennedy assassination in the late 1960s, told *FREEDOM* that "If there's one thing I would stake my life on, it is that there is no mystery at all as to who killed John F. Kennedy." The president, Garrison said, was killed by agents and operatives of the CIA.

Ted Gandolfo, an audio expert who reportedly has 5,000 hours of tape recordings related to the case, asserted that the tapes show conclusively that more than one gunman was involved in the slaying, and that agents of the CIA were responsible for the president's death.

CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, was contacted for comment.

CIA spokesman Patti Volz claimed that "Congress completely vindicated the agency." She could not provide specifics regarding the nature of this vindication, but said, "The CIA was not involved in any way in the assassination of John Kennedy."

Questioned on how frequently the agency might have used the special umbrella gun, Volz said, "I have no guidance on that at all."

An additional aspect of apparent CIA involvement arises from the fact that while he was in jail, endeavoring to be allowed to appear before the Warren Commission to testify regarding who had really killed the president, Jack Ruby was visited by psychiatrist Louis J. "Jolly" West, an expert hypnotist with recognized CIA ties.

West at the time was chief of the department of psychiatry at the University of Oklahoma. The year before the president's assassination, he had made psychiatric history by becoming the first and to date only man to have killed an elephant with LSD.

Prior to that, West reportedly received CIA funds for mind control experiments with LSD and other drugs. These funds

^ Gandolfo's collection includes tapes of the shots fired at Dealey Plaza, as well as recordings of conversations and meetings with witnesses and participants in the conspiracy.



PHOTO BY BEN TONG

Psychiatrist Louis J. West has been described as "perhaps the chief advocate of mind control in America" with a "public career [that] appears like a carefully constructed espionage cover."

**"... while he was in jail, endeavoring to be allowed to appear before the Warren Commission to testify regarding who had really killed the president, Jack Ruby was visited by psychiatrist Louis J. 'Jolly' West, an expert hypnotist with recognized CIA ties."**

were laundered through a CIA front group, the Geschickter Fund for Medical Research.

Walter Bowart, author of the classic book on CIA mind control activities, *Operation Mind Control*, wrote that West is "perhaps the chief advocate of mind control in America today." According to Bowart, "From his participation in the development of brainwashing techniques for the U.S. Air Force to his involvement in the CIA's famous MK ULTRA<sup>7</sup> projects, West has figured so prominently in the research and devel-

<sup>7</sup> As described by former CIA Director Stansfield Turner. MK ULTRA was an "umbrella project" that embraced 149 separate subprojects. These were wide-ranging research efforts in chemical and biological warfare, and behavior modification through drugs, hypnosis, and other forms of "mind control."

opment of the invisible war<sup>8</sup> that his public career appears like a carefully constructed espionage 'cover.'"

West examined Ruby in his jail cell on April 26, 1964, and concluded that the man was "obviously psychotic" and should be hospitalized.

West focused his attention on Ruby long before this examination, however. In an article which appeared in the December 1963 issue of *The Sooner* magazine, entitled "The Act of Violence," West wrote about the Kennedy assassination, directing attention to "the killer." In line with his key role of shaping public opinion 10 months before the October 1964 release of the Warren Commission report, West informed his readers that "Lee Harvey Oswald, who killed President Kennedy . . . was a self-styled Marxist."

West, the master hypnotist / mind control expert, visited Ruby six times in 1964 and 1965.

West's "examinations" of Ruby assume greater significance in light of Ruby's refusal to fulfill his designated role as a key member of the conspiracy. In this he shared a characteristic with Oswald: he would not take the rap. Instead he pressed the chairman of the Warren Commission, Chief Justice Earl Warren, and Representative Gerald Ford (a commission member destined to become president of the United States) for the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C., to testify before the commission.

In a meeting with Warren and Ford in the Dallas County Jail, Ruby articulated his concerns. He could not talk in Texas, he said, because he feared for his life. He said that if he was brought to Washington as a witness, however, he would be able to reveal those involved in the conspiracy to kill the president. Why he felt he could talk in Washington but not in Texas has never been clear, but in any case, the chief justice told Ruby such a trip would not be possible. The meeting between the three men broke for lunch, and Warren and Ford never came back.

Later, while still confined in the Dallas County Jail, Ruby claimed that he was being injected with live cancer cells; one source alleged that psychiatrist West was the man who administered the injections to Ruby.

*FREEDOM* endeavored to reach West at UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute, of

<sup>8</sup> The invisible war is warfare as planned and conducted by modern intelligence agencies, such as the American CIA and the Soviet KGB.

... which he is the director, in order to question him regarding his examinations of Jack Ruby and regarding any treatments might have given to Ruby. West was unavailable, and would not return our calls.

Jim Garrison indicated to FREEDOM at "They had to keep a certain amount of control over Ruby. He was a bomb until he died."

Perhaps it was sheer coincidence, but a similar case was developed by Ruby's attorney, Melvin Belli, regarding Ruby's mental problems — head injury, brain injury — paving the way to make Ruby relevant to the JFK assassination case.

Lee Harvey Oswald had been "disposed of" through the blunt means of a bullet; Jack Ruby was "disposed of" by means of psychiatric drugs and utter discrediting of his character.

Roy Schafer, a Yale psychologist called as a witness by attorney Belli, said that Ruby "appears to feel not altogether in control of his body actions, as if they occur independently of his conscious will at times, as if they can be controlled by external forces."

Right after he shot Oswald, as he was being grabbed by law enforcement officers, Ruby reportedly said, "You don't have to beat me — my brains out. I'm Jack Ruby. What am I doing here? What are you guys jumping on me for? Why am I here? I'm Jack Ruby. I'm not somebody that's wanted."

And then, as Ruby's reported description of the event continued, "They dragged me into the elevator. They brought me upstairs. They told me I had shot Oswald. That was the first time I realized what I had done. I said, 'My God . . . My God!'"

Psychiatrist Werner Tuteur, in an article published in *Mental Hygiene*, described a series of four examinations he had given Ruby in July 1965. In scattered moments of lucidity, Ruby's predicament surfaced.

According to Tuteur, "Practically all his statements were colored by marked fear. He considers himself the victim of a conspiracy. . . . Ruby insists he knows who had President Kennedy killed. They want him to be insane so no one will believe his story."

In an interview recorded with his brother Earl in December 1966, shortly after he had been admitted to Parkland Hospital for treatment of pneumonia (which turned out to be extensive, advanced cancer), Ruby said he had no memory of the moment he shot Oswald. "It happened in such a blur," he said, "before I



UPI/BETTMANN NEWSPHOTOS

The brief burst of gunfire in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963, was the beginning of a massive cover-up which, at last count, had claimed nearly 200 lives.

**"Right after he shot Oswald, as he was being grabbed by law enforcement officers, Ruby reportedly said, 'You don't have to beat me — my brains out. I'm Jack Ruby. What am I doing here? What are you guys jumping on me for? Why am I here? I'm Jack Ruby. I'm not somebody that's wanted.'"**

knew it . . . the officers had me on the ground."

Ruby's words show the oblivious detachment of a programmed killer — of a man shaped in the mold of a brainwashed assassin operating under the influence and orders of another.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals reversed Ruby's murder conviction on October 5, 1966. The case never went to retrial, however, as Ruby died of a blood clot in the lungs, compounded by the

advanced cancer, on January 3, 1967.

While Ruby's death made it easier to keep a lid on the conspiracy, it did not bring an end to the efforts of the men who worked so hard to keep the cover-up in place. ▲

*Next issue: How the CIA and its powerful allies in the U.S. financial community maintained the cover-up of the John F. Kennedy assassination. Among other things, FREEDOM will show how the CIA subverted the 1978 House Select Committee on Assassinations.*

*Richard E. Sprague served as a consultant to the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978. Recognized as one of the foremost experts on the John F. Kennedy assassination, Sprague also served as an adviser to New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison during his probe of the assassination.*

*A pioneer and acknowledged authority in the field of computers, Sprague worked as a consultant to the President's Commission on Electronic Funds Transfer Systems and currently is vice president for marketing for a New York-based computer firm.*

*Thomas G. Whittle has been editor of FREEDOM for the past four years.*

*Kay Skinner is a Los Angeles researcher.*

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# THE ULTIMATE COVER-UP

## THE CIA AND THE KILLING OF JOHN F. KENNEDY PART II



AP, WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

"I'm afraid we were misled. All the [Warren Commission] critics, myself included, were misled very early. I see that now. We spent too much time and effort analyzing the details of the assassination when all the time it was obvious, it was blatantly obvious, that it was a conspiracy.

"The tyranny of power is here. We are controlled by

multinational forces. I suggest to you, my friend, that the interests of those who killed Kennedy now transcend national boundaries and national priorities.

"We must not waste any more time micro-analyzing the evidence. That's exactly what they want us to do. They have kept us busy for so long."

Attorney Vincent Salandria, *The Washingtonian*, November 1980

By Richard E. Sprague, Thomas G. Whittle and Kay Skinner

**I**n Part I of this series, *FREEDOM* reported on evidence that a conspiracy was responsible for the November 22, 1963, assassination of John F. Kennedy and probed the role of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in that conspiracy.

A large portion of that article examined the actions and behavior of Jack Ruby, the convicted killer of alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, in light of extensive "mind control" activities of the CIA which were going on before and after the time of the assassination.

While the deaths of Ruby and Oswald made it easier to keep a lid on the massive conspiracy, it did not bring an end to the need for a cover-up.

In this article, *FREEDOM* looks at the extent of the effort which has been necessary to maintain the cover-story scenario that Oswald, acting alone, killed President Kennedy and wounded Texas Governor John Connally.

As this article will show, the cover-up went so far as to subvert a committee

empowered by the U.S. House of Representatives to investigate the John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King assassinations.

One of the authors of this article, Richard E. Sprague, worked as a consultant to that committee, the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA). In revealing the information contained in this article, Sprague made the decision to speak out despite the fact that he had signed the nondisclosure agreement which all HSCA staff, consultants and investigators were forced to sign. Sprague's decision to communicate this information was made out of his commitment to seeing the citizens of the United States provided with the truth.

Today, more than 22 years after the killing of President Kennedy, the American people have still not been given an adequate explanation for the events which occurred in Dallas' Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963. This article will shed light on the methods by which the truth has been so well concealed.

**T**he final report of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, issued in 1979, concluded that a conspiracy "probably" existed in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The committee went on, however, to assert that whatever conspiracy there might have been was dominated not by any agency of the U.S. government, as evidence clearly showed, but by the mafia — which supposedly used Lee Harvey Oswald and others to carry out the deed.

Viewed in light of the HSCA's 2½-year, \$5.4 million investigation, the report was a betrayal of those who had entrusted the committee to fully investigate the murder of the much-loved president.

The committee's massive, 28-volume report had an effect similar to that of the 26-volume report of the Warren Commission — it deceived the American people once again.

Anyone who has followed CIA activi-  
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## THE ULTIMATE COVER-UP

(continued from page 9)

ties since the assassination must ask the question, how was the cover-up maintained, even through a congressional investigation?

Moreover, how were things turned completely around from the committee's start in 1976 when U.S. Congressmen Henry Gonzalez and Thomas Downing — with a team of top-notch lawyers and investigators — were pursuing the truth behind the assassination, including the role of U.S. government agencies and officials?

How was it that this committee, established to discover the actual facts surrounding the killing, ended up contributing to the cover-up?

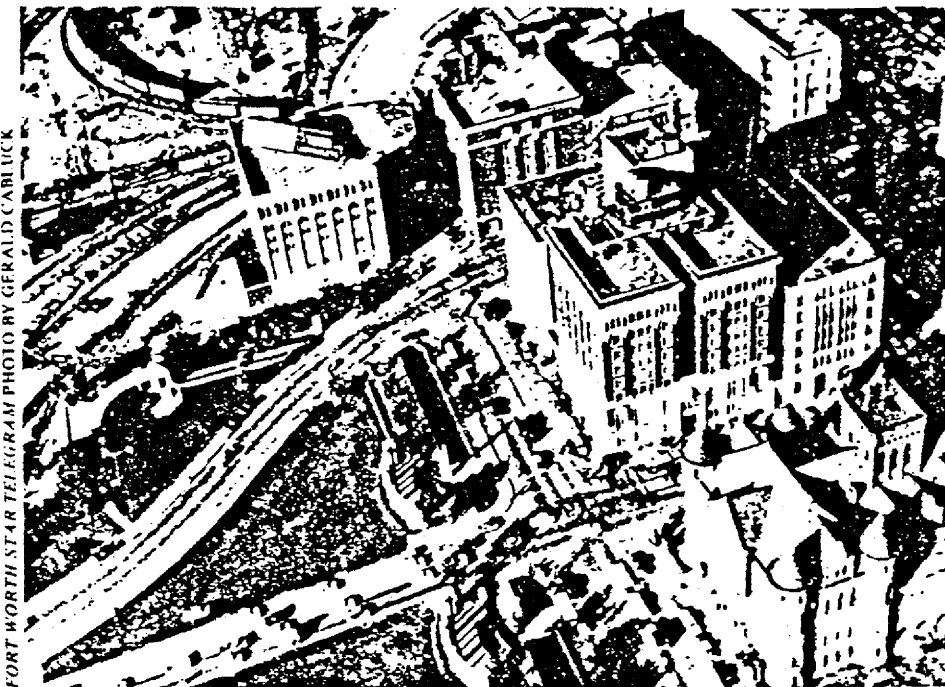
In examining the answers to these questions, it is first necessary to look at the circumstances related to the formation of the committee.

By the mid-1970s, substantial evidence of a conspiracy to kill the president had been uncovered, and public pressure was steadily mounting for a bona fide investigation.

In 1976, two congressmen who were convinced that a massive conspiracy was involved in the JFK assassination — the previously mentioned Henry Gonzalez (of Texas) and Thomas Downing (of Virginia) — introduced a bill in the House of Representatives which resulted in the formation of the HSCA and an investigation of the JFK and Martin Luther King assassinations.

Congressman Gonzalez believed there had been conspiracies in the assassinations of JFK, Martin Luther King and U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and in the attempted assassination of Alabama Governor George Wallace. He introduced a bill to have the House investigate all four shootings, any cover-ups, and any connections among them. Congressman Downing was primarily interested in the JFK case and his bill dealt only with that conspiracy.

Attorney Mark Lane, author of the explosive 1966 book on the inaccuracies, inconsistencies and falsehoods in the Warren report, *Rush to Judgment*, and his numerous supporters around the country joined forces with Dr. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, and the Congressional Black Caucus to pressure House members and Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill to investigate both the assassinations of President Kennedy and



Dealey Plaza, several hours after the assassination on November 22, 1963.

Dr. King.

The result was a merging of the Gonzalez and Downing bills into a final HSCA bill which named these two assassinations as specific subjects to be probed.

In the fall of 1976, with Congressman Downing as chairman, the HSCA selected a tough, veteran prosecutor from the Philadelphia district attorney's office, Richard A. Sprague (no relation to the co-author of this article, Richard E. Sprague), to be the committee's chief counsel. At the time of his selection, Sprague had compiled an awesome record in Philadelphia of 69 homicide convictions out of 70 prosecutions.

Sprague hired a team of four seasoned attorneys and investigators from New York City who had learned the ins and outs of criminal investigations under that city's respected district attorney, Frank Hogan. The four men — attorneys Robert Tannenbaum and Bob Lehner, and investigators Cliff Fenton and Ed Evans — were independent of the CIA, the FBI, and any other agency the committee might investigate, and they knew their business.

Sprague's JFK team, headed by Tannenbaum and Fenton, was going after the real assassins and their bosses — whether this led them to the CIA, the FBI, or elsewhere.

Sprague made it clear to the HSCA that he would investigate CIA involvement, and subpoena CIA people, documents and other information, whether

classified or not. He had also had meetings with several researchers, including the co-author of this article, Richard E. Sprague, and made it known that he was going to use the talent and knowledge of every reliable researcher on a consulting basis.

Sprague intended to follow up on all of the information and leads developed in the investigation by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. Sprague initiated an investigation of CIA activities, including information supplied to him by Richard E. Sprague.<sup>1</sup>

Richard A. Sprague and Tannenbaum were aware of the CIA connections of individuals involved in the JFK assassination, and in the apparent involvement of CIA agents and operatives in the planning for the assassination that occurred in Mexico City, New Orleans and the Florida Keys.

In November 1976, in a meeting attended by the entire HSCA staff, Sprague and Tannenbaum revealed photographic evidence of alleged CIA agents and operatives in Dealey Plaza.

The two men were aware of assassination planning meetings held by CIA-connected people in Mexico City and elsewhere, and they knew the names of the higher level conspirators.

They had initiated searches for the

<sup>1</sup> Richard E. Sprague became an adviser to Richard A. Sprague as soon as the latter was appointed chief counsel to the HSCA.

gunmen and various support personnel in Dealey Plaza who had actually carried out the assassination. The names and identities of at least seven of these individuals were known, and photographs of these men were on hand.

Sprague and Tannenbaum were planning to interview at least six individuals allegedly connected with the assassination who were contract agents of the CIA.

Cliff Fenton had been appointed head of a team of investigators to follow up on the New Orleans portion of the conspiracy which had included several additional CIA agents and operatives. Fenton's team was set to contact people who had attended assassination planning meetings in New Orleans.

From the photographic evidence of the sixth floor window of Dallas' Texas School Book Depository — as well as of the grassy knoll — Sprague, Tannenbaum and most of the staff knew that Oswald had not fired any shots, that no shots came from the sixth floor window, and that there had, instead, been shots from the Dal-Tex Building and the grassy knoll.

They knew the "Magic Bullet"<sup>2</sup> theory was not true, and knew there had been a well-planned crossfire in Dealey Plaza. They were not planning to spend a lot of time rehashing the Dealey Plaza evidence, however, except as it would lead to the real assassins.

Sprague's team had set up an investigation in Florida and the Florida Keys of the evidence and leads developed in 1967 by then New Orleans District Attorney

<sup>2</sup> As described by intelligence expert Colonel L. Fletcher Prouty, the "Magic Bullet" scenario is as follows: "Forced to account for a series of unrelated events, the Warren Commission propounded the idea that the first shot fired in Dealey Plaza hit JFK, passed through the muscle of his upper back, exited from his lower throat, traveled a few feet in the air, changed course and entered Connally's back, plunged through his body, broke about five inches of one of his right rib bones, came out again and then slammed into Connally's right wrist, where it broke two more bones, exited again and then pierced his thigh, ending its strange journey embedded in his thigh bone.

"This thesis holds that the bullet would have had to have made a right and upward turn upon leaving JFK's throat, paused in midair for more than two seconds, made a left and steep downward turn as it entered Connally's back, made a right and upward turn as it left Connally's chest, passed through Connally's wrist in the direction backward from the way his wrist was facing, made another left and downward turn, then wound up in Connally's left thigh.

"Despite smashing its miraculous path through all of this bone and sinew, the 'Magic Bullet' was virtually undamaged."



*The alleged assassin: the "tramp" on the left may be the man who fired the shot that killed John F. Kennedy. Although researchers for the House Select Committee on Assassinations tracked down this man, known as Raoul, in 1978, no mention was made of him in the committee's final report. This photo was taken in Dealey Plaza shortly after the assassination by William Allen of The Dallas Times Herald.*

Jim Garrison. Gaeton Fonzi, an investigator employed by the House committee, was in charge of that part of the research. At least nine individuals with alleged CIA connections were to be interrogated as part of this investigation.

Tannenbaum and his research team had seen the photo collection of Richard Billings from *Life* magazine, which was, by 1976, deposited in the Georgetown University Library's JFK assassination collection. At least a half-dozen men that had been linked to the JFK assassination by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigation were photographed with senior CIA officials in spring and early summer 1963, and these shots are part of the collection.

Early in 1977, Congressman Gonzalez, who was more supportive of a CIA conspiracy idea than Tom Downing, became chairman of the HSCA. Downing, who did not run for re-election in 1976, retired when his term expired. With Gonzalez and Sprague of the same mind, it appeared that Sprague and his team would finally bring to light the full scope of the JFK assassination conspiracy and cover-up.

With Richard A. Sprague and his professionals having a great deal of evidence of the CIA's role in the assassination and

cover-up, the agency and its friends faced a crisis. The CIA knew it had to accomplish several objectives in order to turn things around and perpetuate the American public's ignorance of the truth. Here is what had to be done:

1. Get rid of Richard A. Sprague.
2. Get rid of Congressman Henry Gonzalez.
3. Get rid of Sprague's key attorneys and investigators — or keep them away from evidence regarding the CIA — or keep them quiet.
4. Install another chief counsel to control the investigation.
5. Elect a new HSCA chairman who would "cooperate," or who could be misled.
6. Cut off all of Sprague's investigations of CIA people. Make sure none of the people were found, bury any testimony that had already been found, and eliminate CIA people who might talk.
7. Keep the committee members from knowing what was happening and segregate the investigation from them.
8. Create a new investigative environment in which the purpose would be to confirm all of the findings of the Warren Commission and divert attention away from the who-did-it-and-why approach.

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## THE ULTIMATE COVER-UP

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9. Control the committee staff in such a way as to keep any of them from revealing what they already knew about CIA involvement.

10. Control the committee consultants in the same way.

11. Continue to manipulate the news media in such a way as to reinforce all of the above.

12. Continue to eliminate witnesses or assassins in emergency situations if necessary.

There is substantial evidence to show that the CIA accomplished all 12 of its objectives. Moreover, the techniques it used were generally more subtle and devious than any it had employed before.

The first step taken by the CIA was to use the media resources and members of Congress that it controlled, along with two agents planted on the staff of Congressman Gonzalez, to get rid of both that congressman and Richard A. Sprague.

In taking this step, it used the old Roman approach of divide and conquer. It made the congressman and his closest staff assistant, Gail Beagle, believe something that was totally false: that Sprague was a CIA agent and that Gonzalez must get rid of him.

It also made Gonzalez believe that some of his other associates, both in the HSCA and outside, were CIA agents.

At the same time, it used the news media to attack Sprague mercilessly.

Gonzalez eventually tried to fire Sprague, was overruled by the committee, and then resigned from the committee in March 1977.

Sprague resigned later that month after it became obvious that CIA-influenced members of the Finance and Rules committees of the House, along with other agency allies in the House, were going to kill the committee unless he resigned.

The next steps were to install a chief counsel favorable to the CIA and to get a chairman elected who could be tricked or coerced into appointing such a counsel. Louis Stokes was the choice for chairman. He was, and undoubtedly still is, a good and honest man. But he was apparently bamboozled by what the CIA did and is still doing.

The selection of a CIA friend as chief counsel had to be done in an extremely subtle manner. It could not be obvious to



*No man has ever been convicted for the murder of John F. Kennedy, one of America's most well-liked presidents. Evidence points to a high-level conspiracy in the murder and subsequent cover-up.*

anyone that he was favorably disposed to the CIA. Congressman Stokes and the other committee members had to be fooled into believing *they* had made the choice, and had picked a good man. Professor Robert Blakey, who apparently was a scientifically oriented, academic person, with a history of work against organized crime, was an excellent choice.

Goals 4 and 5 having been achieved, the other goals — 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 — were then accomplished rapidly and efficiently.

To achieve goal 3, Bob Tannenbaum, Bob Lehner, and Donovan Gay — three loyal Sprague supporters — were fired or forced to resign within the first few months after Robert Blakey arrived in July 1977.

The most important weapon used to pursue goals 9 and 10 was instituted within one week after Blakey started as chief counsel. It is by far the most subtle and far-reaching technique used by the CIA to date. It is called the "Nondisclosure Agreement" and it was signed by all members of the committee, all staff members including Blakey, all consultants to the committee, and several independent researchers who met with Blakey in 1977. Signing the agreement was a

condition for continued employment on the committee staff or for continuing consulting on a contract basis. The choice was: sign or get out.

Richard E. Sprague, co-author of this article, signed the agreement in July 1977, without realizing its implications, in order to continue as a consultant. His consulting help was never sought after that, however, and the obvious objective was to silence a consultant and not use his services.

The nondisclosure agreement had several noteworthy aspects. First, it bound the signer, if a consultant, to never reveal that he was working for the committee. Second, it prevented the signer from ever revealing to anyone — in perpetuity — any information he had learned about the committee's work as a result of working for the committee. Third, it gave the committee and the House of Representatives, after the committee terminated, the power to take legal action against the signer, in a court named by the committee or the House, in case the committee believed the signer had violated the agreement. Fourth, the signer agreed to pay the court costs for such a suit in the event he lost the suit.

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## THE ULTIMATE COVER-UP

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These four parts were enough to scare most researchers or staff members who signed it into silence forever about what they learned. The agreement was insidious in that the signer was, in effect, forfeiting his rights. Lawyers who have seen the agreement, including Richard A. Sprague, have expressed the opinion that it is an illegal agreement which violated several constitutional amendments.

Whether it was illegal or not, most staff members and all consultants who signed it have remained silent, even after six years beyond the life of the committee. There are only two exceptions, the co-author of this article and Gaeton Fonzi, who published a lengthy article about the HSCA cover-up in *The Washingtonian* magazine in November 1980. The most insidious parts of the agreement, however, were three paragraphs which give the CIA virtual control over what the committee could and could not do with so-called "classified" information. The director of the CIA was given authority to determine, in effect, what information should remain classified and therefore unavailable to nearly everyone.

The signers of the agreement — and this included all of the congressmen who were members of the committee — agreed not to reveal or discuss any information that the CIA decided they should not discuss.

The chairman of the committee supposedly had the final say on what information was included, but in practice, even an intelligent and gutsy chairman would not be likely to override the CIA. Louis Stokes did not attempt any decisions which could have put him at odds with the agency.

In fact, under the protective clauses of the nondisclosure agreement, the CIA did not have to do very much. Blakey kept nearly all of the CIA's sensitive information, evidence, and witnesses away from the committee members — that was all that was necessary. Congressman Stokes, for his part, never knew what he should have argued about with the CIA director.

The nondisclosure agreement clearly shows who controlled the House Select Committee on Assassinations from July 1977 forward: the CIA.

In a letter dated February 10, 1978, co-author Sprague attempted to point out to Congressman Stokes the type of

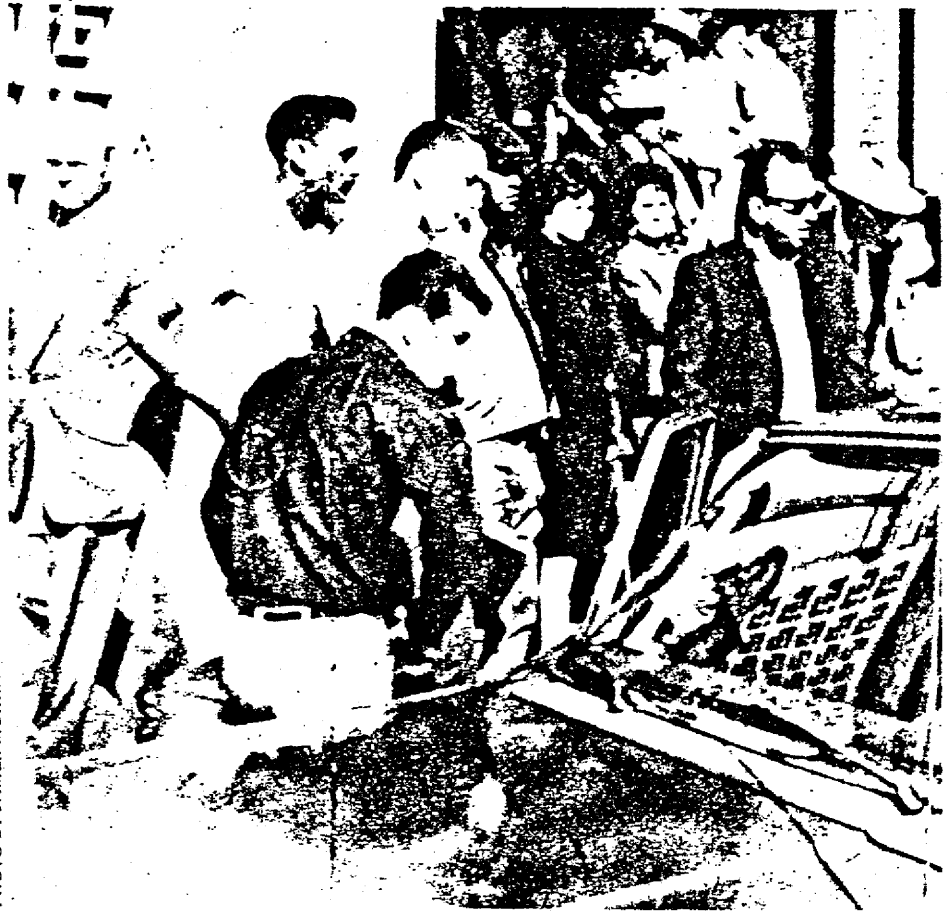


PHOTO BY JAMES MURRAY

Taken at 12:42 p.m., 12 minutes after the assassination, this photo shows Dallas County Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig (in the dark shirt in the foreground) shortly after he had reported an important incident to man "A" at the left of the picture. Man "A" told Craig he was a Secret Service agent, and took notes on the small white pad visible in the left pocket of his suit. According to sworn testimony by the head of the Secret Service detail that guarded the president, however, no Secret Service agents were in Dealey Plaza from the time of the assassination at 12:30 p.m. until he himself returned at 12:55; all agents had left to accompany the presidential limousine to Parkland Hospital.

control the agreement gave the CIA over the HSCA. Congressman Stokes replied in a March 16, 1978, letter that he retained ultimate authority and was not bound by the opinion of the director of central intelligence. The congressman claimed that paragraphs 12 and 14 of the nondisclosure agreement, which extended the agreement in perpetuity and gave the government the right to file a civil suit in which the signer would pay all costs, were legal.

An examination of some specific examples will serve to illustrate how well the CIA techniques worked to close down the HSCA investigation — and to keep a lid on the assassination conspiracy to this day.

As mentioned earlier, when Blakey arrived, an investigative team, headed by Cliff Fenton and reporting to Bob Tannenbaum, had already been hard at work

tracking down leads to the CIA conspirators generated by Jim Garrison's investigation in New Orleans. This team eventually had four professional investigators, and their work led them to believe that CIA agents and operatives in New Orleans had been involved in a large conspiracy to assassinate JFK.

The Fenton team was in the process of locating witnesses and other evidence of assassination planning meetings held in New Orleans, Mexico City and Dallas. In fact, the Fenton team reportedly found a CIA man who attended those meetings and who was willing to testify before the committee.

Fenton's team discovered other facts regarding how the CIA people planned and carried out the assassination. Their report about the conspiracy was solid and convincing. The CIA, however, through the actions of the committee's

new chief counsel, buried the Fenton report. Committee members were not told about the Fenton team's findings. The evidence was not included in the HSCA report, nor was it even referred to in its many volumes. The numerous witnesses in New Orleans — including the CIA man at the meetings — were never called to testify. Fenton and the other three members of his team, having signed the nondisclosure agreement, were legally sworn to secrecy, or at least so they thought. To this day, they refuse to discuss anything regarding the case with anybody. While there may also have been threats of physical violence against them, there is no way to determine this.

However, Fenton and the others were well aware of the witnesses that had been "eliminated" just before they were about to testify before the HSCA. These included William Sullivan, the deputy FBI director who headed Division V, the domestic intelligence division; George de Morenschildt, a CIA contact for Oswald in Dallas; John Roselli, a mafia man involved in CIA plots to assassinate Castro; Regis Kennedy, an FBI agent who knew a lot about Clay Shaw, alias Clay Bertrand, in New Orleans and who was one of Lee Harvey Oswald's FBI contacts; Rolando Masferrer, an anti-Castro Cuban murdered in Miami; and Carlos Prio Socarras, a former Cuban premier killed in his garage in Miami.

With the knowledge of these deaths, Fenton and his team would not have required any more than a gentle hint to keep quiet.

One individual who appeared in seven photos taken in Dealey Plaza was one of the most significant CIA individuals involved in the JFK assassination. This person, who appeared as a tramp in the photographs, was found by assassination researcher and former FBI agent William Turner to have been in the Florida Keys working with CIA-sponsored anti-Castro groups. Richard A. Sprague and Bob Tannenbaum knew about his role, and intended to go after him. They were aware of evidence that this "tramp," known as Raoul, may have fired the fatal head shot from the grassy knoll.

Richard A. Sprague and Tannenbaum had assigned a team of investigators to follow a lead to Raoul provided by Richard E. Sprague in early 1977. Unfortunately, the CIA managed to keep both the subpoena power and the funds away from the committee until after it had forced the resignations of Gonzalez, Sprague and Tannenbaum. The power



PHOTO BY JAMES MURRAY

*Taken at 12:43 p.m., 13 minutes after the assassination, man "A" (back to camera), posing as a Secret Service agent, can be seen talking to two law enforcement officers to determine whether the real assassins had been detected. The House Select Committee on Assassinations made no effort to locate this "Secret Service agent," who apparently was a key member of the assassination team.*

and funds were restored after Congressman Stokes was elected and after Blakey was installed as chief counsel.

The investigative team continued its work, however, and it did search for and find Raoul. Blakey and the CIA suppressed that fact, and suppressed anything the committee might have learned from this alleged assassin. He is not mentioned in the report and was not called as a witness. [The source of the above information is not revealed in this article because of the potential danger it might pose to other staff people who may have violated the nondisclosure agreement.]

After the Garrison investigation, research conducted by Richard E. Sprague and other members of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations between 1967 and 1973 turned up several witnesses who

were willing to talk privately about the CIA assassination team that murdered JFK. Two persons interviewed had been CIA contacts for Lee Harvey Oswald; both of these men knew about meetings held to plot the assassination.

One former CIA operative described how a CIA contract agent who had attended those meetings had been pretending to be Oswald on many occasions. Another CIA operative knew how the CIA had covered up the truth about the assassination and how it went to extreme lengths to derail Jim Garrison's investigation.

Investigator Richard Russell and Richard E. Sprague tracked down these two CIA operatives, and two more, prior to

*(continued on page 32)*

## THE ULTIMATE COVER-UP

(continued from page 31)

the arrival of Robert Blakey at the HSCA. Russell interviewed them and knew they would be willing to talk, given protection and some form of immunity.

Richard E. Sprague presented their names and details of their involvement to Richard A. Sprague, Congressmen Henry Gonzalez and Louis Stokes, and Robert Tannenbaum in the fall of 1976. This was done as part of the co-author's consulting assignment for the HSCA. The names were in a memorandum to Sprague, which outlined the overall JFK conspiracy and the CIA's role, along with a recommendation of the sequence in which witnesses should be called. The idea was to base each witness interrogation on what had been established from interviewing prior witnesses, working slowly from cooperative witnesses, to non-cooperative witnesses, to actual assassins, and on to higher level CIA people.

Higher level CIA people, such as E. Howard Hunt and Richard Helms, would then be faced with accusers.

With no subpoena power and no funds, Sprague and Tannenbaum could do nothing and, indeed, did nothing up to the day they were forced to resign. Although he did have both subpoena power and money, by early 1978 Blakey had not called these CIA witnesses.

Richard E. Sprague initiated a series of letter exchanges with Blakey and Congressman Stokes, reminding them of these witnesses and the importance of their testimony. Investigator Richard Russell had obtained an agreement from a specific CIA operative to meet with the committee, but no contact had been made up to April 5, 1978, the date of Richard E. Sprague's first letter to Congressman Stokes on this subject. Russell was the only person connected to the committee who knew the location of this agent. In the April 5 letter, a recommendation was given to Stokes that the committee contact the agent through Russell, and contact the other witnesses on the original list.

Russell told FREEDOM that Congressman Stokes did telephone him once to arrange for one agent to be interviewed by the committee. Nothing more was heard from the congressman or anyone else from the committee, however, so Russell let the matter drop.

Congressman Stokes wrote on May

15, 1978, that the matter of this agent had been referred to Blakey for follow-up. There is no evidence, however, that Blakey ever attempted contact either by telephone or by letter.

The names of the witnesses in the memo were:

Cooperative witnesses: Louis Ivon (Jim Garrison's chief investigator), Richard Case Nagell, Harry Dean, James Hosty, Carver Gatlen, Warren du Bruys, Regis Kennedy, Victor Marchetti, Gordon Novel, Manuel Garcia Gonzalez, Harry Williams, Jim Garrison, George de Mohrenschildt, Charles Sensenay, Mary Hope and Jim Hicks.

Non-cooperative witnesses or assassins or planners: Ronald Augustinovich, Guy Gabaldin, the "tramp" named Raoul, William Seymour, Emilio Santana, Jack Lawrence, Jim Braden, Sergio Arcacha Smith, Fred Lee Crisman, William Sullivan, Carlos Prio Socarras, Rolando Masferrer, Major L.M. Bloomfield, E.

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**"The CIA and its powerful friends effectively controlled all three branches of government when the chips were down and have had no problems controlling the news media or the independent researchers."**

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Howard Hunt and Richard Helms.

By September 1978, when the public hearings began, there was still no indication that Blakey was going to call the CIA witnesses. Nagell was standing by but had not been contacted. The published, intended witness list did not contain any of these CIA names. Richard E. Sprague wrote to Congressman Stokes on September 22, 1978, expressing dissatisfaction with the committee's failure to call the CIA witnesses. The congressman sent back a letter dated October 10, 1978, in which he avoided the issue by stating only "that the committee will make every effort to tell the whole story to the American people."

Due to the committee's failure to call the most important witnesses, its report did not even come close to telling the whole story. The report did not even mention these witnesses, or any of the evidence exposed earlier by the independent Committee to Investigate Assas-

sinations or by Jim Garrison.

Richard E. Sprague responded to Congressman Stokes' October 10 letter with two more letters, dated October 30, 1978, and November 24, 1978.

The congressman finally answered them on December 4, 1978, with another letter which again avoided the issue. He said the committee could not reveal the procedure of the investigation or the names of those persons who would be called to testify before the committee. This implied the committee was planning to call more witnesses in December 1978. The committee itself, however, ended on January 1, 1979. The CIA witnesses were neither called nor mentioned right up to the very end, and the committee's final report was silent about them.

The main effort of the CIA during the HSCA investigation was apparently to keep CIA involvement in the JFK assassination covered up. Another major objective, however, was goal number 8 on the list given above — to create a new investigative environment in which the purpose would be to confirm all of the findings of the Warren Commission and divert attention away from the who-did-it-and-why approach.

Researchers who concentrated on attacking the Warren Commission's Dealey Plaza or Tippitt shooting findings had created a big problem. If Oswald had fired no shots, then he must have been framed. If Oswald was framed, the evidence against him was planted, and a very well planned conspiracy was at work. This line of reasoning would point to the involvement of an intelligence agency.

Apparently, the new chief counsel set out from the beginning to create an investigative environment and image that appeared to be based on a highly scientific, objective study of the Dealey Plaza evidence. The overall objective of this approach was to prove "scientifically" that the Warren Commission was right, and that Lee Harvey Oswald fired all of the shots that struck John Kennedy, Governor Connally and policeman J.D. Tippitt.

That required scientific proof of the "Magic Bullet" theory, among other things. Blakey provided just that. Right up to the moment when the acoustical evidence on the Dallas police tape reared its ugly head, only one month from the end of the life of the committee, Blakey managed to control and apparently manipulate the Dealey Plaza evidence to

(continued on page 52)

## THE ULTIMATE COVER-UP

(continued from page 32)

back up the Warren Commission completely. One of his methods was to split up the scientific work into subcommittees or panels of advisers, and various staff groups, and keep all of them from communicating with each other.

Thus, even though the medical panel gave testimony showing an upward trajectory of the single bullet, the trajectory panel turned it into a downward trajectory.

The photographic panel was so isolated it never did see the most important evidence of the sixth floor window, inside or outside. Moreover, it was only provided with a limited amount of the material available, and hence it did not explore important photographic evidence of the conspiracy.

There are numerous examples to show how Blakey managed to pull off what appears in retrospect to have been a magic show — on public television, no less. One important result of the drastic change of investigative environment (compared to that existing under the earlier chief counsel, Richard A. Sprague) was to draw the attention of the public during the hearings away from the evidence and the witnesses that pointed to the real assassins, and away from the fact that Oswald was framed and did not fire any shots. It thus provided an additional shield for the CIA and, in effect, completed the cover-up.

In his November 1980 article in *The Washingtonian*, former HSCA investigator Gaeton Fonzi stated, "So after all these years and all those spent resources — after the last investigation — what the Kennedy assassination still needs is an investigation guided simply, unswervingly by the priority of truth."

In the same article, Fonzi was sharply critical of chief counsel Robert Blakey: "His allegiance is to the standing institutions of government. Again and again, he emphasized the restraints inherent in a congressional probe. He never considered a higher mandate. He never considered the Kennedy assassination an extraordinary event or a possible manifestation of internal corruption within the institutions he was so bent on protecting. He never considered using his position to demonstrate a loyalty to principles higher than those institutions. He never considered his mandate to conduct a 'full and complete' investigation as coming from

the American people."

Former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison reinforced Fonzi's thoughts. Garrison told FREEDOM that "The whole investigation turned out to be a fraud. It was a solid cover-up as soon as Blakey got in there. Every time they came up with anything good, it was blunted or turned aside by Blakey."

Garrison concluded, "The report itself was pages and pages of garbage."

When FREEDOM contacted the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley, Virginia, for comment, Kathryn Riedel of the agency's public affairs office denied that the CIA exercised any control over the HSCA, asserting that the CIA "always cooperates fully with congressional oversight committees and through them, with other committees, too."

The office of Congressman Louis

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**"A full investigation of all facts and circumstances surrounding the assassination of John F. Kennedy has yet to be done. While mountains of evidence point to the existence of a high-level conspiracy, it appears that those same interests have the power to thwart any serious attempt to uncover proof of the plot."**

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Stokes was contacted. His press secretary, Michele Tuck, told FREEDOM that "the congressman did not want to make any comment" on any of FREEDOM's questions.

Robert Blakey was out of his office and FREEDOM was unable to reach him for comment.

With the murders of key witnesses and the apparently illegal nondisclosure agreement silencing the HSCA staff, committee members, and consultants, the prospect of the American public ever learning the truth about the assassination of John F. Kennedy appears dismal.

The CIA and its powerful friends effectively controlled all three branches of government when the chips were down and have had no problems controlling the news media or the independent researchers.

A full investigation of all facts and circumstances surrounding the assassination of John F. Kennedy has yet to be done. While mountains of evidence point to the existence of a high-level conspiracy, it appears that those same interests have the power to thwart any serious attempt to uncover proof of the plot.

Intelligence expert L. Fletcher Prouty has stated that the simplest and most effective action to be taken is what should have been done more than 22 years ago — follow standard criminal procedures under Texas state law, winnow through the mounds of evidence, and solve the crime.

Colonel Prouty has pointed out that no person has yet been convicted for the murder of President Kennedy. In any normal murder case, such a lack of interest on the part of the authorities in finding the person or persons guilty of the crime would never be tolerated — why accept it in the case of a president?

*Anyone who feels that action should be taken to expose all of the facts of the John F. Kennedy murder case has a number of options available to him. These include writing to senators and congressmen, writing to officials in the Texas state government, and writing to local or national news media to demand that this case be reopened and the actual murderers brought to trial.*

*Further information is also available on the subject for those interested in obtaining a better understanding of the basic facts of the case. Such books as Sylvia Meagher's *Accessories After the Fact*, Jim Garrison's *A Heritage of Stone*, David S. Lifton's *Best Evidence* and Mark Lane's *Rush to Judgment* are recommended. ▲*

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*Richard E. Sprague served as a consultant to the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978. Recognized as one of the foremost experts on the John F. Kennedy assassination, Sprague also served as an adviser to New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison during his probe of the assassination.*

*A pioneer and acknowledged authority in the field of computers, Sprague worked as a consultant to the President's Commission on Electronic Funds Transfer Systems and currently is vice president for marketing for a New York-based computer firm.*

*Thomas G. Whittle has been editor of FREEDOM for the past four years.*

*Kay Skinner is a Los Angeles researcher.*

May

FREEDOM

L E T T E R

S-P. 269-  
TURN PAGE FOR MY LETTER

### Ernest Hemingway

Dear Editor,

FREEDOM's December 1985 article on "Ernest Hemingway's Last Stand" may have contributed to the identification of a possible CIA "asset."

On page 3 of the article it states that the electric shock treatment of Hemingway (which may have wrecked his ability to write and could have contributed to his suicide) was administered "under the care of psychiatrist Howard Rome in the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota." That should have been around early 1961, judging from the FBI document you published on page 6.

By September 1964, as the Warren Commission was wrapping up its package in time for publication during Lyndon Johnson's campaign for re-election, Dr. Rome was a senior consultant at the Mayo Clinic. In that capacity, he provided the Warren Commission with a 12-page posthumous psychoanalysis of Lee Oswald — a man whom he had never seen. It was one of the last exhibits filed and would appear to have been obtained and inserted just prior to the printing deadline in order to mask one of the major holes still remaining in the official fiction: Oswald's motivation.

The thrust of Dr. Rome's evaluation was that Oswald's spelling problem was not inconsistent with his having murdered the president of the United States.

Years later, in the investigation by the House Select Committee on Assassinations, former Warren Commission counsel Wesley Liebler was called as a witness, purportedly as part of the committee's inquiry into the Warren Commission operation.

During the course of his testimony, he was allowed to introduce as evidence a copy of his memorandum to the effect that Rome had "stated his opinion that the frustration, which may have resulted from Oswald's reading-spelling difficulty, gave an added impetus to his need to prove to the world that he was an unrecognized 'great man.'"

Such evidence would have been quite inadmissible in any court where there was a minimal concern for justice for the individual on trial. It was flagrantly prejudicial, it was wildly immaterial and irrelevant (as was most of the "evidence" presented against the scapegoat) and it

was secondhand hearsay at best.

It seems to me that Rome's emergence (following the Hemingway matter) during the critical, final hours of the Warren Commission and his re-emergence (by proxy) before the House Select Committee on Assassinations to renew the artful discreditation of the scapegoat raise a variety of interesting questions.

One cannot ignore the fact that it is just possible that Dr. Rome might have been functioning all along primarily as an agency "asset."

The enormous proliferation of CIA "assets" throughout the United States — made possible because special legislation makes the CIA free from accountability for the money it spends — is far and away the single most dangerous part of the agency's domestic operation.

Those men who function clandestinely as CIA assets will do anything and help destroy anyone for a share of the CIA's cornucopia. To give but one example, consider how successful the media and "journalistic author" assets have been in giving life to the two remaining scapegoats in the JFK assassination — Fidel Castro and organized crime.

Jim Garrison  
New Orleans, Louisiana

*Thank you for your letter, and for a copy of Rome's analysis. One could not help but notice that Rome himself is culpable on exactly the same grounds he condemns Oswald: misspelling. On page 11, Rome writes, "Consequently, I feel I can say with a greater degree of confidence that the written material attributed to Lee Harvey Oswald [sic] that I have had the opportunity to review is consistent with the clinical picture one sees in individuals with this disability."*

*Note for FREEDOM readers: Jim Garrison, as New Orleans district attorney, conducted an extensive and highly revelatory investigation of the John F. Kennedy assassination in 1967 and 1968. He is currently a judge with the State of Louisiana Court of Appeal.*

### Ezra Pound

Dear Editor,

I recently became quite interested in Ezra Pound and your two previous letters from Yaa'qov Haramgaal and Eus-

tace Mullins.

I am aware of Mr. Mullins' expertise on Ezra Pound. Yes, Mr. Pound was guilty! Guilty of prejudice, of not researching the truth, of being insensitive as to how his actions affected others around him. As said aptly on page 280 of Dr. Edwin Fuller Torrey's recent book, *The Roots of Treason*, "Ezra Pound spent his last 12 years regretting his life. . . . Pound finally asked: 'Do you think they should have shot me?' By 1962 Pound was telling visitors that he had been 'wrong, wrong, wrong. I've always been wrong. Eighty-seven per cent wrong. . . . I've never recognized benevolence. You don't know what it's like to get off on the wrong path.'"

It's easy to live a lie when you believe it to be the truth. Hard indeed it is to take one's medicine and admit, "I made a mistake." We can all learn a lesson of life from looking deep within our own past and making the necessary changes it takes to be an honest man. The truth, my friend, lies in one's heart. Change your heart and you change your destiny.

Craig B. Forney  
Cedar Park, Texas

### New Look

Dear Editor,

I really like FREEDOM's new look. You've been putting out some great articles as well.

Phil Gilbert  
Los Angeles, California

### Tax Shelters

Dear Editor,

I just received your March issue. The piece on tax shelters ("IRS Attacks American Businessmen") is very well done.

Norman Crowhurst  
Dallas, Oregon

### Target: Lennon

Dear Editor,

I found the article, "Target: Lennon," and the editorial, "Government by Assassination," in the March 1986 issue of FREEDOM very interesting.

Keith J. Loree  
Los Angeles, California

(continued on page 44)

# FREEDOM

M A G A Z I N E

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## LETTERS

(continued from page 43)

-p.270-

### South Africa

Dear Editor,

I want to comment on the review of the book about South Africa, *Move Your Shadow*, in your March edition.

I ask you to compare the level of concern over apartheid in South Africa with the lack of concern over the Soviet barbarism in Afghanistan, where virtually every human rights violation imaginable is occurring. There the Soviets dispense bombs disguised as toys which maim innocent children who pick them up. Where is the news media outrage over this atrocity?

Trish McDaniel  
Bellflower, California

*Injustice anywhere ought not to be tolerated. Whether it is in Afghanistan, South Africa or elsewhere, man's enslavement of man should be condemned and attacked.*

### Suppressed Information

Dear Editor,

I have recently been made aware of the existence of your remarkably excellent publication. It is, to my knowledge, the *only publication* in this country devoted entirely to suppressed information which is totally unpublished anywhere else relating to FBI, CIA, IRS, etc. illegalities, as well as crucial, suppressed information relating to political assassinations.

Upon reading several recent issues I just received, I am convinced that this publication is *the very best I have ever seen* in my more than 22 years of researching the John F. Kennedy, and subsequently the Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King assassinations. It is truly a "people's" journal.

Ted Gandolfo  
Chairman, Assassination  
Information Committee  
New York, New York

*Letters should be accompanied by your name, address and telephone number. Letters may have to be edited for reasons of clarity and space. Write to FREEDOM Magazine, 1301 N. Catalina Street, Los Angeles, California 90027.*

# THE BATTLE FOR POWER

## KENNEDY VS. THE CIA

**P**residential power: does it come with the office or must the incumbent fight for it every step of the way? As James David Barber stated in his book, *The Presidential Character*:<sup>1</sup>

"Political power is like nuclear energy: available to create deserts or make them bloom. The mere having of it never yet determined its use. The mere getting of it has not stamped into the powerful some uniform shape."

John F. Kennedy came to Washington with a tremendous amount of style and enough experience to know that he would have to fight to wrest political power from entrenched interests of enormous strength.

If anything hit President Kennedy harder than the utter defeat of the Cuban-exile brigade on the beaches of the Bay of Pigs, it was the realization that he had let himself be talked into that operation by inexperienced, secondary men in the CIA.

CIA Director Allen Dulles had not been there at the time of the final decision-making, nor at the time of the invasion itself. This was a most unusual absence by the man responsible for the entire operation.

In his book, *Kennedy*,<sup>2</sup> Ted Sorenson makes a good case for his doctrine that "the Kennedys never fail."

<sup>1</sup> *The Presidential Character* by James D. Barber. Prentice Hall, Engelwood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1972.

<sup>2</sup> *Kennedy* by Ted Sorenson. Bantam Books, New York, 1965.

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### Part XI in a Series on the CIA and the Vietnam Era by L. Fletcher Prouty

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However, Kennedy did fail in his attempt to gain full control of the CIA and its major partners in the Defense Department, and it was the most crucial failure of his abbreviated presidency. He recognized his adversary during his first term, and as he related confidentially to intimate acquaintances before he began his second term, "When I am re-elected, I am going to break that agency into a thousand pieces."

He meant to do it, too, but the struggle cost him his life.

Former President Harry S. Truman was disturbed when he learned of the murder of Jack Kennedy in Dallas. That experienced old veteran of political wars saw an ominous link between the death of the president and the CIA. Only one month after the terrible event — just time enough to get his thoughts in order and on paper — Truman wrote a column that appeared in *The Washington Post* on December 21, 1963. No one could have expressed doubts about the CIA more

accurately than did Truman:

"For some time I have been disturbed by the way the CIA has been diverted from its original assignment. It has become an operational and at times a policy-making arm of the government. . . . I never had any thought that when I set up the CIA that it would be injected into peacetime cloak-and-dagger operations. Some of the complications and embarrassment that I think we have experienced are in part attributable to the fact that this quiet intelligence arm of the president has been so removed from its intended role that it is being interpreted as a symbol of sinister and mysterious foreign intrigue and a subject for cold war enemy propaganda."

Harry Truman's label of the CIA as "a symbol of sinister and mysterious foreign intrigue. . . ." is, unfortunately, quite accurate.

That "foreign intrigue" included Cuba, Castro and John F. Kennedy, at least in the minds of Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford. This is evidenced in their later writings about the assassination. And it was Lyndon B. Johnson who said the CIA had a "Murder Inc." in the Caribbean.

It is absolutely astounding that when the thoughts of these four ex-presidents turned to the murder of JFK, they all wove a fabric of sinister intrigue that included the CIA in the scenario of his death. These men were telling us something. It is time we listen to and learn from what they have said.

The power of any agency that is enabled to operate in secrecy is boundless. The CIA knew this, and it used its power to its own advantage.

Only three days after the disastrous Cuban defeat, Kennedy set up a Cuban Study Group headed by General Maxwell Taylor to "direct special attention to the lessons which can be learned from recent events in Cuba."

With that action, which received little notice at the time, the president declared war on the agency. From that time on it was "the Kennedy clan vs. entrenched power." The Cuban Study Group was one of the most important creations of the 1,000 days of Kennedy's presidency, and it was the source of one of the major pressure points on the way to the guns of Dallas on November 22, 1963.

President Kennedy was seriously upset by the failure of the CIA and the Joint Chiefs of Staff to provide him with adequate information and support prior to his approval of the brigade landing at the Bay of Pigs. He was also upset by the results of the total breakdown of CIA leadership during the operation that followed that landing.<sup>3</sup>

Kennedy's good friend, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, in recalling a discussion he had with Kennedy shortly after the disaster, said: "This episode seared him. He had experienced the extreme power that these groups had, these various insidious influences of the CIA and the Pentagon, on civilian policy, and I think it raised in his own mind the specter: can Jack Kennedy, president of the United States, ever be strong enough to really rule these two powerful agencies? I think it had a profound effect . . . it shook him up!"

Can any president "ever be strong enough to really rule" the CIA and the Defense Department?

Eisenhower had learned that he was not when a U-2 went down in the heart of Russia contrary to his "no over-flight" orders in 1960.

Kennedy set out to prove that he was, and he might have done so had he had a second term in office. Instead he was

<sup>3</sup> The absence of Dulles and the ineffectiveness of his deputies, Charles P. Cabell and Richard Bissell, is being described in this article as "a breakdown of leadership." One must keep in mind, however, that this apparent "breakdown" may well have been intentional. Our so-called national policy on "anti-communism" has gotten quite a bit of mileage out of Castro and his "communist threat," just as it is doing today in Central America, South America and Africa.

overwhelmed, frustrated and, eventually, murdered.

Kennedy's attempt to gain control of these powerful elements began with the study group. Each member was chosen for particular reasons.

General Maxwell Taylor, for example, had been in retirement since he had publicly differed with the Eisenhower policy concerning the strength of the U.S. Army and had resigned as its chief of staff. He had not been involved in any way with the decision-making process for the Cuban invasion. In fact, Kennedy had never met Taylor prior to 1961.

To augment the military side of the study group, Kennedy selected Admiral Arleigh Burke, considered by many to be the finest chief of naval operations the Navy has ever had — and the man among the Joint Chiefs of Staff who had

**"Former President Harry S. Truman was disturbed when he learned of the murder of Jack Kennedy in Dallas. That experienced old veteran of political wars saw an ominous link between the death of the president and the CIA."**

been the most closely involved in the military elements of the Bay of Pigs planning process. The actual tactical training for the invasion had been placed in the hands of a U.S. Marine Corps colonel; the transport ships had been assembled in the Norfolk, Virginia, area; and much of the logistics support had been channeled through the inactive Navy base at Elizabeth City, North Carolina. All had involved Navy support.

Kennedy's next choice for the group was Machiavellian in its political implications. He appointed CIA Director Allen W. Dulles, the man who in November 1960 had flown to Palm Beach with his deputy, Richard Bissell, to give the president-elect his first official briefing on the plan for the overthrow of Castro. It was Dulles who, on January 28, 1961, gave another briefing on the developing plan to the newly installed president along with his vice president, Lyndon B. Johnson, the secretary of state, Dean Rusk, the secretary of defense, Robert S. McNamara, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Lyman Lemnitzer,



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

*Harry S. Truman, shown here visiting John F. Kennedy shortly after the new president's inauguration, viewed the CIA as "a symbol of sinister and mysterious foreign intrigue."*

among others.

Now, Kennedy had decided to have Allen Dulles sit through this detailed study from beginning to end, to relive the whole scenario as General Taylor interrogated selected officials who had been connected with that operation.

Despite the fact that Allen Dulles was the director of central intelligence when the plan was first presented to President Eisenhower in March 1960, and that he was the man who briefed Kennedy before and after his inauguration, Dulles had not been present at the White House on April 16, 1961, when the final discussions took place and when the go-ahead decision had been made by the president.

Dulles was also not in Washington during the crucial period of the invasion itself to control the activities of his agency. He had taken that weekend off for a sojourn in Puerto Rico.

There is an organization, the Young Presidents Organization, that is closely affiliated with Harvard Business School

*(continued on page 13)*



## THE BATTLE FOR POWER

(continued from page 11)

and with the CIA. It is made up of men who are presidents of their own companies and under 40 years of age. The CIA arranges meetings for them with young leaders in foreign countries for the purpose of opening export-import talks and franchising discussions.

The Young Presidents Organization met in Puerto Rico on the weekend of April 15 and 16, 1961, and Dulles was the principal speaker. Why he accepted — and kept — that appointment at such a crucial time has never been properly explained. Did he prefer to have the Bay of Pigs fail? Did he choose to embarrass the new president?

As Maxwell Taylor's report on the Cuban disaster later stated:

"There was no single authority short of the president capable of coordinating the actions of the CIA, State, Defense, and the USIA [U.S. Information Agency]."

Because of the absence of the director, the CIA's secondary leaders — officials with no combat or command experience — made "the operational decisions which they felt within their authority."

For decisions above them, they were supposed to go to the president. "Mr. Bissell and General Cabell were immediately available for consultation" and, it is crucial to note, "were usually emissaries sent to obtain" higher approvals. In this sense, "emissary" was a far cry from an effective "commander" as Dulles was thought to be.

This task as "emissary" fell far short of effectiveness, as the Taylor report noted:

"Finally, there was the failure to carry the issue to the president when the opportunity was presented and explain to him with proper force the probable military consequences of a last-minute cancel-



*The conspicuous absence of CIA Director Allen Dulles from Washington during the Bay of Pigs invasion had a disastrous effect. Dulles, the man responsible for the entire operation, had taken the weekend off for a sojourn to Puerto Rico.*

lation."

General Taylor suggested that someone ought to have gone directly to the president to explain forcefully the absolute necessity of the air strike against those three T-33 jet trainers that were all the combat air force left to the Cubans.

That was the issue. In its guarded language, Taylor's report never mentioned the Dulles absence, but it discussed this "breakdown of leadership" during the study group meetings with both Allen Dulles and Bobby Kennedy present. We may be sure it was not unnoticed.

President Kennedy rounded out this Cuban Study Group of Taylor, Burke and Dulles with the assignment of the attorney general, his brother, Robert Kennedy. Dulles would not only be reliving the events of the past year; but Bobby would be watching and learning

from his every move. It was a cat-and-mouse game of super-strategy between two able adversaries and their allies.<sup>4</sup>

In that volatile environment, the direct relationship between the failure of the CIA command element to cope with the air strike issue and the absence that weekend of Dulles, the man responsible for the success of the anti-Castro program, became the biggest issue.<sup>5</sup>

For the study group the sequence of issues became quite clear:

a) The president had approved the landings and the essential air strikes to destroy the last three combat aircraft in Castro's air force.

b) Later that evening, McGeorge Bundy had cancelled those air strikes by calling Cabell.

c) Cabell and Bissell, in Dulles' absence, were inherently unqualified to carry the issue back to the president to "explain to him with proper force the probable military consequences of a last-minute cancellation."

d) The study group added: "These restraints included . . . the cancellation of the [air] strikes planned at dawn on D-Day. The last mentioned was probably the most serious as it eliminated the last favorable opportunity to destroy the Castro Air Force on the ground. The cancellation seems to have resulted partly from a failure to make the air strike plan entirely clear in advance to the President and the Secretary of State . . ."

The study group saw this cancellation clearly as the cause of the failure of the whole anti-Castro program that had been initiated in March 1960. To fortify their own professional findings, they called before their group a man who had been instrumental from the earliest days in these decisions. This man was a key Cuban exile named Manuel Antonio de Varona,<sup>6</sup> formerly premier of Cuba before the Batista regime (1952-1959).

(continued on page 14)

<sup>4</sup> The author's office was only a short distance from the rooms in the Pentagon which were used by the Cuban Study Group. He had worked with the CIA on the anti-Castro activities since January 1, 1959. He knew almost all the men who had been called to meet with the study group. Many of them would wait in his office until they were called. Many came back following their testimony and interrogation. One comment was general among them all. Their words were, in effect: "That group is highly charged with the presence of strong individuals. But the most intense man there is the one who sits in a straight-backed chair, separate from the others, and never says a word." That man was Bobby Kennedy. It was well known that he returned to the White House each day to discuss developments with the president and his inner circle; but nothing

on the record gives any indication that he ever broke the stranglehold the CIA had on that investigation, or that he ever became aware of being in the grip of its velvet gloves.

<sup>5</sup> As noted in the April 1986 article in this series, following the president's formal approval at midday of the landing plan, which included air strikes by B-26 aircraft to destroy Castro's remaining three T-33 jet trainers, the air strikes had been cancelled. The Taylor group reported:

"At about 9:30 pm on April 16th, Mr. McGeorge Bundy, Special Assistant to the President, telephoned General C. P. Cabell of the CIA to inform him that the dawn air strikes the following morning should not be launched. . . ."

<sup>6</sup> This entire anti-Castro campaign was fraught with intrigue. This same man, Senor de Varona, was one of the four Cuban exiles who, after flying from the American Legion convention where Nixon spoke in August 1960 to Washington, had gone directly to then-Senator John F. Kennedy's offices in the Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill. From Kennedy's office they went to the Office of the Secretary of Defense in the Pentagon. Kennedy had been in personal touch with de Varona and the others all through this period. This adds another element to the value of his testimony.

The CIA tried to monopolize him; Nixon wooed him, as did Kennedy. Finally he came to the Cuban Study Group and told the whole story. Needless to say, he played all sides — as all "contras" do.

## THE BATTLE FOR POWER

(continued from page 13)

De Varona made the following statement before the Cuban Study Group: "I would like to state that we would be in Cuba today if it was not for the lack of air support that our forces suffered. All those who've returned said that but for three airplanes,<sup>7</sup> they would have been successful in their invasion attempt."

Dulles was the man on the spot.

There is no record of what he said behind those closed doors; but a record was unnecessary. Bobby Kennedy was always there. Despite this maneuver by the Kennedys, however, Dulles still controlled the moves. Few people have the experience to know how such things work under the cloak of secrecy. This is the great weapon of the CIA, and it is why the CIA cannot be stopped — short of eliminating all of its money. All the people who worked on the Bay of Pigs project — Cuban and American — did so under deep cover. CIA agents and military supporting cast members all had pseudonyms and lived cover-story lives. The Cubans with whom they worked had no idea who these agents were, and their own American associates did not know their true names and identities.

Thus, after the anti-Castro program had failed and all participants had been dispersed to the winds, they themselves did not know who had been there with them. This gave Allen Dulles the ace cards in the deal with the study group. General Taylor had no alternative but to ask Dulles for the names of the people — CIA, military and Cuban — to be called before the group.

Dulles weeded out the ones that could tell too much and padded the list with those who knew very little. Although Bobby Kennedy sat there and listened to all of the dialogue, he had no way of realizing that he was hearing a carefully

<sup>7</sup> Those three aircraft, Castro's last combat-capable aircraft, were the T-33 jet trainers that had been spotted by a U-2 reconnaissance aircraft parked wing tip to wing tip in an airfield near Santiago and were the target for the four B-26 aircraft that were supposed to have been launched from the CIA air base at Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua. Had that strike been flown as approved by the president, they would have been destroyed and the invasion would have been successful. Castro would have had no air forces. The brigade on the beach could have countered attacks along the narrow approach causeways while its own substantial air force of hard-hitting B-26 aircraft operated from the air strip the brigade had already captured on the beach.



UPI/BETTMANN NEWSPHOTOS

Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas: the Bay of Pigs "had a profound effect" on John F. Kennedy.

structured scenario. The book he wrote several years later revealed how little he really knew about some of the actual activities.

**"Kennedy's good friend, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, in recalling a discussion he had with Kennedy shortly after the [Bay of Pigs] disaster, said: 'This episode seared him. He had experienced the extreme power that these groups had, these various insidious influences of the CIA and the Pentagon, on civilian policy, and I think it raised in his own mind the specter: can Jack Kennedy, president of the United States, ever be strong enough to really rule these two powerful agencies?'"**

This advantage permitted Dulles and the CIA to shift the blame to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the military. Dulles kept quiet about the shortcomings of his own agency and made it appear that Kennedy's denial of the employment of U.S. Navy fighter aircraft as "air cover" was the real reason for the failure of the project. Since 1961, in fact, the CIA has mounted a vigorous and comprehensive propaganda and revisionist campaign designed to ensure that the public is afforded no opportunity to discover the true facts.

The CIA had kept various elements of the Cuban exile groups apart. Many of them were of different political backgrounds and social levels. They did not get along with each other. Thus, these separate groups were trained in widely separated camps. When it came time to set sail for Cuba, the CIA put some units in the forefront of the brigade and landed them on the beach. At the same time, other units were "lost" at sea and never reached Cuba. Obviously they were the first to return to land back in Louisiana. Their emotional story of the failure to use their units on the beaches has led to much of the misunderstanding of the tactics of the whole operation. The CIA played this up and blamed the U.S. military for the oversight.

It happens that it was the Louisiana elements of the Cuban exile groups and their "mercenary" American trainers who became suspect at the time of President Kennedy's assassination in 1963. This made a good story, because the patsy in that murder was a former U.S. Marine Corps enlisted man named Lee Harvey Oswald. He had been born in New Orleans and had been active there with a "Fair Play for Cuba" organization during the early 1960s. Many assassination theorists have carried this presumed assassin's trail from Dallas through the "Oswald" scenario to New Orleans, and thence to Cuba and Castro himself.

This is a futile exercise, because Oswald was only the patsy, not the murderer. Yet this trail of golden apples continues to divert the unwary and the overeager.

The April 1986 article in this series mentioned a most unusual article that appeared in *The Reader's Digest* of November 1964 in which the author, Richard Nixon, tied Cuba, Castro and John F. Kennedy together. Nixon is one of those who, for various reasons, want the American public to believe Oswald was the "lone assassin."

At another time, Nixon wanted the  
(continued on page 32)

## THE BATTLE FOR POWER

(continued from page 14)

American public to believe that he and Henry Kissinger had valid reasons for their genocidal bombardment of Cambodia with B-52s.

This echelon of hidden motives and public smokescreens is where Kennedy underestimated the power and skill of the CIA. He did not get to the root of the disaster of the Bay of Pigs invasion, and as a result, he became a victim — as have many others — of the sinister power of those agencies of the government that operate in total secrecy, knowing that they do not have to account to anyone for their actions.

None of this should be taken to mean that Kennedy was not wise to the ways of Washington, nor that he was not capable of mounting extremely shrewd political maneuvers of his own. He was, and he did — but he was up against impossible odds.

When he set up the Cuban Study Group, he made it appear as if he were investigating a failed operation and nothing more. This was not quite the case, however. It was only part of the story.

Kennedy's precise instructions to General Taylor were "... to study our governmental practices and programs in the areas of military and paramilitary guerrilla and anti-guerrilla activity which fell short of outright war with a view to strengthening our work in this area."

This was the group's real directive, and it is what Kennedy really wanted to discover — for himself and for the future.

Kennedy did not like all that he found when he came to the White House. As he moved to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, a huge tidal wave that had been set in motion many months earlier loomed up to engulf him and his new administration.

The new president did not like the way covert operations had been run during the 1950s. As a long-term member of Congress, he was fully aware of the record of failed intelligence operations throughout the years.

With the Bay of Pigs disaster as a case study, Kennedy directed General Taylor to dissect the entire system and to come up with something better. This was an issue that divided the study group and widened the abyss between Kennedy and Dulles; yet Kennedy continued to make use of Dulles in his desire to probe the real depths of the murky business of



UPI/BETTMANN NEWSPHOTOS

*Richard Bissell, CIA deputy director for plans, was "ineffective" during the Bay of Pigs.*

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**"Only three days after the disastrous Cuban defeat, Kennedy set up a Cuban Study Group headed by General Maxwell Taylor. . . . With that action, which received little notice at the time, the president declared war on the agency."**

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intelligence.

By the middle of June 1961, the Cuban Study Group had gathered a remarkable series of documents. For 25 years these key materials have been concealed, ignored and (sometimes purposely) misinterpreted.

To fully understand the forces which were at work during Kennedy's presidency, it is necessary at this point to lift the curtain of secrecy on a part of top-level government activity which is seldom, if ever, represented accurately.

The work of the Cuban Study Group was unequaled in its level of confidentiality. Even the word for its classification is so secret as to be relatively unknown: they worked under the rarely used ULTRASENSITIVE label, that cosmic world above TOP SECRET.

The reason for this lies in the delicacy of certain types of intelligence activities, namely covert operations by one government against another.

Even the use of the word "against," as

in "against a government," is not always accurate. Sometimes the target is an otherwise friendly and allied government, but it is found to be essential to acquire information or to confirm information that cannot be obtained by any other means.

For example, the United States has flown the U-2 over many friendly countries, such as Israel, to confirm certain situations for ourselves with our own eyes and ears.

Although it is always assumed that national sovereignty is inviolate, in today's world national sovereignty has become an archaic and unworkable sham. It does not exist even in the great powers, and it is continuously violated — secretly.

It has always been the rule that any covert operation must be performed in such a manner as to remain truly secret, or, failing that, that the role of the U.S. government in the operation could be disclaimed plausibly. The U.S. has spent untold tens of millions of dollars to "sterilize" entire aircraft and other equipment, so that if such a plane on a secret mission crashed while within the bounds of the target country, no one would be able to find the slightest evidence in the wreckage to incriminate the U.S. All labels, name tags, and serial numbers are removed in such circumstances, and the crew uniforms are even made out of non-U.S. fabric to enhance denial. Weapons used are "sterilized" at a special underground facility overseas, and all are foreign-made.

Under the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947, the CIA operates at the direction of the National Security Council (NSC). The intent of this law is to place the origin for any covert operation at the top. This neutralizes and eliminates lesser matters and emphasizes the importance of those which the NSC actually originates and directs.

The NSC can direct a designated department or agency — not necessarily the CIA — to carry it out. Covert operations are normally done on a small scale, or else they could not be kept a secret. Being small, they can usually be handled by the CIA, sometimes augmented by the resources of the Defense Department. These are legal considerations which, by the way, serve to underscore the foolhardiness and deceit of those activities that have been under way in Central America in recent years.

Over the years, especially during the 1950s, when Allen Dulles was director of the CIA and his brother, John Foster

Dulles, was the secretary of state, this legal precision became more and more vague. Allen Dulles became accustomed to taking proposals that originated with the agency to the NSC — in those days to the "10/2" or "5412/2" Committee — for its approval.

In most cases, he would receive the committee's approval, sometimes with stipulations. But it was the CIA that had originated these plans, not the NSC, and this is a highly significant point.

The difference between a plan of highest national interest which originates within the NSC and is then given to the CIA by direction of the NSC, and a plan which is originated within the CIA and which is then presented to the NSC for its approval can be enormous. It raises fundamental questions, such as "Who runs this government?" and "Is the government being operated under the law?"

These questions were foremost in Kennedy's mind when he became president.

It had been in March 1960 that the anti-Castro program had been devised by

**"Since 1961 . . . the CIA has mounted a vigorous and comprehensive propaganda and revisionist campaign [regarding the Bay of Pigs] designed to ensure that the public is afforded no opportunity to discover the true facts."**

the CIA and that the deputy director for plans, Richard Bissell, had briefed President Eisenhower and his NSC. At that time, Bissell had gained their approval for a rather modest program. It was the CIA that took this approval and turned a program intended to support small over-the-beach landings and paradrop operations into an invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs.

Kennedy inherited the accumulated

actions of one full year of this program, and he had such strong doubts about it that he did not approve the invasion until the day before it actually took place. The CIA had launched its invasion fleet, small though it was, a full week before the day of the landing. The president was therefore faced with a virtual fait accompli before he had an opportunity to make a decision. Even then Kennedy knew he had been had, and it did not take him long to confirm it.

Moreover, the tidal wave that engulfed Kennedy drew its immense power from many other sources. The enormity of the various schemes that had been set in motion long before he was elected was staggering.

By May 1960, for example, after the anti-Castro program had begun, the stage was prepared for the entry of American troops into the Vietnam war. The master war-planners took advantage of the period while the country was involved in a presidential election — when the pow-

*(continued on page 34)*

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## THE BATTLE FOR POWER

(continued from page 33)

ers of the presidency were at their lowest ebb. Eisenhower was not told what was going on, and it would be some time before the new president would be able to do anything about it after he had been informed.

After eight years of peace, the national mood for detente was strong, and an incident was needed to reverse this. Such an incident was conveniently provided.

On May 1, 1960, a CIA U-2 spy plane piloted by Gary Powers was launched on what would have been its longest flight ever, directly across the Soviet Union from Pakistan to Norway. When it crash-landed in the heart of Russia, Khrushchev cancelled what had been planned as the "ultimate summit conference" with President Eisenhower in Paris.<sup>8</sup>

This incident served to reverse the trend toward detente which had been carefully orchestrated by Khrushchev and Eisenhower, the two aging World War II veterans.

With the summit conference disrupted, the road to Saigon, with its eventual \$220 billion in munitions sales (and 58,000 American deaths) was clear.

The following recapitulation will demonstrate how meticulously this road to Saigon was planned by experts in the war-making business.

In order to set this plan irrevocably into motion, the powers-that-be formulated a counterinsurgency plan for Vietnam. The events which followed the formation of this plan form an intriguing series of incidents.

Just prior to Kennedy's election, the U.S. Army Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, was rejuve-



*The president's brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, scrutinized Allen Dulles' every move during the post-Bay of Pigs investigation.*

<sup>8</sup> It was Allen Dulles himself who revealed that the U-2 had not been shot down as the Soviets and the rest of the world had believed. Although Dulles revealed this information in sworn testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday, May 31, 1960, the same month in which the crash landing occurred, his testimony was not released until 1982 and has been generally ignored by the American press.

His revelation was staggering, however. No one has ever fully investigated the possibility that this flight, launched in direct violation of President Eisenhower's order that there be no over-flights before the summit conference, might have been ordered carelessly by a small but powerful cabal that intended for it to fail and, thereby, to cause the disruption of the summit conference. Based on a number of other strange events related to this particular flight, there is a strong possibility that this could be true.

nated. A new curriculum was written which combined counterinsurgency with pacification tactics which were already being employed by the French forces in Algeria, and with civic action programs borrowed from the U.S. Army's Civil Affairs and Military Government School at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

This new Special Forces "Green Beret" school at Fort Bragg received powerful aid from the CIA as well as from the Office of Special Operations in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. The strength of the forces was increased, and the Special Warfare Center opened a new counterinsurgency school for U.S. and foreign military students in November 1960.

President Kennedy was elected on

November 8, 1960.

Two days later, on November 10, Kennedy asked Allen Dulles to stay on as the director of the CIA.

It was announced on November 11 that three battalions of President Diem's elite guard had taken part in a "coup d'état" at the presidential palace in Saigon. That incident, of course, was quickly suppressed by Diem's forces.

Under the cover of that contrived action, President Diem ordered the arrest of what was known as the Caravelle Group, 18 political opponents of the Diem brothers' dictatorial regime. These 18 men had in no way participated in the "coup." They had published a scholarly "Manifesto of the Eighteen," and for this

they were thrown in jail.

General Edward Lansdale, a leader in the development of the counterinsurgency plan for Vietnam, author of the new Special Forces curriculum for the Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, and an old friend of President Diem, took advantage of Kennedy's election and of Dulles' reappointment to make a sudden, unannounced trip to Saigon. The trip was for the purposes of winning Diem's support and cooperation for the counterinsurgency program in Vietnam and of furthering Lansdale's own chances, with Diem's and Dulles' support, of being named ambassador to Saigon by Kennedy.

During this politically important visit, which set the stage for so many of the events that followed, Lansdale wrote a stirring report on the situation in Vietnam for his boss, Secretary of Defense Thomas Gates. This report was brought to the attention of key members of the new Kennedy team at the time of the inauguration.

In late January 1961, Lansdale was

**"The power of any agency that is enabled to operate in secrecy is boundless. The CIA knew this, and it used its power to its own advantage."**

summoned to the White House to meet with the president and officials from the Department of Defense and the Department of State — new people who had come in with the inauguration. He was warmly greeted by the president and commended for his excellent report. Kennedy also informed him that he could expect to be sent back to Vietnam in a high capacity.<sup>9</sup>

On April 12, 1961, a memo was written by Kennedy adviser Walt Rostow which was supportive of the Lansdale report. Lansdale, on April 19, submitted another memo of his own to his new boss, Secretary of State Robert S. McNamara. Up to this time, Lansdale's strongest support had come from Allen Dulles and Ngo Dinh Diem.

*(continued on page 36)*

<sup>9</sup> The author worked in the same office with General Lansdale at that time. Those in the Office of Special Operations and the Office of the Secretary of Defense were certain, from what they had heard firsthand, that Lansdale would be named the next ambassador to Saigon.

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## THE BATTLE FOR POWER

(continued from page 35)

For more than a year, the anti-Castro program and the counterinsurgency program for Vietnam had been running simultaneously.

On April 20, 1961, the brigade was defeated in Cuba. The coincidence — or, perhaps, the coordination — of the dates of the surrender of the brigade at the Bay of Pigs and the abrupt turn toward Saigon is noteworthy, for the Americanization of the warfare in Vietnam also began on April 20, 1961.

It was on that date that President Kennedy, distraught by the disaster in Cuba, accepted the counterinsurgency program for Vietnam and directed Deputy Secretary of Defense Roswell Gilpatric to make recommendations for a series of actions to prevent the communist domination of the government of Vietnam. Gilpatric and Lansdale headed a task force established to carry out those instructions from the president.

April 20, 1961, was the day Kennedy began to understand how the CIA and the Defense Department operated in this amazing world of clandestine operations. It was the day Allen Dulles' influence in the Kennedy administration ended, and with the eclipse of Dulles and the CIA, Lansdale's dream of being ambassador to Saigon collapsed.

Kennedy adopted the concept of counterinsurgency as his own, as he shifted his thoughts and energies from the failure in Cuba to the future in Indochina.

The wheels of the counterinsurgency juggernaut were picking up speed. During April 1961, the director of the joint staffs,<sup>10</sup> General Earle Wheeler, and Secretary McNamara decided to create a new section within the structure of the Joint Staff that would be dedicated to Counterinsurgency and Special Activities. The counterinsurgency element of that office was to be the cap on all military services in support of the counterinsurgency program for Vietnam. The Special Activities were a combination of Special Operations — i.e., the military support of the clandestine activities of the CIA — and Special Plans, the special art of military

<sup>10</sup> The director of the joint staffs was the senior permanently assigned officer in the then 400-man office which supported the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Wheeler went on to become chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a position he held for some six years.



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

General Maxwell D. Taylor

**“The new president did not like the way covert operations had been run during the 1950s. . . . With the Bay of Pigs disaster as a case study, Kennedy directed General Taylor to dissect the entire system and to come up with something better.”**

cover and deception.<sup>11</sup>

To balance the rapid growth of the U.S. Army Special Forces program and its new Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, General Curtis E. LeMay, chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force, announced that in April 1961, a combat crew training squadron had been activated at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. The mission of that special squadron included counterinsurgency, unconventional warfare and psychological warfare operations. Shortly thereafter, this cadre was expanded significantly to become a Special Air Warfare Center that included an Air Com-

<sup>11</sup> The author was the first chief of the Office of Special Operations and continued in that office until 1964, while General Lyman Lemnitzer, and later, General Maxwell Taylor were the chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

mando wing and a Combat Applications group. Without delay, Special Air Warfare units from the center at Eglin were deployed to South Vietnam.<sup>12</sup>

It should be noted that both the Green Berets of the Army Special Forces, and the Air Commandos of the Air Force had been developed and trained in close cooperation with the CIA, and upon their arrival in South Vietnam they operated under the control of CIA agents. They were very special organizations. They were what President Reagan has been trying to duplicate, with some of the same people, in Central America today. What Reagan has been unable to create is a Nicaraguan George Washington. The first thing Lansdale did in Vietnam was to create a “father of his country” in the person of Ngo Dinh Diem.

By the end of April 1961, a revised counterinsurgency program<sup>13</sup> had been submitted to President Kennedy, without the Lansdale material. Kennedy lost no time in implementing many of its recommendations. The first troop movement, the deployment of a 400-man Special Forces group to South Vietnam, was made to accelerate the training of the South Vietnamese army. This move was directed by President Kennedy under the terms of National Security Action Memorandum (NSAM) 52, issued on May 11, 1961.

By April 20, Kennedy knew that if he was ever going to gain full control of the CIA, he was going to have to understand what went wrong with the anti-Castro program and what he had to do to take over control of the counterinsurgency program for Vietnam. This accounts for his strong directive to General Maxwell Taylor written the next day, April 22, 1961:

“ . . . to study our governmental practices and programs in the areas of military and paramilitary, guerrilla and anti-guerrilla activities which fell short of outright war with a view to strengthening our work in this area.”

With the collapse of the brigade in Cuba, Kennedy lost no time in getting to the heart of the matter.

On June 13, 1961, Maxwell Taylor

<sup>12</sup> One of the reasons Eglin Air Force Base was selected for this program was that a major CIA air facility had been established there a few years earlier and had become the worldwide center for CIA air operations activities, excluding the U-2 program and those within the Air America proprietary air-line infrastructure.

<sup>13</sup> Said to have been developed under the leadership of George Ball in the Department of State.

forwarded his "letter to the president." It is a most remarkable document. Kennedy and his inner circle studied it carefully and on June 28, President Kennedy issued one of the most unusual directives ever to leave the White House under any president in history.

This directive, NSAM 55, said in part:

"I wish to inform the Joint Chiefs of Staff as follows with regard to my views of their relations to me in Cold War Operations: "The Joint Chiefs of Staff have a responsibility for the defense of the nation in the Cold War similar to that which they have in conventional hostilities."

**"This echelon of hidden motives and public smokescreens is where Kennedy underestimated the power and skill of the CIA. He did not get to the root of the disaster of the Bay of Pigs invasion, and as a result, he became a victim — as have many others — of the sinister power of those agencies of the government that operate in total secrecy, knowing that they do not have to account to anyone for their actions."**

This is a revolutionary statement when one considers who wrote it and the circumstances under which it was promulgated.

The Cold War is a massive global struggle that exists only in vague terms. A Cold War operation, however, is a very specific term which refers to a secret, clandestine activity.

Traditionally, the uniformed services of a country have never become involved in clandestine activities in peacetime.

Therefore, with NSAM 55 President Kennedy was making the Joint Chiefs of Staff — the military forces of the United States — responsible for the Cold War just as they would be responsible for a real, declared state of war among nations. This was a radical departure from the traditional rules of warfare among the family of nations.

Kennedy was directing that the U.S. military forces be used against any Cold



UPI/BETTMANN NEWSPHOTOS

*Entrenched power sources, as personified by the CIA and its allies, were to prove more than a match for the young president.*

War adversary, whether or not there had been a declaration of war. This was a revolutionary doctrine, especially for the U.S., and if these presidential directives had become operationally effective, they would have drastically changed the course of the war in Vietnam.

They would have effectively removed the CIA from Cold War operations and limited the CIA to its lawful responsibility — the coordination of intelligence. In many situations, these directives would have made the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff the day-to-day counterpart of the secretary of state.

At the same time, these documents stated the Kennedy position, clearly set-

ting forth his battle plan. Kennedy was taking charge, if he could, and he was relying upon the Joint Chiefs of Staff for assistance.

He did not know it at the time, but with the issuance of these directives, he had only 18 months left to win — or to die in the attempt.

It was an odd twist of fate that led Kennedy to choose the Joint Chiefs of Staff over the CIA to become his strong right arm. He did this because of Maxwell Taylor's letter.

By mid-summer, Taylor had become Kennedy's military and intelligence adviser in the White House. Kennedy

*(continued on page 38)*



## THE BATTLE FOR POWER

(continued from page 37)

appointed him to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in October 1962. It was Maxwell Taylor — not Jack Kennedy or anyone else in the White House — who, representing the members of the Cuban Study Group, actually wrote the paragraphs in NSAM 55 that are cited above. Those words, along with many others like them from the same series of documents, were taken absolutely verbatim from that long-hidden "letter to the president" that Taylor wrote on June 13, 1961.

Why did Taylor, Burke and Dulles, all members of the Cuban Study Group, unanimously put those words into the mouth of Jack Kennedy? Why did Kennedy accept them and publish them with his signature without delay?

Having been given such vast powers by their president, where were the Joint Chiefs of Staff when the guns were fired in the streets of Dallas only 18 months later? Where was Lansdale? Where was Allen Dulles? Why was Kennedy so alone by the time he made that fateful trip to Texas in 1963?

**"Kennedy asserted the power of the presidency which he assumed he had, but when his orders were delivered to the men to whom they were addressed, he discovered that his power was meaningless. His directives were quietly placed in the bureaucratic files and forgotten. There have been few times in the history of this nation when the limits of the power of the president have been so nakedly exposed."**

Kennedy asserted the power of the presidency which he assumed he had, but when his orders were delivered to the men to whom they were addressed, he discovered that his power was meaningless. His directives were quietly placed in the bureaucratic files and forgotten.

There have been few times in the history of this nation when the limits of the power of the president have been so nakedly exposed.

In the great struggle between Kennedy and the entrenched power sources of Washington, as personified by the CIA and its allies in the Defense Department and elsewhere, the president learned that his weapons were utterly powerless. His directives went completely unheeded. ▲

*Next issue: The outcome of the great power struggle that cost John F. Kennedy his life.*

*L. Fletcher Prouty is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel. A pilot during World War II, Colonel Prouty rose through the Defense Department chain of command to a point where all CIA military activities were channeled through him.*

*Between 1955 and 1963 Colonel Prouty served as chief of special operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and in a similar capacity with the Office of Special Operations in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and headed the Special Operations Office for the U.S. Air Force. All of these positions were charged with the military support of the clandestine operations of the CIA.*

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DOWNING FINDS HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS PROPE INCOMPLETE...TED GANDOLFO, EDITOR.

Former Congressman Thomas Downing, who introduced the original congressional ammendment, (#204) in 1975, which proposed the congressional investigation into the JFK assassination, and myself, had a brief conversation on July 1, 1986 relating to that inquiry. Here is a verbatim excerpt of the conversation:

- TG) Mr. Downing, let me ask you something. Since you were integral in the constituting of the House Committee in the first place, how do you feel about their work?
- TD) The Committee work?
- TG) Yes.
- TD) I think that..of course I got off right after it became active, and I followed it very closely. I did not know the inner workings of the Committee but I thought they went at it very aggressively, and their conclusion, of course, was not as strong as I thought it would be. I thought there were a lot more leads that could have been developed...
- TG) Exactly.
- TD) Put of course the most startling one was the shot theory..the 3 or 4 shots, but there must have been better leads than that.
- TG) There were.
- TD) Because there are hundreds of inconsistencies.
- TG) I talked at the time to Jim Garrison..
- TD) Oh, yeah, the District Attorney.
- TG) Yeah, and he said that a 5-man team of investigators headed by Clifford Fenton of the Committee went to New Orleans and secured absolute and massive evidence of a C.I.A. conspiracy which killed President Kennedy, and that Robert Blakey suppressed ALL of that information. I'm still talking to Garrison almost on a daily basis because I'm trying to have his..get his book published..no-one wants to publish it..he's just written a fantastic book called "A Farewell To Justice" sub-titled "The CIA And The...
- TD) Yeah, I believe you told me that he can't get anybody to publish it.
- TG) That's right..there is one magazine publisher who has X it and they'd like to publish it but there are a lot of things going on. Anyway, what I've done is, well, during the time, I spoke several times to other researchers..I've done many radio and TV shows on my own across the country.. one with you. Do you remember that one, by the way?
- TD) I seem to remember that..
- TG) I beg your pardon?
- TD) I DO remember that I believe. There were a number of them, Ted, of course, and I believe I recall one with you.
- TG) Yeah, well I charge, on many radio shows, TV shows, that Robert Blakey is a cover-up artist who suppressed MANY elements of a conspiracy, and that he was sent to be the chief counsel to put distance between the CIA and the actual murder.
- TD) I know nothing about that.
- TG) Well I do, and I'm still getting out newsletters and tapes, including a documentary I produced.. 22 hours.. called "The House Committee Coverup". A lot of people are still interested in the case.
- TD) Yeah, I'm glad to hear a re-interest in it. I'll be glad to help you. I've really got to go now.
- TG) O.K. Thank you very much.
- TD) O.K. Ted, bye-bye.
- TG) Bye-bye. (End of conversation)

July 5, 1986

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CONGRESSMAN GONZALES "VERY DISSATISFIED" WITH HOUSE ASSASSINATION JFK PROBEWILL REED GARRISON'S NEW BOOK RE C.I.A. COMPLICITY IN JFK MURDER EVIDENCEHE SAYS HE MAY ADDRESS CONGRESS CONGRESS OF GARRISON'S EVIDENCE INVOLVING CIA

During a phone conversation I had with Congressman Henry Gonzales today, for about 45 minutes, he confided to me that he was, and remains, "very dissatisfied with the conclusions reached by the House Select Committee On Assassinations relating to the JFK assassination. Gonzales was the original sponsor of a congressional amendment calling for a congressional inquiry into the JFK case. We discussed at length the committee's work, Blakey's covering up of the facts in addition to Garrison's massive evidence of direct CIA complicity in the "crime of the century". I asked him if he held to the belief, shared by Garrison, myself and several others, that the CIA had, at bare minimal, a hand in the murder of JFK. He admitted that he did. I then told him of Garrison's new manuscript/book detailing this fact and asked him what he would do if, upon reading it, it were PROVEN to him what Garrison's assertions specified. He told me, "Ted, I would go to the floor of Congress and bring this matter to their attention, of course." I asked him to repeat that and he did so. I told him that I would contact Garrison immediately with this information and advise him to immediately send the complete manuscript to Gonzales. I then made a taped copy of the complete conversation between myself and Gonzales and, along with covering explanatory letter, sent it to Garrison. As the Steve Allen song goes, "This could be the start of something BIG."

Some verbatim quotes follow:

IG) There's no question in my mind that both the CIA and the FBI were very very apprehensive about whatever the Committee (on assass.) was headed onto.

EG) Were you satisfied with their (HSCA) conclusions?

IG) Absolutely NOT! They're contradictory. How can you say in a report that you reached the conclusion it was a conspiracy.. that means there were more than one..and then say that this is something that the FBI and the other executive branch..appropriate executive branch agencies should investigate, but haven't done..that's one of the recommendations of the Blakey (chief counsel) Committee. Their finding was conclusive that it was a conspiracy. You know, this is contradictory. You don't come out and say 'I think it was a conspiracy,' without saying 'I think so-and-so-and so-and-so was involved.

EG) But they said 'organized crime'.

IG) Well, they said 'organized crime', but they insinuated that organized crime ALONE without the help of some other..(laughing)heh-heh...

EG) Like the CIA.

IG) Why, sure! Or rogue elements in the CIA, which is what I prefer to believe.

EG) You believe that?

IG) Yes.

EG) Well, I KNOW it from Mr. Garrison.

IG) Is that right?

EG) I've seen...

IG) Well, I have no reason to ever, ever question Mr. Garrison. I have nothing but respect for him.

EG) If Mr. Garrison presented you with definite evidence of CIA complicity to kill the president, and, in fact, if he would prove that to you, would you act upon that now?

IG) I would raise the issue, yes.

EG) You would?

EG) Yes.  
 TG) Before Congress?  
 EG) Absolutely, I mean, you know, where else would I report it?  
 TG) Yes. ah-huh. alright, er, if you don't mind I would like to write to Jim and, uh, have him forward the evidence that he has put together in a book to you..  
 EG) If it's not an imposition, I would appreciate it very much.  
 TG) Alright then, er, it's certainly NOT an imposition, and I will also, with your permission, tell him what you've just told me.  
 EG) Yes sir.  
 TG) That if you are convinced of what his allegations and evidence, that you will bring the matter up before..on the floor of the House?  
 EG) I certainly WILL!

EG) The conclusions of the Committee are just absolutely contradictory to me, and unacceptable. Let me put it that way.  
 TG) Unacceptable.  
 EG) Unacceptable.

EG) I thought it was highly unsatisfactory (The HSCA investigation). To reach the conclusions they did dogmatically and then leave it at that without any real supportive and documented base, er, I would say the answer to that is I'M NOT SATISFIED!

TG) You're not. In your opinion, to what you said before, you share my and Garrison's belief that the CIA WAS involved?

EG) Yes, er, to what extent, you know, er, I prefer to think in this surmise that CIA involvement perhaps involved rogue elements, even though the CIA has been out of control all along and it still is.  
 TG) Yes.

EG) They can do anything and nobody gives a damn to find out why.  
 TG) They're unaccountable for anything..

EG) So I suspect that..yes, there there was questionable, unsatisfying..very irregular and very inefficient behaviour on the part of both the CIA and the FBI.

TG) Behaviour?  
 EG) Yes sir!

TG) In terms of what?  
 EG) This is what I'm talking about, totally unacceptable, almost criminally negligent behaviour on the part of these 2 agencies. (CIA&FBI)

EG) O.K., I will get in touch with Garrison and tell him that you're interested in seeing his manuscript.

EG) If I'm still a member of the Congress, I WILL bring it to the attention of the Congress.

EG) Well, then you remain a great man in my opinion.

EG) Well, thank you, Mr. Gandolfo, I hope I'll earn that and merit it.

EG) Well you did already today. Thank you very much for your time and continued efforts in this matter, Mr. Gonzales.  
 EG) Thank you, Ted..goodbye.

The above are just some of the verbatim statements made during this conversation.

To those of you many subscribers who wish to express support for Congressman's Gonzales' brave stand on this issue, please express your thoughts to him at: Congressman Henry B. Gonzales- 2413 Rayburn Building- Washington, D.C.-20515. I would also appreciate your sending me copies of your letters to him. Ted Gandolfo-1214 First Avenue-New York, N.Y.-10021- (212)288-1596. Thank you.

Congressman Henry B. Gonzales  
413 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ted Gandolfo, Chairman: 285  
Assassination Information  
Committee  
1214 First Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10021  
Phone: (212) 288-1596  
July 6, 1986

Dear Congressman Gonzales,

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you, as a long-time admirer of yours, for being so very kind in spending the time discussing the ramifications surrounding the investigation which was conducted by the House Select Committee On Assassinations, due largely to your great efforts in being instrumental in causing it to come into existence back in late 1976. For that effort, we all owe you a debt of gratitude.

I have contacted Jim Garrison and apprised him of the fact that you would very much appreciate his sending you the complete manuscript which he has recently written re the JFK assassination. You will be receiving it shortly. Upon reading it, I'm certain in my belief that, being the honest man you are, that you will then proceed, as you told me, to inform your many colleagues, on the floor of the HOUSE, of the definitive evidence of C.I.A. complicity in the JFK assassination as presented by Mr. Garrison to you. By so doing, you will again be serving the public interest in making this evidence and information available to them in the interests of truth, honor and justice.

Having researched this odious crime since it occurred, and having compiled, easily the largest tape-recorded, all-inclusive library in the world on this subject..more than 5,000 hours in toto, and having appeared as guest expert on more than 250 radio and television shows, including my own hourly, weekly cable TV show entitled "Assassination U.S.A.", I have, as I mentioned to you when we spoke, informed citizens of this entire country of your great stand and accomplishments on this matter. I am presently sending newsletters to more than 2,500 subscribers all across this land, keeping them informed as to the relevant developments and information relating to the JFK assassination. You would be amazed at how much interest there remains in the public mind because of their, as yet, dissatisfaction with especially the "investigations" and general conclusions reached by the House Assassinations Committee in early 1979. I am convinced that their hunger for the TRUTH will never die, judging from my mail.

I would greatly appreciate your keeping me informed as to future developments and actions on your part after you have completed reading Jim Garrison's historic manuscript. I, of course, will then inform my many subscribers of your great stand on this matter and of those future developments.

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Respectfully yours,  
*Ted Gandolfo*



# Court of Appeal

FOURTH CIRCUIT  
STATE OF LOUISIANA

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421 LOYOLA AVENUE  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70112

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DAVID R. M. WILLIAMS  
JOAN BERNARD ARMSTRONG

August 8, 1986

JUDGES Mr. Ted Gandolfo  
1214 First Avenue  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Ted:

Recently I received a rather strident letter from Mr. Paul Hoch criticizing judgments made by me when I was District Attorney of New Orleans back in the 1960's. I was not aware that Mr. Hoch has had any experience in criminal prosecutions. It has been my policy not to reply to gratuitous critiques of my former office when made by individuals with neither the standing nor the professional experience to make such criticisms.

However, inasmuch as it is not a personal letter - to say the least - and inasmuch as the nature of Mr. Hoch's assault points out a problem which should concern every assassination critic, I pass it on to you. Whether you think it is deserving of reproduction I leave up to you. Because this is 1986 and the forces which killed John Kennedy still remain firmly in control, I personally cannot get too excited about such remote problems as, for example, the pedantic question of how many angels could dance on the head of a pin a number of years ago.

Mr. Hoch has a finely tuned aggression and is wonderfully ferocious. His aggression might be more useful, however, if it were directed not against another critic but against the common foe of us all: the War Machine and its defenders.

The unfortunate thing about the position which Mr. Hoch has taken - attacking a critic who for 17 years has been attempting to point out the culpability of the C.I.A. in the assassination - is that some people who do not know any better might draw the conclusion that his sympathies are really with the Agency.

Regards,

Enclosure: Letter from Mr. Paul Hoch

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Ted Gandolfo  
1214 First Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10021  
Sept. 15, 1986

3:30 p.m.

COPIES OF THIS LETTER SENT TO GARRISON, LANE, SPRAGUE'S (A & E SPRAGUE'S)

Hi, Jim, Mark, Dick, Dick,

I just got a call from Mae Brussell, who remembered what I told her..of what Lane told me during the HSCA "investigation" re Robert Blakey's defending Mafia man Moe Dalitz and representing him in a large sum suit Dalitz brought against Penthouse magazine at the time.

She told me to rush out and get copies of the Wall Street Journal and explained a bit of the story. Well, here's the story, of course NOT mentioning Blakey at all in it, but it has a great significance.

So I bought these editions for you all. Think of the implications, especially considering SOB Blakey's involvement, in it all.

Then, while representing someone of the Mafia, he concludes the HSCA farce by saying that "organized crime killed JFK.

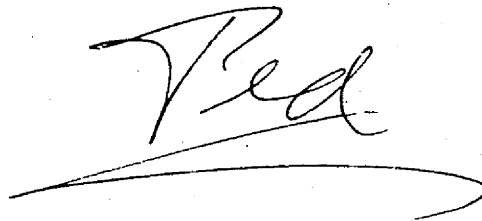
Can you believe what this bastard Blakey has done?

I'm putting this into my next newsletter ADDING Blakey's role and subterfugeous bullshit re the HSCA findings. I think he does it with mirrors or something!!

Thought you'd all like to see this article in it's entirety.

Very best regards, and hope you've all been receiving my mail I recently sent you all.

Pest,



Hello, Mr. Kwitny. My name is Ted Gandolfo. I am the Chairman of the Assassination Information Committee based in New York, and I have researched the assassination of President Kennedy for nearly 23 years now. At the outset, I'd like to commend you for your great article in yesterday's Wall Street Journal relating to the organized crime figures and Penthouse magazine. I would like to inform you of information which is a fantastic tie-in to your story. As you wrote, 2 months after the Penthouse magazine article appeared, organized crime figure Moe Dalitz and his cronies filed a lawsuit against Penthouse for the charges they had made against them. That is now known, thanks to you. But what remains unknown is the fact that G. Robert Blakey, who became the chief counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations 2 years later, in 1977, has an interesting background relating to the lawsuit against Penthouse. When Moe Dalitz and his associates filed that lawsuit against Penthouse, G. Robert Blakey came forward and submitted an affidavit in court, in support of Moe Dalitz. Then, we researchers witnessed a sort of schizophrenic performance by Blakey by, firstly, lending his support to an organized crime figure, Moe Dalitz, then later, as chief counsel of the Select Committee on Assassinations, he stated his proveably erroneous conclusion that President Kennedy was assassinated by, of all groups, ORGANIZED CRIME!!

I think that THIS information <sup>\*about Mr. Blakey's dual role</sup> should be made available to your readers in the interest of TRUTH, HONOR AND JUSTICE!!



Ted Gandolfo of New York City has begun an Assassination U.S.A. Newsletter of which two issues have so far been received. The emphasis in this material is on Gandolfo's critical writings with reference to the work of the HSCA, especially Chief Counsel Blakey. The early issues have also featured material from researcher Richard Sprague, some of which also appeared in THE KENNEDY LOYALIST in recent issues. Sprague's copy of the notorious "secrecy agreement" imposed by Blakey is reprinted here. As Gandolfo's profile in this issue shows, he maintains a huge collection of audio and video materials on the assassination, duplications of which are offered for sale in the Newsletter.

New publications, out and expected: Alias Oswald by W.R. Morris and Robert Cutler has been published; a copy has just arrived and will likely be reviewed in the next issue. Henry Hurt's long-awaited Reasonable Doubt, to be published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, is due for publication any day; hopefully this book also will be reviewed in the next issue. Further down the road in terms of publication is a new book by Jim Garrison, A Farewell to Justice, in which he promises to reveal some of the evidence he developed that has never come out and that he says he gave to HSCA investigator Clifford Fenton, only to have this information suppressed by the Committee. Through Gandolfo, Garrison is soliciting direct inquiries to express interest in the book; apparently he will self-publish it if there is sufficient expression of such interest. Write: Judge Jim Garrison, 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, 421 Loyola Ave., Suite 210, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112.

Records of the H.S.C.A. are classified for the next 50 years and the records of Congress are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act. What could these two documents possibly contain to withhold them from the public for half a lifetime?

As a result of my desire to learn the proper means by which to introduce a bill into Congress to declassify within reason as many H.S.C.A. documents as possible and to complain about my forwarded P.B.I. mail having been opened as well as other issues,

"2766" Carcano actually reached Dallas together from Century Arms Inc., St. Albans Vermont, through Alden's of Chicago and who was responsible. Finally we must all push to declassify the crucial documents buried in Washington by the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Finally, it was Gerald Ford (whose real name is Leslie King), who said under his breath to David Belin while testifying before the House Select Committee on Assassinations, "I haven't compromised anything, have I?" . . . Gerald Ford's whole political career has been one of sinister compromise. After all-did you think that Richard Nixon would replace himself with an honest man?

G. Robert Blakey  
Former Chief Counsel  
House Select Committee On Assassinations  
1341 East Wayne North  
South Bend, Indiana  
46615

270  
Ted Gandolfo, Chairman:  
Assassination Information  
Committee  
1214 First Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10021  
Phone#(212)288-1596  
October 26, 1986

AN OPEN LETTER TO G. ROBERT BLAKEY

Dear Mr. Blakey,

At the outset, let me inform you that many copies of this letter are being sent all across this country to fellow long-time researchers, radio and TV stations I have appeared on as guest expert on the JFK assassination, newspapers, magazines, newsletters, and also to many people across this country who still write me inquiring as to the mammoth coverup of crucially important evidence perpetrated by the HSCOA and especially by yourself.

When I recently spoke to you by phone on August 21, (1985), I asked you several questions, among them the following, and your answers:

1) Jim Garrison, former New Orleans District Attorney, now Judge, told me on February 10, 1978, that a team of 5 investigators headed by Clifford Fenton were sent to Garrison's office in New Orleans and also to Clinton, Louisiana on several occasions and that, among other things, they secured tape-recorded conversations in which the assassination of President Kennedy was being discussed by, among others, people whose voices were identified as being contract employees of the Central Intelligence Agency, and that those tapes had been turned over to the HSCOA (yourself included). Your answer to me was that that information was not true, implying that Mr. Garrison was lying. No, Mr. Blakey, it is YOU who is lying about this crucial information. YOU suppressed it!!

2) I asked you why you allowed the infamous "Non-Disclosure Agreement" to be forced to be signed by everyone who served in any capacity on the Committee, and I told you that, since it was undoubtedly a CIA/FBI document, that that resulted in the ABSOLUTE TAKEOVER of that Committee by the very agencies which the Church Committee, in 1976, concluded, at the very highest levels of each agency, LIED to the Warren Commission, Misled the Warren Commission, and failed to provide much crucially important information to the Warren Commission. Your answer was that the CIA and FBI DID NOT issue that secrecy oath but that the members of congress who comprised the HSCOA issued it. That was another lie by yourself to me. I have obtained a complete copy of that document and it is, beyond question, a CIA/FBI document.

3) I asked you why the most brilliant and expert forensic pathologist in this country, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht's testimony, given in open public hearings before you and the Committee, was not believed and relied upon. Your answer to this was simply the following, and I quote you, "Because Wecht was WRONG". I wonder on what basis you were able to make that judgment and evaluation, since, in any TRUTHFUL investigation, the VERY BEST expert/s should be relied upon. Wouldn't a more truthful answer by yourself have been that Dr. Wecht's testimony, if believed and relied upon, totally DESTROYED the Warren Report's, and ultimately the HSCOA's conclusions that all the shots which were fired that day which struck the president and Governor Connally were fired by Lee Harvey Oswald and him alone? By the way, can you, since the HSCOA's final report does not, tell me about, to your knowledge, JUST ONE piece of hard evidence which PROVES that Oswald fired a SINGLE shot that day? Upon reflection, even YOU cannot, simply for the fact that NONE EXISTS AT ALL!! If you can think of one, please feel absolutely free AT ANY TIME OF DAY OR

NIGHT, TO CALL ME COLLECT and tell me what it is?

I will now ask you the following questions, which are imperative:

a) Since it is a fact that the Committee and yourself summoned and called to appear before the Committee ten researchers/critics of the Warren Report, why did you exclude the two most prodigious compilers of the public, and not so public, data on the two murders under investigation? I refer to Mae Brussell, who has accumulated the largest PRINTED files on these cases, and I refer to MYSELF as well. As you know, because I spoke to you at the time, begging you to please allow me to come there with my materials, I have compiled what is acknowledged to be undoubtedly the largest, most all-inclusive, chronologically listed, tape-recorded library in the world relating to the JFK assassination, beginning but 14 minutes after the very first bulletin was announced that shots had been fired at President Kennedy in Dallas, and continuing to the present time. If you'll recall, one of the investigators you fired, Donovan Gay, and myself, told you I was willing to provide you and the Committee with very important tape copies. When I spoke with you at that time, in 1978, you refused to tell me WHY you did not want to secure my tapes (approximately 4,000 hours at that time), or why I was NOT included among the other researchers to appear before your Committee? Perhaps you may be able to subterfugeously think of a lame answer NOW! (But I doubt it).

b) Since it is a fact that about one hour after JFK was pronounced dead, Doctors Malcolm Perry and James McLelland held a press conference at Parkland Hospital. Dr. Perry stated that the wound in the front of JFK's neck was "An ENTRANCE WOUND." Dr. McLelland stated that the cause of death was the result of "A BULLET WOUND OF THE RIGHT TEMPLE". Why didn't you call these two doctors to testify before your Committee?

c) Since it is a fact that TWO-THIRDS of the witnesses in Dealy Plaza stated that at least one shot had been fired from behind a wooden fence atop a grassy knoll situated to the right-front of the presidential limosine, and that that shot hit JFK in the right temple, why weren't they called to testify either? (These witnesses include Jeanne Hill, Charles Brehm, William Newman and his wife Gladys, Dallas police officer Billy Hargis, Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry, etc, etc.) By the way, you FINK, I have all these witnesses statements on tape-recordings..can THAT be the reason you didn't want the evidence contained on my tapes, you deceitful bastard?

d) Since it is a self-admitted fact that pathologist Commander James J. Humes "destroyed by burning in my fireplace certain preliminary draft notes relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy", why is it that when he was questioned about this most odious fact before the Committee, you blindly accepted his feeble (and obviously untrue) explanation that he did this because "there were smudges of blood on this paper" (notes of autopsy of JFK). Why wasn't he questioned further about this in a more probing fashion?

e) Why was it necessary to, at the last moment of your "investigation", concede to the fact that at least one shot had been fired from the grassy knoll area (based on the acoustical evidence), when the PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE ALONE, supplied to you/ the Committee by, among others, Richard E. Sprague and Robert Groden PROVES BEYOND QUESTION that at least one shot emanated from that exact area? And on what possible basis did your final report state and conclude that the shot fired from the knoll missed the president when the photographic evidence ALONE proves the contrary? (not to mention Newton's 2nd and 3rd laws of motion which have remained inviolate for centuries.)

f) Why wasn't the information contained in the following books relied upon and further investigated in all aspects:

- 1) "Rush To Judgment" by Mark Lane.
- 2) "Accessories After The Fact" by Sylvia Meagher.
- 3) "Whitewash" (series of books) by Harold Weisberg.
- 4) "Six Seconds In Dallas" by Josiah Thompson.
- 5) "A Heritage Of Stone" by Jim Garrison.

g) As did the Warren Commission, you and your Committee completely accepted the veracity of the SINGLE BULLET THEORY. Why didn't you and the Committee attempt to duplicate identical conditions using simulated bones and flesh comparable to those which were penetrated by (allegedly) Warren Commission exhibit # 399, (the so-called MAGIC BULLET), to determine if ANY bullet would remain in the almost pristine condition as #399?

h) Why, also, didn't you/the Committee set up conditions comparable to those which, allegedly, faced Oswald (or anyone else on this earth), to see if ANYONE AT ALL could do what he allegedly did, I.E. fire 3 shots in 5.6 seconds with 2 hits at a target moving away, and using the rifle (a 6.5 Mannlicher-Carcano) Oswald allegedly used? The obvious answer (since I KNOW that you will/cannot TRUTHFULLY EVER ANSWER ME ANYTIME) is that it is merely and positively IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCOMPLISH!! THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T !!

i) Why weren't the following persons (who we feel had a vast amount of information to give relating to the JFK assassination) called to testify before your Committee: E. Howard Hunt, Richard Helms, James Angleton, Gerald Ford, Frank Sturgis, Jim Hicks, and, of course the burning question, (as if I didn't know the answer), why wasn't Jim Garrison called either, among several others?

j) Why didn't you deny Mark Lane the right to represent Jerry Ray before your Committee, calling it a "conflict of interest" if he did so, when, in fact, the REAL conflict of interest is your appointment to be the chief counsel, since it is a fact that you, yourself, are represented by your attorney, Louis Nizer, who has been, and remains, one of the staunchest defenders of the Warren Report's conclusions, as he himself stated/wrote in an early edition preface to the Report.

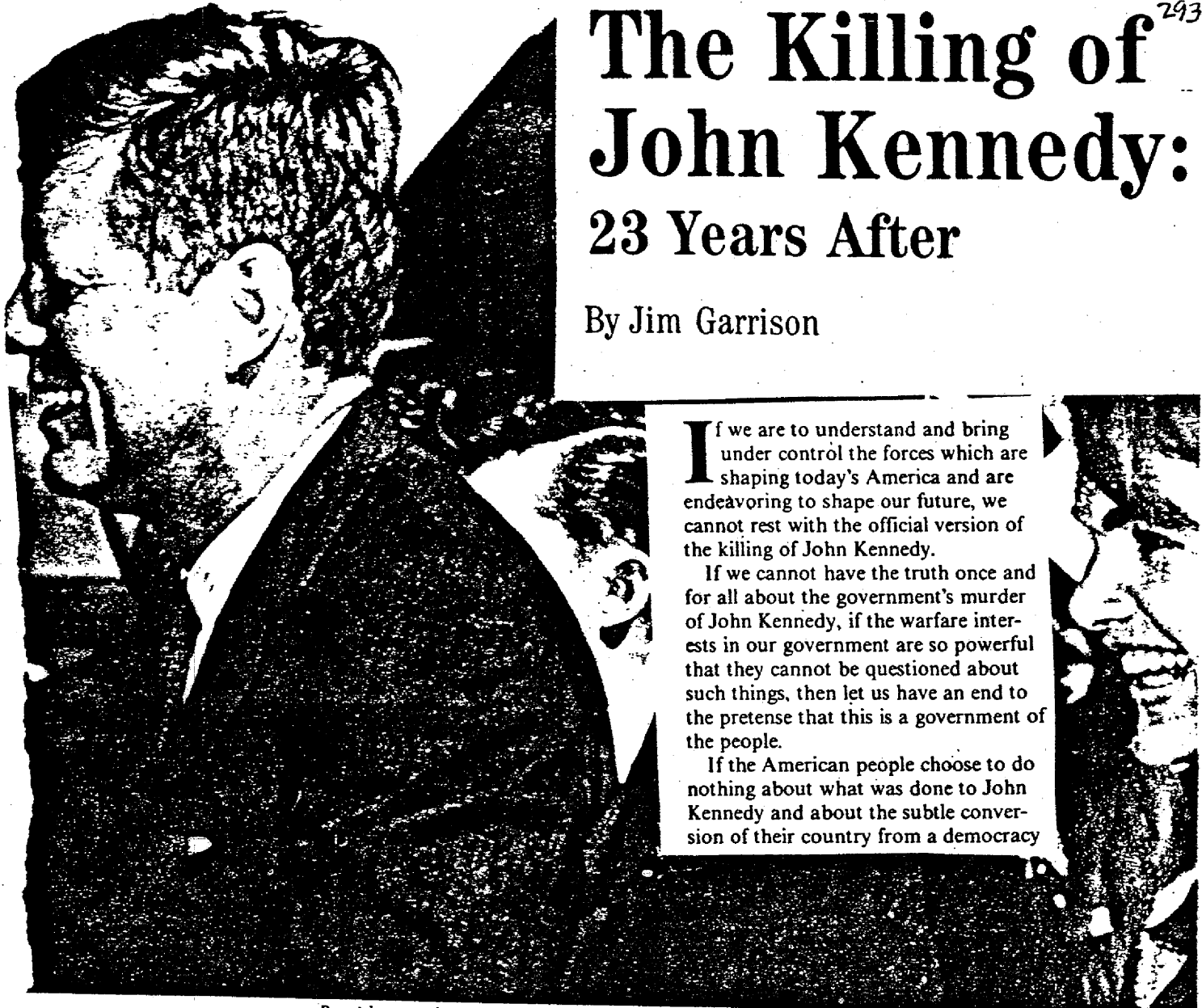
k) Isn't it odd that although the CIA controlled news media combined to completely, and untruthfully, discredit your predecessor as chief counsel, Richard A. Sprague, which ultimately led to his being forced to resign, isn't it odd that NOT ONE faction of that same media ever found or published anything at all derogatory about you during the entire time you were the chief counsel? They were very happy to have you there serving in that most important capacity, weren't they?

In conclusion, let me state my opinion, shared by many, that you are unquestionably A COVERUP ARTIST WITHOUT EQUAL. In view of what is written here and also the fact that, as you told me on the phone, the testimony taken in Executive Sessions is being suppressed from the citizens of this country for 50 years, at least, it is odiously clear that the coverup of the factual evidence by you and the Committee far surpasses the original one perpetrated by the Warren Commission. It took us researchers/critics many years to convince over 90% of the people of the complete fraudulence and inaccuracies of the Warren Report's conclusions. It may very well take a considerable amount of time to completely reveal YOUR COMPLETE COVERUP as well, but other researchers will follow. They also will be dissatisfied with what you and the HSCOA have perpetrated, and I feel confident that this will come to pass eventually because, as Martin Luther King used to oftentimes say, "The TRUTH, though crushed to earth, will rise again." So, despite your efforts to the contrary, the TRUTH WILL OUT.

Contemptuously yours,  
*Ted Gandolfo*  
Ted Gandolfo..A.I.C.

# The Killing of John Kennedy: 23 Years After

By Jim Garrison



*President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy greet well-wishers at the Dallas airport, November 22, 1963.*

**I**f we are to understand and bring under control the forces which are shaping today's America and are endeavoring to shape our future, we cannot rest with the official version of the killing of John Kennedy.

If we cannot have the truth once and for all about the government's murder of John Kennedy, if the warfare interests in our government are so powerful that they cannot be questioned about such things, then let us have an end to the pretense that this is a government of the people.

If the American people choose to do nothing about what was done to John Kennedy and about the subtle conversion of their country from a democracy

into a thinly disguised version of the warfare state, then the republic is lost and we shall never see it again in our time.

In any event, we need no longer pretend that there is any mystery left about the assassination of John Kennedy. The cold war is the biggest business in America, worth hundreds of billions of dollars a year as well as tremendous power to men in Washington. The president was murdered because he was genuinely seeking peace in a corrupt world. As tired as we are of the horror of the subject, all of us must address ourselves honestly to the meaning and implications of the assassination of John Kennedy or all of us will pay the

price of living in tyranny.

The killing of a president by a high level of government is a coup d'etat. The coup d'etat is nearly unheard of in America, although European history is replete with the elimination of national leaders by immediate subordinates. This is why Europeans quickly sensed what was happening, while Americans showed virtually no comprehension whatsoever. Even the untimely reversal of President Kennedy's policy with regard to Vietnam, while he still lay in state at the Capitol, failed to generate the slightest spark of curiosity in the United States.

A successful coup d'etat affects not merely the history of a nation but may

change its power structure. With the killing of John Kennedy, the very position of the presidency was drastically reduced in status. Henceforth the president would be a broker for the war machine. He would be an advocate and spokesman for the Pentagon. All presidents who followed Kennedy would have to know their impotence, no matter what their public role.

Until the work of the Kennedy assassins is undone, presidents will come and go but the warfare machine and its extensive intelligence tentacles, domestic as well as foreign, will remain in control. The assassination reduced the president of the United States to a tran-

## The Killing of John Kennedy

(continued from page 29)

sient official, a servant of the warfare conglomerate. His assignment is to speak as often as possible about the nation's desire for peace, while he serves as a business agent in Congress for the military and their hardware manufacturers.

The assassination resulted in insulating the people from making decisions over foreign policy and war. Prior to the assassination, in accordance with the Constitution, the president made the decisions with regard to foreign policy, the Senate approved or disapproved treaties and Congress decided whether or not we went to war.

There were good reasons for this system. In each instance the decision was made by men elected by the people.

The rifle shots in Dealey Plaza removed these vital powers from the elected officials and made them readily available to the warfare apparatus. As a result, after Kennedy, although most Americans were opposed to our war in Asia, it went on and on. Foreign policy was being made by the Pentagon and the CIA.

When a counterrevolution is occurring and a low-level intelligence employee is being prepared for sacrifice so as to draw attention away from the power elite who are sponsoring a forthcoming assassination, it is perhaps old-fashioned to speak of the injustice being dealt to the scapegoat. Nevertheless, the observation must be made that the inhumanity demonstrated by the CIA and the masked eminences for whom it performed was scarcely distinguishable from the inhumanity of the totalitarian governments which we had defeated in World War II. Actually we had taken the place of the totalitarian powers whom we had defeated. After our two decades as a superstate during the years of the cold war, we had become a different country.

To be sure, all of the revered symbols of Americana had been retained. The "Star Spangled Banner" was still played ceremoniously at all major sporting events. The president annually opened the baseball season by throwing the first pitch. And in every school in every town across the land, children began their day by reciting together the Pledge of Allegiance.

But a change had occurred in Amer-



AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

*The author writes, "It is 23 years now since John Kennedy's death, and the model officially presented by the government has sagged and finally collapsed under the weight of its cumbersome lies."*

ica. It had happened as silently as the moon sliding behind the clouds. With the advent of our special brand of benevolent imperialism, we also had acquired the secret police, an integral part of the warfare state — secret police not merely around the globe but within our own country as well. It was all in the name of national security, to be sure, but it is in the name of national security that the warfare state commits its worst crimes against humanity. What was important above all was that the new power structure of our country was no longer the one originally contemplated in the Constitution. Lip service continued to be paid to the importance of the individual and his rights, to the greatness of our democracy and to our "leadership of the free world."

However, the center of gravity of power in America long since had fallen into the control of the warfare interests and all of the signs of the free society which were still exhibited on every hand were garlands, tinsel ornaments to keep the populace content. The real test of whether the country still belonged to the people was what happened to national leaders who called for an end to the Vietnam War or for removal of our troops from Asia. They were shot to death by ostensibly lone assassins, men who in every case had

remarkable records of international travel. Thus the voices of the opponents of empire were stilled.

John Kennedy was going to be executed because he was the one who stood in the way of the continued power of the superstate and the continued growth of empire. Lee Oswald would be executed promptly afterward because someone would have to be seized and killed to turn the eyes of the people away, to halt at the very outset the beginning of thought.

The singular value of an intelligence employee as the scapegoat was the fact that such an agent would go where he was told, do what he was told and be easily set up so as to appear to be a violent leftist assassin or whatever his superiors desired.

Afterward, high government officials, knowingly, and the electronic media, unknowingly, would do the rest. A whole new chapter of history, which it was hoped would last through all time, would have been created by the purest legerdemain, a gossamer fabric spun out of the trust of the people and the duplicity of their leaders.

It is 23 years now since John Kennedy's death, and the model officially presented by the government has sagged and finally collapsed under the



*"A successful coup d'etat affects not merely the history of a nation but may change its power structure. With the killing of John Kennedy, the very position of the presidency was drastically reduced in status."*

weight of its cumbersome lies. Nor is there any sign of hope that the succeeding administrations have any more interest in seeing that the truth is made available. The fact that the same men continue to control the Pentagon, the CIA and the FBI, which helped to conceal the CIA's handiwork after the assassination, indicates that the war-oriented interests are still in firm control and that nothing can be expected from the government except more untruths and more war.

This course will be reversed only when the American public unites in understanding the truth about the assassination of John Kennedy and in undertaking dignified action that will restore the republic.▲



*Jim Garrison is a judge with the State of Louisiana Court of Appeal.*

*From 1962 to 1974, Judge Garrison served as New Orleans district attorney. From 1966 through the late 1960s, he conducted an extensive investigation of the conspiracy to assassinate John F. Kennedy.*

*He is the author of A Heritage of Stone and The Star-Spangled Contract.*

*Judge Garrison has recently completed his third book, which is scheduled for publication next spring.*

*-P. 295-*

BLAKEY SUPPRESSED EVIDENCE OF DIRECT C.I.A. INVOLVEMENT IN J.F.K. ASSASSINATION.

February 19, 1987

By Ted Gandolfo

-ARTICLE-

I now have absolute PROOF that G. Robert Blakey, former chief counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations completely, deliberately covered up Jim Garrison's overwhelming evidence of DIRECT C.I.A. involvement in the J.F.K. assassination. This evidence was supplied by Garrison to HSCA investigator Clifford Fenton, who headed a 5-man investigative team for the Committee, and this evidence was given, personally, to Blakey, who completely suppressed ALL of it from the citizens of this country, indeed, peoples of the whole world!

This fact was uncovered by myself quite recently, and has never been revealed anywhere, before now.

-- TO WIT --

On February 17, 1987...this year... I had a phone conversation with Blakey. Before revealing the most important things he said then, confirming this story, in order to put this in totally clear perspective, I'll relate the following first:

On Feb. 11, 1978, the former New Orleans District Attorney, now Judge, Jim Garrison, who had conducted his own investigation of the JFK murder in 1967, called me on the phone. We talked for half an hour.

Here are some quotes, from listening to the tape of that conversation, from Mr. Garrison. Since I last talked to you, Ted, I've talked to the investigators that are based here in New Orleans that have just come back here from Washington, and they are very enthusiastic and they have been stimulated by the attitude up here in Washington in the increased interest in the New Orleans scenario.

"They (the Committee) have TAPE RECORDED MEETINGS IN WHICH THEY ARE SPECIFICALLY DISCUSSING THE ASSASSINATION WITH JAY SHAW AND DAVID FERRIE PRESENT...DETAILS" I asked Garrison, "You're talking about what Perry Raymond Russo said?" Garrison answers, "No, no, NONE THEN. They have gone beyond that, into NEW AREAS we hadn't reached yet. We had the right people but we didn't have ALL THEIR MEETINGS...PEOPLE

PRESENT AT THE MEETINGS. I wish I could tell you of the progress they have made. ITS PAST CONSPIRACY, ITS PAST PRIMA FACIE, ITS SOLID EVIDENCE ON TAPE. I mean there's NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, but it doesn't seem to be reaching... Blakey seems to have cotton in his ears ON PURPOSE."

I then told Garrison that I had called Congressman Louis Stokes, Chairman of the Committee, and also Congresswoman Yvonne Burke, a member of the Committee, informing them of the nefarious coverup practices being employed by Mr. Blakey, and that they both strongly denied that he was doing this. I also told Garrison that I had also called Congressman Christopher Dodd, also a member of the Committee, and that Mr. Dodd had told me that he hadn't seen ANY evidence of a conspiracy in the JFK case. Garrison replied, "Ted, the next time you talk to a Congressperson on the Committee who says they've seen no evidence of a conspiracy, why don't you tell them to do something like this. Why don't you say, without warning to Blakey, why don't you just call the Chief Investigator on the JFK case and ask him if there has been any evidence of a conspiracy. By the time Clifford

Fenton finishes speaking, it will be about 6 hours later. That will be the end of Blakey." There were other things discussed that day between Garrison and myself, but the above will provide a small indication of some of the conclusive evidence of a massive conspiracy, involving persons affiliated with the CIA.

This evidence was totally suppressed and NONE of it was ever published in the twelve volumes of the HSCOA Final Report relating to the JFK assassination.



Now, with this in mind, we move to, as I mentioned, my conversation with Blakey, February 17, this year, 1987. I employed the services of a person who, while listening to this conversation on the extension phone, wrote a verbatim account in shorthand. I began this conversation by asking Blakey about one of the assassins we have knicknamed "Frenchy". He refused to comment to my question about him. Now for the crucially important dialogue concerning House Committee investigator, Cliff Fenton, who Dick Sprague, my friend, who is the photographic genius of the case, who told me that Blakey would NEVER discuss with ANYONE in the past. The relevant dialogue follows: QUOTE

TG- I also contacted Jim Garrison and he said that a team of investigators <sup>ANTOLFO</sup> headed by Cliff Fenton received, from Garrison, evidence definitely proving a CIA conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

<sup>LAKEY</sup> RB- That's false.

TG- Excuse me?

RB- That's false!

TG- That is false?

RB- Yes.

TG- Well that's what Garrison said.

RB- Well, that he said it, I don't doubt. That It's TRUE, I DENY!

TG- You deny that that's true? In other words, Fenton's team did NOT come back to the Committee with evidence from Garrison?

RB- No, we talked to Garrison...

TG- Oh, you did?

RB- Sure, but there's no evidence that the CIA was involved.

TG- Garrison did NOT present you with that evidence?

RB- Look, er, I appreciate your calling me, but I am not available for interrogation.

TG- No, I'm just...

RB- I've given you all the information I'm going to. Garrison's allegation that the CIA was involved in the assassination, and that he proved it or offered evidence proving it to the Assassinations Committee is false on both grounds.

TG- On both?

RB- Yes.

TG- Well, ~~is~~ I'm just saying what I was told by Mr. Garrison.

RB- Well, I don't care WHAT Mr. Garrison said.

TG- Yeah, well...

RB- I'm just telling you what happened. We talked to Garrison. He did NOT prove the CIA was involved, PERIOD!

TG- Oh, you DID talk to him?

RB- Yes, I told you that 2 minutes ago.

TG- You mean Fenton's team, right?

RB- YES- he talked to a number of people, including Garrison.

TG- Yes, er, well, and Fenton's team, er, did they report any information from Garrison?

RB- YES.

TG- Was that published?

RB- In part... I don't know that EVERYTHING he said was published, but just about everything he said. The substance of what he said was published, yes.

TG- Of what Garrison said?

RB- YES!

TG- Can you recall anything?

RB- I am not available for interrogation.

TG- No, I'm merely...

RB- Hey, hey, hey!

TG- Yes?

RB- The conversation is over with unless you want to ask me another question on another subject matter.

RG- Er, alright, er, well the,er, I don't know what to say because, you know, I..I.

RB- Well then don't say anything else but goodbye !

(BLAKEY HANGS UP ON ME AT THIS POINT)

BLAKEY, BEYOND QUESTION, OVERTIGHT LIED WHEN HE TOLD ME THAT " Just about everything he" (Garrison).. " said...The substance of what he said was published, yes." As my close friend, and colleague, Richard E. Sprague told me the following day, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING about Clifford Fenton, nor his 5 man investigative team which obtained Garrison's information, nor the fact that there ever even EXISTED a Cliff Fenton investigative team sent to obtain Garrison's evidence of C I A complicity. nor ANYTHING AT ALL, EITHER ABOUT FENTON, HIS TEAM, OR WHAT GARRISON TOLD HIM/THEMABSOLUTELY NOTHING AT ALL ABOUT THIS MATTER IS TO BE FOUND IN EITHER THE 12 JFK VOLUMES OF "EVIDENCE" OR THE COMMITTEE'S FINAL REPORT !! As Sprague told me the following day after the cover-up bastard's conversation with me, "Ted, this is the very FIRST TIME EVER that Blakey has talked to ANYONE AT ALL about the Fenton team/and the Fenton Report. He has ALWAYS refused to discuss the matter with anyone before he talked to you" (me) "about it yesterday." I told Sprague, and Mark Lane and Garrison and Harold Weisberg and Mae Brussell soon thereafter that when an intelligence operative, as Blakey obviously is, continues to repeatedly tell lie after lie after lie, intermingled with the necessity to occasionally tell the truth, to help conceal all the lies, you/one gets mixed up and slips out with the truth, because the mind of a "person" like that, completely enmeshed in the duality of roles he continually must play inexorably becomes befuddled with reality and illusion..truth and lies. That is the consequence of the intelligence operative, as was frankly admitted by C.I.A. top agent, David Atlee Phillips during a debate he had with Mark Lane in 1977 at U.C.L.A. It is my, now proveably undisputable, contention, based on what I have here above related, combined with OTHER CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE, IN DOCUMENTS I've recently obtained, that Robert Blakey was assigned by the CIA to be the chief counsel of that Committee in order to put distance between the CIA and the JFK assassination. I now have, in addition to the above-mentioned, ABSOLUTE PROOF that he was taking orders from the CIA as to how best proceed in order to accomplish his coverup assignment for the CIA !!

--And, so, Jim Garrison's assertions through these all-too-many years re the CIA being the murderers of our beloved President John F. Kennedy have proven to be, beyond question, ABSOLUTELY TRUE, as several of us long-time researchers have known since the news "broke" on February 18, 1967, in the New Orleans States Item newspaper that Garrison had been secretly conducting, with his small staff, a very silent investigation of the circumstances surrounding the JFK assassination. Immediately after the news "broke" the CIA laden news media began their orchestrated symphony of untruth against him. Why indeed not?? The Agency had it's dirty skirts to hide and conceal, and anyone, like Garrison, who had the courage, honesty and humanity to attempt to reveal to us all that persons employed by the CIA had killed the President had to be discredited in the eyes of the very citizens he was attempting to inform as to the TRUTH in the matter. Thus far, by and large, they have indeed succeeded in not only discrediting Garrison and, in fact numerous obstructing justice in the process, but also in the discreditation of ALL of us researchers whose higher calling

towards truth pre-empted the disgraceful appeals for us all to lemming-like adhere to the "national security" while our national HONOR was at stake, not only here but internationally as well !! All of us researchers/critics of the official version relating to this case have, in the face of incredible forces employed in every possible way against us, slowly, but surely were successful in enlightening peoples of the world of the absolute, odious fraudulence perpetrated by the Warren Commission. And now, inexorably, we are similarly divulging to those many, many whose quest for the entire truth in this matter remains at least partially unquenched of the much greater fraud which was more recently perpetrated and perpetuated by Robert Blakey in particular, and the ENTIRE House Select Committee on Assassinations in general. As this country hurtles inevitably closer and closer to fascism and totalitarianism, the question remains implicit—Is there yet TIME to begin a reversal towards the ideals which originally made this country the greatest on earth, or are we doomed to live in a society, imposed upon us by those who feel and would have us feel more comfortable living in a structured fascist state??

"Those who do not learn from history are condemned to relive it"..(Santiana.)

"Let justice be done though the heavens fall."..Jim Garrison.

--(END OF ARTICLE)--

*Red Gandolfo*

G. ROBERT BLAKEY  
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February 19, 1987

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Enclosed find my latest newsletter, which is sent out to thousands of my subscribers bi-monthly, except in this instance. I suggest you read it first before reading the rest of this letter.

Now that you have read my expose about the, proveably now, coverup, perpetrated by you personally, of the Clifford Fenton Report, obtained from Jim Garrison, PROVING the direct involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and since it is an equally undeniable fact that you bold-facedly LIED to me on February 17, 1987, during our phone conversation, when you said that most of what Garrison told Fenton re his (Garrison's) conclusive evidence of CIA involvement in this murder was published in the 12 Committee JFK volumes, and in the Final Report, when, in point of fact, NOTHING AT ALL does, as mentioned in the (my) enclosed newsletter, the burning question remains, WHERE IS THE FENTON REPORT NOW?" Does it still exist, albeit classified for the 50 years you previously told me that much of the House Assassinations Committee has been, or WAS IT, IN FACT, BESIDES BEING COMPLETELY SUPPRESSED PRIMARILY BY YOURSELF, SIMPLY DESTROYED BY, take your pick, YOU, OR YOUR EMPLOYERS THE C.I.A. OR WHAT??? Where is, and what has happened to that most crucially important Report?? This is not only MY question to you but the question that EVERYONE I AM ABLE TO REACH THROUGH MY NEWSLETTERS, AND CONTINUING RADIO SHOWS I CONTINUE TO APPEAR ON AS GUEST EXPERT HAVE BEGUN, AND WILL INCREASINGLY CONTINUE TO ASK YOU, IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE AND CONTINUING. WHERE IS THAT FUCKING REPORT SUPPLIED TO YOU DIRECTLY BY FENTON & HIS 5-MAN INVESTIGATIVE HSCA TEAM??

AND WHY IN HELL WASN'T GARRISON CALLED AND ALLOWED TO TESTIFY IN THE HSCA'S "OPEN PUBLIC HEARINGS" AT THE CONCLUSION OF IT'S "INVESTIGATION"?? WE BOTH KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT ONE, DON'T WE? BECAUSE, OBVIOUSLY, HE WOULD HAVE COMPLETELY BURST YOUR COVERUP BALLOON, THAT'S WHY !! COPIES OF THIS LETTER ARE BEING SENT TO ALL MY SUBSCRIBERS, ALONG WITH THIS ENCLOSED NEWSLETTER. THE NEWSLETTER AND THIS LETTER TO YOU WILL ALSO BE SENT TO THE CIA, YOUR BOSSES, THE FBI, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, CONGRESS, FELLOW LONG-TIME RESEARCHERS, MAGAZINES AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS, THE, LIKE YOURSELF, CIA CONTROLLED NEWS MEDIA, ETC, ETC. I, AND YOU ALSO, SHOULD EXPECT TO BE HEARING FROM QUITE A FEW INQUIRIES FROM MANY ACROSS THE COUNTRY CALLING FOR YOU TO EXPLAIN AND FULLY ACCOUNT AND ANSWER THAT BURNING QUESTION. .TO WIT, I REPEAT: "WHERE IS THE CLIFFORD FENTON REPORT?" IF YOU RECALL, BACK IN 1977, I SPOKE TO YOU, AFTER HAVING LEARNED OF THE NEFARIOUS COVERUP PRACTICES WHICH WERE BEING EMPLOYED BY YOU DURING THE "INVESTIGATION". REMEMBER THAT DURING ONE OF OUR CONVERSATIONS, WHEN YOU REFUSED TO COMMENT ON ANY AND ALL QUESTIONS I PUT TO YOU THEN THAT I PROMISED YOU THAT I "WOULD EXPOSE YOUR ASS ON EVERY RADIO & TV SHOW I WOULD APPEAR ON?" WELL, YOU DESPICABLE COVERUP BASTARD, I HAVE AND AM CONTINUING TO KEEP MY PROMISE. YOU SEE, BOB, UNLIKE YOURSELF, I HAPPEN TO BE A MAN <sup>who</sup> DIVULGES THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS MOST HEINOUS "CRIME OF THE CENTURY".

I HAVE DONE SO FOR MORE THAN 23 YEARS NOW AND AM NOT ABOUT TO CEASE DOING SO, NOW THAT, FINALLY I'VE CAUGHT YOU WITH YOUR HANDS IN THE COOKIE JAR, SO TO SPEAK. IN OTHER WORDS, NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOU BY THE BALLS.. GET THE POINT?? THE UPCOMING CRESCENDO WHICH WILL SOON TRANSPIRE IN TERMS OF DEMANDS FOR COMPLETE ACCOUNTABILITY BY YOU TO NOW, FINALLY, COME FORWARD WITH THE TRUTH CONCERNING ALL OF THE IMPLICATIONS EMBODIED IN YOUR SUPPRESSION OF THE FENTON REPORT/ GARRISON'S DIVULGING TO HIM AND HIS INVESTIGATIVE TEAM OF 5 CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF DIRECT CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE JFK ASSASSINATION WILL SOON BE DECENDING ON YOU TO DIVULGE ALL!!

ALTHOUGH I KNOW YOU CANNOT TRUTHFULLY ANSWER THE ABOVE (AND IN THE NEWSLETTER) CHARGES I HEREIN MAKE AGAINST YOU, WHY NOT SURPRISE AND, INDEED, SHOCK ME WITH YOUR, NO DOUBT BRILLIANT, REPLY, IF SO, I WILL PUBLISH IT IN FULL IN MY VERY NEXT NEWSLETTER AND DIVULGE IT ON ALL SUBSEQUENT SHOWS I WILL BE SOON APPEARING ON AGAIN.

IN ANXIOUS WAITING, I REMAIN,

*Ted Gandolfo*

Larry Strawderman  
Information and Privacy Coordinator  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C.  
20505

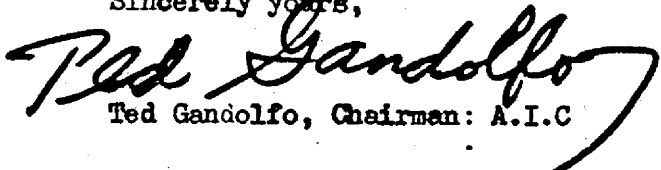
Ted Gandolfo, Chairman Assassination <sup>302</sup>  
Information Committee  
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Phone # (212) 288-1596  
February 19, 1987

Dear Mr. Strawderman,

Enclosed, please find my most recent newsletter entitled, "Assassination U.S.A ", which is sent out bi-monthly to more than 2,700 subscribers across the country. As you see, the lead cover story, and the revelations it contains is the primary reason I am sending it to you and the Agency.. The devastating information published herein will no doubt speak for itself. This story, revealed here for the very first time anywhere in ANY publication is entirely true in every aspect, and is completely documented and corroborated; by the enclosed and, indeed, other corroborative evidence in my personal files and possession, and elsewhere, where I have submitted it all and placed it in the possession of several persons, should mine ever become "lost" or in some way confiscated by whomsoever. I am a more than 23 year private researcher on the JFK assassination and have appeared as guest expert on more than 250 radio & TV shows, including my own hourly weekly cable TV shows in 1977 & 1978. I have also compiled the largest, all-inclusive tape-recorded library in the world on this case, numbering more than 5,000 hours at present, and continuing..

The reason I am sending you the enclosed information is in the fervent hope that you and/or anyone else in the Agency will respond to the information contained herein, hopefully as soon as is possible. If and when I receive a reply from the Agency I will be only too happy to publish it in my next newsletter for the edification of my many subscribers and listening audience during radio shows I am still appearing on re this case. Should I not receive a reply or any response at all, that, in and of itself will be reported out by myself as well, and will, in fact be indicative of certain things relating to a lack of "deniability" regarding this matter from you..the Agency. I await your, hopefully soon, reply and response eagerly.

Sincerely yours,

  
Ted Gandolfo, Chairman: A.I.C

FINAL COMMENT:

THERE ARE NO HEROES IN THIS PIECE, ONLY MEN WHO COLLABORATED ACTIVELY OR PASSIVELY, WILFULLY OR SELF-DELUDEDLY, IN DIRTY WORK THAT DOES VIOLENCE TO THE ELEMENTARY CONCEPT OF JUSTICE AND AFFRONTS NORMAL INTELLIGENCE. LIKE THE WARREN COMMISSION BEFORE IT, THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED BY THE HSCOA BEARS NO SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP TO THE EVIDENCE IT HAD BEFORE IT AND SUPPRESSED. AND LIKE THE WARREN COMMISSION, THE HSCOA CONCLUDED THAT OSWALD FIRED ALL THE SHOTS WHICH STRUCK KENNEDY AND GOVERNOR CONNALLY, DESPITE THE FACT THAT, CONTRARY TO CYRIL WECHT'S PLEAS FOR THEM TO DO SO, THEY NEVER SET UP FIRING CONDITION WHICH WERE ALLEGED TO HAVE CONFRONTED OSWALD THAT DAY, TO SEE IF, #1, ANYONE ON THIS PLANET COULD DUPLICATE WHAT THEY CONCLUDED OSWALD DID, I.E. 3 SHOTS WITH 2 HITS ON A MOVING AWAY TARGET IN A TOTAL TIME OF 5.6 SECONDS AND, # 2, TO FIND OUT IF ANY BULLET WOULD REMAIN IN THE PRISTINE CONDITION AS THE, SO-CALLED "MAGIC BULLET", (C.E.# 399). THE OBVIOUS REFUSAL OF THE HSCOA TO CONDUCT EITHER OF THESE 2 TESTS IS BECAUSE BOTH ARE, SIMPLY PUT, IMPOSSIBILITIES. THE HSCOA COVERUP WAS MUCH MORE MASSIVE BECAUSE THEY HAD MUCH, MUCH MORE EVIDENCE, ESPECIALLY ABOUT CIA INVOLVEMENT IN THE JFK SLAYING, THAN DID THE WARREN COMMISSION. THEY HAD, IN HAND, GARRISON'S EVIDENCE OF THAT AND THEY COMPLETELY SUPPRESSED ALL OF IT! ASK YOURSELF A QUESTION.. WHY WASN'T GARRISON CALLED TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE HSCOA AT ANY TIME, EITHER IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OR DURING THE OPEN PUBLIC HEARINGS??

WE HAVE HAD TWO GOVERNMENTAL "INVESTIGATIONS" BY THE WARREN COMMISSION AND BY THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS MORE RECENTLY. BOTH OF THEM LIED TO US ALL. THE ONLY TRUTHFUL INVESTIGATION WAS FORMER NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ATTORNEY, NOW JUDGE, JIM GARRISON'S. HE REVEALED THE DIRECT COMPLICITY OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY IN THIS MOST HEINOUS OF CRIMES. THAT IS WHY HE WAS SO BITTERLY ATTACKED BY THE CIA INFILTRATED MEDIA AND THEIR LACKEYS WHO, LEMMING LIKE, ATTEMPTED, WITH SOME SUCCESS, TO DISCREDIT HIM. HE IS YET ATTEMPTING TO INFORM US ALL OF THE, NOT ONLY TOTALLY IMMORAL PRACTICES, BUT HIGHLY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF THAT AGENCY AS WELL. I THINK WE ALL AGREE THAT MURDER IS HIGHLY ILLEGAL. AND YET, WE LIVE IN A COUNTRY WHEREIN, PROVEABLY, THE CIA FINDS IT POLITICALLY AND MONETARILY ADVANTAGEOUS TO MURDER THE HEAD OF STATE. ASK YOURSELF A SIMPLE QUESTION. WHY WOULD, AND DID, THE CIA COVER UP, DESTROY EVIDENCE, MANUFACTURE EVIDENCE REGARDING THIS "CRIME OF THE CENTURY" IF IT WERE NOT, ITSELF, DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF THE PRESIDENT? THE ANSWER IS, OBVIOUSLY TO PROTECT IT'S OWN ASS! BESIDES THIS LOGIC OF THOUGHT, THERE IS CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE IN THE POSSESSION OF JIM GARRISON TO THIS EFFECT. WE LIVE IN A SOCIETY WHICH IS GOVERNED NOT BY LAW BUT BY EVIL MEN AND AGENCIES. THE ODIOS FACT IS THAT THERE IS NOT A FASCIST NATION IN THIS WORLD WHO COULD EXIST WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CIA. AND THERE IS NOT A PEOPLE'S IN THIS WORLD YEARNING TO BE FREE WHO ARE NOT SUFFERING FROM THE ABUSES OF THE CIA. THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE BECOME!! WE KNOW WHO AND WHAT THEY ARE (CIA). BUT I THINK WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. WE CAN PUT THIS ISSUE OF THE JFK ASSASSINATION BACK ON THE AGENDA. WE CAN SEE TO IT, COME VOTING TIME, THAT THERE IS NOT ONE SINGLE CANDIDATE ASPIRING TO ANY CONGRESSIONAL OR SENATORIAL OFFICE WHO DARES DO SO WITHOUT ADDRESSING THIS BURNING QUESTION OF WHO KILLED OUR PRESIDENT AND WHY WAS HE KILLED? AS I MENTIONED, JIM GARRISON HAS THE ANSWERS. HE MAINTAINS, WITH PROOF, THAT THE CIA WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED. WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO, KNOWING THIS FACT? WE CAN, ALL OF US, WRITE TO OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CONGRESS AND IN THE SENATE, IMPLORING THEM TO ACT FOR US, WHICH HAPPENS TO BE THEIR SWORN DUTY, TO INSIST THERE BE A REDRESS OF OUR GRIEVANCES IN THIS MATTER. I'M CALLING FOR THE COMPLETE ABOLISHMENT OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AS ACCESSORIES OF THE FACT IN THE MURDER OF JOHN F. KENNEDY!! CERTAINLY I RECOGNIZE OUR NEED FOR AN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. BUT WE DO NOT NEED MURDER SQUADS IN THIS COUNTRY!!

WE KNOW THAT THE CIA CONTROLS AND FRIGHTENS EVEN OUR HIGHEST OFFICIALS IN THE LAND. BUT, AS I SAID, WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. WE CAN PUT THIS ON THE AGENDA. PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS KILLED PRIMARILY BECAUSE HE WAS TRYING TO END THE COLD WAR BETWEEN RUSSIA AND THE U.S.A. AND THEY BLEW HIS BRAINS OUT FOR HIS EFFORTS. SINCE WHEN, IN A DEMOCRACY, CAN AND DOES AN AGENCY OF GOVERNMENT BE ALLOWED TO DO THIS MONSTROUS DEED AND GET AWAY WITH IT?? BUT, THUS FAR, THEY HAVE, AND I SAY THAT IT'S ABOUT TIME THEY WERE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR IT!! WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE SAVING OF THIS COUNTRY AND THE IDEALS WHICH ORIGINALLY MADE THIS COUNTRY GREAT. IT IS WORTH OUR EFFORT. AS SANTLANA SAID, "THOSE WHO DO NOT LEARN FROM HISTORY ARE CONDEMNED TO RELIVE IT". PLEASE WRITE YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS CONCERNING THIS MATTER, AND PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR LETTERS TO ME. PLEASE PASS THIS MESSAGE ALONG TO YOUR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES, AND ASK THEM TO DO THE SAME. THE COST OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE. AS GARRISON SAID, "LET THE TRUTH BE KNOWN THOUGH THE HEAVENS FALL." I AM PROUD TO ECHO THAT STATEMENT.

YOURS IN STRUGGLE,  
TED GANDOLFO