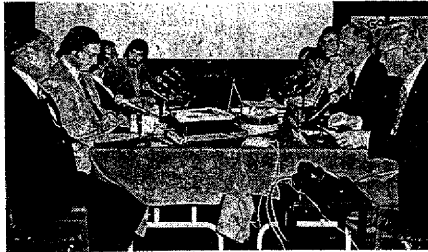


# SPECIAL Gallery REPORT

JULY 1979

## THE JFK ASSASSINATION

In view of *Gallery's* continued concern in setting the record straight on the JFK assassination, we gathered ten leading researchers and critics to a symposium in New York earlier this year. The experts — some of whom were consultants to the House Committee — included L. Fletcher Prouty, Richard E. Sprague, Larry Harris, Jack White, Jerry Policoff, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, Victor Marchetti, Peter Dale Scott, Gary



Mack, and Robert Groden. They discussed what the House Committee did and did not do during its investigation of the assassination. Their unanimous decision was that the Committee — which spent

two years and over \$5 million conducting the hearings, and only admitted to the conspiracy theory on the very last day of its life, after hearing the acoustical "gunshot" tapes — did not go far enough. This special section includes names of actual witnesses that the House Committee should have called but didn't. It is the most comprehensive critique and analysis of the Kennedy assassination to appear in any magazine — ever.

### The Record

After fifteen years of supporting the conclusion that President Kennedy was slain by lone assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, U.S. congressmen dramatically reported on December 31, 1978, new and strong evidence pointing to a conspiracy! *This recording reproduces the highlights of that evidence; it is an important historic "document" that you will want to keep.*

To properly understand and appreciate the sounds on this record, it is essential that you first read this brief explanation.

### How the recording came into being

About two minutes before the first shot was fired at President John F. Kennedy—17 seconds past 12:30 P.M.—the microphone on a motorcycle policeman's two-way radio was left in the "on" position, tying up one of the city's two police channels. This motorcycle was escorting the President's limousine. After the shooting, the Dallas Police force was thrown into disarray because no one on that channel was able to send or receive instructions to act. (The "bleep" sounds are police officers trying desperately to cut into the frequency.) Ironically, however, the sounds picked up by the open microphone were broadcast over the "locked-open" radio and recorded at police headquarters. These very sounds held the key to the new evidence—sounds that stayed "garbled" and hidden until researcher Gary Mack discovered an answer that had eluded the government for over fifteen years.

### Solving the mystery

In January 1977, Mack received a copy of the police recording from a colleague, Mary Ferrell, and made some startling discoveries. It had occurred to Mack that the sounds of the gunshots, though inaudible to the human ear because of all the additional noise such as the engine roar from motorcycles, would nonetheless still be on the recording. The problem was to filter out the unwanted sounds so that the "little pops" that Mack had discovered in his audio analysis could be further analyzed by experts using the best available equipment and techniques.

Dr. James Barger of the acoustics firm of Bolt, Beranek & Newman performed most of the acoustic analysis; it affirmed that at least four gunshots over an interval of 8.3 seconds were present on the recording. Further, the time intervals between the shots were 1.6 seconds between the first and second; 6.1 seconds between the second and third; and 0.6 seconds between the third and fourth. According to the Com-

mittee, this corresponds with Zapruder film frames Z-160, Z-189, Z-301, and Z-312/313 (although critics contend that the four shots took place at Z-171, Z-200, Z-312, and Z-323).\*

THIS ANALYSIS PROVIDED ABSOLUTE, SCIENTIFIC PROOF OF CONSPIRACY BECAUSE, WHEN THE FBI TESTED THE RIFLE ALLEGEDLY OWNED BY LEE HARVEY OSWALD, IT FOUND THAT THE GUN COULD ONLY BE FIRED ONCE EVERY 2.25 SECONDS, AND, AT THAT, WITHOUT AIMING. THEREFORE, IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN TWO SHOOTERS TO SQUEEZE OFF ONE SHOT EACH WITHIN 1.6 SECONDS, AND TWO SHOOTERS TO SQUEEZE OFF THE SHOTS IN THE 0.6-SECOND SEQUENCE. (IT HAS SINCE BEEN REPORTED THAT EVEN MORE SHOTS MAY YET BE FOUND ON THE TAPE THROUGH HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED COMPUTER ENHANCEMENT.)

This recording contains three segments of the Dallas Police tape while the motorcycle microphone was left open and during a period of transmission interference.

**Segment 1** is of the assassination exactly as originally recorded, starting several seconds before the shots were fired. It begins with interference "hash" that suddenly disappears, revealing a motorcycle engine slowing down. An unknown officer then says, "All right, Jackson," and the first shot is fired some four seconds later. (They sound like the "little pops," but to the untrained ear they are virtually inaudible.)

**Segment 2** is the superimposition of the test shots fired in Dealey Plaza in August 1978 over the Dallas Police recording. The shots are in the exact sequence determined by the experts. Listen for the motorcycle engine; it remains at a constant slow speed for some thirty seconds before accelerating and leaving the area. The beeps are the attempts of two-way police radios to get on the channel.

**Segment 3** is excerpts of the interference period following the assassination. You will hear one officer give an "all clear" statement, another one whistling into his microphone (perhaps testing to see if his unit was functioning), passing sirens from the motorcade and, at the very end, a frustrated officer speaking to anyone who could hear him.

### Note:

Repeated playings might damage the grooves and erode some of the vital sounds. We suggest you rerecord onto tape or cassette.

\*See page 69-13 for these Zapruder photographs.

**IMPORTANT:**  
**Before listening to this record, read the information on the left.**

### INSTRUCTIONS

—Using pen or pencil point, push through the center hole of the recording.

—Taking care not to touch the record grooves with your hands, bend each corner of the record down, so that the disc lies flat on the turntable platter. If the disc is not flat, the needle may skip grooves during play.

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This supplement was produced under the general editorship of Jerry Pollicoff, one of America's most penetrating researchers on the Kennedy assassination. PHOTO COURTESY: ROBERT GRADEN

# Investigations That Were Bound To Fail

The months before the assassination of President John Kennedy were filled with turmoil and change. The Cold War was thawing out as Kennedy signed the nuclear test ban treaty with the Soviet Union and made conciliatory speeches about the need for East-West détente. Kennedy's hostile designs on Fidel Castro's Cuba had also melted under his orders the FBI cleared a light hit on hostile activity directed against Cuba by American-based Cuban exiles. Kennedy had warned the most extreme of the exile leaders to desist from exporting revolution from American shores, and he had secretly dispatched emissaries to Castro aimed at easing tensions between the U.S. and Cuba. Vietnam, too, occupied the President's attention. Although American "advisers" numbered less than 20,000 during the Kennedy Administration, Kennedy had authorized plans for the phased withdrawal of all troops only a month before his demise. Privately, the young President also vented his anger at the CIA and the military establishment. He had retreated from the politics of brinkmanship and his war against organized crime and Jimmy Hoffa's Teamsters Union had won him powerful enemies.

As the 1964 election approached, Kennedy faced a serious struggle for retention of the White House. Crucial to his reelection chances was the state of Texas, where the Democratic Party was in turmoil as rival conservative factions led by Governor John Connally and liberal-moderate Yarborough struggled for control of the statewide Democratic organization. Thus, in the role of peacemaker, Kennedy journeyed to Texas in November 1963. Dallas, known as the bastion of Texas conservatism, was a mandatory stop, though aides and advisers argued against a visit to the city

where a right-wing mob had, only a month before, assailed UN ambassador Adlai Stevenson because of his liberal politics.

On November 22, 1963, as the Presidential motorcade rounded a corner in Dallas Dealey Plaza, President Kennedy was assassinated. Government officials seriously rounded within an hour Lee Harvey Oswald was apprehended in a Texas movie theater several miles away in connection with the murder of a Dallas police officer. Oswald had been employed in the Texas School Book Depository in Dealey Plaza, and within the next twenty-four hours an impressive circumstantial case was assembled by the Dallas Police, implicating the twenty-four year old ex-Marine "ex-defector" to the Soviet Union, as the chief suspect in the assassination. Biographical data on Oswald immediately began to flood the media. The Dallas Police all but pronounced the crime solved as they paraded a rifle, allegedly belonging to Oswald, and found in the Depository, before the press. Headlines like "Assassin Named" (*New York Post*), "Evidence Against Oswald Described as Conclusive" (*New York Times*), "The Man Who Killed Kennedy" (*Time*), "Assassin" (*Life*) filled the front pages.

Had Oswald lived, it is doubtful that he could have received a fair trial. But on November 24, 1963 he, too, was assassinated by Jack Ruby, a Dallas strip joint operator and police buff with shadowy connections. Ruby, like Oswald, was immediately depicted as a patriotic psychopatic moved by grief to assassinate "the assassin" and avenge the President. Through it all, most of the American media vainly spoon-fed that scenario to the public. After all, in the headline of a *New York Times* article, "Lone Assassin the Rule in U.S.," the headline read: "More Prevalent

# Rumors of Conspiracy

The American press notwithstanding, rumor of conspiracy began to grow in the public mind and in the foreign press. The rumor was also sparked by the persistent belief of some witnesses that the shots fired in Dealey Plaza had come from more than one direction. All early press accounts had indicated that the President was shot from the front (AP's first dispatch out of Dallas reported that the shots apparently came from a grassy knoll in the area) rather than from the Book Depository Building, although by the year Doctors trying to save the President's life at Parkland Hospital had suggested a third young perpetrator, a "large epilepsy." Their epiphenomenon was that the wound had been one of entrance.

With rumors spreading, on November 29, 1963 President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed the Warren Commission to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy—better known as the Warren Commission—and report back to him. Nine months later, the Commission released its findings. Lee Harvey Oswald, acting on his own, killed President Kennedy, Jack Ruby acting on his own, killed Lee Harvey Oswald. Oswald fired three shots. One missed. One bullet hit President Kennedy and then proceeded to



Lee Harvey Oswald, assassin of President John F. Kennedy. PHOTO COURTESY: ROBERT GRADEN

# Supporting Data

When twenty-six volumes of "supporting" data and testimony were issued two months after the Warren Report, the media again complimented the Commission.

Nevertheless, by the fall of 1966 critical books by Mark Lane, Edward J. Epstein, and Harold Weisberg were domestic best-sellers.

By late 1966 it had become clear that the arguments of the critics were far from frivolous. They had shown that evidence in the twenty-six volumes often radically contradicted the Warren Report. New documents were being ferried out of the Commission's files deposited in the National Archives indicating that the case against Oswald was not nearly as strong as was the case for pre-determined conclusions by the Warren Commission. For example, holes in the President's clothing indicated that he had been hit several inches below his shoulder by the first shot to hit him and testimony of nearly everyone who had seen the President's body supported this. The autopsy report, however, said this wound was located several inches higher, at the base of the neck. This was a crucial discrepancy, because the Warren Commission had hypothesized that the bullet passed through the neck, exited the throat, and then proceeded to wound Connally. A wound lower down would have required the bullet to make a 90-degree turn within the President's body and then turn again to hit Connally—a difficult feat even for a magic bullet. Moreover, one of the more provocative documents in the volume was a signed statement by one of the autopsy surgeons, Commander James F. Humes, to the effect that he had "destroyed by burning" certain preliminary autopsy notes.

Many earwitnesses had identified the grassy knoll, located to the right front of the Presidential limousine, as the source of the shots. Much of the case against Oswald began to crumble as the critical testimony, ignored by the Warren Commission in its report, but which tended to support

# The Garrison Probe

On February 17, 1967, the *New Orleans States-Item* reported that District Attorney Jim Garrison had quietly begun to investigate a Kennedy assassination conspiracy with roots in New Orleans. The flamboyant six-foot-six DA turned out to be anything but "soldier" claiming that he had "solved" the Kennedy assassination, because the Warren Commission had hypothesized that the bullet passed through the neck, exited the throat, and then proceeded to wound Connally. A wound lower down would have required the bullet to make a 90-degree turn within the President's body and then turn again to hit Connally—a difficult feat even for a magic bullet. Moreover, one of the more provocative documents in the volume was a signed statement by one of the autopsy surgeons, Commander James F. Humes, to the effect that he had "destroyed by burning" certain preliminary autopsy notes.

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others. Among the critics a diving life grew as camps supporting and opposing Garrison and his methods and theories began to make shape.

On January 21, 1969 Clay Shaw finally went to trial. Much of the trial was consumed by a presentation of evidence refuting the Warren Report. For the first time the Zapruder film, owned and kept under tight wraps by Time, Inc., subpoenaed by Garrison, was shown to large audiences. That film made much of the American public aware for the first time that the President's head was thrown violently back upon impact with the fatal shot—a reaction seemingly more consistent with a shot fired from the grassy knoll than with a shot fired from the Book Depository Building.

Also, for the first time, one of the autopsy surgeons, Dr. Pierre Finck, was subjected to intense cross-examination under oath. Reluctantly, Dr. Finck revealed that the President's back wound had not been dissected to determine its path, because military brass persisting on the autopsy had forbidden light control and procedure. (The military generals and admirals in attendance at the autopsy were medical men, ruling out the possible explanation that they were simply ignorant of proper autopsy procedure.) But it was Clay Shaw, not the Warren Report that was on trial, and many present felt that the case presented against Shaw did not warrant his indictment. On March 1, 1969 a jury acquitted him after deliberating for less than an hour.

**Congressional Stirrings**

On February 19, 1975 Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez, a Texas legislator who had been a passenger in the 1963 Dallas motorcade, introduced legislation calling for reopening of the Kennedy investigation and a probe into the killings of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King. Two months later Congressman Thomas N. Downing of Virginia introduced his own bill calling for a probe of the John Kennedy death. Meanwhile, the Rockefeller Commission investigating the CIA let it be known that it was reexamining the Kennedy assassination—a move that was greeted with a decision by the critics, since the Rockefeller Commission's executive director, David W. Belin, had been junior counsel for the Warren Commission and remained one of its staunchest defenders. Not surprisingly, the Rockefeller Commission essentially endorsed the original findings of the Warren Commission.

On September 8, 1975 Senator Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania introduced a Senate resolution calling for a reopening of the Kennedy investigation, and in the House, the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Constitutional Rights held hearings into allegations that Oswald had delivered a threatening letter to the Dallas headquarters of the FBI just weeks before the assassination. Conflicting testimony on the contents of the letter, and under what circumstances and at whose command it was destroyed was heard. No further proceedings were recommended, despite evidence of perjury. But once again it was clear that a cover-up had occurred in 1963 and was still under way.

In November 1975 Senators Richard Schweiker and Gary Hart were named co-chairmen of a subcommittee of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (the Church Committee) and assigned to investigate

the role of the U.S. intelligence agencies in investigating the JFK assassination. Bella Abzug's subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights decided to hold declassification requests as they pertained to the John Kennedy assassination.

By March 1976 the Gonzalez and Downing resolutions had 136 cosponsors, but both bills were tied up in the Rules Committee, and attempts to extricate them for a floor vote seemed hopelessly held. On June 23, after being held in committee (eight of fifteen of whose members previously sat on the Senate CIA oversight committees, known for their ineligibility of the CIA), the Schweiker/Hart report was released. The report found no evidence of conspiracy (although the subcommittee made no effort to reexamine the physical evidence, in effect accepting the premise that Oswald pulled the trigger), but it did conclude that the FBI and CIA had not followed up important leads, and the Warren Commission's investigation was deficient and that facts which might have substantially affected the course of the investigation were not provided. Further investigation by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence was recommended.

The Schweiker/Hart report was seriously flawed, it leaned heavily toward possible involvement of Fidel Castro in the assassination, but tended to shy away from evidence pointing toward organized crime or Cuban exiles. Several points of evidence that might have supported a hypothesis of an intelligence connection for Oswald were ignored. But for the first time an official government investigation had pronounced the Warren Commission deficient investigation.

As interest in the case increased, so did the mortality rate of the witnesses. William Harvey, the CIA man who had overseen the CIA/Mafia plots against Castro, died of a heart attack in June of 1976. In August, John Roselli, an organized crime figure central to the plot, was murdered. His death followed that of Mafia chieftain Sam Giancana, who

had been slain just prior to his scheduled appearance before the Church Committee.

The King assassination, too, was now garnering attention. More and more documentation was developing on J. Edgar Hoover's King obsession. For the first time the Congressional Black Caucus, at the urging of Corretta King, began to put pressure on the House leadership to investigate the King assassination. Hurried meetings were arranged. The Downing and Gonzalez resolutions were merged and reintroduced in the Rules Committee, this time with the backing of the House leadership and the Congressional Black Caucus. On September 15, 1976 the resolution calling for a Congressional probe into the deaths of John Kennedy and Martin Luther King cleared the Rules Committee. Two days later, the House of Representatives passed the resolution overwhelmingly.

The next step was to appoint a chairman. This created an unusual dilemma. Traditionally, the author of a resolution establishes a select committee's appointed chairman of that committee. But Henry Gonzalez was not head in the high esteem; either by the fellow legislators or by the House leadership. In fact, he had been excluded from the original discussions between the Black Caucus, the Leadership, and Downing, which had resulted in the compromise that extricated the assassination bills from the Rules Committee. Downing, on the other hand, was a lame duck congressman who had not sought reelection in 1976. His ap-

pointment would mean that a new chairman would have to take over when the new Congress convened. Much to Gonzalez' chagrin, Downing was appointed chairman by Speaker-elect Tip O'Neill.

The rivalry between Gonzalez and Downing manifested itself almost from the beginning. Downing's first choice for Chief Counsel was Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., a Washington attorney and Warren Commission critic who operated a sort of clearing house/jobbing operation known as the Committee to Investigate Assassinations. Fensterwald had eliminated his name from consideration, but Gonzalez, who believed Fensterwald to be a CIA agent, was apparently willing to take no chances. The infighting emerged in *The Washington Star* on October 4 under the headline: "Is Fensterwald a CIA Plant? Assassination Inquiry Stumbling..." The piece was based upon material leaked to the *Star* by Gonzalez's office.

That same day Richard A. Sprague (not to be confused with Warren Commission critic Richard E. Sprague) was appointed acting Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the Committee.

Sprague seemed to many to be an ideal choice. As Special Prosecutor for Washington County, Pennsylvania between 1970 and 1975, he had unraveled the complex conspiracy behind the brutal murder of United Mine Workers reformer Joseph (Jack) Yablonski. His successful prosecution of UMW President Tony Boyle in that case won him a national reputation as a skilled investigator and courtroom lawyer. Sprague had also distinguished himself long before in Philadelphia where he had gained an almost legendary reputation in the District Attorney's office.

As a condition to taking the position, Sprague demanded complete authority to hire and fire staff and to run the investigation as he saw fit. He proposed to set up two separate homicide investigations, one for Kennedy and one for King. This separate legal division, Sprague raised eyebrows by requesting a staff of 200 (perhaps the largest Congressional staff ever proposed) and an annual budget in excess of \$6.5 million. Sprague said that the staff was necessary to conduct a thorough homicide investigation, and that the proposed budget was a "bare-boned minimum," pointing out that the Committee would be unable to utilize the FBI or CIA to assist in any investigation areas where Government agencies might themselves be suspect.

Sprague's ambitious plans were endorsed by the Committee members, but they caused considerable consternation on Capitol Hill. His problems, however, were only beginning. Sprague's intended use of the detectors and surveillance equipment stirred an intensive debate over Constitutional issues. A series of critical *New York Times* articles about Sprague's career in the Philadelphia DAs office (forwarded by Sprague's enemies by many familiar with the Philadelphia political scene) added fuel to the controversy. Sprague's outspokenness was also a source of irritation to members of Congress, who felt that Congressional staffers should be neither seen nor heard.

Meanwhile, the Committee was in legal limbo. Not yet having been reestablished by Congress, it had no funds and was without legal status. On January 28, after much debate, it was reestablished for a two-month trial period by a vote of 237 to 164.

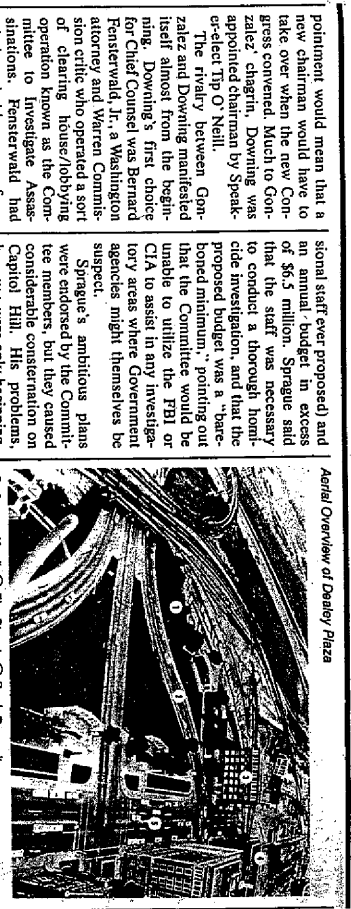
Inside the Committee more trouble was brewing. Henry Gonzalez, who had been appointed the new Chairman by Tip O'Neill, resented Sprague's independence. Sprague, in turn, clearly had little respect for the new Chairman. Events came to a head when Sprague resisted Gonzalez' attempt to reduce the size of the staff by many as an effort to purge the hangers-on from Downing's Congressional staff. The other Committee members supported Sprague, and the staff remained intact.

On February 10 Gonzalez summarily fired Sprague, giving him two hours to clear out of his office, simultaneously cutting off staff access to FBI files, and terminating long-distance phone service to Committee offices. In an un-

precedented reaction, the authors of the controversial Crime Bill, which for the first time authorized court-ordered wiretapping and electronic surveillance by law enforcement officials.

At his first and only press conference, Blakely vowed that there would be no more press conferences and proceeded to baton down the hatches. As one of his first acts he abolished the press office.

From the outset, Blakely's approach differed radically from Sprague's, where Sprague had insisted that no time limit be placed on the investigation. Blakely made it clear the Committee would go out of existence when its current two-year mandate (of which eighteen months remained) expired. His approach to evidence was primarily academic, as opposed to Sprague's emphasis upon investigative aspects. Committee investigators were required to submit lists of prospective leads to Blakely. Those lists were not sifted through until November, when several potentially promising ones were vetoed—not because Blakely underestimated their importance, but because he felt that there was insufficient time remaining to pursue them to their conclusion. This was reminiscent of a 1964 incident when Warren Commission Central Counsel J. Lee Rankin, confronted with a lead as to the Committee's role in tracing to complete its report, hastily chastised staffers: "It's time to close doors, not open



Aerial Overview of Dealey Plaza  
 ① Grassy Knoll ② Elm Street ③ Book Depository  
 ④ Dal-Tex Building ⑤ Houston Street

them. Thus the House Committee's field work, limited as it was, did not get under way in any comprehensive manner until December.

Early on, Blakely lectured his staff about the value of narrowing objectives. He divided the Kennedy investigation into five narrowly defined areas. The compartmentalization tended to seal members of respective areas off from one another.

Blakely also differed with Sprague in his attitude toward



G. Robert Blakely

the intelligence agencies, agreeing—where Sprague had refused—to compel staff members to sign secrecy oaths before being cleared to examine classified files. Blakely added a nondisclosure agreement of his own, which threatened stiff retribution against any staff member or consultant who discussed Committee business with outsiders. Members' staff aides, generally the eyes and ears of Congressmen too busy to pay strict attention to Committee detail, were denied access to Blakely's investigation.

Staff problems also developed. Among the early casualties was Kevin Walsh, who as a longtime researcher of the Kennedy assassination, was the greatest advocate of the critics on the staff. Robert Lehner, Chief Deputy Counsel in charge of the King case, resigned after feuding with Blakely over what Lehner considered to be Blakely's overly narrow approach to investigating the King assassination.

Blakely also seemed unduly cozy with the FBI and CIA, agreeing to allow the CIA to review the Committee's preliminary drafts of its final report. At one point, confronted with staff skepticism over the CIA's good intentions, Blakely replied: "You don't think they'd lie to me, do you? I've been working with those people for twenty years."

Blakely's investigation, for all intents and purposes, got under way in December of 1977. It effectively ended in June 1978 when twenty-eight staffers, twenty-five of them investigators, were fired for "budgetary reasons."

In August the Committee was charged with breaking its own rules by employing an undercover agent to spy upon Jerry Ray, James Earl Ray's brother, and to record telephone conversations with Ray. Other Patterson claimed that the Committee had recruited him, and when his undercover status was discovered by Mark Lane, James Earl Ray's lawyer, Patterson's Committee contact made arrangements for Patterson to plant damaging stories about Lane and Ray with *The New York Times*. Instead Patterson arranged for Mark Lane and reporters from two St. Louis television stations to accompany him to his meeting with *York Times* reporter Anthony Marro.

Faced with the accusations, Blakely vowed to investigate, and a few days later pronounced the Committee innocent of all charges (Patterson was eventually paid money he claimed was owed him by the Committee). Though Patterson never signed an affidavit, the Committee claimed the money was in payment for expenses incurred by Patterson as an "affidavit witness." With this exception, the Committee operated relatively free of the hostile and negative press that prevailed during the Sprague/Gonzalez tenure.

In September, the Committee held public hearings on the Kennedy case—hearings that, with the exception of testimony on accusatory evidence, they did seem singularly aimed at bolstering the lone-assassin findings of the Warren Commission.

In December, the Committee announced that there was a high likelihood of a conspiracy, and then diligently closed up shop.

### The Investigation Was a Charade

Interview with Richard A. Sprague  
FORMER CHIEF COUNSEL TO THE COMMITTEE

by Jerry Pollock



Q: You originally spoke of an open-ended investigation. What do you think about the Committee folding right after being presented with an acoustic test that says there were four shots?

A: On "Face The Nation," one of the questions that was asked of Chairman Louis Stokes was, in effect, "Well, if you've produced this 'thing,' why are you folding up shop now? Why isn't this the time to continue?" And Stokes' response, which I thought was significant, was, "Oh, we can't do that, because the chairman promised Tip O'Neill that this thing would terminate in two years and that was the basis of getting funds."

And that gets back to things I've said from the beginning. This was not really intended to be an investigation. The two-year concept was mine, if you'll recall. When I first came to Washington, I was asked how long I thought it would take. And my response was, to properly investigate murder you can never put a time limit on it. If you've got an outside limit, and people who are being investigated know that, they can stall you for that length of time and defeat the investigation.

If you ask me what I think ought to be the time to get a job done, my estimate would be two years. But when they terminated after hearing this accusatory evidence, they did the very thing that they were coming to put atop it, namely coming to a conclusion from even a tiddler of evidence.

Just my estimate of two years was recorded, you had the appropriate funding and man power. When I got into that budget struggle with them, I said, "The moment you cut down on the financing and the size of the staff, the estimated length of an investigation has to be extended. It makes a difference if you're doing a job with ten people that can be done in thirty days, or you're doing it with one person, where you'd need six months. So that their use of 'two years' emphasizes the basic problem that existed back in my time on the Committee: 'The whole thing was for the House leadership to have a thorough investigation, I think it is shocking that the people on the Committee do not have the strength of character to realize they have not done a thorough, proper investigation, and insist on going on, whether the Leadership likes it or not. Of course, when I left, I'd really decided that Congress in the political sense is not the proper vehicle for an investigative job anyway.'

Q: Do you think they were afraid of a conspiracy?

A: Who knows? Some of them might just be thinking that they're over their own heads. I mean, some of them couldn't investigate a tiddlywink game. They might think, "Why God, maybe we do have something. I don't know where to go. I don't know what to do. There hadn't been any investigation up to then; what the hell do they do now? If they don't intend at that point, they'd really have to do some investigating, and in a year and a half they really hadn't done any thing. I'm sure that others had no stomach for it. They were just making time while they were just getting their thinking on the whole deal; this did not get them the national acclaim they thought it would, and that they were happy to be done with it."

Q: What do you think of the way Blakely ran the investigation?

A: That's a tough question. I'm not that knowledgeable of everything he did. I don't know the full depth of it. But I did gather that Blakely's approach was really just to analyze what has been published and not to do independent investigation. I think that's totally wrong. You investigate what's published, but that's not the whole job. You've got to have independent investigation. I also feel from what I was told, that it was just running the appearance of a staff. In that sense, it was a charade. There was not really a development of an investigative staff. People who I know, my top-notch investigators complained on the QT. They had a one job. Their salaries were enough, and they were going to be there. I think Blakely was more interested in the points that Blakely might make with people he thought were helpful for his future career.

Q: Can you think of anything that was dramatic in terms of evidence in the deal with after you left?

A: Nothing in a single dramatic way. We had a whole book of things that had to be investigated and covered.

Q: How would you characterize the job the committee did?

A: A botch-up. Not an investigation. That was not why the Committee was created.

Q: Why was it created?

A: I fully believe it was created to make the Black Caucus feel it had tremendous input into the high command of the Democratic Party when Carter was running for President.

Q: Well, do you think the Black Caucus did its job?

A: I think that once they were on the Committee, and started to feel that things about the escapades of [Everett] Martin Luther King and others might come out, some people began to think that the smartest thing was to let it rest.

Q: Did you ever get any information that any of that material might just leak out?

A: No, no one intimated to me that they would leak it. I got the attitude that it was a concern from the other side.

Q: So there was never any intimation of blackmail there?

A: No, except for what was in their own minds, from their own knowledge of what they were doing. I don't know of anyone from any agency saying to them, "If you push, you will get it." But I did get their concern that the investigation would bring it out.

By the way, one thing that I did get, but I never did get to the point where I could verify it: I had been told way back then at the very beginning of this thing that Richard Helms, who was then Ambassador to Iran, had spoken to a member of the Kennedy family. That he told that person that the Kennedy family ought to see to it that there was no investigation. And that was the intimidated something or other might come out. And, as a matter of fact, that was one of the things I wanted to look into. Ultimately I wanted to go at Helms. I wanted to get him up there and ask him a variety of things.

Q: Was there any real investigation going on when you were there?

A: No. All we were in a position to do was to think about where we should go once we were funded. Remember, we had no funds at that time. We had a staff that went for two months without being paid. There were some few things that were picked at. But they were really done, in a sense, while twiddling thumbs.

I still say that this whole thing at the beginning was window dressing. And I think that really accounts for the initial appointment of a lame-duck chairman in Downing. And, secondly, before Gonzalez ever became chairman, he was a thoroughgoing Democrat. Downing was still chairman, a member of the Committee members went to Tip O'Neill and begged him not to make Gonzalez chairman. But he nonetheless did.

Q: Are you saying that you feel that the Leadership of the House structured the Committee

tee from the beginning to either make it fail or bog down?

A: Yes. It is my opinion that the thing was politically motivated with the Presidential election coming up, and not with any desire for a Kennedy investigation, but to make the Black Caucus feel potent, and with a view to walk out the election, and then make the thing, in effect, collapse. That's why there was a lame-duck chairman in Downing. When members of the Committee urged O'Neill not to make Gonzalez the chairman because they recognized that Gonzalez could not work with them, that certainly should have indicated to O'Neill that making Gonzalez chairman would create problems for the Committee. In addition, when we started off we started to recruit a top-notch staff. But we needed funding from the new Congress. And what did O'Neill and the whole Leadership say right off the bat: "What proof do you have that a conspiracy existed to justify your continuation?"

Now, how the hell could we justify our continuation when we just had seed money for starting up and starting to plan and recruit a staff? That was said to make the thing look palatable to the public, but what it really does is to put the whole thing on its back burner and eventually kill it. I think one of the problems that arose on my level with the Congress was they heard they had a prosecutor who was getting things heated up for a top-notch but obviously expensive investigation, and that wasn't what they had in mind. So they handed it in a way to create internal dissension, play the cost factor, make it appear that they're on the side of the poor, put-upon taxpayer—saving his money—and killing the Committee.

Q: Why did they pick you, with your reputation for going after things? You got [Tony] Boyle.

A: Well, I think Downing became convinced there should be a thorough investigation. I guess he thought I was the kind of guy who could do it. As I've been talking about this, in general the picture of them is that they want to throw this out in a way that the picture of them is that they want to be accepted and then say good-bye.

Q: Do you feel that's what it was?

A: No. I feel that you had a sign of fools.

Q: Some people feel it was deliberate.

A: That may be, but you're giving them more credit than I think they deserve.

Q: The Bronson film came up at the eleventh hour as well.

A: Well, if there really is a desire for an investigation, you don't stop then. Can you imagine if I were still Chief Counsel, and the thing went just like it did, and at the last moment we uncovered those things. Can you picture me saying, "Well, we'll close up shop now," and politely just walk away? I'd have been on every network screaming, "My God, it's unfortunate it took us two years to get to this point, but this mandates going ahead." Yet the picture of them is that they want to throw this out in a way that they want to be accepted and then say good-bye.

# The Gallery Symposium: A Converging of Experts

On December 31, 1978, the two-and-a-half-year investigations of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. officially closed with the release of a seven-page preliminary report of the findings of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. The report's dramatic conclusions made headlines the world over. "The Committee believes on the basis of the evidence available to it, that President John F. Kennedy was probably assassinated as the result of a conspiracy."

The Committee named no assassins, other than Lee Harvey Oswald, but unequivocally cleared the Soviet Union, Cuba, anti-castro groups "as a group," organized crime "as a group," the Secret Service, the FBI, and the CIA. The Committee largely reaffirmed the findings of the Warren Commission with a parenthetical addition: Lee Harvey Oswald killed the President (but another unknown assassin also fired an unknown shot from the grassy knoll in front of the limousine).

Thus, the Committee issued what many consider to be a "safe" report.

The conspiracy conclusions rested almost entirely upon eleventh-hour testimony from acoustic experts. They had analyzed a Dallas Police tape recording of the crucial seconds before, during, and after the assassination of the President. The experts concluded

that there was a "95 percent probability" that four shots were fired (one more than was postulated by the Warren Commission), including one from the knoll. In so doing, the Committee came in for a barrage of criticism from the critics of the Warren Commission, who challenged the limited basis behind the conspiracy, findings and the apparent acceptance of Oswald as the assassin without sufficient scrutiny of the case for his innocence; and from the press. The press criticized the Committee's embracing of conspiracy based upon such "flimsy" evidence. *The New York Times* (one of the few newspapers that had been graced by leaks from the Committee), in a notable departure, accepted the second-assassin theory, but was critical of the Committee's use of the word "conspiracy." After all, hypothesized the *Times*, why not "two maniacs" instead of one?

On January 30, 1979 *Gallery* gathered a distinguished group of researchers and scholars familiar with the work of the House Select Committee on Assassinations and convened a symposium to discuss the work of the Committee. The results of this special issue, which delineates the need for further investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy. The symposium participants included:

**Larry Harris**  
Currently working for the Dallas *Daily News*, he is the coauthor of *Cover-Up*. For the

last two years he has been researching the Tippit shooting and is currently working on a book on that subject.

**Jerry Pollock**  
A broadcast salesman, he is one of the most painstaking and careful researchers on the Kennedy assassination. He has published several articles on that subject in *The New York Times* and *New Times*.

**Dr. Cyril H. Wecht**  
The Chief Coroner of Allegheny County and Director of the Institute of Forensic Sciences at Duquesne University School of Law in Pittsburgh, he has long been a critic of the Warren Commission Report, testifying before the House Select Committee in the fall of 1978. He was a wolegous critic of some of their medical conclusions.

**Peter Dale Scott**  
A former Canadian diplomat with a Ph.D. in political science, the now teaches English at the University of California, Berkeley. Since 1972 he has continued to research and publish on the political context of the Kennedy assassination. He has also produced a widely acclaimed film on that subject for Canadian television.

**Victor Marchetti**  
An ex-CIA operative who specialized in Soviet Affairs. He is the author of *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*.

**Robert Godden**  
An expert photo technician and optics expert who has done more work on the Zapruder film than anyone. Godden served as an expert consultant to the



Left to right: Victor Marchetti, Dr. Cyril Wecht, Larry Harris, Jack White, L. Fletcher Houck



Left to right: Richard E. Sprague, Gary Mack, Jerry Pollock, Peter Dale Scott, Robert Godden, and an unidentified person. Sprague, Scott and Godden

# The Sounds of Conspiracy: How the Government's 15-Year Lone-Assassin Theory Was Destroyed

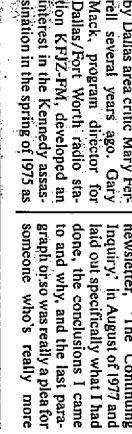
Judging from their overall activities, the two of the primary objectives of the House Select Committee on Assassinations under Chief Counsel G. Robert Blakey were to discourage conspiracy theories and to discredit the critics of the Warren Report. In fact, one of the major assignments Blakey gave the Committee's research staff was to scour the critical literature in search of errors. It would be a long time, if the *Gallery* article had not appeared, before the House Select Committee would have been able to announce a finding of probable conspiracy, developed as it appears likely, out of an attempt to further discredit the critics.

A copy of the Dallas Police tape that had inadvertently recorded the sound of shots in Dealey Plaza was secured through undisclosed sources by Dallas area critic Mary Ferrall several years ago. Gary Mack, program director for Dallas/Fort Worth radio station KFTZ-FM, developed an interest in the Kennedy assassination in the spring of 1975 as

a result of viewing Robert Godden's enhanced version of the Zapruder film. Learning of the existence of the police tape it might have picked up the sound of gunshots. With the aid of sound engineers and sophisticated recording studio equipment, Mack, utilizing Mary Ferrall's tape, filtered out much of the background noise and interference. "Events" in the tape began to appear: "Little pops: little cracks and here and there... that were not repeated anywhere else on the tape." Mack continued to work with the tape for several months. "I came up with a total of seven noises, he explained at the *Gallery* symposium, "which I believed were gunshots." Continuing, "That was really about as far as I could go. I wrote an article for Dallas critic Penn Jones' newsletter, 'The Continuing Inquiry.' In August of 1977 and laid out specifically what I had done, the conclusions I came to and why, and the last paragraph or so were really a plea for someone who's really more knowledgeable in acoustics than I am to take the same tape, and with far more refined processes than I could even imagine, analyze it to see if gunshots were on the tape. Penn's newsletter was mailed at the end of August 1977. Within a week I got a call from the Committee. They were, of course, very anxious to learn more about this, and they asked me to send the filtered tape that had worked on. And I said, 'Well, I'll be happy to send you this tape if you like, but you might as well get the same tape that I worked from. Mary sent the tape; the Committee had it in the middle of September 1977.' A source, whom I cannot identify, told me that when the tape arrived, some Committee members listened to it, some staff members listened to it, and they were ecstatic—not because it showed gunshots, but because this was going to be the best example of how foolish the critics can be. For that reason—basically because they could not hear any shots—they decided to get the best in the world—Bolt, Beranek & Newman."

Early testing of Mary Ferrall's tape apparently yielded inconclusive results. But in March of 1978 Committee investigators discovered that evidence collected during a Special Unit Dallas Police probe of the assassination, conducted in 1964, still existed in the personal possession of retired Dallas Police Captain Paul McCaughen. Among the material uncovered was the original police dictated, badly worn from continued play during transcription, and a first-generation taped copy, recorded before the dictation had been damaged. Discovery of the new cache of evidence leaked out and was reported in *The Dallas Morning News*.

The new tape was dis-



Richard E. Sprague, Gary Mack, Jerry Pollock, Peter Dale Scott, Robert Godden, and an unidentified person. Sprague, Scott and Godden



Richard E. Sprague, Gary Mack, Jerry Pollock, Peter Dale Scott, Robert Godden, and an unidentified person. Sprague, Scott and Godden

patched to Bolt, Beranek & Newman. This time the results were quite different: the tape contained the sound of at least four shots. The third shot in the sequence came from the direction of the grassy knoll, to the right front of the Presidential limousine. News of the findings spread among the staff, which dubbed the new evidence "Blakey's Problem."

The acoustic results were leaked to the press in August. Representatives of virtually all major electronic and print media covered the Committee's August 20 reannouncement of the assassination in Dealey Plaza, aimed at obtaining fresh acoustic soundings that could then be compared with the police tapes for matching echo patterns.

In what can at best be characterized as a glaring omission—something of a habit for the House Select Committee on Assassinations—Blakey ordered test firings from only two locations: the officially alleged sniper's nest on the sixth floor of the Texas School Depository, and the grassy knoll (later tentatively identified as a firing point by Bolt, Beranek & Newman). Numerous other locations have been cited as possible firing points in the critical literature. Echo patterns produced by shots fired from these locations, if compared with patterns existing on the police tape, could have verified or disproved theories of shots fired from these locations. "We took the two most likely places based on the testimony," Blakey revealed to the *Las Vegas Times*, "and that's all we did."

On September 11, Dr. James E. Berger of Bolt, Beranek & Newman testified to a fifty-five chance of four shots on the police tape. Berger indicated that he had not had suf-

**HOW MANY 'ARMINESSES'?**

A group of government field inspectors in the Kennedy assassination case are now questioning the Dallas Police Department's findings that Oswald fired the fatal shot from the grassy knoll. The Dallas Police Department's findings were based on a photograph taken by a man named Mary Peltano in the Plaza area. The photograph shows Oswald firing a rifle from a grassy knoll. The Dallas Police Department's findings were based on a photograph taken by a man named Mary Peltano in the Plaza area. The photograph shows Oswald firing a rifle from a grassy knoll.



PHOTO BY MARY PELTANO. A Dallas Police Department field inspector is seen in the Plaza area. The photograph shows Oswald firing a rifle from a grassy knoll.

knoll—from behind the picket fence—was a problem. The shock wave comes nowhere near the motorcycle. That's why they were not recorded. The third shot—the one from the grassy knoll—was fired from the Plaza area. The Dallas Police Department's findings were based on a photograph taken by a man named Mary Peltano in the Plaza area. The photograph shows Oswald firing a rifle from a grassy knoll.

At that point, the motorcycle slowed down greatly, almost to a stop. Now, the engine of course is still idling at a constant rate of speed. The engine stayed at that rate of speed for about thirty seconds, and then it sped up and was going faster than when before the shot was fired. Weiss, Aschenkany and Berger were able to compute the location within a foot and a half at every single point during the shooting sequence, and they found that the motorcycle—or I should say, the open microphone—was on the left side of the motorcade at the time of the first and second shots. It was just approaching, or just about in the Elm/Houston intersection. At the time of the third and fourth shots, it was on Elm Street, just past the Elm/Houston intersection. They were able to determine that most all rifles fire a bullet that travels faster than the speed of sound. The bullet traveling through air sets up a shock wave. The shock wave comes first. The muzzle blast, the bang, comes second. The shock wave exhibits a specific characteristic when you see it traced out on paper. This is mechanically traced out, based on the electrical impulses. This is not something that some artist just makes up.

So, here we have the first two shots, apparently fired from the rear, and the shock wave comes nowhere near the motorcycle. That's why they were not recorded. The third shot—the one from the grassy knoll—was fired from the Plaza area. The Dallas Police Department's findings were based on a photograph taken by a man named Mary Peltano in the Plaza area. The photograph shows Oswald firing a rifle from a grassy knoll.

PHOTO BY MARY PELTANO. A Dallas Police Department field inspector is seen in the Plaza area. The photograph shows Oswald firing a rifle from a grassy knoll.

reference—a very minor difference—but it could make a difference in the conclusions. The same way with the shooter north of the corner of the picket fence, as opposed to eight feet west of the fence. These are minor. But these were the only two positions they fired from.

They sealed off the area on Sunday morning about 5:30. Several of us were there. They fired shots from the sixth floor window, from where Oswald allegedly fired, using a rifle that was virtually identical to the alleged Oswald rifle. They also fired shots from the grassy knoll, from behind the picket fence—about three feet north of the corner. Now this is not the position where they have since determined the shooter was located. They set out three targets along Elm Street, and a

fourth target down under the triple underpass, because one bullet did miss the Elm Street area totally. It hit a curbstone, a small piece of which then hit a bystander down by the underpass. They had to locate the first two targets on Elm Street in different positions than the Kennedy limousine was in 1963 because there's now an overpass sign. It interfered with the acoustic analysis because the man firing the rifle from the Book Depository window could not get a clear line of sight to where the target should have been. So they moved the target to the south-crook of the three lanes on Elm Street. It could be a minor error that could make a dif-

ference—a very minor difference—but it could make a difference in the conclusions. The same way with the shooter north of the corner of the picket fence, as opposed to eight feet west of the fence. These are minor. But these were the only two positions they fired from.

Newman were the people who analyzed the Hanoussky-minuteman gap in Richard Nixon's tape and recordings of the gunshots at Kent State University. These people are acknowledged the best. You can do no better than Bolt, Beranek & Newman. Because the tape that they were using was a second-generation copy, it was felt that the original had to be found and analyzed. The original recording was done on a dictabel machine—a plastic belt—many secretaries have used them. I think they're still in business, but it's an old recording technique now. These plastic belts, once played more than three or four times, start to deteriorate very quickly. Apparently the Dallas Police Department decided in 1963 to transfer the recordings from the original dictabels to regular reel-to-reel magnetic re-

cording tape. It's a good thing they did, because they could have erased this evidence. Obviously no one in the Dallas Police Department, or in the FBI or anywhere else that we know of, ever thought to look on this recording for gunshots. The first thing that Bolt, Beranek & Newman did was to make sure that the magnetic tape version was an exact copy of the dictabel recording. They matched identically. There were no changes, there were no alterations or deletions made in the reel-to-reel tape. As I understand it, the original, preliminary report indicated four shots and some evidence of more. But the only way to correctly analyze the

PHOTO BY BELL. Eyewitness converge on the grassy knoll moments after the shots were fired.

PHOTO BY BELL. Eyewitness converge on the grassy knoll moments after the shots were fired.

client time to adequately analyze the results of the August 20 reenactment and that these findings were thus hastily arrived at and subject to considerable refinement. On December 29, doctors Mark Weiss and Ernest Aschenkany of Queens College in New York City testified that their far more refined analysis indicated a 95 percent probability of a fourth shot from the grassy knoll.

**Excerpt from the Gallery Symposium:**  
GARDEN: The police tape, of course, becomes central to the questions of the number of shots fired, the directions from which they originated, and was there or was there not a conspiracy? There is a great deal left unsaid by the House Committee's work on the tape. Not one of the three eminent scientists who were asked with this was ever asked "Could these have been the only shots?" The Dallas Police tape picked up the impulses of four shots. However, this does not preclude shots fired through a slatener, or those having such characteristics that they would not raise their volume above that of the police motorcycle engine, which was right next to the microphone. Indeed, if a shot had been fired from any point, except the Depository window, or behind the stockade fence at the grassy knoll, it would have been reflected as a false alarm, simply because the echo patterns would have been different. No other firing point except these two points, was ever tested by the Committee.

It is interesting to note that in a photograph by Mary Moorman, and in the later frames of the Zapruder film, there is a shape that appears approximately eight feet to the left of the corner of the stockade fence. Without any knowledge that these photographs or films existed, Professors Weiss and Aschenkany, through scientific listening, placed the shooter at eight feet to the left of the corner of the stockade fence—exactly where two bits of photographic evidence, that they had never seen until after the testimony, showed that there was probably a person there.

PHOTO BY MARY PELTANO. A Dallas Police Department field inspector is seen in the Plaza area. The photograph shows Oswald firing a rifle from a grassy knoll.

on some of the things that you were doing during the interference sequence that only could have come from the Trade Mart. There was apparently some sort of radio communication set up at the Trade Mart. There were motorcycles out there, and at one point on the tape you can hear a broadcast of Channel Two on Channel One. What apparently happened was that there were two motorcycle officers together, or one motorcycle officer and a police car, and another open microphone—of which there are many throughout this tape, not just one, there are many, over this two-to-eight-minute period—but apparently an officer out at the Trade Mart with an open microphone was right next to another police radio that was broadcasting Channel Two. Consequently, the microphone picked up what was said on Channel Two. In another segment of the tape, you can hear an officer whistling. He's obviously oblivious to what has happened. So he's got to be in some other location in the city. You can hear some officers starting a motorcycle engine. You can hear their feet banging against the side of it—many extraneous noises. There is a callion bell from a church near the Trade Mart. And because the bell sound was heard on the tape, again the conclusion was drawn that the microphone was not in Dealey Plaza. Well, they determined it was Dealey Plaza. There are twenty noises from echoes bouncing off various places. These are exact measurements, down to a foot. The map that Weiss, Aschkenasy and Barger worked from was accurate to within one foot. And of the twenty-two noises that were analyzed, they used twenty. Two of them did not come back in exactly the right position, so they took out two of these indicators. If they had used these two, to compute the information, the probability would not be 95 percent or greater; it would be 100 percent. That's a very important thing to understand. The probability that was given by the experts is 99 percent or better, was only because they left out information that would have supported what they were

doing—only because they weren't as certain of these last two noises as they felt comfortable with. There is no way that these impulses, caused by echoes, would look the same if the microphone were anywhere else but Dealey Plaza. In fact, Aschkenasy said, when the Committee members questioned him on this, you "would have to find a duplicate Dealey Plaza somewhere in Dallas for the open microphone not to have recorded the shots." This is physical evidence; it cannot be altered. The original dictabelt cannot be altered either. If you want to record over a dictabelt that has already been recorded, it erases what's already there. Literally destroys it. It cannot be done. The dictabelt and the magnetic tape copy done in early '64, are identical in every way. The tapes are not fake. Pellicano did his analysis by listening to the Dallas Police tape only. He did not have access to the tapes of the reconstruction that Barger, Weiss and Aschkenasy have.

**THE SEARCH FOR THE OPEN MICROPHONE**

McLain's belated recollections have been widely cited, particularly by CBS, as evidence that the acoustic experts are wrong—that the recording in fact could not have originated in Dealey Plaza. Evidence gathered by Gallary suggests otherwise.

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**BLAKE'S PROBLEM: TOO MANY, TOO CLOSE**

When Committee staffers first learned of the acoustic results, many began to refer to them as "Blake's Problem." Indeed the fourth time a shot rases a far greater problem for Blakey and the Committee than a second of the evidence. Blakey's problem is that the likelihood of at least one of the evidence sources and that all of them the notion that Oswald could have fired these shots from the rear of the Zapruder film of the assassination, according to a sort of clock that allows the calculation of the timing of the assassination. The camera operated at a speed of 18.3 frames per second, meaning that each frame represents 1/18th of a second.

According to the Dallas Police tape, the spacing of the four shots is as follows:

- 1.6 seconds or 29 Zapruder frames between shots 1 and 2
- 6.1 seconds or 112 Zapruder frames between shots 2 and 3
- 0.6 seconds or 11 Zapruder frames between shots 3 and 4

There is only one unambiguous point of contact of a bullet visible on the Zapruder film. That is frame 313, which shows the President's head exploding. One bullet can thus be assumed to have struck the President at frame 312 (1/18th of a second before the impact exposure). This would have to be either the third shot (which came from the knoll) or the fourth shot (which came from the rear).

**THE COMMITTEE'S UNLIKELY SCENARIO**

It has been long contended—without acoustic evidence to support them—that the shot that drove the President's head violently backward to the left could only have come from the right front, the grassy knoll. The Committee was determined to conclude that all shots were fired from the southeast corner window of the Book Depository. It presented the evidence in support of this conclusion, but many of the Committee would not concede that JFK was hit from the front, open corner because that it had previously accepted in support of the lone-assassin theory. To accommodate its conclusion, the following sequence of shots. (Because we know how much time elapsed between shots, we can match each shot to a frame of the Zapruder film by converting seconds to frames—one second equals 18.3 frames. Thus, if we link one shot with Zapruder frame 312—"henceforth" identified as Z312—the other frames that coincide with shots can be determined by counting frames forward or backward.)

The Committee says the first shot came here:

Z160: The President is seen waiting in the crowd in this frame. There is no evidence that he has been hit or that anything is amiss. The Committee concludes that a shot was fired at this point and missed.

The Committee says the second shot came here:

Z169: Kennedy is still waiting. According to the Committee, Kennedy is hit here. The bullet goes on to strike Gov. Connally. The impossibly disappears from Zapruder's view at Z210. When a sign intervenes with his line of sight. When the automobile reappears at Z222, Kennedy is obviously hit. Connally shows no visible reaction until sometime in the Z30s. The Warren Commission's reaction, even though the bullet allegedly entered his back, startlingly hit and collapsing his lung, emerged from his chest, scattered the thick radial bone in his ribs, and lodged in his thigh.

Photo #21: This photo is from the Ballin. Another motorcycle is now heading toward the triple underpass. The impossibly is passing approximately thirty seconds earlier. This could be McLain.

Photo #22: Acoustic experts calculated the location of the open police microphone at the Houston-Shin intersection at the moment of the first shot. This frame from the Elise Domin film, taken from the fourth floor of the Book Depository, confirms that officer McLain was at this spot at precisely that moment.





# Autopsy Cover-Up: Wandering Wounds

ne of the most perplexing aspects of the House Select Committee's investigation into the assassination of President John Kennedy is the handling of the autopsy evidence, beyond doubt the most crucial physical evidence relating to the assassination.

The autopsy has been stepped in controversy from the very outset. Whisked away from Dallas where it legally should have been autopsied by the Dallas Medical Examiner, Kennedy's body was flown to Bethesda Naval Hospital where three military pathologists performed the task. Of the three, only one was a forensic pathologist trained to deal with violent death. Even so, his role in the autopsy was strictly a secondary one.

Almost all aspects of the Bethesda autopsy have come up for criticism. Almost every finding has been contradicted by other evidence, bullet holes in the President's shirt and jacket, for example, indicate that he was struck in the back approximately six inches below the collar. The wound was seen by four Secret Service agents, two FBI agents, and the President's personal physician, all of whom concurred that the wound was four to six inches below the shoulder. Yet the location of this wound was reported in the autopsy as being far higher—at the base of the neck. That higher location was essential to the Warren Commission's single-bullet theory, which concluded that the shot that hit the President went on to exit his throat and inflict five mortal wounds on Governor Connally—turning up even more in near-perfect condition at Dallas Parkland Hospital.

The throat wound presented another problem. It was a small, neat wound that doctors at Parkland Hospital in Dallas had enlarged for a tracheotomy. Seven doctors who worked on the President's wounds at Parkland indicated that the throat wound was an entrance wound.

never realized there had been a throat wound until they spoke with the Parkland doctors over the body of the President was no longer in their possession. Critics have challenged the autopsy doctors' deduction that this was an exit wound in view of the opinion of the Parkland doctors. Conflict also arose over the description of the wound in the President's head. Doctors at Parkland Hospital unanimously described a wound that had done massive damage to the occipital (back) portion of the President's skull. Yet the autopsy report described a wound in which the occipital area was undamaged. Indeed a large bone fragment discovered in Dealey Plaza and examined at Dallas Methodist Hospital before being turned over to the FBI was thought by the pathologist who examined it to be from the "occipital region of the skull," which had been reported intact in the autopsy report. (The House Assassinations Committee had this fragment examined by anthropologists to determine whether it was occipital bone from the rear portion of the skull or parietal bone from the side portion. No testimony was given on the matter during the public hearings conducted last September.)

And the doctor who had directed the autopsy destroyed the preliminary draft of the autopsy and notes taken during the autopsy—material that is normally included as part of a final autopsy report. Photographs and X-rays taken during the autopsy, which could have clarified many of the points of conflict, were "strictly withheld from examination" even by qualified pathologists.

In January 1969 the autopsy controversy was settled: no satisfaction of much of the press when the Justice Department released the report of a panel appointed in 1967 by Attorney General Ramsey Clark of three pathologists and a radiologist under the direction of Dr. Russel Fisher of the University of Maryland. (Fisher is the Panel Report, as it is commonly re-

ferred to, appeared to support the original autopsy findings. The Panel had seen the autopsy photos and X-rays. But to those familiar with the mass of medical evidence, the Panel only raised more questions. For example, a comparison of the Fisher Panel Report with the original autopsy report reveals a four-inch difference in the location of a small entrance wound in the head. The autopsy report had specifically placed the wound just above the right ear, but the Fisher Panel found it near the top of the skull. And there were other discrepancies between the two reports. A wound that was described by the original autopsy as "clearly visible" (Fisher's Panel, "The throat wound which the autopsy doctors had claimed was completely obliterated" by the tracheotomy, was seen by the Fisher Panel).

The Fisher Panel endorsed the findings of the original autopsy and the Warren Commission's single-bullet theory, yet it never explained Connally's wounds, which account for five of the seven wounds supposedly caused by that magic bullet. The Panel also endorsed the autopsy report's location of the neck wound at the base of the neck. (The Committee later looked at the photographs and the findings of the Fisher Panel were carefully hedged and often ambiguously phrased, indicating a desire to support and not challenge the autopsy findings and not get too specific.

In September 1977 G. Robert Blakey appointed his own panel of three forensic pathologists, a panel which, according to one Committee source, "seems to have been chosen for its predisposition" for the lone-assassin mission. Of the nine, only Dr. Cyril Wecht had ever expressed any skepticism about the single-bullet theory—or other medical aspects of the case. The associations of most of the other eight members of the panel should have excluded

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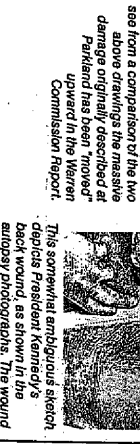
This Warren Commission exhibit depicts President Kennedy's wounds as described by the autopsy doctors. Note the absence of massive damage to the occipital portion of the skull, the location of the small entrance wound "just above the right ear," and the location of the back wound at the base of the neck.



This sketch, based upon an autopsy photograph, depicts a small entrance wound near the middle of the skull, far from the location above the right ear identified in the autopsy report.



This sketch represents a composite of the head wound described by doctors at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. Note massive damage to the occipital (rear) portion of the skull. As you can see from a comparison of the two above photographs, the massive damage originally described at Parkland has disappeared in the Warren Commission report.



This somewhat ambiguous sketch depicts President Kennedy's back wound, as shown in the autopsy photographs. The wound is approximately six inches below the collar line. Compare this with Dallas note in top left of drawing.

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live reporting. Goltz found Bronson and his film in Ada, Oklahoma. Sure enough, the film showed the sixth floor of the Depository about six minutes prior to the assassination (the time is established because at that moment Bronson is filming an ambulance that had arrived at that time to close to an epileptic seizure). Close examination of the film revealed what appeared to be movement in the sixth-floor corner window *and* in the window immediately adjacent to it. Were there two people, or perhaps three, on the sixth floor of the Depository just brief moments before the assassination?

There was certainly other evidence to suggest that there were two people on the sixth floor after the assassination that she had seen two men, one dark complected, in the sixth-floor window. She was not called by the Warren Commission or the Assassinations Committee. Contacted by Earl Goltz, she revealed that the FBI had pressured her to change her story. "They tried to make me think that what I saw were boxes."

Arnold Rowland also saw two men on the sixth floor, one with a rifle. One had a dark complexion. Rowland was called by the Warren Commission, which devoted two pages in its report to discrediting his testimony. The Assassinations Committee never looked for him.

Mrs. Tony Henderson also saw two men on the sixth floor, one with a dark complexion. An FBI report, published in the volumes of Warren Commission exhibits, indicates uncertainly as to which floor the men were on, but an earlier one—not published—reveals certainly. Mrs. Henderson was called neither by the Warren Commission nor the Assassinations Committee. She confirmed her observations to Goltz.

An attorney, testifying before the Warren Commission on another matter, told the Commission that he had a film which had been in the Dallas County Jail on the day of the assassination. The attorney suggested that the Commission might try to ascertain who was in the jail and question them as to what

they might have seen (the jail overlooks Dealey Plaza and faces the Depository). The Warren Commission failed to take the hint. So did the Assassinations Committee. But a tip led Earl Goltz to Johnny L. Powell, who had been a prisoner in the jail that day. He had observed two dark-complected men with a rifle on the sixth floor of the Depository. "Quite a few of us saw them," Powell told Goltz.

If there were two or more men on the sixth floor of the Depository, the case against Oswald as a lone assassin collapses. The Committee had evidence to this effect before the Bronson film surfaced. It chose not to investigate.

Goltz copyrighted front-page story ran in *The Dallas Morning News* on November 26, 1978. All three networks and most major newspapers carried the story.

The Committee hurriedly obtained the Bronson film and dispatched it to its photo panel, which convened on December 2. The panel had previously examined another film that showed the window from a different angle and had determined that apparent movement in that film was "false images." But the Bronson film was found to be of "superior quality." Without funds to enhance the film, the panel was unable to come to any conclusions, but it did suggest that computer enhancement was available concerning the appearance of movement in the windows. One member of the panel, Robert H. Selzer, of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, stated that there was clearly movement which could be human in both sets of windows. He strongly suggested computer enhancement.

Although it is hard to believe that Congress would have turned down a request for funds to analyze this startling new evidence, it was presented with no such dilemma. The Committee chose to close up shop without seeking an extension or funds to clear up those ends. On January 8, 1979, after the December 31 closing of the Committee, Chairman Louis B. Stokes wrote to Attorney General Griffin Bell recommending that the Justice Department investigate the film.

never realized there had been a throat wound until they spoke with the Parkland doctors over the body of the President was no longer in their possession. Critics have challenged the autopsy doctors' deduction that this was an exit wound in view of the opinion of the Parkland doctors. Conflict also arose over the description of the wound in the President's head. Doctors at Parkland Hospital unanimously described a wound that had done massive damage to the occipital (back) portion of the President's skull. Yet the autopsy report described a wound in which the occipital area was undamaged. Indeed a large bone fragment discovered in Dealey Plaza and examined at Dallas Methodist Hospital before being turned over to the FBI was thought by the pathologist who examined it to be from the "occipital region of the skull," which had been reported intact in the autopsy report. (The House Assassinations Committee had this fragment examined by anthropologists to determine whether it was occipital bone from the rear portion of the skull or parietal bone from the side portion. No testimony was given on the matter during the public hearings conducted last September.)

And the doctor who had directed the autopsy destroyed the preliminary draft of the autopsy and notes taken during the autopsy—material that is normally included as part of a final autopsy report. Photographs and X-rays taken during the autopsy, which could have clarified many of the points of conflict, were "strictly withheld from examination" even by qualified pathologists.

In January 1969 the autopsy controversy was settled: no satisfaction of much of the press when the Justice Department released the report of a panel appointed in 1967 by Attorney General Ramsey Clark of three pathologists and a radiologist under the direction of Dr. Russel Fisher of the University of Maryland. (Fisher is the Panel Report, as it is commonly re-

ferred to, appeared to support the original autopsy findings. The Panel had seen the autopsy photos and X-rays. But to those familiar with the mass of medical evidence, the Panel only raised more questions. For example, a comparison of the Fisher Panel Report with the original autopsy report reveals a four-inch difference in the location of a small entrance wound in the head. The autopsy report had specifically placed the wound just above the right ear, but the Fisher Panel found it near the top of the skull. And there were other discrepancies between the two reports. A wound that was described by the original autopsy as "clearly visible" (Fisher's Panel, "The throat wound which the autopsy doctors had claimed was completely obliterated" by the tracheotomy, was seen by the Fisher Panel).

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## Dissent Within the Autopsy Panel

By Dr. Cyril Wecht

photographs, possibly some X rays, microscopic tissue slides, and the President's brain are all missing, seem woefully inadequate. A dentist confirmed that the teeth correspond with President Kennedy's dental charts, but only three of the X rays showed any teeth, leaving the others unauthenticated. A photographic expert testified that the photographs had not been doctored, but he was not in a position to evaluate whether the person represented in all of the photographs was in fact President Kennedy.

The Committee did attempt, in a gentlemanly way, to determine the chain of possession of the autopsy material, but despite failure to fill in gaps, they did not utilize the contempt and subpoena power available to them. Of the scientific procedures utilized by the Committee for the first time, at least one is worthy of note. The enhancement process utilized to bring out details in the X rays had the interesting effect of eliminating clusters of dustlike bullet fragments clustered near the front of the President's skull. These fragments have been pointed to as possible evidence of a frangible bullet that may have exploded inside the President's skull, a finding which, if confirmed, would eliminate both Oswald's rifle and ammunition, and would add support to the theory that the shot was fired from the knoll. These "enhanced" X rays were exhibited during the Michael Baden, speaking for the Panel, neglected to mention fragments eliminated by the enhancement process. Baden did say that there was no evidence of a shot fired from any direction other than above and behind (the direction of the De-pository), however.

What is perhaps most startling about the findings of the Committee's autopsy panel is the fact that a major concession was made by the doctors, which should have resulted in a serious challenge to the single-bullet theory. Critics had long contended that the back wound could not be where the autopsy doctors said it was—that it had to be far lower in the back because of the locations of the holes in the clothing and the

eyewitness descriptions. The Fisher Panel had agreed with the location in the autopsy report, but the Assassinations Committee's panel revised the location to a point approximately two inches lower. The result is that for the first time the official position of the back wound is now lower than the position of the wound in the throat. When one considers the official theory that the bullet came from a point six floors above street level, it is difficult to comprehend how a bullet trajectory could exit at a point higher than it's entry. This did not dissuade the Committee's panel of experts. "It is our opinion that one bullet—and only one bullet—passed through President Kennedy's neck," Dr. Baden testified. "It is our opinion that one bullet—and only one bullet—went through Governor Connally. And it was the same bullet."

But the ultimate moment arrived when Dr. James J. Humes was called to testify. Here was the opportunity to ascertain why Humes had turned his nose. Here was the opportunity to clarify testimony at Clay Shaw trial by another one of the autopsy surgeons to the effect that military brass at the autopsy had prevented the surgeons from dissecting the back wound and had otherwise prevented a complete autopsy. Here was the chance to discover how such a major error could have been made in positioning the President's head and back wounds. Here was a chance to ask about FBI reports that a bullet—never again seen—had been recovered during the autopsy. Humes was asked two questions: To the question of turning his nose, he explained that they were bloodstained (so were other autopsy documents that were *not* burned). He went unchallenged. To the question of a four-inch mistake in locating the head wound, Humes conceded error through about largely from fatigue. He said the difference was "semantic."

After ten minutes of innocuous questioning, Humes was dismissed. Those who were present saw Humes seemed greatly relieved at the relative ease of the questioning and was heard to say, "They had their chance and they blew it."

One cannot challenge their competence or expertise as forensic pathologists. But one can certainly challenge their objectivity and credibility insofar as their performance in this matter is concerned. The panel met on several occasions, but one meeting—of which I did not learn until it had already taken place—involved a subgroup of six panelists (those who had not previously viewed the autopsy material) who were permitted a long personal interview with Doctors Humes and Boswell. Two of the doctors who were involved in the original autopsy of the President. ostensibly the reason for creating the two subgroups was that Dr. Weston, Dr. Spitz, and myself had viewed the material before they had the official report. But I think the real reason was that they wanted to interview the autopsy doctors without me being present, either because that's just the way they wanted it or because Humes told them that he would not meet with me. Of course, it was no investigative loss for because Spitz is not to be there, because Spitz is Humes' close friend. In fact, when Spitz was involved in his as yet unresolved Wayne County difficulties relating to professional activities in the Medical Examiner's office, among the major defendants to rush forward in his behalf was Dr. Humes. Similarly, Dr. Weston's a friend of Humes also challenged them at the time. I was extremely indignant that they had done this. I'm not suggesting that I would have been able to break Humes down on cross-examination. I probably would not have been afforded that opportunity even if I had been there.

But I do want to show the bias that that panel began with. For example, Bob Godden met with our panel one day. I was enraged by the way he was treated by some of the panel members. And I remember very well the difference in attitude on Blakely's part toward me and Bob on the one hand,

Dr. Cyril Wecht, past president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and one of the most qualified forensic pathologists in the country (forensic pathology is the study of violent or unexplained deaths, has for many years been one of the few members of his field to take a strong stand with regard to the Kennedy assassination and the implications of the medical evidence. The associations of several members of the forensic pathology panel selected by the Committee further suggest the Committee's desire to obtain an endorsement of the original findings of the Warren Report. The panel's makeup made it a foregone conclusion that Wecht would be a minority of one. If it was the Committee's plan to discredit Wecht by making it look as if his views were completely out of step with those of the rest of the profession, that plan backfired as a result of his brilliant presentation during the Committee's open hearings.

Dr. Wecht shared some of his personal experiences with the Galena Symposium:

I think it's more important to note that the panel of forensic pathologists convened by the House Select Committee on Assassinations consisted of competent experts from around the country. You might like to know how they were selected. A letter was received by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences from the House Committee requesting the names of "noncontroversial" forensic pathologists. I found that amusing. I guess that eliminated my friend Tom Noguchi from the West Coast, and possibly some others who might have brought some objectivity to the panel. It did not surprise to me, nor do I believe it was circumstantial, that many of the pathologists who were selected are from forensic pathology clique of Russell Fisher who headed the 1967 Ramsey Clark [Fisher's Panel and has a vested interest in having the questionable work of that panel endorsed.

Warren Commission Exhibit 389 (CE 389). The nearly pristine bullet is alleged to have struck Kennedy in the back, exited his back, shattering his ribs, exited his chest, passed through his wrist, shattering the radial bone (one of the thickest bones in the body), entered his thigh, and fell out, to be found later in this condition by a hospital orderly.

the panels. In the course of the discussion, Blakely made the following remark as he sat on an elevated dais in one of those large Congressional rooms: "Gentlemen, we've got to be sure that we come up with the right answer." I immediately challenged him and asked, "Professor Blakely, what is the right answer?" Well, he didn't have a response to that, but he thought about it for about five minutes and later came back and tried to explain what he meant by the statement: "The right answer..."

The panel's work can be summarized very quickly: Much of it can be related to the single-bullet theory. The other pathologists would challenge many points as we would move from one piece of evidence to another. Numerous obvious questions would arise, and at times I even had a shade of optimism about picking up an ally or two on some matters. Well, I did on some individual isolated points. But when it came time to put it all together, not being foods and having read all my articles and having heard my discussion and being fully aware of Weston's and Spitz' previous presentations (for CBS and the Rockefeller Commission), they recognized all too well that they had to draw their "Magna Carta" at the single-bullet theory.

So when it came time to explain various things that simply did not fit and were not consistent with anything they knew or had ever experienced as forensic pathologists, their answers were simply, "Strange things happen. Bullets do some crazy things. We can't recreate the experiments... (experts) that in fact were done under the auspices of the Warren Commission at Edgewood Arsenal back in 1964) because we cannot have a totally controlled scientific background, and hence the results might be conflicting and even misleading. We cannot again shoot through goat carcasses and human cadavers; we cannot recreate a scene with mannequins in an open innosuit, etc. We can't take strings back to the alleged site of Oswald's shooting—sixth floor, south-east corner, Texas School Book Depository Building because we don't really know all

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CE 875: This is what is left of a bullet fired into a cadaver's skull by the Warren Commission. The resulting fragments are almost unrecognizable.

and the other members of the panel whom he was also meeting for the first time. Not that I need or desire Mr. Blakely's personal friendship, but the evidence of his preconceived bias is important to note. His response to several comments was quite revealing. Once we had a joint meeting of a few of

## COMMITTEES OUGHT "NONCONTROVERSIAL" PATHOLOGISTS

Enter Werner V. Spitz

Spitz, a pathologist and a former member of the Warren Commission, is one of the few members of his field to take a strong stand with regard to the Kennedy assassination and the implications of the medical evidence. The associations of several members of the forensic pathology panel selected by the Committee further suggest the Committee's desire to obtain an endorsement of the original findings of the Warren Report. The panel's makeup made it a foregone conclusion that Wecht would be a minority of one. If it was the Committee's plan to discredit Wecht by making it look as if his views were completely out of step with those of the rest of the profession, that plan backfired as a result of his brilliant presentation during the Committee's open hearings.

Dr. Wecht shared some of his personal experiences with the Galena Symposium:

I think it's more important to note that the panel of forensic pathologists convened by the House Select Committee on Assassinations consisted of competent experts from around the country. You might like to know how they were selected. A letter was received by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences from the House Committee requesting the names of "noncontroversial" forensic pathologists. I found that amusing. I guess that eliminated my friend Tom Noguchi from the West Coast, and possibly some others who might have brought some objectivity to the panel. It did not surprise to me, nor do I believe it was circumstantial, that many of the pathologists who were selected are from forensic pathology clique of Russell Fisher who headed the 1967 Ramsey Clark [Fisher's Panel and has a vested interest in having the questionable work of that panel endorsed.

Warren Commission Exhibit 389 (CE 389). The nearly pristine bullet is alleged to have struck Kennedy in the back, exited his back, shattering his ribs, exited his chest, passed through his wrist, shattering the radial bone (one of the thickest bones in the body), entered his thigh, and fell out, to be found later in this condition by a hospital orderly.

CE 875: This is what is left of a bullet fired into a cadaver's skull by the Warren Commission. The resulting fragments are almost unrecognizable.

and the other members of the panel whom he was also meeting for the first time. Not that I need or desire Mr. Blakely's personal friendship, but the evidence of his preconceived bias is important to note. His response to several comments was quite revealing. Once we had a joint meeting of a few of

the panels. In the course of the discussion, Blakely made the following remark as he sat on an elevated dais in one of those large Congressional rooms: "Gentlemen, we've got to be sure that we come up with the right answer." I immediately challenged him and asked, "Professor Blakely, what is the right answer?" Well, he didn't have a response to that, but he thought about it for about five minutes and later came back and tried to explain what he meant by the statement: "The right answer..."

The panel's work can be summarized very quickly: Much of it can be related to the single-bullet theory. The other pathologists would challenge many points as we would move from one piece of evidence to another. Numerous obvious questions would arise, and at times I even had a shade of optimism about picking up an ally or two on some matters. Well, I did on some individual isolated points. But when it came time to put it all together, not being foods and having read all my articles and having heard my discussion and being fully aware of Weston's and Spitz' previous presentations (for CBS and the Rockefeller Commission), they recognized all too well that they had to draw their "Magna Carta" at the single-bullet theory.

# The Committee's Dilemma: To Make the Evidence Fit the Official Scenario

By Jerry Pollock

these precise measurements, etc. And yet when we read the magdry report, you will find that they do not hesitate to conjecture and speculate and arrive at some conclusions and hypotheses that have no basis in fact whatsoever when it suits their purpose. When it does not suit their purpose, they simply say, "We cannot engage in this kind of scientific speculation because we simply don't know that it is accurate."

I would like you to know—as I stated when I gave my testimony—that on numerous occasions with the entire panel as individuals and as a group, I pleaded, cajoled, provoked, challenged, in every possible way, all of them to come forward with one bullet from any of their vast array of cases that would even begin to simulate the near pristine appearance of CE 399 (the "magic bullet"). What they like to say—at least around here—is, "Well, we don't know that a bullet could not do this." And they will even sometimes say that they have seen bullets like CE 399. It should be clearly, emphatically noted for the record that no such "magic bullet" had ever been produced. I think it was pointed out that the nine of us on the panel had collectively done over 100,000 autopsies. That's an awful lot of post-mortem examinations. And I told them, "Fellas, I'm not holding you to 51 percent; not even 1 percent; not even 1/100th of 1 percent. Just bring in one bullet—one bullet that has done what CE 399 is alleged to have done and which emerged in the intact condition of this wondrous missile. You've got all the time in the world. Bring in one documented bullet like the JFK stretcher bullet." Well, as you know, no such bullet has ever been produced. And I think that this, perhaps, is the bottom line. There is no such bullet. There never was and never can be. There will never be experiments repeated under government auspices of the kind that were performed in 1964, because they're already going through difficulty in getting those results. There's no way in the world that they want to account for similar results under an even more controlled background today.

## Neutron Activation Analysis

One of the most sophisticated methods by which the single-bullet and lone-assassin theories can be tested involves neutron-activation analysis (NAA) by which analyses of trace elements present in the metals are compared.

The FBI submitted Kennedy ballistic evidence to the Atomic Energy Commission for the purpose of conducting NAA in 1964. However the results of those tests were never made available to the Warren Commission. The Assassinations Committee commissioned Dr. Vincent P. Guinn, an expert in the field of NAA, to conduct tests on the various bullets and fragments in evidence. Guinn compared bullet fragments allegedly taken from President Kennedy's brain, with fragments allegedly found in the Presidential limousine. He also compared fragments allegedly from Governor Connally's wrist with CE 399, the alleged single bullet.

Guinn found that it was "highly probable" that the fragments found in the car and brain matched and that the bul-

let fragments taken from Connally's wrist came from CE 399—persuasive evidence in support of the single-bullet theory. Guinn concluded that "there is no evidence for three bullets, four bullets, or anything more than two."

This testimony was the most dramatic evidence yet presented in support of the Warren Commission's lone-assassin findings. Once again, however, the Committee failed to ask the right questions. Fortunately, George Landner of the *Wash. Post* did not. Questioned by Landner after the Committee session, Guinn concluded that key fragments were missing, and more important, that the fragments he tested were not the same ones tested by the FBI in 1964. Elaborating, he said that he was given only two fragments, neither of which weighed the same as any of the four brain fragments tested by the FBI. Similarly, neither of the two "Connally wrist fragments" weighed the same as any of the three tested by the FBI.

Where did these fragments come from? Testimony elicited from FBI firearms expert Robert A. Frazier at the Clay Shaw conspiracy trial suggests a sinister possibility. According to the Warren Report, the FBI had removed only a small piece of CE 399's outside jacket for NAA testing. Frazier conceded, however, that a sample was also removed from the bullet's base.

That a piece of CE 399's head base was removed and is unaccounted for raises grave questions about the origin of fragments tested by Guinn. Why are Guinn's fragments different from those that were tested in 1964? That is a question the Assassinations Committee failed to ask.

Congressman Chris Dodd, the only member of the Assassinations Committee who has inquired into the conclusion that the shot from the grassy knoll missed, raised new doubts about the NAA tests. At the closing moments of the Committee's public hearings, Dodd asked Chief Counsel Blakey if, in view of the acoustic evidence, he might be willing to comment upon "bullet fragments found in the limousine that for some time has not been easily identifiable as a result of neutron activation tests."

Blakey, pleading memory lapses, promised Dodd a private briefing later. No clarification about this "neither-her-nor" fragment has been forthcoming at this writing.

## Ballistics, Trajectory

The Committee produced many "expert" witnesses who demonstrated a predisposition to the official lone-assassin findings.

Ballistics expert Larry Sturdivan (who had also done work for the Warren Commission) testified that the bullet that hit Robert A. Frazier at the Clay Shaw conspiracy trial suggested a sinister possibility. According to the Warren Report, the FBI had removed only a small piece of CE 399's outside jacket for NAA testing. Frazier conceded, however, that a sample was also removed from the bullet's base.

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## Failings of the Public Hearings

The public hearings of the Assassinations Committee were designed to be good theater, although spectators characterized them as exceeding boring, and not to add anything to the public's understanding of John Kennedy's assassination. Many relevant witnesses called to testify might just as well not have been called at all, in view of the treatment they received from the Committee.

Marina Oswald, whose testimony before the Warren Commission was a mass of contradictions and admitted lies, was subjected to little serious cross-examination. Criticized for the mild treatment by Nina Totenberg of National Public Radio, Blakey passed her a note saying, "Would you have us beat up on a widow?"

Former President Gerald Ford was treated with total deference, the Committee going so far as to submit written questions to him in advance of his appearance. He was not pressed about his informant vote for the FBI while a member of the Warren Com-

mission or about his failure to respond to Jack Ruby's request of them and Earl Warren's request to Washington so that he could "tell the truth."

Former CIA director Richard Helms, while not exactly getting a warm reception, was nevertheless spared questioning about alleged intelligence connections of Oswald, and about Helms' own conduct before the Warren Commission in denying that the CIA had ever even considered debriefing Oswald when he returned from Russia.

In the area of physical evidence, the Committee's failure to call eyewitnesses to the assassination or any of the surgeons who attended to the President in Dallas inadequately questioned of Dr. Humes, the autopsy surgeon) revealed the Committee's reluctance to locate evidence contrary to its intended conclusions.

A major failing of the Committee was its decision not to investigate the Dallas Police Department, Oswald was killed while in Dallas Police custody. The Dallas Police were respon-

## SOME WITNESSES THE PUBLIC NEVER SAW

There are literally hundreds of witnesses whose associations and activities before, during, and after the assassination should have made them key witnesses in any thorough investigation of the crime. Not that any of these witnesses could have solved the murder. However, the information they might have provided—when interrelated with other testimony—and then placed together might have gone a long way in solving the puzzle.

The Committee received hundreds of names in November 1978 when they began their work. These names came from among other sources, independent researchers, the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, and the assassination information Bureau.

Richard Case Nagell, claims to have known the assassination was being planned, testified for his own safety, he made sure that he would be in police custody on the day it happened.

Eugene Hale Bradley, alleged organized-crime figure who was in Dallas on November 22, 1963 in violation of his parole. Was arrested by Dallas Police and then let go. He was on the second floor of the Dal-tex Building, claiming to have been there to make a telephone call.

Lulu Kutner, Go-between for Jack Ruby and Kefauver Crime Committee. Ruby allegedly tried to keep Committee out of Dallas.

David Behin, Junior counsel for the Warren Commission and executive director of the Rockefeller Commission. Enclosed testimony from Charles Givens that Oswald had been of little interest to the New Orleans FBI.

James Angleton, former head of CIA counter-intelligence. Was part of the CIA group that acted as liaison with Warren Commission. Tried to prevent Warren Commission from having its own investigative staff.

able for the gathering of most of the initial evidence, much of whose testimony has been questioned. Ruby had innumerable close acquaintances in the Dallas Police. It is indeed difficult to accept the premise that Ruby gained access to the basement where he killed Oswald without the aid of members of the Department.

The Committee also failed to investigate the killing of Officer Tippit, allegedly by Oswald. Tippit's gift in that crime is no more fully established than is his guilt in the assassination.

The Committee's exonerated Oswald, not because there is necessarily evidence to the contrary, but because the Committee never conducted any serious investigation of that Agency. Neither Richard Helms nor CIA officials involved in the investigation of the assassination were questioned until July 1978—nearly a month before the Kennedy public hearings began.

Congress set out to answer questions and settle doubts. They ended up by further clouding the already muddy waters.

Pete White, FBI informant who acted as attorney for Jack Ruby. He was a partner of Marina Oswald's attorney.

Frank Sturgis, convicted Watergate burglar. Allegedly disseminated false stories about Oswald's pro-Castro activity following the assassination. Was one of six anti-Castro leaders warned by Kennedy in September 1963 to cease anti-Castro activity.

Sylvia Odio. Was visited by "Oswald" and a group of Cubans who later told her that "Oswald" had threatened to kill the President. Her scheduled public testimony was canceled because of time limitations.

Peter Gregory, member of the Dallas White Russian Community. Had intelligence connections. Friend of Lee and Marina Oswald. Was official translator for Marina after the assassination and allegedly mistranslated several key areas of her testimony.

Larry Grelard, Oswald look-alike who worked for Ruby and left Dallas immediately after the assassination.

Ruth Payne, helped find Lee Harvey Oswald his job in the Book Depository. Marina Oswald lived with her at the time of the assassination. Ruth Payne's alleged government connections have never been defined.

William George Gaudet, former CIA agent. Received Mexican visa immediately following the one issued to Lee Harvey Oswald. Warren de Bureau. With few exceptions FBI officials during Oswald's residency there. Personally compiled an extensive Oswald file. Later told Warren Commission that Oswald had been of little interest to the New Orleans FBI.

James Angleton, former head of CIA counter-intelligence. Was part of the CIA group that acted as liaison with Warren Commission. Tried to prevent Warren Commission from having its own investigative staff.

# The Many Faces of Lee Harvey Oswald

By Jack White

Jack White, an art director for a Fort Worth advertising agency, has for several years applied his skills as a photographer to analysis of evidence in the John Kennedy assassination. Primarily through the use of overhead photographs of Oswald holding the rifle, White indicates more than one and a possible substitution; and that photographs of the Oswald who returned from Russia are of a different person than the Oswald who "defected."

White served as a consultant to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, and therefore had little reason to suspect the "setup" that awaited him when he was called to testify about the Oswald backyard photos on September 14, 1978. As it turned out, White was subjected to a grueling cross-examination that the Committee was to reserve for only one other witness. (The other, Dr. Cyril Wecht, has persuasively argued the case for several years that medical evidence supports the conclusion that more than one gunman, fired at President Kennedy and Governor Connally.) It marked the first time in more than a week of public hearing... that any witness was placed in such a "trial-like atmosphere," noted one newspaper account of White's testimony.

The Committee's questions of White revolved around his knowledge (or lack of) of sophisticated scientific and computer techniques (i.e., "Did you compute photographic effects, the effect of light?"). Clearly, their intent was to subject White and his critics—and ironically in this case, one of their own consultants—to ridicule.

Before presenting the testimony of two scientific experts who were to testify as to the authenticity of the backyard photos (unconvincingly, some thought), Blakey claimed that respected British forensic photographer expert Malcolm Thompson, formerly of Scotland Yard, had retraced his

own widely publicized opinion that the photos were fakes as a result of the work done by the Committee's experts. In fact, Thompson, told of the Contraltee study, had merely deferred his opinion pending study of the Committee's analysis.

Over the last two years I have been studying the face of Lee Harvey Oswald, or what I call "the many faces of Lee Harvey Oswald." I have analyzed these pictures during that period, and they have led me to several conclusions, which I asked the Committee to investigate further. Their reply to me was, "Well, our forensic anthropologists are going to cover that. One of the things I called to their attention, and which they did address, was the picture of Oswald (#1) I've had on my office wall for several years. One night when I was looking at it, I noticed the number of "inch" marks behind the head, and I determined that this picture had a head that was 13 inches long. Then I looked at the New Orleans Police mug shot (#6), again with the inch marks behind the head, and it shows Oswald to have a 9-inch-long head.

Here's what I believe happened. The Lee Harvey Oswald who defected to the Soviet Union was likely an American intelligence agent who was caught and substituted in Russia. In other words, the Lee Harvey Oswald who was arrested in Dallas was not the ex-Marine, but rather a Russian agent. However, this does not mean that the assassin was a Soviet agent. This man did not kill Kennedy. He was framed as the patsy. What better type person could you have as a patsy than a foreign agent? He has no defense.

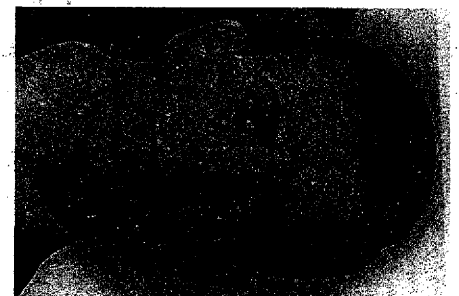
How I believe the Soviets created the "new" Oswald will become apparent through the following series of pictures. They will also explain why I can state with great assurance that the Dallas Oswald was not the Oswald who joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1956.



#1: This photograph, which I believe to be doctored, shows a 5'3" Oswald with a 13-inch head. Marine Corps records indicate that Oswald was 5'7" when inducted in 1956 at age sixteen. During his term of service, Oswald grew four inches, to 5'11", as documented by his discharge papers.



#2: Picture taken two weeks before leaving the Marine Corps in 1959.



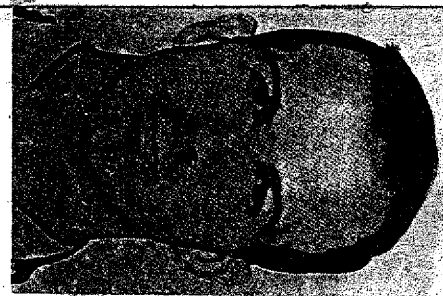
#3 & 4: Photographs taken in Russia.



#5: At taken in 1963. #5 is a passport picture taken in New Orleans.



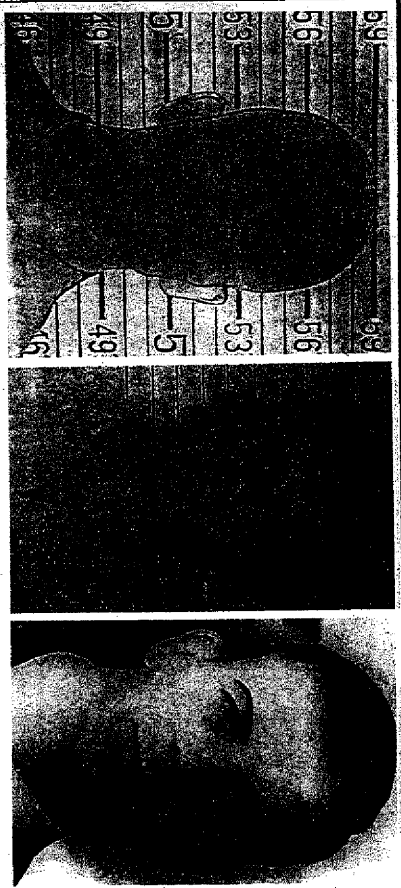
#6: New Orleans mug shot taken in August.



#7: Visa application photo taken in September.



#8: Dallas Police mug shot taken after assassination.



**Some Fascinating Comparisons**

Compare #1 with #6. The 1956 Oswald has a 13" long head, whereas the 1963 Oswald has a 9" long head. Photo #2 was taken in August 1959, and I believe that this is Lee Harvey Oswald. But photo #3, taken in Moscow in November 1959, is a very strange photograph. It doesn't look like the Oswald in

Dallas or the Marine Corps Oswald. This Oswald has a very big right shoulder and a small left shoulder. The light source is coming from the upper right, but the shadows fall as if the light source were coming from the upper left. As I examined this photograph more carefully, I saw much apparent retouching. The eyebrows and lips seem painted in. The right side of the lip is much thicker than the left

side. The indentation in the upper lip is off-center. There's an unnatural notch in the hairline. So, what I've concluded is that *one half of this face is one person and the other half is another person.* This is a photograph that I believe was fabricated by the Russians, in order to find someone who looked like Lee Harvey Oswald. If this photograph is split down the middle, the two sides look like a com-

pletely different person. Photo #4 is also strange. The notch in the chin is off-center, and if you follow that notch from a different line through the left side of the face, you detect a slight irregularity. Again, I think we have two different people. The man Lee Harvey Oswald is on the left and the Russian substitute on the right. So what we have here is Lee Harvey Oswald substituted for by the Russians.



**How the Russians Created the New Oswald**

They took a photograph of the real Oswald and cut it in half just as we have done. Then they matched that half against prototypical substitutes until they found one whose chin, lips, eyes, nose,

and hair reasonably matched. But they had one slight problem. The Oswald who was discovered from the Marine Corps was 5'11" (his official records

indicate he) whereas the Russian substitute was 5'9". The Russian's head was also slightly more elongated than the head of the real Oswald.



**Split-Face Mirror-Image Analysis**

A split-face analysis further demonstrates that the Russian photographs were composites. No one's face is perfectly symmetrical; however, two right sides of a person's face, when spliced together to create a mirror image, should at least appear similar to two left sides that are spliced together in the same way.

**As we can see this is the case with the Lee Harvey Oswald arrested in Dallas (#8). However, when this is done with the Russian composite, two completely dissimilar figures emerge. The figure on the left is the original substitute that the person arrested in Dallas for the assassination of President John Kennedy was not Lee Harvey Oswald.**



# The Continuing Cover-Up: Four Views Normal Security for the President

By L. Fletcher Prouty

From 1955 to 1963, Colonel Prouty was the "focal point of fire" between the Pentagon and the CIA. During 1962 and 1963 he was Director of Special Plans (deniable operations) in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is the author of numerous articles and of The Secret Team, published by Pyramid Hall (1973).

**P**erhaps you wonder, "How can you protect a President with a Secret Service?" You can, if you do it right. I have worked with teams who were protecting the President. Suppose you are a Secret Service man assigned to stand in a position where you can observe a riot, and you have a two-way radio. And other men are scattered through the Presidential route area on roofs and in other strategic positions. If a window opens, you can see it. It's not very difficult. Now, this is a normal assignment for the Secret Service. But on the day the President was killed, they didn't do that. We don't know why.

I went with Eisenhower's team to Mexico City when he went there. It's the biggest city in the world. In those days it was about 12 million people. We surveyed every roof, we put men with automatic weapons and two-way radios on roofs all over the city so that anybody who moved at the time the President was going through was under observation. So, when you consider that the President's path was through the relatively uncrowded Dealey Plaza, it really isn't as difficult as people think. Keep in mind also that special units of the U.S. Army are trained to assist the Secret Service with any number of men needed—5,000; 10,000; 20,000 if needed—to keep the President alive.

You watch the windows before you seal them. And the Secret Service has the authority to put a seal on doors, so people can't get in them.

None of this happened in Dallas. Trained U.S. Army intelligence units were not called in Dallas during the JFK visit. William McKinney, a former member of the crack 112th Military Intelligence Group at the 4th Army Headquarters, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, reminded me that both Col. Maximilian Reich and his deputy, Lt. Col. Joel Canaza, protested violently when they were told to "stand down" rather than report with their units for duty in augmentation of the Secret Service in Dallas. McKinney said, "All the Secret Service had to do was nod and these units which had been trained at the Army's top intelligence school at Camp Holabird, Maryland, would have performed their normal function of protection for the President in Dallas."

The 315th, the Texas unit that would have been involved if it supported had not been lined down, had records in its files, according to McKinney, on Lee Harvey Oswald. The 315th had a Dallas office, and its records were up to date. McKinney added that highly specialized classes were given at Camp Holabird on the subject of protection. This included training designed to prepare this Army unit to assist the Secret Service. If our support had not been refused, we would have been in Dallas.

It is also like to discuss the CIA's file on Oswald—what is known as the 201 file. At the beginning of World War II, as we all came into the Army the Army opened up what they called 201 files on us. The CIA, having grown out of the Army, actually, used the same system. Some of the Agency's senior personnel officers were Army colonels and majors who were familiar with the system, so they also opened up 201 files. So Richard Helms' ob-

fuscation of the meaning of the 201 file is a blatant one. The 201 file is the background file on a man, and the CIA certainly had one on Oswald. He worked at Ainslie. I don't know how many of you have been at Ainslie; the place is all underground. Ike Matia, the Japanese gave it to the CIA after the war. Nobody got in there that the Agency didn't have a file on or who wasn't cleared. Oswald left Ainslie in 1958 to go south with the group that was working on the rebellion in Indonesia. It's right in his record. Well, he couldn't have possibly done that without a whole flock of records. They wouldn't have let him in the group that went to Indonesia. But almost everything in Oswald's CIA 201 file is wrong. It's like they're really trying to cover up. They talk about Lee Harvey Oswald—they even got the name wrong. They got the place where he left the United States wrong. We know which FBI documents they were collecting this information from. It is as if they were systematically falsifying the original FBI documents to create a false personality.

It used to be my job to keep these files. We kept three files on every man. We kept a straight military file; we kept a straight Agency file; and we kept a straight civilian file. Now, you could falsify those where it was necessary, but for instance, if the subject was making monthly payments to an insurance company, he had to be able to give an address and so on, so we had to create this data so that the whole thing would work. But right on our own office in the Pentagon—let alone what the CIA had—now, this is on the Pentagon side, because some of these people had an affiliation with the military, as Oswald did, you see his Marine file was one of three. So when you say, "I want this man's file," the

Marines could come forward with a perfectly straight face and say, "This is this man's file, and the CIA certainly had one on Oswald. He worked at Ainslie. I don't know how many of you have been at Ainslie; the place is all underground. Ike Matia, the Japanese gave it to the CIA after the war. Nobody got in there that the Agency didn't have a file on or who wasn't cleared. Oswald left Ainslie in 1958 to go south with the group that was working on the rebellion in Indonesia. It's right in his record. Well, he couldn't have possibly done that without a whole flock of records. They wouldn't have let him in the group that went to Indonesia. But almost everything in Oswald's CIA 201 file is wrong. It's like they're really trying to cover up. They talk about Lee Harvey Oswald—they even got the name wrong. They got the place where he left the United States wrong. We know which FBI documents they were collecting this information from. It is as if they were systematically falsifying the original FBI documents to create a false personality.

using his brief, say as an unwelcome guest of the Dallas Police Department. Lee Oswald maintained emphatically that he was innocent and that he was a patsy. Indeed, we seen tonight indicates that unknown persons were seeking to implicate Oswald in the assassination, through the planting of evidence and the manufacture of a false confession. And it pains me, as a fellow resident of the Dallas area, to say that members of the Dallas Police Department, after the assassination, were instrumental in suppressing evidence or manufacturing evidence. To those of us who have taken the time in the past fifteen years to wade through the ungodly mess that comprises the twenty-six volumes of the Warren Commission's testimony and exhibits, the Warren Report represents nothing less than the systematic framing of an innocent man.

such witnesses. The Warren Report says that there were discrepancies and unanswered questions. There were two, and we're not even sure about them. There was only one witness for certain. He was only fifteen feet away at the time of the shooting and he could not identify Oswald as the murderer.

Timing is very important in the Tippit slaying. This is an area where the Warren Commission deliberately misrepresented evidence—in this case the definitive critique of the Warren Report, *Accusations After the Fact*, and I pleaded with Professor Blakey that one of the most important things that the Committee could do would be to determine, once and for all, what role, if any, Lee Harvey Oswald played in the actual shooting in Dealey Plaza. There is overwhelming evidence in the Warren Commission "hearings" to indicate that Oswald was, in fact, innocent.

I think most of us at this table ate in general agreement that November 22, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald's day in the barrel. Not only was he charged with the assassination of the President, but he was also charged with murdering Dallas Police Officer who was slain forty or forty-five minutes after the assassination in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas.

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The only time the Tippit murder came up during the Select Committee hearings was during the appearance of former President and Warren Commission member Gerald Ford. Congressman Sawyer was questioning Mr. Ford about why Officer Tippit might have stopped the pedestrian. He voiced his opinion that evidence against Oswald in the Tippit murder was overwhelming. There was no doubt that Oswald had killed Tippit. This occurred just before Mr. Ford made his notorious attack on the critics, in which he used the Tippit murder as an example of how irresponsible the critics of the Warren Commission are. He said that there are six witnesses who saw Oswald shoot Tippit. Well, Mr. Ford was displaying either ignorance or dishonesty about the case, because there were no six

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would like to comment on the CIA's possible role in the cover-up, or the conspiracy to kill President Kennedy. One thing that disturbs me is that we have this ton of photographic evidence that is being analyzed by independent critics and, in some cases, I assure, by outside firms. But as far as I know, one of the groups most qualified to analyze this information has never been called upon. The CIA has under its jurisdiction the National Photographic Interpretation Center. The Center can do computer enhancement and the world's best optical equipment and probably the world's greatest photographic experts. The Committee has attacked people like Jack White for his analysis. What really bothers me is that they never really did come back with evidence to counter his analysis or conclusions. But the U.S. government has the capability to analyze all this information. I think about this, and then I start saying to myself, "Well, it's just too obvious to miss." To have used this capability and not to have used it, I suspect that it has been never referred to, why they never would then have to bring forth their analysis for, in essence, cross-examination. The Agency has always tried to give the impression that it was disinterested in the Kennedy assassination; it had no responsibility for it. It accepted the findings of the Warren Commission, and so on. Well, a few years ago, when those photographs of the three tramps arrested in Dealey Plaza surfaced, and some critics were trying to determine who these people were, I gave two researchers—A.J. Weberman and his coauthor, Carlisle, who were pursuing this problem—the name of the man who is the father of photo interpretation and photo analysis in the CIA and U.S. government, or was, I said get in touch with this person and see if he can't give you some help. Nothing ever happened. The photos were sent to Germany for analysis. I think they gave it to a Swiss firm or something like that, and the analysis was inconclusive. Well, recently, the CIA has begun to release to me some

## Oswald and Officer Tippit

By Larry Harris

Larry Harris is a Dallas resident who has studied the case against Lee Harvey Oswald and the slaying of Officer A. D. Tippit, a second, staying at home. He is currently working on a book in which he argues that Oswald was framed for both murders. What follows is excerpted from Harris' remarks at the Gallery symposium.

Using his brief, say as an unwelcome guest of the Dallas Police Department. Lee Oswald maintained emphatically that he was innocent and that he was a patsy. Indeed, we seen tonight indicates that unknown persons were seeking to implicate Oswald in the assassination, through the planting of evidence and the manufacture of a false confession. And it pains me, as a fellow resident of the Dallas area, to say that members of the Dallas Police Department, after the assassination, were instrumental in suppressing evidence or manufacturing evidence. To those of us who have taken the time in the past fifteen years to wade through the ungodly mess that comprises the twenty-six volumes of the Warren Commission's testimony and exhibits, the Warren Report represents nothing less than the systematic framing of an innocent man.

## The CIA's Role

By Victor Marchetti

Though not a student of the Kennedy assassination in the same sense as the other members of the Gallery panel, Victor Marchetti's background as a former high-intelligence official of the Central Intelligence Agency places him in a unique position to evaluate alleged indications to connections of Lee Harvey Oswald. He is also in a position to provide the insight of a former insider to questions of the CIA's role in investigating or covering up the assassination.

would like to comment on the CIA's possible role in the cover-up, or the conspiracy to kill President Kennedy. One thing that disturbs me is that we have this ton of photographic evidence that is being analyzed by independent critics and, in some cases, I assure, by outside firms. But as far as I know, one of the groups most qualified to analyze this information has never been called upon. The CIA has under its jurisdiction the National Photographic Interpretation Center. The Center can do computer enhancement and the world's best optical equipment and probably the world's greatest photographic experts. The Committee has attacked people like Jack White for his analysis. What really bothers me is that they never really did come back with evidence to counter his analysis or conclusions. But the U.S. government has the capability to analyze all this information. I think about this, and then I start saying to myself, "Well, it's just too obvious to miss." To have used this capability and not to have used it, I suspect that it has been never referred to, why they never would then have to bring forth their analysis for, in essence, cross-examination. The Agency has always tried to give the impression that it was disinterested in the Kennedy assassination; it had no responsibility for it. It accepted the findings of the Warren Commission, and so on. Well, a few years ago, when those photographs of the three tramps arrested in Dealey Plaza surfaced, and some critics were trying to determine who these people were, I gave two researchers—A.J. Weberman and his coauthor, Carlisle, who were pursuing this problem—the name of the man who is the father of photo interpretation and photo analysis in the CIA and U.S. government, or was, I said get in touch with this person and see if he can't give you some help. Nothing ever happened. The photos were sent to Germany for analysis. I think they gave it to a Swiss firm or something like that, and the analysis was inconclusive. Well, recently, the CIA has begun to release to me some

documents concerning their spying on me and their surveillance of me. Among these documents that I received is a memo of a conversation by the Inspector General of the CIA, saying that this individual, this former head of the National Photographic and Interpretation Center, called the Deputy Director of the Agency about my concern regarding these three photographs and that the matter was handled to the Inspector General. There were a lot of deletions, obviously, in this memo, but it could fill in a lot of the blanks. Now, why did they get so damned excited over the fact that two Typies came up with some photos and I suggest that they go talk to someone? So I think that there is definitely much more knowledge concerning the significance of these photographs than we the public have been told.

I'm building to a point that I will make later. I will not sit idle and make an observation (and this is in with a lot of your work, Jack), and that is that Lee Harvey Oswald just doesn't fit. He never smelled right from the very beginning. I think the first cover-up story we were given was that Lee Harvey Oswald was some wacko Marine who went off to the deep end and ran off to Moscow, and, you know, being magnanimous as we are, we let him come back. That was the original cover-up, which lasted 15 years, until experts like yourselves—expert critics—began to tear it apart, and actually came forward with so much information that something else had to be done about Oswald. Another story had to be fabricated, another cover story. This one found its way into the public consciousness through a book by Edward J. Epstein, who got virtually all of his information from CIA sources.

They told him that "yes, Oswald went over to the Soviet Union, and he was not just a crazy man. This guy knew a lot about the U-2, because he had been stationed at Alstair Air Base in Japan—one of the bases the U-2 flew out of—and he gave the Soviets valuable information, which they were able to use to shoot down the U-2. Later he came back, and

the implication is that he might have been a double agent or something. However, right after the assassination, a Soviet agent comes out and denies everything. There are two points. One is that this just plain bull that Oswald supplied the information to the U-2. I worked on that program, and that there was ready to be taken. The Soviets knew about the U-2, and they had been following it. They had been developing it, using zoom optics with their MIDs, trying to get closer and closer. It was just a matter of time before they picked off somebody, and that somebody happened to be Frank Powers. The point is, they now had a different cover for Oswald, whom they presented in a very interesting way.

It wasn't really important in the Epstein book that Oswald went over there as a spy. What was important in the book was that Nosenko, the Soviet who came here, said, "Oswald was not working for us." That was the important story in the book. And this reflected a fight that is currently going on in intelligence circles—a gutter fight—guess you'd call them the hawks and the doves—this was the hawks getting in their tick. Now, I had some information that suggested that the CIA was going to pull what they call a limited "thangout" in the Committee investigations. They'd admit to a certain number of wrongdoings and then cut it off there, and maybe finger some people. Well, the interesting thing about this is that when the CIA is finally called in—after another story had to be fabricated, another cover story. This all, this is an investigation that's been going on for months—what happens? The CIA doesn't even send up a person former officer—John Hart—who doesn't talk at all about the Kennedy assassination or Oswald or anything, but he talks about the Nosenko case all afternoon long. While these Congressmen are sitting up there and looking at each other and saying, "What the hell is he talking about?" Who's Nosenko? What does this have to do with Oswald? But he gets away with it. Now, this is the other side in the Agency

striking back at the people who had fabricated the second public story. But the boys on the inside were smart enough to take advantage of it. "If they're going to use it," if it be our second cover story. And we're going to use it." It will be fabricated a story for us, said he didn't know anything. He'd been out of the Agency for a couple of years, but he was just doing what they'd told him to do—review this one case—and go up and present the evidence. Well, now, isn't that an equivalent of a three-star general, who was a powerful station chief in many countries, and he just doesn't know anything, and he neglects to tell you that while he, indeed, is retired, he is packing his bags to go to London where his wife is the new station chief for the CIA.

Now, to wind up, and picking up on a point that I think Peter Dale Scott made... Yes, I think the cover-up is the key thing. We're only going to learn as much as the government wants us to learn, officially, and that can only be brought about, I think, by pressure from the outside. I do not share your optimism that if we work hard enough, and the media's with us, the government or the Congress will investigate things. You'll excuse me if I'm a bit cynical, but having been deeply involved in another matter involving a review of the CIA and the intelligence community, that would never have come about if it hadn't been for the power of the press on the one hand, but it was generated by former insiders who were job-

bying for reform, which coincided with the press' suspicion. But the boys on the inside were smart enough to take advantage of it. "If they're going to use it," if it be our second cover story. And we're going to use it." It will be fabricated a story for us, said he didn't know anything. He'd been out of the Agency for a couple of years, but he was just doing what they'd told him to do—review this one case—and go up and present the evidence. Well, now, isn't that an equivalent of a three-star general, who was a powerful station chief in many countries, and he just doesn't know anything, and he neglects to tell you that while he, indeed, is retired, he is packing his bags to go to London where his wife is the new station chief for the CIA.

Anyways, when they finally do get around to Helms the next day, Helms is so burned up at everybody about everything, he scares the hell out of the Committee and makes some tough remarks that if he'd known they were going to act this way fifteen years later, he'd driven with a truck and dumped everything on them. And he bluffs his way right out. Nobody asks any tough questions about Oswald. Or any of the other reasons related to it—Clay Shaw and everything else.

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## The Media and the Cover-Up

By Peter Dale Scott

A former Canadian diplomat, he now teaches English at the University of California, Berkeley. Since 1972 he has continued to research and publish on the political context of the Kennedy assassination. He has also produced a widely acclaimed film on that subject for Channel television.

It really doesn't take a lot of brains to kill a man, and if you had two maniacs who wanted to kill a President in Dallas Plaza, almost any kind of maniac would

But what gives signs that this whole thing is bigger than that is that there is evidence of cover-up. There is evidence of cover-up even in the Oswald case before the assassination. There's a lot of evidence of cover-up at the time of the assassination, and there's evidence of cover-up in 1979. So, this is not just a matter of historical curiosity. This is a problem that should concern every one of us who's living in America today. I quite agree that there was a lot of evidence of cover-up within the Committee. But if this is something that goes back to 1963, we obviously can't blame it all on the Committee. I'd like to remind you of the fate of one other Committee—the House Select Committee on Intelligence, the so-called Pike Committee. A couple of years back, I started to look into the CIA and prepared a report which was a good deal more critical than was the more cautious Senate Select Committee—the Church Committee. The Pike Committee, having gone much further in its criticism of the CIA, ended up being the only Congressional committee in the history of this country that wasn't able to publish its own report. The report ended up appearing in *The Village Voice* and is not even an official document of the House. This is something without any kind of precedent. And I suppose one of the things that constituted the present House Select Committee on assassinations is that it didn't want to end up where the Pike Committee ended up. I think the most obvious example of pressers working here, which are digger and more ongoing than the actual House Select Committee, is the attitude of the press.

We've had the Committee come out with a finding of a probable conspiracy in the Kennedy assassination, and what has been the editorial reaction of the nation's two largest and "most responsible" newspapers? On the one hand, you've had the *Washington Post*: "Well, so what if two people were shooting at the President, the *Washington Post* speculated on January 30 of this year. They could have been acting independently. Two men; within a half-second, and here's the *Washington Post*

saying there's no proof of conspiracy because it could be a coincidence. So that editorial is very soundly saying that it's not worth pursuing. They're really advising the Justice Department not to pursue what they call these "cold leads." And on the other hand, you have *The New York Times*, which is not so foolish, and which says, if you have two people shooting at the President within a half-second, probably they're doing it in concert. And the *Times* concludes that technically, then, you probably have a conspiracy, and that would be the right legal word to use. And having said all that, *The New York Times* did remind you of the fate of one other Committee—the House Select Committee on Intelligence, the so-called Pike Committee. A couple of years back, I started to look into the CIA and prepared a report which was a good deal more critical than was the more cautious Senate Select Committee—the Church Committee. The Pike Committee, having gone much further in its criticism of the CIA, ended up being the only Congressional committee in the history of this country that wasn't able to publish its own report. The report ended up appearing in *The Village Voice* and is not even an official document of the House. This is something without any kind of precedent. And I suppose one of the things that constituted the present House Select Committee on assassinations is that it didn't want to end up where the Pike Committee ended up. I think the most obvious example of pressers working here, which are digger and more ongoing than the actual House Select Committee, is the attitude of the press.

one of the cars was holding something that looked very much like a microphone or a radio. This doesn't sound like the activity of maniacs. He also testified that at the time of the assassination—and he was saying this to the Warren Commission—the saw something very peculiar down there. He said, "At the moment I heard the sound, I was looking directly toward the area. At the time of the shootings, there seemed to be some commotion. I just am unable to describe it other than by saying it was something out of the ordinary, a sort of milling around. But something happened in this particular spot that was out of the ordinary. Some reason, which I could not identify." The Warren Commission counsel cut him off at that point, but Warren Commission critic Josiah Thompson wanted to know more, and Bowers told him also that he had seen a puff of smoke from that area. So that's one witness who suggests that we're dealing with more than just two maniacs.

But much more serious, from my point of view, is the final report of the Secret Service after the assassination, saying that motorcycle had been deployed to the "side" of the President's car. Now, those of you who have seen the Zapruder film would have noticed that there were no motorcycles deployed at the "side" of the President's car. There were motorcycles deployed at the rear of the President's car. There is absolutely no doubt about this, and this might make the Dallas Police look rather suspicious. But the Dallas Police, who were very sensitive on this point, made a point of testifying to the Warren Commission that they had drawn up orders for the motorcycle men to be deployed to the side of the car. (I suppose if you want motorcycle police to protect the President, that's where they ought to be) and that these orders had been changed, and the motorcycles had been redeployed to the rear of the car at the specific command of the Secret Service. Now, I don't know if the Dallas Police are lying, but I certainly know that the Secret Service report is false. And when we are now

talking about a second gunman planned in advance to shoot at the President from the side, these redemptions become much more serious and again suggest something more than a plot by two maniacs.

But the most serious thing of all is the evidence of cover-up. It's always worth reminding ourselves that many of the people who covered up were not covering up because they were in any way part of an assassination. They were covering up because of their belief in what was national security. But the fact is, there is a belief in what was national security. And if Oswald was just one lone maniac, joined for a half of a second by another lone maniac, there would be no need for the U.S. government agencies to go through all these various contrivances. So I think the editorial of the *Washington Post*, which says it is not worth pursuing the "cold trails" to a second gunman, is looking at this evidence from the wrong direction. It's not the identity of the gunman that, particularly concerns us here; it's the reason for the cover-up. And let us take some hope from this and think of the analogy with Watergate: We never really learned what those people were doing in the Democratic National Committee. The crime itself escaped us. But the evidence of the cover-up was something that could be pursued. Witnesses could be broken at a lower level, and this could lead to a higher level, and so on. It's not too late for that sort of thing to be done in the Kennedy assassination, because we can start with the autopsy report and the changing of the autopsy findings. We even have one of the autopsy doctors who's testified under oath that he was ordered not to do certain things. But that's not been determined, but that's giving those orders. But that's the part which should be pursued. It should go higher and higher up until we finally locate people whose motives were not national security, but the interests of the nation, but because they had knowledge that other people did not have of what actually happened on November 22, 1963.

# Where Do We Go From Here?

Before ending the symposium of the members communit-ed on the overall work of the House Select Committee and what has ahead.

**PROUTY:** Garry, you've got an area that certainly stumped the Committee because they weren't ready for it. Is there anything you'd like to add?

**MACK:** I would 'ot be surprised as you mentioned earlier, if another recording turns up. We know of one radio man—Sam Pale of radio station KBOX—who was west of the triple underpass on Stemmons, broadcasting live at the time the shots were fired. He was in his car with his windows rolled up; he had a police radio was monitoring Channel Two when he gave this live broadcast. When he opened his microphone, it cut off his AM radio but left the Dallas Police radio on. Sam could not hear the shot; the chances that the shot could have been picked up are remote, but that is a possibility. The Warren Commission had that tape a tape of the live broadcast on KBOX. It was sent to a professor at Bell Laboratories in New Jersey.

But the professor's report and the tape disappeared. The press might still turn one up. I've talked with one newsman who was in the first press bus and definitely remembers a man up at the front of the bus on the driver's side, dictating into some type of tape machine or dictaphone machine when the assassination occurred. His window was open. The shots were fired, and he said "Guns—shoot!" There was a woman across the aisle who also heard the gunshots. They pleaded with the driver, "Stop, there's a gunshots; stop the bus." The driver replied, "I can't stop the bus. My orders are to go on to close to the bus did not hear the shots, but there is that possibility of another recording. The accusers' evidence, because it depends on the physical layout of Dealey Plaza, cannot be faked.

**PROUTY:** It's Dealey Plaza or nothing.

**MACK:** Right. Conclusions can be faked. But because this operation of studying acoustic analysis is cut and dried, any reasonably knowledgeable person can duplicate the study and come to the right conclusion.

**SPRAGUE:** Well, Garry, you must admit, it depends on where the shots are fired from in a test firing.

**MACK:** Well, you know, it wouldn't hurt to go back to Dealey Plaza and fire some shots from other locations to match up the unmarked sounds that are on the tape. There were many impulses—a total of fifteen—that were found initially and that indicated muzzle blast. That's not counting echoes from these fifteen impulses. Dr. Berger removed six of them as false alarms—ones that he felt could not be definitely identified as gunshot, according to the test. Berger was then left with nine impulses, and what Berger did was establish a confidence level. In other words, a cut-off line. When impulses fell above this cut-off line, he felt comfortable working with them. Those below, of which there were five, he did not feel comfortable working with.

**SCOTT:** Well, I think the really important issue is not the report. The really important issue is, what are they going to do with the information that they have collected? They promised to publish thirty-nine volumes, but as for the material they do not publish—are they going to allow it to be accessible, or are they going to put it under wraps? Now, if you think of the analogy with the Warren Commission, the Warren Report is of no use today. The twenty-six Warren volumes really were of some use and some of them, that are now being called "leads," like

of the Warren Commission, testify, and the very first of his recommendations was that the material should be made accessible to the general public. And I'm not going to make a final evaluation of this Committee until I see what they do with that material. The issue now is to make sure that as much as possible of that material is published, and that the rest is not put under lock and key.

**PROUTY:** In other words, you're saying there might be an Achilles' heel there.

**POLCOFF:** Well, I think there are several Achilles' heels, and we have to deal with all of them. We've touched on the press here tonight. The press when Sprague was there and it seemed that the Committee might come up with a conspiracy theory, the Committee met with a lot of hostile reaction from the press. That Baker came, and as it began to look like the Committee was moving back to a more conservative position, the press became more friendly. Now we see an outcry from the press again.

"Well, wait a minute, the Committee has gone too far. We have all this evidence that this Committee showed us that there was a lone gunman, and then we get this one little piece of evidence that perhaps there was a shot from the front, which is in contradiction to everything else they've shown us." We really have to take a look at some of this other evidence and the way the Com-

to disregard its own inadequate tests in this area because they destroyed the single-bullet theory. The Committee chose to do nothing. But, when the Committee was confronted with evidence that two shots were too close together, Blakey tested another rifle, claimed it could be fired in 1.6 seconds, and then claimed that therefore the FBI was mistaken when it concluded that five Oswald's rifle. Well, you can't test one rifle by testing another rifle. The Committee did neutron activation analysis and Dr. Guinn, an eminent expert in the field, testified in public sessions that the analysis tended to support the single-bullet theory and most of the findings of the Warren Commission. But when Dr. Guinn was questioned outside of the Committee hearings by George Lardner of the Washington Post, he conceded, "Well, the weights of the fragments that I have looked at aren't the same as the weights of the fragments that the FBI looked at." Why he didn't know, he was asked about other evidence he should have tested. The Committee didn't give him that evidence.

So, when he was asked the questions by a reporter from the Washington Post, questions he should have been asked by members of the Committee. It turns out that neutron activation analysis isn't quite so supportive of the findings of the Warren Commission as the Committee would have us believe.

For example, Dr. Weech, when he testified before the Committee, requested that the bullet theory to the scientific test. Find out if it's possible. Find out if a bullet could do this. Well, the Committee chose not to do that, because Blakey said you can't come up with conclusive results or proper scientific controls. That's nonsense. You can obtain similar ammunition and simulate skin, tissue, and bone material that was put, quite properly, into the National Archives. Now this Committee had Bert Griffin, from the staff

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# JFK Assassination Chronology

By Jerry Pollcoff

Events that have figured into various conspiracy theories, such as the war against organized crime, the arms race, Vietnam, and Cuba. Not included but relevant are numerous CIA plots against Castro.

- 1962
- May 19, Jimmy Hoffa indicted for extortion.
- December 23, Hoffa trial ends in hung jury.
- 1963
- March 30, State and Justice Departments announce crackdown on U.S.-based exile attacks on Cuba.
- April 3, President Kennedy reiterates that exile attacks against Cuba will not be tolerated.
- April 30, U.S. terminates financial aid to the Cuban Revolutionary Council, largest and most influential of the Cuban exile groups. Set up by the CIA, the CRC had been receiving up to \$200,000 per month in CIA funds up to that time.
- May 9, Hoffa indicted on five counts of jury tampering.
- June 4, Hoffa indicted for defrauding the Teamster Pension Fund.
- June 10, In a speech delivered at American University, President Kennedy calls for an end to the Cold War. JFK announces an end to atmospheric testing of atomic weapons by the U.S.
- August 5, Nuclear Test Ban Treaty signed between U.S., Soviet Union, and Great Britain. Treaty is hostilely received by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- September, Attorney General Robert Kennedy announces plans to expand the war against Organized Crime. Privately singles out Jimmy Hoffa, New Orleans mob chief Carlos Marcello, and Chicago mob chief Sam Giancana.
- September 15, Justice Department warns six prominent Cuban exile leaders of possible criminal prosecution if they persist in their raids on Cuba.
- October 24, Adlai Stevenson is spat upon in Dallas and hit with picket signs following a speech commemorating UN Day.
- October 24, French journalist Jean Daniel meets with President Kennedy prior to Daniel's leaving for Cuba for informal talks with Castro aimed at easing U.S.-Cuban tensions.
- October 31, President Kennedy, at a press conference, confirms U.S. plans to withdraw American troops from Vietnam.
- November 18-22, Jean Daniel meets with Castro to discuss easing of tensions with U.S.
- November 20, President Kennedy announces plans to withdraw between 1,000 and 1,300 troops from Vietnam by year's end.
- November 22, 1963 to the Present
- November 22, President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas. Lee Harvey Oswald, twenty-four-year-old ex-Marine, and ex-debtor to the Soviet Union, is accused. Claims he is a patsy.
- November 24, Lee Harvey Oswald shot to death by Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub operator, in the basement of the Dallas County Jail.
- November 24, Autopsy surgeon James J. Humes certifies that he has destroyed by burning certain preliminary notes from the autopsy of President Kennedy.
- November 29, President Johnson appoints the Warren Commission to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy.
- December 5, Secret Service conducts on-site tests in Dealey Plaza to determine how the President could have sustained an entry wound in the throat from a rifle fired from behind.
- December 8, New York Times reports that Kennedy autopsy surgeons have been ordered to not discuss the autopsy.
- 1964
- June 7, Jack Ruby is interviewed by the Warren Commission in the Dallas County Jail. Among those present are Earl Warren, then Congressman Gerald Ford, and special counsel to the Warren Commission, Leon Jaworski. Ruby says to be taken to Westington '80 (can't tell the truth about why, why act was committed). Warren refuses. Ruby says he fears for his life in Dallas.
- September 27, Warren Report issued. Concludes that both Oswald and Ruby acted alone. Finds no evidence of conspiracy.
- November 24, Twenty-six volumes of testimony and exhibits released.
- 1965
- February 21, Malcolm X assassinated in New York City.
- 1966
- May 29, Washington Post carries eight-column front-page lead story dealing with questions raised by Edward J. Epstein's (guest) and Harold Weisberg's *Whitewash*, both books critical of the Warren Report.
- September 11, New York Times Magazine carries feature article by Henry Farrell suggesting that even if there were two assassins, this does not necessarily mean there was a conspiracy.
- September 29, Congressman Theodore Kupfman of New York proposes that Congress conduct its own investigation into the Kennedy assassination.
- October 5, Jack Ruby's conviction is overturned because of mental pathology. May 15, now open for a new trial.
- November 13, Mark Lane's *Flash 70 Judgment*, critical of the Warren Report, becomes the number-one book on "The New York Times Best-Sellers List."
- November 24, J. Edgar Hoover says there is no evidence of a conspiracy behind the Kennedy assassination.
- November 24, Autopsy surgeons J. Thornton Boswell and James J. Humes examine autopsy photographs and X-rays taken during JFK autopsy, and now stored in the National Archives. They report that they "clearly show the accuracy of the autopsy report."
- November 25, New York Times editorial concedes "unanswered questions." Calls upon members of the Warren Commission to provide "responsible answers." *Life* magazine, in a cover story, challenges the single-bullet theory. Calls for a new investigation.
- December 10, Jack Ruby is admitted to Parkland Hospital suffering from pneumonia. Doctors discover cancer.
- 1967
- January 3, Jack Ruby dies of cancer.
- January 3, Saturday Evening Post calls for new investigation of the Kennedy assassination.
- January 11, Gallup Poll shows that 64 percent of the American people are unconvinced that Oswald was the lone assassin. Thirty-six percent believe he was.
- February 17, New Orleans States-Journal reveals that New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison is investigating possible New Orleans-based conspiracy behind the Kennedy assassination.
- March 1, Garrison arrests New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw, charging him with conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.
- March 6, Harris Poll reveals that 59 percent of the public feels there are unanswered questions in the Kennedy assassination. Thirty percent believe the full story is known.
- March 8, Vatican newspaper *Osservatore* says Warren Report is "not convincing." Calls for new investigation.
- December 20, Garrison charges California Fundementalist Edgar Eugene Bradley with conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.
- 1968
- February 16, Former CIA director Allen W. Dulles is subpoenaed by Garrison. Refuses to appear.
- February 27, Garrison subpoenas Zapruder film.
- April 4, Martin Luther King assassinated in Memphis.
- June 4, Robert Kennedy assassinated in Los Angeles.
- November 8, California Governor Ronald Reagan refuses to extradite Edgar Eugene Bradley to New Orleans.
- 1969
- January 18, Justice Department releases report of four medical experts who have examined autopsy photos and X-rays. Release is part of government's effort to block release of the material to Garrison. Report of panel, headed by Dr. Russell Fisher of the University of Maryland, appears to support the lone-assassin findings of the Warren Commission and to buttress the autopsy report.
- January 21, Shaw trial begins.
- February 14, Dr. Cyril Wecht, Chief Medical Examiner for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh) testifies on behalf of Garrison's attempt to subpoena autopsy material. Wecht points out major discrepancies between Fisher Panel Report and autopsy report, including a four-inch difference in the location of the head wound. Also points out fragments found by Fisher Panel which are not mentioned in autopsy report, and which appear to contradict the single-bullet theory. Wecht points out further that cranial photograph taken of the chest cavity appear to be missing. On the basis of Wecht's presentation, Judge Charles Hallack reverses an earlier decision and orders the National Archives to produce the autopsy material for the Shaw trial. Justice Department announces it will appeal, and Garrison withdraws his subpoena. Claims appeal process will extend past Shaw trial.
- February 24, Autopsy surgeon Pierre Finck reluctantly testifies to interference by military brass at JFK autopsy. Admits that autopsy was "incomplete."
- March 1, Clay Shaw is acquitted after fifty minutes' deliberation.
- 1975
- January, Former Warren Commission counsel David W. Bellin is appointed executive director of the Rockefeller Commission investigating CIA domestic operations.
- February 19, Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez introduces resolution calling for investigation of assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King.
- February 28, Dave Belin publicly states that "neither the CIA nor anyone else except Lee Harvey Oswald was involved in the assassination" of President Kennedy.
- March 6, Zapruder film gets its first national showing on ABC's "Good Night America."
- April 30, Congressman Thomas N. Downing introduces a resolution calling for investigation of John Kennedy assassination.
- June 6, Rockefeller Commission Report on CIA released. Chapter on Kennedy assassination finds Oswald acted alone.
- 1976
- June 19, Chicago mobster Sam Giancana is slain. Participated in CIA-Mafia plots against Castro.
- September 8, Senator Richard N. Schweiker calls for a Senate investigation of the John Kennedy assassination.
- September 29, N.Y. Daily News poll finds that 50 percent of the public favors a new inquiry into both Kennedy assassinations.
- October, House subcommittee on Civil Rights and Constitutional Rights holds hearings on alleged destruction of Kennedy assassination evidence by the FBI.
- November, House subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights holds hearings on National Archives classification requests as they pertain to the John Kennedy assassination.
- December, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence sets up subcommittee under Senators Richard Schweiker and Gary Hart to investigate the role of the CIA and FBI in investigating the Kennedy assassination.
- 1978
- June 23, Schweiker/Hart Report is released. Charges CIA and FBI investigation was "deficient" and that "facts which might have substantially affected the course of the investigation were not provided the Warren Commission."
- August 9, Murdered body of missing mobster John Roselli is discovered. Had played central role in CIA-Mafia plots.
- September 17, Congress votes by a margin of 280 to 65 (with one member voting "present") to establish a select committee to investigate the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King.
- October 4, Richard A. Sprague, the prosecutor who broke the Yablonski murder case and got a conviction of United Mine Workers President Tony Boyle for the crime, is appointed Chief Counsel to the House Select Committee on Assassinations.
- 1977
- February 10, Chairman of the House Select Committee, Henry B. Gonzalez, fires Sprague following a series of disputes. Gonzalez is overruled by the other eleven members of the Committee.
- March 2, Gonzalez submits his resignation as Chairman of the Assassinations Committee.
- March 25, Sprague resigns as Chief Counsel to the Assassinations Committee.
- June 20, Professor G. Robert Blakey of Cornell University is appointed Chief Counsel by new Chairman Louis B. Stokes.
- 1978
- August 20, Committee conducts reenactment of assassination in Dallas for the purpose of obtaining acoustic echo patterns for Dealey Plaza.
- September, Committee conducts public hearings. Emphasis is on Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone assassin of President Kennedy.
- December 28, Professors Weiss and Aschkenasy of New York's Queens College testify to a 95 percent probability of a fourth shot to the right front of the Presidential limousine. Their findings are based upon comparative acoustic analyses of the Dallas Police tape and the August 20, 1978 reenactment.
- December 31, Assassinations Committee issues preliminary report acknowledging a "probable" conspiracy in the Kennedy assassination based on acoustic evidence.

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CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE