

"All the News That's UNFIT to Print"

Joachim Joesten's

TRUTH LETTER

An Antidote to official Mendacity and Newsfaking in the Press

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Editorial: Before you rally around the guy, just take a hard look at his mug.

Second Shaw Trial Again Blocked by Federal Intervention

Nearly two years after District attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans had filed perjury charges against Clay Shaw, claiming that he had lied to the jury in the 1969 conspiracy trial when he denied ever having known or seen Lee Harvey Oswald or David Ferrie, Shaw was due to go on trial in Criminal District Court on Jan. 18, 1971, at 10 AM, Judge Malcolm H. O'Hara presiding.

Then the old, familiar rignarole started all over again. No sooner had the court been convened than the defense attorneys told the Judge that they were seeking a permanent injunction in Federal District Court against further prosecution of Shaw. It was a last-minute dilatory maneuver of the same type that had characterized the earlier long-drawn-out proceedings in the conspiracy case and served the same purpose: to seek at all costs further delay and, if possible, sledgehammer interference by the federal courts (which are, on the whole, more amenable to subrosa suggestions from Washington than the State courts are). Obviously Clay Shaw, despite his gratifying experience with the 1969 jury which acquitted him of conspiracy, is still as reluctant now, as he was then, to take his chances in an independent court of law.

After hearing the "surprise" plea by Shaw's Old Reliable, F. Irvin Dymond, Judge O'Hara quickly reset the trial for Wednesday (Jan. 20) morning, sighing philosophically, "If I'm enjoined (by the federal courts), then I'm enjoined."

In their petition, presented in federal court the same day, the defense attorneys held that Garrison, by the recent publication of his book 'A Heritage of Stone', had established a financial interest in the continued prosecution of Shaw. What humbug! At the time Garrison filed the perjury charges, in March 1969, he certainly couldn't foresee either that the trial would be delayed for two years or that, in the meantime, he could write a voluminous book and get it published. Was he supposed to drop the charges because of the book which, incidentally, does not mention Clay Shaw by name anywhere except in the "Notes" section where the case "State of Louisiana v. Clay L. Shaw" is occasionally, and indispensably, referred to in three places?

Even more hare-brained, to say the least, is the lawyers' contention that the District Attorney, by writing this book, had become "a full-fledged member, and ostensibly the leader, of the scavengers (sic) of the Warren Report." Welcome, fellow-scavenger, to America's noblest group of men and women that will still be honored long after all the Kennedy assassins with their backers, helpers, accessories and ghysters have bitten the dust in shame and dishonor!

As was to be expected, Federal Judge Herbert W. Christenberry responded promptly and favorably to the S.O.S. from Dymond & Co. On Jan. 19, he issued a temporary order halting the trial and ordering the DA's office to show cause etc. "It appears to the court that immediate and irreparable injury, loss and damage will result to the plaintiff if a temporary restraining order is not issued," the Judge declared.

Although Garrison, at a court hearing on Jan. 25, said he could produce 10 witnesses able to testify that they had seen Shaw with Oswald or Frrie at one time or another, Judge Christenberry on Jan. 28 continued the trial ban. In his ruling, the Judge expressed the opinion that Shaw's credibility had been fully tested in the conspiracy trial with the jury believing Shaw instead of the 'characters' the DA had brought to the witness chair. Having thus well established his prejudice in the matter, Christenberry then went through the motions of impartiality by granting each side 30 days to file further briefs and another 15 to answer. As far as can be ascertained at this writing, the matter has not yet progressed further, even though the period originally set by the Judge elapsed some time ago. There can be little doubt, though, that the ban on the State court trial of Shaw will eventually be made permanent by the federal judge.

One Man's Meat...

James Earl Ray, not being a darling of the Gods like the ranking CIA-agent Clay Shaw, and innocent to boot of the charges levelled against him by the FBF (Federal Bureau of Francups), had worse luck. A hearing was held in Shelby County Court (Memphis) on Feb. 26, 1971, but after a lengthy presentation of the defense arguments, the court predictably denied Ray's petition for a new trial. There is too much at stake in what I have called, years ago, The Greatest Police Fraud Ever, to allow for the slightest margin of independent reasoning by a low-level court. Ray's attorneys nevertheless plan to appeal this adverse decision up the line and are also banking on an eventual switch to federal jurisdiction, which is, however, expected to take at least a year.

the overwhelming

Sirhan is not much better off. All the odds, in particular, burden of contrived appearances, are against him in his bid for relief from the death sentence. His new lawyer, Luke McKissack, recently filed a 400-page appeal brief with the Superior Court of California. Insiders familiar with the case, however, do not hold forth much hope that the appeal proceedings will shed any real light on the case. Meanwhile, a rash of dope stories have been appearing in obscure publications such as the "National Tattler" to the effect that Sirhan is a very emotional, impulsive fellow who acted without premeditation. The latest one claims the existence of a girl friend, known as "Dottie" who purportedly had been with Sirhan at the assassination scene and had spurned his attentions, whereupon Sirhan shot RMK in a fit of jealousy. "Dottie," it is said, was the polka-dot dress girl, and she had been afraid to come forward previously. Some observers think this story may be a deliberate plant by the defense attorneys to pave the way for some kind of claim that Sirhan's act was impulsive and thus properly chargeable as manslaughter rather than murder. Apart from the clear-cut evidence of premeditation, as shown in Sirhan's notebook, however, this story is suspect for another reason: it parallels the fanciful version first put out by Warren Commissioner Gerald R. Ford and then belabored beyond the limits of common sense and decency by the unspeakable William Manchester which had Oswald killing President Kennedy because Marina, the night before, had refused him her favors. Where this kind of mawkish trash pops up, you can be sure it's another CIA red herring already in a state of advanced decomposition. In a word, it stinks.

Remember, when --?

Months before the grand furore over J. Edgar Hoover's Hitler-like tactics of investigation broke out, TRUTH LETTER drew up a formal indictment of the perennial FBI chief as "America's No. 1 criminal, wanted by the People." (TL, Vol. III, No. 8 of January 1, 1971).

It looks like I'm getting company, and I'm glad of it. Mine has always been a voice in the desert and it isn't likely to become a trumpet of Jericho in the near future. So every responsive sounding board is welcome, even if it belongs to so despicable a character as the Dishonorable Hale Boggs. When a member of the Warren Gang calls for the investigation of the Hoover Gang - that, brother, is real progress in America!

The "Panel Review" (ctd. from TL, III/13)

"Photographs 46, 47, 48 and 49 are of the inferior aspect of the brain and show extensive deformation with laceration and fragmentation of the right cerebral hemisphere. Irregularly shaped areas of contusion with minor loss of cortex are seen on the inferior surface of the first left temporal convolution. The orbital gyri on the left show contusion with some underlying loss of cortex." emphasis added -J.J.)

Translated from the medical lingo, that means that part of the outer grey brain matter ("cortex") was carried out of Kennedy's head by the impact of the bullet in the area of the left temple and the left eye socket. While the report speaks of a "minor loss" of cortex, we know from the eyewitness report of motorcycle Officer Bobby Hargis, who had been "following close, just behind the left rear fender of the limousine," * that it was actually a large amount of brain matter. To quote again from the book of former Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry - surely an authority in the case - : "A red sheet of blood and brain tissue exploded backward from Kennedy's head into the face of Officer Hargis. The trajectory must have appeared to Hargis to have come from just ahead and to the right of the motorcade..."

Then there is of course the extraordinarily revealing set of suppressed photos from the assassination scene which Garrison unearthed and first exhibited on TV on Dec. 9, 1967, and later made available to the press. Two of the pictures were published, among other places, in the New Orleans Times-Picayune of Dec. 13, 1967, and thus are in the record, for every conscientious researcher to see. There would have been plenty of time for the four panelists to obtain and study copies of these pictures, had they been in the least interested in the truth.

One of the pictures shows a man "obviously holding official investigative status" (Garrison) as he leans down to pick up a bullet from the grass (at exactly the spot where, according to Hargis, the "red sheet of blood and brain tissue" had landed on the ground, after part of it had hit him in the face). A Dallas police officer in uniform and Deputy Sheriff E.R. Walthers, a close aide to Sheriff Bill Decker, are seen in this photo looking on while the unidentified federal agent picks up the bullet.

"Our inquiry into the status of this official picking up the bullet has indicated that he is apparently an investigative agent of the federal government - employed either by the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Secret Service," Garrison stated in the press release accompanying the pictures.

In another picture (which also appears in the Times-Picayune), Garrison said, the official has become aware of the photographer and has turned his head away "but it can be seen that he is now holding the bullet clenched in his left hand." That must indeed be perfectly obvious to anyone looking at that picture.

Garrison added that the dark splotches on the ground (clearly visible in the first picture referred to above) are pieces of matter from President Kennedy's head. A large portion of the President's skull was subsequently found near the scenes of the pictures, he also stated.

In the background of the second picture the sign-clock on the top of the TSBD is visible and reads 12:40 - ten minutes after Kennedy was shot. The combined evidence of those two photos - pictures don't lie; governments do - is so overwhelming, it takes real nerve to continue to pretend that the fatal headshot was fired by Oswald. Not only would it have been totally impossible for Oswald, or whoever fired from that TSBD window (if anybody did), to inflict a wound in Kennedy's head that was going to eject a mass of brain matter through the left temple and in a backward direction, hitting Hargis and landing in the grass, behind the limousine, but the bullet that did this damage was, moreover, of a much larger caliber than could have been fired from a 6.5 Mannlicher-Carcano. Garrison was quite specific on that score:

(to be continued in the next issue)

* JFK Assassination File by Jesse Curry (p. 30), Limited Collectors Edition, Dallas, Texas 1969.

The Truth About Chappaquiddick (ctd.)

"And aside from that, his career is in danger of being washed up anyway. He has no personal reason to hold back the truth. Things can't get any worse for him. But the fact remains, he's keeping something to himself. And I believe I know what it is."

"Others in Washington believe they know too. Of late rumors have been circulating that Teddy has martyred himself for the memory and good name of Mary Jo.

"As one observer put it, 'Simply stated, he's being a gentleman at the expense of his own reputation. People are saying that Mary Jo was pregnant at the time of her death - but not by Teddy. The story goes like this:

"He and Mary Jo were close friends, no more and no less. Over the period they knew each other they often talked their troubles out and were always sure of a sympathetic ear.

"Speculation has it that on the night she died Mary Jo revealed that she was pregnant and wondered what to do. She was Catholic and her parents were very strict in their religion, and she knew they would be badly hurt once they found out.

"This wasn't the kind of conversation to have at a party, and this is why she and Teddy went for a drive.

"I believe Mary Jo was planning to marry the man who made her pregnant* - but she had her doubts about whether he really loved her.

"It was while they were discussing this that Ted's attention may have wandered, the bridge loomed up and they went over the side..."

Now, the same thing must be said about this story as about the Olsen book: It makes a lot of sense up to a certain point, but in the end goes wildly astray.

I feel satisfied that this is indeed what happened at the party: Mary Jo indicated to Kennedy that she would like to talk to him alone about something important that must not be overheard by anybody else. That's why they went for a drive, with the girl leaving her pocketbook and her roomkey at the Cottage and neither he nor she telling anybody at the cottage where they were going, or even taking leave from their friends (It is true that John B. Crimmins, Kennedy's chauffeur, testified at the inquest that his boss, when asking him for the keys of the car, told him that he was going back to his hotel and that he was taking Miss Kopechne back because "she wasn't feeling well", but that statement is obviously subject to caution.)

As has been pointed out in the preceding chapter, the evidence of Kennedy's car being observed, an hour and a half later, coming up Schoolhouse Road from the south, indicated ^{they had} that direction and were intercepted somewhere in that desolate region.

But supposing they really had headed for the bridge and the beach, as the Midnight story has it, is it believable that a middle-aged married man like Ted Kennedy should become so upset by the confession of a platonic girl friend that she is expecting a child from another man that in his confusion he drives off a bridge with an unblemished 20-year safety record?

No, that's simply absurd. The same thing happened to Norman Land as to Jack Olsen: Having come pretty close to the truth, but not close enough to grasp what really happened, they cast about for a makeshift solution to the "mystery" which simply doesn't stand up under scrutiny.

Besides, it has already been established beyond possible doubt, I believe, that Kennedy was not in the car when it went off the bridge. He wouldn't be alive today, had he been in that certain deathtrap.

On the other hand, the "rumor" that Mary Jo wanted to talk to her friend about the sorry plight she was in, makes a lot of sense. She may have wanted to appeal to him to use his influence with the State Department to induce her lover to do the right thing by her and Harry. Women do that sort of thing when they get into that kind of jam.

* Underneath a picture of Kennedy, in that issue, there is the legend, "Ted Kennedy is rumored to be protecting a well-known Washington diplomat."

The new book by Joachim Joesten TRILOGY OF MURDER
 An analysis and interpretation of the John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Dr.
 Martin Luther King assassinations. - Copyright by J. Joesten, 1968-1971.

The Francup of James Earl Ray (ctd. from Vol. III, No. 15)

If Ray, at that hearing, had had a defense counsel worth his salt, that lawyer would have cross-examined the FBI-man severely. At a minimum, he would have asked him these questions:

"Mr. Bonebrake - If you received that rifle as early as April 5, 1968, as you say, and considering the fact that the FBI handbook explicitly states that any set of fingerprints can be identified in ten minutes, why did it take you 14 days to identify the latent prints on the rifle and the other objects as being those of Ray?"

Faced with a direct question like that, Bonebrake, unless he wanted to commit perjury, would have had to reply something to the effect that the Boss, at that early moment, didn't want to have Ray identified yet as the assassin, because he wasn't sure yet that he would do as a goat.

Assuredly, Bonebrake could not have answered that he didn't have any comparison prints yet at that time, for he admits in the paragraph of his statement which I have underlined that Ray's fingerprints were in the FBI's Washington file since 1960. As a matter of fact, there must be in that file an even earlier set of Ray prints for he had already been arrested in March 1955 on a federal charge - forging U.S. postal money orders - and, as a result of his conviction sentenced to a long term in the federal penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth. That means, without a shadow of doubt, that Ray's prints were taken by federal agents at that time and deposited in the FBI's Central File in Washington.

Another pertinent question would have been:

"Mr. Bonebrake - Why did you go to the Los Angeles Police Department in search of a comparison set of prints? Wasn't the one in the Central File good enough for that purpose? Wasn't it the more authentic one of the two?"

No answer (presumably) - because there isn't any.

Then Ray's lawyer might have asked:

"Mr. Bonebrake - you have stated that you obtained 'known fingerprints' of James Earl Ray from the Los Angeles Police Department. Can you tell us on what date and under what circumstances Ray was arrested and fingerprinted in that city?"

Again there would have been silence, most likely, because no such arrest ever took place. It is possible - though nothing has ever been made public on that score either - that Eric Starvo Galt was fingerprinted in Los Angeles, but in that case it remained for the FBI to prove, to the satisfaction of the London court, that Ray was identical with Galt, which was not done.

I have related in detail, in Chapter IX of "The James Earl Ray Hoax" how the FBI's magic wand transformed Eric Starvo Galt from one day to the next into James Earl Ray without offering any kind of proof other than a vague statement by Hoover that this had been accomplished by "a systematic and exhaustive search of latent fingerprints" developed in the King case "against the fingerprints of more than 53,000 persons for whom wanted notices are on file in the bureau's identification division."

In that chapter, I have said all there is to say about the tortuous, roundabout and totally unconvincing manner in which the FBI has attempted to prove that it had succeeded in identifying Galt as Ray, a procedure so unsatisfactory that it was deemed expedient not even to mention it at the extradition hearing.

(to be continued in the next issue)

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