

in 1957 and that he never left the country after that - a flagrant untruth designed to cloak Sirhan's affiliation with, and missions for the CIA.

Meanwhile, in Memphis, overwhelming pressure is being brought to bear on the helpless prisoner, James Earl Ray, in order to make him falsely plead guilty to the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King, in return for a promise of leniency. At the end of this issue of TRUTH LETTER, readers will find a copy of an Open Letter which I have just addressed to Judge W. Preston Battle on the subject of Ray's demonstrable innocence. One thing is certain - the instigators of that planned judicial murder or - if Ray lets himself be bulldozed into a guilty plea - that travesty of justice are not going to get away with it.

Usurper's Last Fling

Fittingly, LBJ went out in a blaze of deceit and tinsel glory, - with juggled budget figures, phony victory claims, a mawkishly delivered State of the Union message and a cynically rigged poll which gave him a 20 percent rise in public esteem from one day to the next. He played the funnyman at the National Press Club, had his press secretary extol the virtues of truth and cozed synthetic charm all over the place. Then he sold his unwritten memoirs to CBS for a cool \$ 1.5 million and turned the unearned and unpaid money over to the "Lyndon B. Johnson Public Affairs Foundation." What next, Traveling Professor?

Misleaders of Public Opinion

When the time comes - as it surely must - to call to account all the accessories-after-the-fact in the assassination of President Kennedy, the top executives of The Washington Post will be entitled to a reserved front seat in the dock. No other newspaper in the United States has labored quite so hard as the W.P. to obfuscate the truth, hoodwink the public and obstruct the Garrison investigation in order to shield the real assassins of the President.

Two recent examples of this noble endeavor are the Herblock cartoon showing Garrison in the garb of a circus barker against a sign "Sensational Non-Disclosures - 2nd year" and with the legend, "The Show must go on, and on, and on..."; and a dispatch by John P. MacKenzie of the W.P., dated New Orleans, Jan. 27, 1969, which has Garrison "on trial with Mr. Shaw."

This so-called "News Analysis" is typical of the concerted approach of the newsmakers to the Clay Shaw trial. As a rule, news reporters attending a sensational trial (like, for instance, the Sam Sheppard affair) exhibit bias in favor of the prosecution and against the defendant. In this particular case, however, they're all on the side of the "55-year-old retired businessman" or "trade promotion specialist" (as MacKenzie puts it) whom an irresponsible, publicity-hunting "psycho" seeks innocently to embroil in the Kennedy murder. For a really outstanding example of how to slant the news and murder the truth, I give you this MacKenzie creation. Referring to the alleged overt acts of conspiracy committed by Shaw, for instance, MacKenzie writes: "The acts alleged include a discussion among Mr. Shaw, Oswald and the late David Ferrie, a free-lance pilot, over murder and getaway techniques, and a meeting of Mr. Shaw, Oswald and - of all people - Jack Ruby who was later to kill Oswald."

Note the insidious use of that little phrase "of all people." It is designed slyly to convey an impression of utter absurdity. Why, Ruby, that was the brave fellow who avenged the assassination by killing the President's murderer. Think of suggesting that he, of all people, was in cahoots with

Countdown: Johnson, Hoover, Helms - one down, and two to go.

the assassin! Impossible! Preposterous! That's just like Garrison...

The Washington Post once had a reputation of being a newspaper for eggheads. Now it is being published mainly for blockheads - by a rich woman who is openly in collusion with the assassins of President Kennedy.

Sylvia Meagher's "Friendly Dissent" (continued from No.9)

Mrs. Meagher writes:

I do not share my colleague Joachim Joesten's confidence in the disclosure by District Attorney Garrison of a TWX message which allegedly originated with Lee Harvey Oswald and was moved through FBI channels on 17 November 1963, warning that an attempt would be made to murder President Kennedy in Dallas on 22 November 1963. Mr. Garrison, when he announced this evidence on a nation-wide television broadcast on 31 January 1968, specified that his authority and source of this information was "an affidavit sworn to by Mark Lane... that in January 1968 he interviewed William S. Walter in New Orleans..." which Mr. Garrison proceeded to read. Walter, describing himself as a former FBI employee, in no way connects the alleged TWX with Lee Harvey Oswald. And this curious question must arise: How is it that Mr. Garrison has complained bitterly and repeatedly that his investigation was being frustrated and obstructed by refusals to extradite witnesses and that those refusals were part of an all-out effort to impede the truth; but when he finally has a witness like William S. Walter with crucial and decisive information as to Oswald's FBI links and FBI foreknowledge of the Dallas assassination, Garrison does not call Mr. Walter before the grand jury to give sworn testimony, nor does he even rest on a sworn affidavit signed by the said Mr. Walter, but contents himself with hearsay evidence from Mark Lane? Mr. Walter is within Garrison's jurisdiction. If he made the asserted allegations to Mark Lane but refused to repeat them under oath, one may draw the same conclusions about Mr. Walter as were so readily drawn about witnesses hostile to Garrison who refused to repeat allegations made on television when called before the New Orleans grand jury, and invoked the Fifth Amendment." (letter to be continued in No.11)

My reply to this point:

Mrs. Meagher is in error if she thinks that this issue was first raised by Garrison in his 31 January 1968 broadcast. Fact of the matter is that Garrison first mentioned the existence of this FBI inter-bureau message at a press conference at the Monteleone Hotel in New Orleans on December 26, 1967. Asked by a reporter what evidence he had to prove the existence of the alleged FBI telegram, Garrison replied: "If you and I were in a closed room, I could prove it. But I am not going to allow any evidence to get out now."

That is the crux of the matter. For two years now, Garrison's opponents have been prodding him in every conceivable way, trying to elicit from him secrets of his investigation which must be properly reserved for examination in court at trial time - which is now.

Sylvia Meagher takes it for granted that Mr. Walter was not called before the grand jury to give sworn testimony. How does she know? Grand jury proceedings are secret and this question, therefore, cannot be settled until after the Shaw trial is over. For the same reason it seems a bit rash to assert that Walter "refused to repeat under oath" allegations he had made to Mark Lane (who, incidentally, is on Garrison's investigative staff). Clearly the affidavit sworn to by Mark Lane was not the authority and source of the (limited) information divulged by Garrison in his broadcast of 31 January 1968, for the affidavit was taken in January and the DA had already mentioned the TWX message in his press conference of Dec. 26th.

Mrs. Kennedy's Testimony Versus the Lone Assassin Story

by Michael Masterman

(continued from No. 9)

Ed. Note: Garrison has just subpoenaed former Gov. Connally to testify before the N.O. grand jury. Connally of course has always held that he was hit by a different bullet from the one that struck Kennedy in the back - which did not prevent the governor from calling "scavengers" those who draw the only logical conclusion from his own statement. Jackie Kennedy, the No. 1 witness to the shooting, apparently can't be subpoenaed because she keeps out of the US in these trying times. That makes Mr. Masterman's demonstration more timely than ever. He continues her testimony before the Warren Commission:

"Well, there must have been two because the one that made me turn around was Gov. Connally yelling... But I used to think if only I had been looking to the right I would have seen the first shot hit him, then I could have pulled him down, and then the second shot would not have hit him. But I heard Gov. Connally yelling and that made me turn around, and as I turned to the right my husband was doing this (indicating with hand at neck). He was receiving a bullet..."

I have underlined all references to the directions in which Mrs. Kennedy was looking because if one looks at the Zapruder film for the very actions that Mrs. Kennedy is describing the result is very interesting, and damning for the Warren Report's contention that the President could not have been hit before frame 210.

I do not possess copies of all the Zapruder frames but it is quite obvious that Mrs. Kennedy has made her full turn to the right as early as frame 207. She must have started this turn by frame 200 and possibly even earlier, and remember that she turned not primarily because she heard a shot but because, "I heard these terrible noises. You know. And my husband never made a sound. So I turned to the right. And all I remember is seeing my husband, he had this sort of quizzical look on his face, and his hand was up."

How many frames before 210 the first shot must have hit the President, heaven knows, but it was far, far in advance of this one. One thing is clear and irrefutable if we are to accept the testimony of the one person who was closest to the President on that fateful day; the car was well obscured from the sixth floor of the T.S.B.D. by the oak tree, which is synonymous with saying that Oswald could not have fired the first shot.

A final point worth bearing in mind is the portion of Mrs. Kennedy's testimony relating to her deep regret that she did not see the first shot strike for had she been looking at him she would have had the time to pull him down onto the seat thus saving him from the fatal head shot. At frame 207 she is looking at him, but it is too late.

Mrs. Kennedy's testimony must be accepted as a true record of what happened at 12:30 p.m. on the 22nd. November, 1963, and thus drives the last nail into the coffin of the Warren Report's contention that there was no conspiracy.

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Coming soon in TRUTH LETTER:

A fascinating Kennedy Murder mystery:

WHO IS JAMES HEPBURN ?
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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, 1968-69.
 (continued from Vol. I, No.9) Sirhan of the C.I.A.

For, if Sirhan had gone to Syria for the purpose of undergoing military training for enlistment with the Palestinian forces fighting Israel, there would be absolutely no reason why the U.S. Government should attempt to hide this fact. On the contrary - there would be an excellent reason for it to divulge and emphasize Sirhan's travels to, and activities in, the Middle East since these would seem to bear out the official contention that the young Jordanian was obsessed by his hatred of Israel to the point of wanting to kill any prominent personality in the U.S. who had ever a good word to say for that country and that he just blindly picked Robert Kennedy as the proper victim of his fury.

What is the explanation, then, of Sirhan's well-established, if unusually short, stay at the Palestinian training camp near Damascus? The only plausible one is that he was a spy for the CIA, sent there for the specific purpose of infiltrating the Palestinian guerrilla organization. He may have been found out and told to get out of there fast - or else. (U.S. citizens who are unmasked as CIA operatives usually get more considerate treatment in the Arab countries than native agents). This would also account for the next episode in Sirhan's mystery-shrouded life which Jon Kimche describes thus:

"There are no details about the way he returned to the U.S. But the records show that Sirhan left again in April 1966. This time he signed on as a member of the crew of a ship going to Alexandria. He is reported as arriving in Alexandria on May 22, 1966, and living for a week in Cairo in a small hotel.

"After that he moved to the house of a Lebanese family known as the Karam family. He stayed with them until he was taken to a training camp in the Ma'adi district of Cairo. On August 3 he was again moved to a camp in Gaza. There he stayed until the end of September before returning to the United States - again there are no details about the return journey..."

The pattern of Sirhan's movements to, from and within Egypt in 1966, then, closely parallels that of his trip to Syria, two years earlier. It is a pattern that marks him clearly as an undercover agent. And, since he did not take part in any fighting against Israel, after having undergone military training in three different Arab camps, but once more returned to the U.S. in the fall of 1966 - again in the unrecorded and untraceable manner that is so characteristic of spy travels - there can be no doubt whatsoever that he was in the employ of the CIA.

This is also the only possible explanation of Sirhan's financial ease which not only provided the means, for this penniless Jordanian immigrant, to cross the Atlantic at least three times after coming to this country, but also supplied him, after his arrest, with the good services of at least three high-priced lawyers. TIME magazine, in its issue of Jan. 17, 1969, expressed the view that the Sirhan trial would become "a classic of criminal jurisprudence" and added, quite seriously, that Sirhan had "attracted" three of the country's most successful lawyers. In a box, on the same page, the magazine described Messrs. Grant B. Cooper, Russell E. Parsons and Emile Zola Berman correctly as "Priceless Defenders." The attraction, however, was solely that of the CIA which also pays the "priceless defenders," and for good reason. For, while Sirhan pulled the trigger, the hand that guided him was that of the CIA.

In the next issue: Why Robert Kennedy Had to Die (Chapter III)

January 27, 1969

O P E N L E T T E R

To Judge W. Preston Battle, Criminal Court, Memphis, Tenn.
concerning the J A M E S E A R L R A Y H O A X

by JOACHIM JOESTEN

Your Honor:

James Earl Ray did not kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

He was a paid decoy and as such deserves to be punished for his part in the conspiracy. But he did not fire the shot that killed Dr. King and, for all his criminal past, he, too, is entitled to justice.

Ray has been charged with murder by the State of Tennessee on the basis of a deliberately false and fraudulent FBI Report. The FBI knows, and so does the State, that Ray did not commit the murder of which he has been accused. The felony of this false accusation is compounded by the hidden intent to shield, through the sacrifice of a scapegoat, the real assassin of Dr. King, whose identity is well known to the FBI.

I am making these charges on the basis of a careful and detailed study of the case. My findings and conclusions are laid down in a 45,000-word documentation, of which a copy is being airmailed to you under separate cover today. Copies are also being sent to the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Head, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; to the American Civil Liberties Union; and to a select group of newspapers.

This documentation is not just a layman's brief for the defense of a man wrongfully accused. It is also a public indictment of his accusers, in particular J. Edgar Hoover, who personally supervised this frame-up.

I hereby declare and affirm that J. Edgar Hoover wilfully, knowingly and with malice aforethought conspired with other felonious "law-enforcement officials" to bring about the judicial murder of James Earl Ray through trumped-up charges and doctored evidence.

Because Hoover knows that his false and fraudulent case will not stand up in court, extreme pressure is now being brought on Ray, a man virtually defenseless because of his long criminal record and his involvement in the conspiracy to kill King, falsely to plead guilty in return for a promise of leniency. Ray has been informed unambiguously that, if he defends himself against the murder charge, he will be convicted, sentenced to death and executed. On the other hand, he has been promised a recommendation of mercy, a comparatively light sentence and an early pardon if he accepts the role of a lone assassin.

That would obviate the inconvenience, for J. Edgar Hoover and the State authorities, of having to prove their false and untenable charges in court, but it would hardly serve the cause of justice in America.

I trust that you, the judge, will not tolerate this travesty of justice. The documentation which I am making available to Your Honor, will help you establish the truth.

Respectfully yours,

Joachim Joesten