

"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: But, little Nix, you'll be the first U.S. President to get lost in<sup>a</sup> war.

Secrecy, Again

The ruling by the Massachusetts Supreme Court that the inquest into the death of Mary Jo Kopechne shall be conducted behind closed doors affords another sure indication that the CIA was involved in the affair, as TRUTH LETTER has held all along. The argument that a public airing of the case would make Sen. Kennedy look like a defendant, instead of a witness, is not only threadbare but self-defeating. For nothing could make Kennedy look more of an accused than the strenuous efforts of his high-powered lawyers to avoid even the semblance of such a posture. This is not to say that Kennedy is guilty of anything criminal in the case, which most likely he is not. He is just trapped.

It may be argued, of course, that if the Supreme Court's ruling was designed to prevent the role of the CIA from being exposed in public, that would make Kennedy and the agency in effect allies in this legal bout, while on the other hand I have been asserting that Chappaquiddick was a CIA operation aimed at eliminating Edward Kennedy from public life forever, one way or another. Wouldn't that be preposterous?

On the surface, maybe. But those who know about The Pledge of the Kennedys (TL, Vol. II, No. 2) will realize that the incongruity is merely apparent. The Senator is well aware that any exposure of the CIA's role in the case would inevitably lead to a train of unwanted disclosures relating to the John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy murders and that then the fat would really be in the fire. He and his clan are still determined to keep the lid on the truth until their return to power. They are still hoping for 1972, or 1976 etc. But their hour, I am convinced, will never come. For History has no love for cowards.

The Unbreakable Habit of Lying

"... The important thing is the casual willingness of government to cover up, to hide the truth, to lie... In its final denouement, the ... case emerges as a giant whitewash... On the way to that cover-up, there were lies galore... The Secretary... actively tampered with the truth... The same tangled skein of deception and falsehood... almost all high-level assistants... have preferred loyalty to the president over loyalty to the truth... The upshot has been deception on the grand scale..."

What is this? A series of quotes from TRUTH LETTER? No, sir. You have just read a series of quotations from an article entitled "The Lesson of the Berets" by Joseph Kraft, published in the International Herald Tribune of Oct. 11, 1969. When Nixon came to power, TRUTH LETTER (Dec. 1, 1968) ran this "Silent Prayer: 'Republican spokesmen tell us 'Truth will be the Hallmark of the Nixon Administration.' Oh, God. Let TRUTH LETTER stay in business.'" He did.

Reader's Forum

From M.B. Masterman, Lymington, Hants, England:

"Here is the latest titbit from the U.S.A.: In Oswald's notebook the address of Mrs. Hal Davison "mother of U.S. Embassy doctor," is listed (16H50); it turns out that Davison (Alexis H.) was not only a doctor but an air attache, and charged by the Russians with involvement in the Penkovsky affair (See "The Invisible Government")..."

Thanks, Mike, for a very interesting titbit. It adds valuable further confirmation to the many previous indications (discussed in detail in my book "Marina Oswald") that Lee Harvey Oswald was a CIA agent and had been sent to the Soviet Union for spying purposes. Evidently one of his taskmasters at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow was the good doctor, who even used his mother as part of his cover.

About Davison's role in the Penkovsky affair, David Wise and Thomas B. Ross wrote in "The Invisible Government" (pp.250-251):

"(In 1963) the Russians ousted five Americans from the embassy in the sensational Penkovsky spy case... At his trial in May, 1963, he (Penkovsky) confessed passing 5,000 frames of exposed miniature-camera film, containing classified information about Soviet rockets and other secrets, to American and British agents.

"The Russians charged that Penkovsky, a 'money-hungry traitor...' would hide his information in a matchbox behind the radiator in the hallway of a Moscow apartment house at No. 5-6 Pushkin Street. He would mark a circle with charcoal on lamppost No. 35 near a bus stop on Kutusovsky Prospekt. The Soviets said he would then telephone either Captain Alexis H. Davison, an assistant air attaché at the American Embassy (who was also the embassy doctor) or Hugh Montgomery, the internal security officer. Davison would go to the lamppost, the Russians claimed. If he found the charcoal circle it meant there was something ready to be picked up at the Pushkin Street drop..."

The situation is perfectly clear. Davison operated, from his safe haven at the embassy, a spy network which included both Oleg Penkovsky, a high-placed Soviet official, and Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged "defector." There may even be a link between the execution of Penkovsky, in May 1963, and the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald a few months later. One spilled plenty of beans, the other knew an awful lot more than was good for him.

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From a reader in Texas (unidentified, because permission to use his name could not be obtained in time):

"Mr. Joesten - for the past several months an extreme right-wing newspaper, The Councilor, has been spelling out letter by letter the name of the top gun suspect in the J.F.K. assassination. Thus far the letters are SANTAMAINO. The only man whose name matches the letters is one Emilio Santana, a Cuban exile from Florida, who was brought to New Orleans by Garrison in Feb. 1967 and questioned before the Grand Jury. What do you know about him? He may be worth checking into."

I'm sure he would be worth checking into and I am sorry to say that I know nothing whatever about the case. It should be recalled, though, that Garrison on Feb. 23rd, 1967 made the sensational statement (which, unfortunately, he failed to back up at the Clay Shaw trial two years later) that he had solved the assassination "weeks ago" and that he knew the "key individuals involved." On the other hand, the fact that this information comes from an extreme right-wing newspaper gives rise to caution. SANTAMAINO etc. could be a red herring - the CIA has dragged lots of them across the trail of truth.

The Kennedy Autopsy Fraud (ctd. from TL, Vol. I, No. 24)

"As I recall," Dr. Finck went on to testify, "the name of the Navy enlisted man who did this was Ryberg, but this is subject to verification."

For verification purposes, let us turn to the transcript of Dr. Humes' testimony before the Warren Commission. In answer to a question from Commission Counsel Arlen Specter, Commander Humes stated:

"When apprised of the necessity of our appearance before this Commission, we did not know whether or not the photographs which we had made would be available to the Commission. So to assist in making our testimony more understandable to the Commission members, we decided to have made drawings, schematic drawings of the situation as we saw it, as we recorded it and as we recall it. These drawings were made under my supervision and that of Dr. Boswell by Mr. Rydberg, whose initials are H.A. He is a hospital corpsman, second class, and a medical illustrator in our command at Naval Medical School."

The masterpiece produced by that "medical illustrator," whose rank in the Navy couldn't be lower than what it was, became an integral part of the Warren Report and went the round of the world's newspapers; it was to take the place of the X-rays and photographs which should have gone into the Report, even if there had been any valid reason to withhold them from the press.

The nature of this artefact is almost beyond description. It shows a likeness of Kennedy's head with closed eyes yet otherwise seeming almost whimsically alive and a naked torso. The thick neck - far more massive than Kennedy's really was - is transfixed by a dotted line purporting to show the course of the bullet. Because it seemed most important to the planners of this particular piece of fraud to impress upon the viewer that the bullet which had pierced Kennedy's neck and throat had been fired from a point behind and above the President, the "artist" had transformed this dotted line into a regular arrow with a head inscribed OUT and a neck inscribed IN. He used the same device for a second drawing purporting to show how the deadly head wound was inflicted. If somebody were to come upon this creation in, say, a couple of hundred years, he might think President Kennedy was shot by bow and arrow - presumably by the Indians. Which, of course, wouldn't be much farther off the historical truth than the Oswald story.

In passing, let it be said that the exit point on this "schematic drawing" is far below the place where the Dallas doctors had found a wound and then had performed a tracheotomy; indeed, it is where the chest begins. And, in the second drawing, the head is shown in a position so bowed that the arrow-head marked OUT seems to be aiming, on its further magic flight, for the buttocks of Governor Connally.

According to Humes' further testimony before the Commission, "the artist had but a brief period of some 2 days to prepare these (drawings). He had no photographs from which to work, and had to work under our our description, verbal description, of what we had observed."

On the same score, Dr. Finck was asked at the Shaw trial:

"Did the person who made these drawings have the photographs and X-rays of the autopsy available to him, if you know of your own personal knowledge?"

Finck replied: "To my knowledge the Navy enlisted man did not have these available to him as we did not have them available to us in March 1964."

All of which shows beyond a shadow of doubt that the "schematic drawings" which became "exhibits" in the Warren Report, had no foundation in fact, but were drawn arbitrarily and ad hoc, for purposes of deception. (to be continued)

Where Garrison Went Wrong (ctd. from TL, Vol. II, No. 2)

So far did Garrison go in his about-face on Oswald's role in the plot that he got enmeshed in complete absurdities. Witness this blooper which he allowed to slip into his opening statement to the jury:

"The plan brought forth (at the meeting in Ferrie's home revealed by Russo) was that the President would be killed with a triangulation of crossfire with at least two gunmen, but preferably three, shooting at the same time. One of the gunmen, it was indicated, might have to be sacrificed as a scapegoat or patsy to allow the other participants time to make their escape. No one indicated to Oswald at the meeting that he was going to be the scapegoat and there was no indication of any awareness on his part of such an eventuality."

What nonsense! Can one imagine a conspirators' meeting at which one of the participants is designated in advance as a scapegoat to be thrown to the wolves? If there really was any talk of sacrificing a scapegoat, so the snipers could escape, it is a matter of course that the person selected for that unpleasant part was not present at the meeting. Otherwise he would certainly have walked out and quit the conspiracy. If, on the other hand, no names were named, but it was just agreed, in general terms, that one of those present must be sacrificed, isn't it equally a matter of course that every one attending the meeting would have inquired if by any chance he was to be the fall guy?

This episode, then, affords one more proof that the "Leon Oswald" present was not identical with Lee Harvey Oswald. The latter was to be sacrificed, but he was not present at the meeting. How could Garrison, who on numerous previous occasions had accepted the fact of an impostor impersonating Oswald, fail to see that? Or, how, if he did see it, as is most likely, could he let such a self-evident absurdity get into a legal document?

To revert to the amazing indulgence which Garrison exhibited, at the trial, for his previously much-castigated bête noire, the CIA, there is one veiled reference to it in the opening statement which would have been worth belaboring, while it was actually all but swept under the rug during the further proceedings:

"The State will offer into evidence a ledger sheet of travel consultants and testimony which reflects the arrangements made by the defendant, Shaw, to go to the West Coast (in the days immediately preceding the assassination, obviously for the purpose of establishing an alibi - J.J.). This travel consultant firm - which in 1963 was located in the International Trade Mart - was the same firm which arranged for Lee Oswald to go to Europe, from which he went to Russia, several years earlier."

Quite apart from the lapsus linguae of putting Russia outside of Europe, whereas it - or at any rate that part of it which Oswald visited - is very definitely an integral part of it, what could have been the purpose of that statement if not to hint that the travel consultant firm in question was making arrangements on behalf of the CIA? And, if that was the case - as it surely was - why not spell it out and underline the significance of this link?

One of the most grievous mistakes Garrison made was to announce that the state would "qualify and offer the testimony of" two FBI agents, Robert A. Frazier, "an expert in the field of ballistics," and Lyndal Shaneyfelt, a photographic expert." Since both of these men had already testified before the Warren Commission in a sense agreeable to it, it was a foregone conclusion that these "state witnesses" would turn against Garrison, as indeed they did. (to be continued).

Advance publicity is not a normal element in planned murder, especially in political cases. If Gonzalez had prior knowledge that Senator Robert Kennedy was going to be killed, the only plausible explanation is that he had been recruited at one time as a helper in this assassination. In view of his youth it seems unlikely that he had been selected as a sniper, but he could very well have been assigned to a look-out job at the hotel where Kennedy was shot, or some such minor chore in the crime. Apparently he got cold feet at the last moment and tried to back out on the eve of the assassination date, thus marking himself for speedy dispatch by the conspirators who could not, of course, afford to have anybody who had inside knowledge of the plot roam at large and alive to tell his story at the proper moment.

Two facts clearly point to the importance of Gonzalez in the scheme. One, he was held without bond by the Mexican authorities, although no charge had been filed against him. And two, District Attorney Salinas in Juarez found it necessary to consult with his superiors in Mexico City to determine if any charges should be filed.

What kind of charges? If the letter that fell from Gonzalez' pocket merely mentioned the possibility that Robert Kennedy might be killed, it is unimaginable that the Youth could have been arrested and held without bond for that reason. Elementary logic dictates the conclusion that this letter - the contents of which have never been divulged - in some way incriminated Gonzalez, for instance by giving him instructions about what to do next, or threatening him because of his last-minute defection.

Thus, that letter established all by itself that Robert Kennedy had not been killed by a lone, deranged assassin, but had fallen victim to a plot. And, since the notion of a plot was anathema to the authorities a priori, in the Robert Kennedy case the same as in the assassination of his brother, the late President, they now swung into action to eliminate this embarrassing witness. Hence his arrest on vagrancy charges in Los Angeles on June 3, his illegal deportation to Mexico via murder-prone Texas and finally his imprisonment in Juarez, without charge or bond, on June 17.

What happened next to the young man could almost be guessed by any perceptive and experienced observer, because it is standard practice in the field. On July 6, 1968, an Associated Press dispatch from Juarez reported:

"A 17-year-old who was arrested because he had a letter containing statements about the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, D-N.Y., was found hanged in a psychiatric Ward cell, police said today.

"Jesus Chacon, Juarez judicial police chief, said the body of Crispin Curiel Gonzalez was found Thursday in the cell at a Juarez Hospital. The report said the body was hanging from a rope made of strips of cloth torn from the mattress in the cell.

"Gonzalez had been taken to the hospital for psychiatric observation under an order from Mexican federal Dist. Atty. Noberto Salinas..."

It is almost a truism to say it can be taken for granted that a political prisoner found dead in his cell was murdered by the police. That is something of a 90% certainty in every country under the sun. In this particular case, it is an absolute certainty that young Gonzalez was killed by his jailers - following instructions from the FBI - because of the explosive secret he knew and that was buried with him. (to be continued in the next issue)