

"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: LBJ was a giant of crime - Nixon is just a pinhead of mediocrity.

Highlights and Lessons of the Clay Shaw Trial

III

THE DALLAS COUP D'ETAT

What the Trial Revealed About the Dealey Plaza Ambush

I

The Irrefutable Evidence of the Zapruder Film

District Attorney Jim Garrison made a lot of mistakes, and he failed to prove many things he had promised to prove, but at least he did make good on the most important, indeed the only essential, part of his case. He proved to the hilt that President John F. Kennedy was killed in a crossfire ambush and that therefore a conspiracy must have existed. The fact that Garrison was not able to prove, to the satisfaction of the jury, that Clay Shaw had been involved in that plot in no way detracts from the clear-cut evidence of the conspiracy itself.

Garrison's case for a conspiracy was basically predicated on the exhibition in court of four types of evidentiary material: (a) the photos and X-rays taken during the autopsy of the President's body; (b) the Zapruder film which shows in vivid color detail how the President was slain; (c) other films and photographs taken by eyewitnesses during the assassination; and (d) the visual and auditory observations of the people who were close to the President's car when it happened.

The DA was unsuccessful in his bid to obtain the autopsy materials, due to the adamant resistance of the federal authorities in control of them, a matter that is being discussed in detail elsewhere. It cannot be emphasized too much that the probative value of this illegitimate denial of evidence is as great as, if not indeed greater than, would have been its showing in court. For, by refusing to grant the district attorney's legitimate demand for inspection by the jury of these autopsy materials, the Government has in fact conceded - all specious pretexts for its refusal notwithstanding - that those photos and X-rays would indeed show the President was also struck by bullets coming from the front and would thus immeasurably strengthen Garrison's case for a conspiracy.

Next to the autopsy materials which were withheld from him by order of attorney generals Ramsey Clark and John Mitchell - who thereby both made themselves automatically accessories-after-the-fact in the assassination of President Kennedy - the most important single piece of evidence sought by Garrison, and obtained by him after a long struggle, was the Zapruder film.

Garrison made a determined and eventually successful effort to obtain the original, or at least an original copy, of the Zapruder film, which the Warren Commission never subpoenaed and never viewed. Again, it must be said that the probative value of the Commission's refusal to study the original film, contenting itself instead with an examination of a damaged copy that had in all probability been deliberately tampered with (for particulars about that particular piece of finagling, see my book Oswald: The Truth, Chapter 31, "The Scandal of the Missing Frames") is so great as to be virtually conclusive.

There is no possible explanation why the Commission, with its sweeping powers of subpoena, should have renounced this all-important piece of evidence except on the assumption that Warren and his accomplices knew beforehand that the evidence of the original would destroy their preconceived notions, or rather their prefabricated, totally false reconstruction of what had happened in Dealey Plaza.

The cynical and ludicrous "explanation" put forward at the time by the Commission's General Counsel J. Lee Rankin, that they couldn't get the original film because it was "private property" and LIFE "was reluctant to release the original because of the value," was thoroughly exposed as a sham by the comparative ease with which Garrison was able to overcome this alleged hindrance. For, on March 15, 1968, Criminal District Judge Matthew S. Braniff of New Orleans signed, at the request of the District Attorney, a subpoena ordering Time Inc. to produce the original Zapruder film before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury at 9 a.m., April 4, 1968. Garrison's request for the subpoena also contained this brief and authoritative history of that important document:

"An 8 mm color movie taken by Mr. Abraham Zapruder, of Dallas, Tex., on Nov. 22, 1963, at approximately 12:33 p.m. and sold to Life Magazine for an initial price of \$ 25,000. This film was exposed by Mr. Zapruder from a Bell & Howell camera at 18.3 frames per second at the time President Kennedy was assassinated in Dealey Plaza in Dallas. Mr. Zapruder's camera was aimed directly at President Kennedy, and the film, which has never been publicly shown, thus depicts in some detail the critical instants when the President's limousine was under sniper fire. This film, which was purchased from Mr. Zapruder on the day of the assassination, is now in the possession of Time, Inc., through its subsidiary Life Magazine, and is kept in the Time-Life Building at Rockefeller Center in New York City, New York."

In an accompanying statement, Garrison said that copies viewed by "federal employes" were not "accurate reproductions of the original film."

Time, Inc. complied - very, very reluctantly - with the subpoena. That reluctance is easily understandable, for the unexpurgated Zapruder film proves not only that President Kennedy was assassinated in a crossfire ambush, but it also exposes just about everything Time and Life about the Oswald case - and the Henry Luce magazines were leaders in falsification - as lies and fakes.

On March 26, 1968, the DA's office announced that the original of the Zapruder film would be delivered by the magazine for viewing by the grand jury. Not so, declared a spokesman for Life Magazine the following day. What had been sent to New Orleans for showing to the grand jury - along with a special custodian appointed to guard the precious document - was not the original itself, the spokesman declared, but a first copy made before four frames of the film were "accidentally" damaged and deleted. (For the importance of these frames and the nature of the "accident" that befell them, see "The Scandal of the Missing Frames"). However, Garrison had no objection to accepting that undamaged copy since it is to all intents and purposes identical with the original. The Warren Commission, it must be stressed again, never saw or wanted to see either the original or the undamaged first copy, but was content to look at a mutilated version that suited its intent to falsify history.

Evidently confident that the original of the Zapruder film would be available at the Clay Shaw trial, Garrison, in his opening statement to the jury said:

"With regard to the assassination itself, the State will establish that on Nov. 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy and Gov. John Connally, who was riding in the same limousine, were wounded as a result of gunshots fired by different guns at different locations. Furthermore, the State will show that President Kennedy himself was struck by a number of bullets coming from different guns at different locations - thus showing that more than one person was shooting at the President. The evidence will show that he was struck in the front as well as in the back - and that the final shot which struck him came from in front of him, knocking him backwards in his car. Once again, since Lee Oswald was in the Book Depository behind the President, this will show that a number of men were shooting and that he was, therefore, killed as the result of a conspiracy.

"The state, in showing that a number of guns were fired during the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, will offer, in addition to eyewitnesses various photographs and motion pictures of what transpired in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963.

"First, the state will offer an 8 mm color motion picture film taken by Abraham Zapruder, commonly known as the Zapruder film. This film, which has not been shown to the public, will clearly show you the effects of the shots striking the President. In this connection we will also offer slides and photographs of various individual frames of this film. The state will request permission from the court to allow you, the jury, to view this material. Thus, you will be able to see - in color motion picture - the President as he is being struck by the various bullets and you will be able to see him fall backwards as the fatal shot strikes him from the front - not the back but the front.

"Also, the State will introduce as evidence certain other photographs and motion picture films, taken during the assassination, as listed below:

1 - The 'Moorman picture' which is a polaroid photograph taken by Mary Moorman in Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963. In addition to this picture, but in connection with it, the state will offer various blow-up prints of this photograph.

2 - Various photographs taken by Mr. Philip Willis in Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963.

3 - Various photographs taken by Miss Wilma Bond in Dealey Plaza on Nov. 22, 1963.

4 - A motion picture film with slides and photographs taken by Mr. John Martin on Nov. 22, 1963." (To be continued in the next issue)

#### No Alibi for Jesse Curry

Under the sensational 6-column banner headline "So Oswald Wasn't the Assassin After all?", the German mass circulation newspaper BILD ran, on Nov. 7, 1969 a dispatch from Dallas which, if even remotely accurate, portends a development of tremendous significance. According to BILD, former Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry, one of the principal engineers of the Oswald Fraud, has just published a book in which he "openly admits the police had no proof that Oswald fired the fatal rifle." Curry was quoted as saying: "Oswald was 'an ideal suspect' for us, because he had lives in the Soviet Union and after three years had returned with a Russian wife. But he is no longer so sure. Is Curry trying to get off a sinking ship? Is he angling for an alibi, just in case? TRUTH LETTER will get the book and destroy Curry's alibi."

Let us now turn to another essential aspect of the Kennedy autopsy fraud: the unlawful sequestration of the photos and X-rays taken at the beginning of that autopsy. The history of that sequestration is marked from its outset to the present by an endless chain of perfidious maneuvers, deliberate non-investigation, unlawful acts and deceitful press releases.

Normally, the photos and X-rays taken would have been turned over immediately to the safekeeping of a court of law, to be used at an inquest designed to determine the exact nature of the cause of death, and, since it was manifestly a case of murder by gunfire, to determine the number of bullets, the direction from which they had come etc.

It was precisely in order to foil this normal course of medico-legal investigation, to avoid judicial supervision of the autopsy proceedings, to shunt aside the indispensable formalities of inquest and thus to lay the groundwork for fraudulent autopsy proceedings that the body of the President was forcibly abducted from the lawful jurisdiction of the Dallas Coroner's office, as I have described in detail in Chapter 29 of my book Oswald: The TRUTH. Everything that has happened since, everything in particular that has transpired in the course of the Clay Shaw trial, or in connection with it, has shown conclusively that this shameless and criminal body-snatching, which has been dressed up by the newsmen and sycophants as an act of reverence towards the exalted status of the deceased, was a well-planned and smoothly executed operation designed to create the necessary conditions for the performance of a sham autopsy that would conceal the true cause of death, the nature of the wounds, the direction of the shots, in short everything essential, and dupe the public about the President's murder.

What happened next after the photos and X-rays had been taken under military, not judicial, supervision? In his testimony before the Warren Commission, Commander Humes gave this account of the matter:

"The photographs, to go back a moment, the photographs and the X-rays were exposed in the morgue of the Naval Medical Center on this night, and they were not developed, neither the X-rays or the photographs. They were submitted to the, and here, if I make a mistake I am not certain, to either the Federal Bureau of Investigation or to the Secret Service. I am not sure of these."

In answer to a question from Mr. Specter: "Did you submit those yourself immediately after they were taken, Dr. Humes?", the latter replied:

"Again, one of the senior people present, I believe my own Commanding Officer, Captain Stover, took care of turning this material over to these authorities, and receiving a receipt for this information, for this material. It was - I supervised the positioning of the body for various of these examinations but as far as beyond that, I did not consider that my responsibility...."

A neatly concerted game, perfectly played according to military rules which, in the last analysis, are laid down by the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces, the then newly arrived President Lyndon B. Johnson. Two naval doctors of comparatively low rank (Dr. Finck had not yet arrived at this stage, as has been noted before) are instructed to "position" the body for the taking of photographs and X-rays and to perform a perfunctory autopsy, without even being permitted to study the pictures and X-rays they had just taken (for these were only exposed, but not developed) - and there ends their responsibility. Then the "senior people" take charge...  
(to be continued in the next issue)

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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.

As in most cases of this type, the paucity of information released by the authorities is deliberate and extreme. The public is told just enough to convey an impression of suicide, without actually saying so. To the legitimate question, which immediately comes to mind, "Why should the youth have hanged himself, if there wasn't even a charge pending against him?" the Mexican district attorney gave only an indirect and inconclusive answer. According to the above-cited AP dispatch, "Salinas said the youth was arrested June 17 after a letter or manuscript fell from his pocket at a concession stand in Juarez. The paper included writings to the effect that the youth had prior knowledge of the slaying of Sen. Kennedy in Los Angeles!"

This, it will be noted, is a pronounced change from the original version of Gonzalez' arrest, which told only of a "letter" that fell from his pocket. In the subsequent statement, following the young man's death, however, Salinas indicated that this "letter" actually might have been a manuscript, presumably written by Gonzalez himself.

This supposition is further borne out by the final paragraph of the AP dispatch: "At the hospital, attendants said, that for several days the youth had been singing and shouting from his cell that he was going to become more famous and receive more newspaper publicity."

Could anything be more revealing than this attitude? Here is a boy in jail without a charge yet happy as a lark, singing and shouting that he is going to be "more famous" and that he will "receive more newspaper publicity."

Why? Evidently because he has a big story to tell, one that will shock the world and that will bring in plenty of cash from newspapers or magazines eager to get the "inside dope" first-hand. Is there any other possible explanation of the way Gonzalez behaved in his cell?

There is, of course, the perennial, catch-all official explanation - not even used in the case, but hinted at in the news dispatch saying that he had been examined for four hours by three psychiatrists and that he was being held in a psychiatric ward cell, that Gonzalez might have been a paranoid who imagined that he knew something about a plot to kill Senator Kennedy that existed only in his mind.

Such a version, however, which in the case is implicitly assumed rather explicitly stated, is contradicted not only by the officially admitted existence of a "letter or manuscript" indicating that the youth had prior knowledge of the planned assassination, but even more by the acts of D.A. Salinas.

Indeed, why should the district attorney have found it necessary to consult with his superiors in Mexico City "to determine if any charges should be filed" if the boy was a lunatic? The answer is obvious: there was a grave and documented suspicion that Gonzalez had been a participant in a plot to kill Senator Kennedy, and now the big question, one that Salinas could not solve on his own authority, was what to do with this embarrassing witness.

Prosecute him? Such a move would automatically expose the existence of a conspiracy and throw the laboriously concocted version of Sirhan the lone, deranged assassin, for a loop.

Let him loose? Then he would run to the nearest editorial office to sell his story, and all hell would break loose as well.

(to be continued in the next issue)