

Joachim Joesten's

TRUTH LETTER

An Antidote to Official Mendacity and Newsfaking in the Press

Vol. II, No. 14

April 1, 1970

Editorial: The American Dream - yes; the American Reality of today - no.

The Dallas Police Purge

Jesse Curry's literary adventure continues to reverberate strongly through the shaky precincts of Dallas Police Headquarters. No sooner had his "personal" J.F.K. Assassination File come out than his former chief assistant and successor as Chief of Police Charles Batchelor developed instant cancer and quickly succumbed to the strain of reading Jesse's confessions (TL,II/10) Now Captain Will Fritz, the third most important figure in the Dallas police conspiracy against President John F. Kennedy, which was an integral part of the overall conspiracy headed by Lyndon B. Johnson, and essential to its success, has been forced into retirement under circumstances that suggest a real purge is in progress among the police plotters of 1963.

What is important is not that Fritz, now in his seventies, has at last retired. Rather it is that the captain who, in the words of the NY Times had been "a legend in Southwestern police circles" and "widely respected as a tough law officer" retired, at the end of February 1970, "after being forced out as head of the homicide and robbery bureau." And that, dear friends, is again the NY Times ("All the News That's FIT to Print") speaking. When the Times says Fritz was forced out, you can be sure that's not idle speculation.

Why was Fritz tossed out on his ear after having served "for nearly half a century" as a Dallas detective? The "Times" doesn't tell, presumably because that part of the story wouldn't be fit to print. But if there is no link to the turmoil created in Dallas City Hall by Curry's blackmailing venture, it would be the coincidence of the century.

Who is going to be next? There must be still quite a few Kennedy assassins left among the top ranks of the Dallas Police. According to James Hepburn, all of the following ranking officers were on the secret payroll of the Committee which organized the Dallas coup d'etat of Nov. 22, 1963, with the blessing of LBJ, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the CIA and J. Edgar Hoover:

Chief of Police Jesse Curry - Assistant Chief Charles Batchelor -
Deputy Chief N.T. Fisher - Captain J.W. Fritz - Captain W.P. Gannaway
Captain P.W. Lawrence - Captain Glen D. King - Lieutenant J.C. Day -
Lieutenant T.P. Wells - Lieutenant Jack Revill - Inspector Herbert Sawyer - and 15 other members of the Dallas Police Department.

That means: three down, and 23 more to go. Or have any of the rest already been liquidated one way or another? It would be interesting to know, too, who is responsible for the face-lifting Dallas is giving herself on entering the '70s. Has the burden of the murderous sixties become a little too heavy to bear for somebody who has the power to shift the pawns on the Dallas police chessboard around? Keep up the Good Purge, buddy.

(to be continued, I hope)

Since we're on the subject of old police generals fading away, here is an interesting item from a letter Penn Jones Jr. wrote to me in reference to my remarks about Charles Batchelor's death in TL:

"You are so right about Batchelor. I have learned since his death that Batchelor is the man who escorted Ruby to the killing site of Oswald. Yes, Batchelor planned the motorcade, but the man who made the decision for the detour by the School Book Depository Building was a strange character named Jack Puterbaugh. It was his decision, and there was no question of his authority by those present in Eugene Locke's office."

For those not familiar with the last person named: In his new book "Forgive My Grief III" Penn Jones writes on p. 14: "The Trade Mart decision was necessary, and a downtown parade was imperative in order that a strange group in the office of attorney Eugene Locke (candidate for Governor of Texas in 1968) could make the decision for the detour by the School Book Depository Building." And on p. 80 Jones reprints this information he had previously published in the Midlothian Mirror of Jan. 25, 1968: "Eugene Locke, who recently resigned as Deputy Ambassador to Vietnam, was Governor Connally's first campaign manager, and Connally's brother is going to be the manager for Locke in the current race for Governor of Texas - just a coincidence."

Whoever made that decision for the detour by the TSED is guilty of having set a deliberate death trap for the President of the United States and should be dealt with accordingly in due course. Locke seems to have been in it up to his neck since that treacherous planning session was held in his office. And it is surely no coincidence that he was rewarded for his part in the plot by a deputy ambassadorship to Vietnam, since escalating the war in Vietnam was one of the principal reasons for the assassination.

As regards Jack Puterbaugh, he seems to have been more than just a "strange character." In Curry's book (p. 24) he is described as "a member of the White House Staff". Curry then goes on to say: "Mr. Lawson (i.e. Winston G. Lawson, the Washington representative of the Secret Service who had been sent down to Dallas to supervise security arrangements - J.J.) introduced Jack Puterbaugh (sic) to Deputy Chief Lumpkin and requested that he ride in the pilot car along with Detectives Turner and Senkel and Army Lt. Colonel George Whitmeyer."

On the other hand, one reads in Jim Bishop's "The Day Kennedy Was Shot" (p. 101): "Deputy Chief G.L. Lumpkin, in the pilot car, had policemen Jack Puterbaugh, F.M. Turner, and Billy Sinkle with him. If there was going to be trouble of any kind, this was the car to raise alarm."

If Puterbaugh was a member of the White House Staff (Curry) and a policeman (Bishop), the only possible inference is that he belonged to the Secret Service, a fact also borne out by his introduction to the Dallas police officers by the official representative of that Service, Lawson. And if Penn Jones is right (as he usually is) that the detour was Puterbaugh's decision and that there was no question of his authority by those present in Locke's office, then it is a certainty that this man was a key figure in the plot.

Just in passing, let me point out that Bishop, while he correctly mentions the other four men in the pilot car - even though he spells "Sinkle" instead of "Senkel", as Curry has it - skips the intriguing fact that there was also a high-ranking Army officer in that pilot car. But then Bishop, a professional LBJ sycophant, omits everything that's suspicious in his book. As for his description of the pilot car's function, it's simply funny. The real job of the gang in that car was to make sure there wasn't going to be trouble of any kind for the snipers about to ambush the President.

Locke, Puterbaugh and Colonel Whitmeyer have escaped attention so far. Let's keep on their trail and nail down their record for future reference by a court of law.

Jesse Curry's Confessions (ctd.)

Admittedly, I am a dark and suspicious character, but my darkest suspicions have an uncanny way of turning out true. Witness this fascinating bit of news contained in a letter just received from Mrs. Carolyn W. Sandford:

"... Some interesting information came my way yesterday relative to the point you make (TL, Vol. II, No. 10, p. 3, second full paragraph) regarding the controlled distribution of the Curry book and how, at a moment's notice, it could be withdrawn.

"A friend of mine of many years here in Orange has, for the past year or so, operated a 7-11 store in this city... Yesterday I went to their store to get a copy of the Curry book to send to my brother in Kansas City. Not finding any, I stopped by her house on my way home to inquire about the book. She informed me that ever a month ago persons from the Southland Corporation withdrew all of the remaining Curry books from the shelves in all the 7-11 stores... It was her understanding that there was a corporate 'order' to remove the books..."

Congratulations, Curry. I never saw a piece of blackmail work so fast or so smoothly. I hope you took quite a bite out of that fattest of all sacred cows in Texas, LBJ. But, honestly, couldn't you leave a few crumbs for your old pal Fritz, who's new out of a job?

And so "JFK Assassination File" has become a collectors' item after all. It has been on the (food) Market for only about three months. Hang on to your copy. Some day it may help us hang Jesse Curry.

Viewing the Zapruder Film

by Mike Masterman (Lymington, Hants, England)

There is an adage: "one picture is worth a thousand words." To this should be added, "one cine film is worth a thousand stills." There is one piece of evidence that could be produced which would convince even the most hardened skeptic that the "truth" of the Warren Report is no more than a sham. That evidence is the Zapruder film. I do not mean the stills, for although they have yielded much intelligence to the eyes of investigators after the truth and will, no doubt, continue to do so for many years to come they can not convey truthfully the reaction of the President's body to the head shot(s) that the moving picture can.

LIFE magazine, the owners of the film, have a duty to the American public to release this film for all to see and to hell with the Warren Report and its conclusions. The shocking truth is revealed that a bullet fired from behind Kennedy could not make his body react in the manner so apparent in the head shot(s) sequence of the film, the catapulting of his body backwards and leftwards. Joachim Joesten has written in TRUTH LETTER of the stunned reaction of the New Orleans jury at the Clay Shaw trial on seeing this film. They could not believe their eyes. Nor could I believe mine for this one film, regardless of all other evidence offered so far, blasts the "lone assassin" theory to smithereens.

There can be no doubt that all who see this film must arrive at the same conclusion: John F. Kennedy received at least one shot to the head from his right front, and that makes the Warren Report 888 pages of trash.

Note: "Who's the Liar Now?" and the telltale story of "CD 354" will be continued in the next issue.

Almost on the eve of the new date set for the opening of the Clay Shaw trial (Jan. 21, 1969) and in his very last days in office, outgoing Attorney General Ramsey Clark on January 17, 1969 abruptly released a long-secret report by four private medical experts who, it was claimed, had reviewed the autopsy materials in Washington on Feb. 26 and 27, 1968, and had reached the conclusion that the Warren Commission's contention the President had been shot from the rear was correct.

As was to be expected, most newspapers bannerlined this announcement as final, incontrovertible proof that Garrison had no case and that no conspiracy ever existed. Curiously, however, nearly all of them also discreetly refrained from naming the panelists or giving any details about their standing in the profession.

I
In fact, the only identification of the four that have been seen appeared in the N.O. States-Item of Jan. 17, 1969, which said they were: Dr. William H. Carnes, professor of forensic pathology at the University of Maryland; Dr. Russell H. Morgan, professor of radiology and radiological science at Johns Hopkins University and Dr. Alan R. Moritz, professor of pathology at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. The fourth of the panelists was not named by the paper. Apparently none of them was too eager to associate their names with the huge publicity that was showered on this event by the news media. Maybe they weren't too sure, after all, that their "findings" would be vindicated in case the materials some day would be made public after all.

The release of the discreet panelists' report was surrounded by other curious and telltale circumstances. For one thing, the fact (if it ever was a fact, that is) that these four doctors were given access to the photographs and x-rays during the initial five-year period during which supposedly no one but government investigating bodies were to be permitted to view them, while even the "recognized experts in pathology and related fields" were explicitly barred until October 29, 1971, clearly violates the supposedly ironclad stipulation made by the Kennedy when they turned over the materials to the Archives.

And why were the conclusions of the panel kept secret for almost a whole year during which Garrison tried repeatedly to gain access to these same materials for the purposes of his trial of Clay Shaw? Why, after having been kept secret for so long, was the panelists' report released only after an irreversible trial date had been set - if not because the real intention of that move was to influence the jury which was about to be selected in New Orleans, but not yet secluded and therefore open to all the pressures and innuendoes of the news media?

Another hidden intention no doubt was to influence the decision of General Sessions Judge Charles Halleck Jr. in Washington, who at that precise moment was conducting a hearing on the long-delayed subpoena from Garrison's office for the national archivist to appear at the Shaw trial with the autopsy records. And this attempt was successful, too, for Halleck, incredibly, rejected Garrison's request, adding, almost cynically, that he would reconsider it only if the New Orleans District Attorney, within two weeks, could produce evidence to show that his subpoena was not "a fishing expedition, a frivolous attempt to obtain what must certainly be sensational X-rays and pictures." !!

Sensational or not - why should a district attorney's subpoena for material evidence that would be considered basic in any normal trial proceedings, and would immediately be granted by any court in the land, be considered "frivolous" and a "fishing expedition" in the case of an assassinated President of the United States?

Garrison's chief aide, Alcock, found exactly the right word when he described the combined effect of Ramsey Clark's sudden disclosure of the secret panel's conclusions and Halleck's refusal to release the autopsy materials as a "s^light of hand" - "the same sort of sleight-of-hand, we've been getting all along."

The New York Post by Jonathan Jostan F A I L U R E O F M U R D E R
 An analysis and interpretation of the John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and
 Dr. Martin Luther King assassinations - Copyright by J. Jostan, 1963-70.

Is such a rogue worth the free services of a busy \$ 500,000-team of eminent lawyers? Is he entitled to special compassionate or humanitarian considerations? Would it not be normal, in such a case, to assign to the accused a public defender, as the law provides?

It must be obvious to any person with a clear and open mind that something is wrong here, that something is being hidden from public view. The answer what that is, is not difficult to guess. Sirhan having been in the employ of the CIA, as has been copiously demonstrated in the preceding pages, that agency also arranged for the costs of his defense by making all the money needed available through one or the other of the innumerable "conduits" it uses to channel the people's tax money into the most unworthy causes - as in the present case.

Now, it would certainly be crediting the CIA with a high-mindedness it never possesses to suggest that it set that half-million-dollar team of lawyers in motion for the purposes of trying to save one of its agents from an almost certain death sentence. Like all intelligence agencies, the CIA is notoriously callous about the fate of a captured agent and it has every reason to wish Sirhan dead, the sooner the better.

The reason the CIA instantly swung into action and shelled out any amount required for Sirhan's defense was, as usual, one of self-preservation. Everything possible had to be done at the trial to make absolutely sure that not one hint of Sirhan's real background, role and motivation slipped out. Public defenders are not, as a rule, mental giants. It would have been hazardous, indeed, for the CIA to rely on a person of such mediocre caliber to keep the lid effectively on the explosive secret behind the Robert Kennedy assassination.

The whole trial strategy of Messrs. Cooper, Parsons and Berman indicated from the start that they were conscious of their role as defenders not so much of the poor slob they professed to surround with almost paternal care as of the invisible power in the background that was responsible for the Robert Kennedy as well as the John F. Kennedy slayings. At every stage of the proceedings, they closely cooperated with the prosecution and Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, who presided over the trial, for the purpose of keeping all telltale items, in particular Sirhan's repeated journeys to the Arab countries, out of the proceedings.

The New York Post, in a dispatch from Los Angeles by Helen Dudar, set the keynote on Feb. 13th: "... Berman, 66, a bald, gaunt man... is considered a master at trial work and at the kind of stage-setting a skilled opening address can accomplish. He may concentrate heavily on the psychiatric elements."

He did - and so did his colleagues not only in the defense team, but on the side of the prosecution as well.

In his opening argument, Berman, himself a Jew, dwelt heavily on the supposedly destructive effect which the Arab-Israeli conflict had had on the mind of the young Jordanian. "Sirhan was 3 years old when war broke out between Palestinian Arabs and Zionists in Palestine in 1942⁺," he told the court, according to an AP dispatch from Los Angeles, dated February 14, 1969. The street where Sirhan lived, he said, became the dividing line between the Jews on one side and the Arabs on the other; the building he lived in became a machine gun nest and one night his home was bombed. Eventually, the Sirhan family fled to an Orthodox Christian convent and never went back to their home. (to be continued in the next issue).

+ should be 1948, of course,