

"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: Be sure you don't miss Liars' Festival, May 5th (on CBS)

The Significance of "CD 354"

In TL II/13, I briefly discussed Commission Document 354 to which my attention had been called by Mrs. Grace P. Vale of St. Louis, Mo. At the time, my attention was focussed primarily on the fact, casually disclosed in that document, that a Mr. James Powell, Army Intelligence, was trapped inside the TSED after the Depository doors had been sealed, and of the spurious explanation he gave for his presence in that ominous place at that critical moment. In this connection, Mike Masterman pertinently observes:

"Strange that Powell's rank is not given. I would have thought that all Army personnel would have given their rank? It is anathema to them to be known as 'Mr.'"

It is indeed. And for that reason I believe it is a near-certainty that Mr. Powell actually was a CIA agent, possibly a liaison officer between Army Intelligence and the CIA. In any event, it would be naive to think that he had just been "watching the parade." If he had been entirely above suspicion, why was "Mr." Powell "interrogated" by Detective Jack Brian who apparently found him in the building. Wouldn't his Army credentials normally have sufficed to clear him? In the light of what DA Jim Garrison has revealed about the active participation of the CIA in the Dallas coup d'etat, the officially established presence of "Mr." Powell in the TSED at the time of the assassination certainly warrants thorough investigation when the time comes for a judicial inquiry into all goings-on in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. No matter how distant that time may be - let's keep Powell's name on the record, for future reference.

However, there is more - a great deal more - to CD 354 than just this Army Intelligence angle. There is also the Pierce Allman angle which keeps growing in significance, the more one ponders it.

Sylvia Meagher, the only Warren Report critic who, to my knowledge, has paid any attention at all to CD 354 (it is reproduced on pp. 312/313 of Josiah Thompson's "Six Seconds in Dallas", but that author does not attempt to analyze its importance, or even to discuss its contents) writes in a footnote on p. 75 of her book "Accessories After the Fact:"

"Pierce Allman, WFAA-TV (Dallas) newsman, was within a few feet of the President just as he was shot, according to a B.B.C. radio broadcast. Allman telephoned the news to his station from a Book Depository telephone. He was not questioned by the Warren Commission but Allman told the Secret Service (CD 354 National Archives) that he was directed to a phone in the Book Depository and that Oswald mistook him for a Secret Service agent. Allman says that the incident occurred just as Oswald described it, and that it must have been Oswald who directed him to the telephone. The incident is noteworthy not only

because it corroborates Oswald's story, which the Commission did not trouble to investigate, but because it suggests that Oswald lingered at the building - an action hardly compatible with the Commission's reconstruction of his movements or with 'escape'."

Exactly. What is even more, the movements of Allman, as described in detail in CD 354, completely upset the extremely tight timetable the Commission had labored to work out for Oswald's actions from the moment of the shooting until his "escape" into the street. If the critics had previously pointed out, with plenty of arguments to substantiate their thesis, that Oswald could not possibly have departed from the main entrance of the TSBD at about 12:33 p.m., as the Commission claimed, the fact that he was still inside the building by the time Allman showed up there makes it a certainty that he lingered considerably. For, in CD 354 we read that Allman, who was interviewed by Secret Service Agent Roger C. Warner on 11-19-64 "stated that he was watching the parade from a position near the corner of Elm and Houston. Upon hearing the shots he ran across Elm Street to a couple who had fallen to the ground. He asked the man if he was all right; the man stated that he was. Allman then ran up an incline toward Houston Street. Upon reaching the top of the incline, he turned and ran down. He stated that he is at a loss to explain this action other than he was extremely excited and upset by the assassination.

"Mr. Allman then stated that he ran full speed into the Texas School Book Depository Building with intention of locating a phone and calling his television station WFAA. Mr. Allman stated that after he had entered the front door of the building, he had emerged into a hallway and there he met a white male whom he could not further identify (Mr. Warner at the end of his report concludes that this white male was Oswald, which is undoubtedly correct). He asked this white male for the location of a telephone..."

Consider the time that must have been consumed by all this running back and forth. Allman is standing near the corner of Elm and Houston. Upon hearing the shots, he gets panicky and starts running in all directions. First across Elm Street which indicates that Allman had been standing on the south side of it. (Curiously, his position is not indicated at all on the chart on pp. 252-253 of "Six Seconds in Dallas," nor does his name appear on the "Master List of assassination Witnesses" compiled by Mr. Thompson).

Now, the "couple who had fallen to the ground" quite obviously were William E. Newman Jr. and his wife Gayle who had thrown themselves over their children to protect them from the shots coming from the grassy knoll (cf. TL, II/12, pp. 4/5). The position of the Newmans at that moment was about halfway between the TSBD and the Triple Underpass. Allman approaches the man and asks him if he is all right; he is told that the man is. Then he runs up to the top of an incline (apparently the Grassy Knoll, for there is no other incline in that area, although the mention of Houston Street suggests that he ran in a southeasterly direction from the spot where the couple had fallen). He runs all the way to the top of the incline, then turns and runs down again. Obviously he is confused and undecided, not knowing what to do next. Then he remembers his job. To a telephone! Where would he find one? Over there at the Book Depository! Through milling crowds, he makes his way to the main entrance of the TSBD, proceeds into the hallway, looks around, meets a stranger (to whom, according to Oswald's story, he showed credentials, which Allman, however, denies).

Just look at a map of Dealey Plaza and judge for yourself if anybody could have accomplished all this in the space of three minutes. Allman would have had to move at the speed of lightning to do it - and his movements weren't deliberate; they were confused, groping, even meaningless. Think of what a defense lawyer would have made of Allman's testimony at a trial!

(to be continued in the next issue)

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Who's the Liar Now? (ctd. from TL, II/13, p. 4)

In reply to my query concerning the picture on p. 72 of Jesse Curry's book, Miss Madeline Goddard on Feb. 25 sent in this report:

"Here is a small sketch of part of the picture on page 72 of Chief Curry's book. I sent it to the Craigs and she (Mrs. Craig) has returned it identifying Roger and Capt. Fritz. I quote from her letter, 'Roger is the man facing the camera (or facing front), the man turned sideways talking to Roger is Fritz... He did not leave Roger's side from the time he entered the office until he (Roger) left. He (Fritz) was in the office the complete time that Roger was with Oswald and heard every word and asked all the questions.'

"She goes on to say, 'These are Roger's words: Oswald never slammed the desk - I don't know where that rumor started. Fritz and I entered the office together and Fritz said to Oswald: 'This man saw you leave' at which time Oswald replied - very normally - but somewhat agitated, 'I told you people I did.' At which time Fritz replied, 'Now take it easy, son, we're just trying to find out what happened.'

" 'Fritz said, 'What about the car?' At which time Oswald became excited, leaned forward from his chair, laid both hands on top of the desk and in a raised voice replied: 'That station wagon belongs to Mrs. Paine, don't try to drag her into this.' Oswald then slowly sank back into his chair and in a low, disgusted-sounding voice said, 'Everybody will know who I am now.' At which time Fritz ushered me out of the office, said 'Thank you' and I returned to the county (Sheriff's office - J.J.)... when Oswald said, 'Everybody will know who I am now' he said it in the tone of voice of a little boy who got his hand caught in the cookie jar or the collection plate and even though he didn't get anything - someone was going to tell mama."

This last observation by Roger Craig, trivial as it may seem at first blush, actually is very significant, for this little-boy-attitude completely contradicts the Warren Commission's efforts to construct a sham motive for Oswald's alleged misdeed: 'He sought for himself a place in history - a role as the 'great man' who would be recognized as having been in advance of his times.' Believe it or not, that is a textual quote from the Warren Commission's "conclusion" concerning Oswald's motivation. Contrast this high-falutin crap with the simple, but cogent description of Oswald's attitude in his moment of history by Roger Craig and you have the measure of the seven minds who concocted the Warren Report!

(Miss Goddard continues, still quoting Molly Craig:) "Roger had known Fritz for 5 years at the time of the assassination and had talked to him many times. He knew Roger - called him by name, there was no chance of mistaken identity from either of them. Fritz had a convenient lapse of memory. In the years since he has had no difficulty in recognizing Roger. It is easy to understand that the Warren Commission had to change Roger's testimony..."

It did more than that: it tried to picture Craig as a liar and perjurer. Now, thanks to Jesse Curry, everybody can see for himself who the liar and perjurer really was.

The Dallas Police Purge (ctd.)

From a source in Dallas, I have learned that at least two more of the guilty officers have been separated from the Dallas Police Dept. some time ago. Inspector J. Herbert Sawyer resigned early in October 1967, just as Jim Garrison was really getting "hot" after the Dallas police. Curiously enough, Sawyer resigned - that's the official word - "retroactive to Sept. 16, 1967." Ever heard of anybody else resigning "retroactively?" And Capt. King has gone to Washington, to be on the safe side. Keep firing them, boys, - and let the rest wait for the firing squad!

In view of what later happened to Carr (see below), it is scarcely an unwarranted assumption that whatever had caused his invalidity before his appearance at the Clay Shaw trial was not entirely accidental or wholly due to natural causes.

Carr, another witness of outstanding importance who "didn't make it", that is was not deemed worthy to testify before the Warren Commission, was also questioned by Garrison in person.

He said that at the time of the assassination he was on the seventh floor of the Dallas courthouse building at Houston and Commerce streets facing Dealey Plaza. He testified that, as the parade was going towards the TSBD, he noticed a man in a fifth-floor window who was wearing a felt hat, heavy rim glasses with heavy ear pieces, a tie, white shirt and tan sport coat. He also said he later saw that man come down and rush in the direction of Houston and Commerce.

Who was that man? Obviously not Lee H. Oswald. But there is a strong presumption that he was one of the plotters, for Carr, in a statement given on 2/4/64 to FBI Agent Paul L. Scott - in which he had described this individual in almost identical terms - had provided this additional information:

"...While I was on Houston St. near the Commerce St. intersection I saw a man whom I believe was identical with the man I had earlier seen looking out of the window of the Texas School Book Depository Building. This man, walking very fast, proceeded on Houston St. south to Commerce St., then east on Commerce St. This man got into a 1961 or 1962 Grey Rambler station wagon which was parked just north of Commerce on Record St. The station wagon, which had Texas license and was driven by a young Negro man, drove off in a northerly direction..."

Now, there is an important discrepancy between the contents of this statement, as embodied in CD 385 in the National Archives, and Carr's testimony at the Clay Shaw trial. Because what follows appears to me as a most important matter, perhaps even one of the real clues to the question how the conspirators, or at least some of them, made their getaway, let me quote from the slightly divergent accounts of both New Orleans newspapers on this score.

According to the States-Item of Feb. 19, 1969, "The Witness said after the shots, he saw a light brown station wagon parked on the wrong side of Elm Street, facing north toward the railroad tracks.

"Immediately after the shooting, three men emerged from behind the depository. One was a Latin (emphasis added - J.J.) I can't say if he was Spanish - and two other men," Carr said.

"He said the men drove north on Houston. 'The car was in motion before the rear door closed.'

"Carr said the man he saw in the window (emphasis added) came across the street in a very big hurry 'looking back over his shoulder as if he were being followed.'"

And now from the Times-Picayune of the same date:

"Carr said he was able to observe three men coming from the area of the book depository building and getting in a Rambler station wagon. The vehicle, he said, was parked on the wrong side of a one-way street. One of the three men appeared to be a Latin, and Carr later explained he could not tell if the men came from the building or from behind it.

(to be continued)

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, 1968-70.

Sirhan "was exposed to most severe repeated scenes of war with such effects upon him to leave their mark upon his personality all during his life up to and including the present," Berman said. Once, according to Berman, the boy saw a little girl's leg blown off by a bomb "and went into a spell." On another occasion, a bomb tore apart the body of a man "and again Sirhan lost contact with reality."

After a long recital of the alleged horrors of war suffered by young Sirhan during the first Arab-Israeli conflict - a buildup that must have been extremely pleasing to Mayor Yorty, initiator of the myth that Sirhan killed Kennedy out of an anti-Zionist motive - Berman went down the line of the official myth that the Jordanian immigrant came to the United States in 1957 at the age of 12 and never left this country again. Not a word about Jon Kimche's well-documented disclosures in the London Evening Standard, which show that the "Orthodox Christian convent" to which the Sirhan family fled was in fact the United States and that the boy arrived in this country at the age of four, while he was allegedly going into spells of war horror in Jerusalem. Not a word either about Sirhan's return to his homeland in 1957, his marriage there and his repeated trips to the Middle East in 1964 and 1966. If that phony Sirhan record had been recited in court by an official CIA representative, he couldn't have done better than the great Emile Zola Berman.

Having depicted his client as a person who "was out of contact with reality, in a trance in which he had not voluntary control over his will, his judgment, his feelings or his action," Berman went the limit in absurdity by declaiming first that Sirhan had "admired and loved" Kennedy and then adding:

"Then came another shock - in early June of 1968 Sen. Kennedy... said in essence that if he were president that he would send 50 Phantom jets to Israel. That did it!"

That did it, indeed. For, by an odd coincidence, the same day the International Herald Tribune, the Paris affiliate of the New York Times (and the Washington Post), ran a dispatch from Cairo by Eric Pace entitled "Egypt Clears Nixon on Sale of 50 Jets" which stated:

"Egypt indicated today that it did not hold the Nixon administration responsible for delivery of American phantom jets to Israel. Delivery is expected to begin later this year.

"The government's chief spokesman, Mohammed el-Zayyat, said in response to a question that agreement to sell 50 of the new supersonic fighter-bombers to Israel was 'Mr. Johnson's' and that delivery had been 'promised a long time ago.'..."

And it's a fact, too. It was Lyndon B. Johnson, Senator Kennedy's arch-foe, who had made the decision to supply those jets to Israel and it was Nixon who implemented it. Robert Kennedy had absolutely nothing to do with it at any time whatever. Nor did he ever advocate such military aid to Israel - certainly with less conviction than almost any other prominent American politician. As a matter of fact, the Kennedys, as I have already pointed out elsewhere, have been traditionally pro-Arab, rather than pro-Israeli.

So that dispatch from Cairo clearly and brutally exposes the official legend that had been woven around Sirhan's "motivation" as an ad hoc invention and one of the most barefaced of all the lies that make up the huge tangled web of deception that envelops the three Great Assassinations. (to be continued in the next issue).