

"All the News That's UNFIT to Print"

Joachim Joesten's

T R U T H L E T T E R

An Antidote to Official Mendacity and Newfaking in the Press

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Editorial: What America needs is a Nuremberg Tribunal.

Heap It On, Boys; The Dead Can't Talk Back

On the same day, two of my British readers sent in clippings, one from the London "Daily Express" of April 18, 1970; the other from "Scottish Daily Express" (Glasgow) of the same date. The story in the London paper had a five-column bannerline: WAS I BETRAYED BY LEE HARVEY OSWALD? In the Scottish paper, the same text, drawn from the forthcoming book "Operation Overflight" by the notorious U 2 crash pilot Gary Powers was headlined more affirmatively, yet less precisely (over 6 columns): I WAS BETRAYED!

A couple of days later, a correspondent in the US sent me a clipping from the "Los Angeles Times" of April 20 with an AP-dispatch headlined "OSWALD ROLE IN U-2 SPY INCIDENT CLAIMED."

So the newsmakers are at it again, with a vengeance, from Los Angeles to London and Glasgow, whipping the ghost of a ruthlessly sacrificed scapegoat for the sake of sensation-mongering and to help whitewash a blundering CIA agent responsible for America's biggest intelligence disaster before the Bay of Pigs. This time their shamelessness is downright ghoulish.

What is the basis for the belated charge that Lee Harvey Oswald, on top of all the other imaginary accusations that have been levelled against him by corrupt authorities and the rotten press, was also guilty of treason?

According to the AP-dispatch: "Francis Gary Powers says information supplied by Lee Harvey Oswald... may have made it possible for the Russians to shoot down his U-2 spy plane in 1960..." "May" is not a positive statement, much less positive evidence that would justify any of the above glaring headlines.

Powers himself takes the circuitous approach. He writes:

"Unhappily there is more than a suspicion that someone betrayed the U2's most vital secret - the height at which it customarily operated. This would have made it a sitting duck for Russian missiles. Consider the facts: -

"In 1957 the U2s were based in Atsugi, Japan. In September of that year a 17-year-old Marine was stationed at Atsugi and had access to equipment which included height-finding radar. He was a trained radar operator.

"He remained in Japan until November 1958, at which time he was returned to the United States and assigned to Marine Air Control Squadron No. 9 (MACS-9) at the Marine ~~Air~~ Corps Air Station at El Toro, California. El Toro

Erratum: The date of Liars' Festival on CBS (see Ed., No. 15) is May 2 not 5.

was not a U2 base, but U2s frequently flew over this portion of Southern California. At El Toro he had access not only to radar and radio codes but also to the new MPS 16 height-finding radar..."

These excerpts are from the two British papers, apparently the first to break this story, for, according to the AP-dispatch, "some papers (in the US) on Sunday (April 19) published the first installment of a serialization of the book." Now let us switch to that dispatch for something the "Daily Express" and its Scottish affiliate did not carry:

"Powers says in the book it is 'tantalizing' that one document among the Warren Commission papers in the National Archives, No. 931, dated May 13, 1964, remains classified as top secret - a document entitled 'Oswald's Access to Information about the U-2.'"

District Attorney Jim Garrison also found it tantalizing that a document with such a self-betraying title should exist at all and moreover be classified "Top Secret." For, the immediate reaction of an intelligent person must be: How come Oswald, who, according to the Warren Report, had manifested "Russophilia" and an interest in "Communist ideology" even while he was in the Marine Corps; who studied Russian and subscribed to a Soviet newspaper; and whose reputation was such that his comrades called him "Oswaldskovich" - how come such a suspicious customer was privileged to have access to America's No. 1 Top Military Secret of that time- the U2?

There is only one answer to that question - an answer I have given in great detail in my book "Marina Oswald." Lee Harvey Oswald was, practically from the start of his military service, a CIA operative who was being carefully coached for an intelligence mission in Russia, one that may very well have had something to do with the U2 overflights. He never believed in communism and he never "defected" to the Soviet Union; he was a loyal, though not particularly clever CIA agent - which is more than one can say of Powers who, after he had been shot down, told his captors a lot more than he was allowed to say according to regulations. Now he seeks to exonerate himself by shifting the blame for his own betrayal of Top Secrets to the dead scapegoat in the Kennedy assassination:

"In September 1959 he obtained a "hardship discharge" from the U.S. Marine Corps. The following month he defected to the Soviet Union. On October 31 he appeared in the American Embassy in Moscow to state his intention of renouncing his U.S. citizenship. According to Richard E. Snyder, the second secretary and senior consular official, and John A. McVickar, Snyder's assistant, who was also present, during the course of the conversation he mentioned that he had already offered to tell the Russians everything he knew about the Marine Corps and his specialty, radar operation. He also intimated that he might know something of 'special interest.'"

"His name was Lee Harvey Oswald. Six months later my U2 was shot down."

There is nothing but innuendo in all this. Not a shred of evidence that Oswald had anything to do with the shooting down of Powers' U2 plane. How could Oswald, in Minsk, know that Powers, on May 1, 1960, would take off from the super-secret U2 base at ~~xxxxxxx~~ Peshawar, Pakistan?

As for the MPS 16 height-finding radar, did Oswald take one along in his luggage when he "defected" to the Soviet Union? Or was this teenager so important in military intelligence that he knew all about how to build and use an MPS 16 and was able to store all the details in his brain? The whole thing is absurd beyond endurance. And that staged scene at the American Embassy in Moscow was just a concerted game, a farce and a sham designed to provide a "cover" for Oswald's spying assignment in Russia, as I have shown in "Marina Oswald." Its sequel provides absolute, incontrovertible proof that Oswald was a loyal CIA agent to the end. (to be continued in the next issue)

Jesse Curry's Confessions (ctd.)

The information first published in TRUTH LETTER (II/14) that the Curry book was being withdrawn by corporate order, after having been on the market for only three months, has been confirmed by another TL subscriber and investigator, Miss E. Wardell-Hall of Los Angeles. She checked several 7-11 stores in her area and found most of them out of stock. One (No. 317) had 14 copies left, but they were already boxed for return. The manager confirmed to Miss Wardell-Hall that the books were being "withdrawn by the corporation." The district manager at another store also confirmed that all the Curry books he had in store had been "picked up," allegedly "by the publishers." (There is no publisher listed in Curry's book). It all confirms my thesis that the whole thing was a blackmailing operation, - and a most successful one.

Book Review

Some Notes on Chappaquiddick

by Madeline Goddard

Jack Olsen's THE BRIDGE AT CHAPPAQUIDDICK (Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1970) is a valuable and readable account of the tragedy. It fills a clear need for a comprehensive record that pulls together the tangled threads of fact, fiction and conjecture about that shadowy event. It is not only an interesting book in itself, but a first and basic text for other students of the case. I commend Mr. Olsen.

I would like to add some further facts to his account. The cottage just across the road from the Lawrence place was occupied that weekend. It was rented by James J. Sullivan of Boston. According to The New York Times of July 29, 1969 Mr. Sullivan said that only two cars were parked outside the cook-out cottage when he looked the night of the accident. No one seems to have asked any further questions of Mr. Sullivan, or about him, or about who was with him at his cottage that regatta weekend and what they may have seen and heard.

There exists a confusion as to what time the Malms heard the black Oldsmobile that night, and whether they heard it more than once. Mr. Olsen writes (p.92) "Shortly before midnight Mrs. Sylvia Malm and her college coed daughter, also named Sylvia, heard a car pass in front of their rented Dyke House... Later Mrs. Malm was not as certain of direction or time as her daughter... Mother and daughter went to sleep around midnight." However, Brock Brower, in writing of the several trips made by the black Oldsmobile across Dyke Bridge that day (Life, Aug. 1, 1969), added: "It tore through again about 11:30 that night, heading toward the beach... Sylvia, Mrs. Pierre Malm's 21-year old daughter saw it at 11:30 and told her mother." And again in The Vineyard Gazette for July 22, '69 Colbert Smith writes: "Mrs. Pierre Malm... told police the morning after the accident that she had heard a car passing her house between midnight and 1 A.M."

In view of the fact that it was nearly one o'clock when Christopher Look saw the black Oldsmobile heading down Dike Road, it is likely that the black Oldsmobile made two trips to the Dike Bridge that night, one at about 11:30 (which would correspond with Ted Kennedy's statement of having left the Lawrence cottage at 11:15 P.M., and with Jack Crimmins' memory of Kennedy asking him for the car keys at about 11:15, at which time Kennedy drove off towards the ferry, (Bridge, p.220), and a second trip between 12:30 and 1: A.M. Mrs. Malm may have heard a car pass her house on its way from the bridge back to the main road, which would account for Olsen's statement that Mrs. Malm was not certain of the direction in which the car was going. Ted Kennedy testified that he and Gargan and Markham

returned to the scene in the other car, the white Valiant, but the Malms apparently did not hear this later return.

One can conjecture that the purpose of the first trip to the bridge might have been to scout the area, locate persons still surf fishing, watch for lights to go off in nearby houses, and perhaps to leave one or more persons ~~at~~ at the bridge location who could maintain radio connection with others in the scheme.

I cannot credit Jack Olsen's theory that Ted Kennedy got out of the car and Mary Jo drove on alone down the Dike Road to a death caused by her own carelessness. I believe that Ted Kennedy was stunned and half-drowned. Senator Kennedy may have, in some way, been given a drug causing deep drowsiness so that he would have only a confused idea of what time it was and what was happening. It is likely that Mary Jo Kopechne, too, was knocked out (once she was in the car on the late trip) by morphine or some such drug, perhaps by means of an aerosol-type spray. I think the intent was to murder Mary Jo, but only to warn Ted Kennedy to stay in line. And then to pass the sinister affair off as an accident for which Senator Kennedy would be forced to take the blame.

The Olsen book brings out, too, the carelessness, the delay, and the buck passing on the part of the authorities in this case. Edgartown's police chief, Dominick J. Arena, having allowed all of the week-end companions of Senator Kennedy and Mary Jo Kopechne to leave without being questioned, finally asked D.A. Dinis's assistant Lt. George Killen to get some statements. This was never done. It was all a "misunderstanding." And the legal maneuvering that went on behind the scenes, as here described, is hardly reassuring.

Note: A lengthy, fact-filled, eye-opening series "The Truth about Chappaquiddick" will start soon exclusively in TRUTH LETTER.

The Allman Incident (ctd.)

R.B. Cutler of Manchester, Mass., doesn't agree with my view that Allman couldn't have covered so much ground in three minutes. He writes:

"... Dealey Plaza is not a big place and in measuring various parts for the plat... I feel I know just about what size it is and can say with some 'authority' that Allman could well have covered the ground mentioned in that time span. Let's assume he was standing about opposite the first Z frame, 133, which puts him alongside Willis, which means he is on film, Zapruder's of course. As a knowledgeable agent (read conspirator) he is concerned over people who might get hit inadvertently and who then might constitute facts which would be hard to cover up...he finds the Newmans are ok and then runs up the slope.. he states 'ran up an incline toward Houston Street' which would have him going to the corner along the curb then back down an undetermined distance and then finally beating it into the TSBD...May I suggest he saw the Hesters who also had thrown themselves on the ground and figured he better check them out as well and that would have him running up an incline... the part about toward Houston St. does not seem to make sense as it would be normal to say up the street... anyway the total amount of yardage covered by all this running to and fro amounts to about 110 yds if you insist on going to Houston & Elm after checking the Newmans and less than 90 yds if he checks the Hesters..."

Mr. Cutler may be right - he is undoubtedly as far as the yardage is concerned, for he is an architect and has been working on a plat of Dealey Plaza. But, it seems to me, one has also to count in the confusion and indecision of Allman, as well as the possibility that he exchanged a few words with the Newmans or Hesters, all of which would add a bit of time consumed. Anyway, the main point is that the Allman incident confirms Oswald's own story about his departure from the TSBD. (to be concluded in the next issue)

In a formal statement released the same day at a press conference, Alcock declared: "The release by Attorney General Ramsey Clark of an opinion by a panel of so-called experts which purports to back the findings of the Warren Report on the eve of the trial of Clay Shaw makes it absolutely necessary for us to obtain the photographs and X-rays of the autopsy as well as the clothing worn by President Kennedy on the day he was assassinated.

"Prior to the release of this opinion, it was our intention to proceed to trial with or without this material.

"However, since Ramsey Clark has released only a small portion of the evidence and only that which favors the defense and the Warren Report, it is absolutely necessary that we obtain that evidence upon which the panel based their opinion of the autopsy before proceeding to trial.

"This was another effort by the federal government to aid the defense and to stop the prosecution by the State of Louisiana of Shaw. The obvious timing of this release indicates that Attorney General Ramsey Clark was never fit to serve in so high an office in this country. (emphasis added).

"Proof in our possession indicates that Kennedy was definitely struck by a bullet from both the front and the rear. So-called experts for the defense have examined their reports. Now, we would like to have experts who have the opposite opinion, that is, that there was a bullet entry from the front - have a like opportunity to have the autopsy material.

"Therefore, I am today filing a motion requesting a continuance of this case, to be reset only after receipt by this office of all the evidence called for in our subpoenas of the evidence used in the autopsy report and all other evidence secretly held by the federal government. (emphasis added).

"In the event the federal government does not honor our subpoenas and blocks our attempt to present all of the evidence, this case cannot be brought to trial. If the case cannot be tried, the people can only look to the efforts of the attorney general and the government of the United States and examine the motives in refusing to release all of the evidence.

"No one man - not even the attorney general - and no government except in cases of national emergency - should seek to hide the truth or any evidence from the American people."

To compound the total hypocrisy and conspicuous bad faith of the government in this matter, the new U.S. archivist, Dr. Rhoads, filed the same day an affidavit in court in which he declined to release the material on these grounds:

"To violate the confidential restrictions would completely destroy the public confidence in the federal government to honor its commitments to donors of papers, oral history transcripts and other historical material." As if the exigencies of justice did not have precedence over "confidential restrictions" allegedly imposed by a donor who had no right to give away his "donation" of historical material in the first place!

And here is another telltale example of hypocrisy and evasive manipulation of the truth: According to the States-Item of Jan. 17, 1969, "in releasing the panel's findings, (Ramsey) Clark said U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., the late president's only surviving brother, and the president's widow, Mrs. Aristotle Onassis, were consulted before the autopsy material was made available to the panel of Experts."

At the time, the experts purportedly examined the autopsy materials, i.e. in the last days of February 1968, however, Sen. Robert Kennedy, the head of the Kennedy clan, was still very much alive and it was he who had been handling the details of the transfer of the material to the National Archives,
(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.

At one point, Berman described the defendant as "immature, emotionally disturbed, mentally ill." According to the New York Daily News of Feb.15,1969, Sirhan, when he heard that, "shook his head in the negative... and got so excited that co-counsel Russell Parsons and chief investigator Mike McCowan had to pull him down and tell him to be still."

No wonder Sirhan got excited over that piece of humbug. Nobody knew better than the defendant himself that all that stuff about him being "emotionally disturbed, mentally ill etc." was unmitigated balderdash. He was a coldblooded professional assassin who did a job and got paid for it and that was that. It is also worthy of note that the defendant himself never said one word to the effect that he had been prompted by an anti-Zionist motive when he killed Kennedy. Probably the only Jew he ever hated was Berman, and he had some reason for that.

Then opened the round of the psychoanalysts giving their "expert opinion" about the defendant's state of mind - and no more ludicrous performance of pseudo-psychiatric poppycock was ever given in a courtroom.

The opening shot of this surrealistic Donnybrook was fired on March 20 1969 by one Dr. Eric Marcus who had been appointed by the Superior Court to examine Sirhan soon after the assassination, but testified for the defense. He explained that Sirhan, by killing Sen. Kennedy, "thought he was really more or less the savior of society... he was going to destroy the current political leaders of the country (too bad, he forgot LBJ - J.J.)... he thought he knew what was best for society..."

Marcus then described in court a "scientific test" he had performed on the defendant. On the strength of a totally unverified report that Sirhan had drunk three Tom Collinses before shooting Kennedy, he obtained the bartender's recipe for that gin mixture and then had Sirhan drink six ounces of the stuff in his jail cell. After that, Marcus recounted in court, "Psychologically he went berserk. He was extremely agitated and restless and cursing and had to be physically restrained.

"He kept grabbing at his throat. he said, 'what the hell is going on here?' He thought he was choking. He said, 'I'll get even with those Jews.'" (we have only Marcus' word for it that Sirhan ever said that - unless perhaps he was referring to his lawyer Berman).

"He never said he killed Kennedy," Marcus went on to testify. "He kept talking as though Kennedy were alive. He said 'that bastard isn't worth the bullet.' (Remember that Berman had told the court, Sirhan had "loved and admired Kennedy!" - J.J.). With all my prodding he never said he killed Kennedy."

Towards the end of his testimony, Marcus came an awful cropper. He had insisted throughout on Sirhan's "loss of memory." Then David Fitts, a co-prosecutor, recalled that in the hours after Kennedy was shot, Sirhan - in a police interrogation room - never once asked why he was there. Fitts suggested that wasn't logical for some one whose memory had been erased and Marcus agreed.

"That leaves only the hypothesis of malingering?" Fitts asked.

"Apparently so," Marcus conceded.

"Then Mr. Sirhan lied to you?" Fitts suggested.

"That's quite possible," the psychiatrist replied.
(to be continued in the next issue)