

"All the News That's UNFIT to Print"

Joachim Joesten's

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T R U T H L E T T E R

An Antidote to Official Mendacity and Newsfaking in the Press

Vol. II, No. 22

August 1, 1970

Editorial: Did you ever see an uglier mug on TV than Nixon's?

"Communism Killed Kennedy"

Under this breathtaking headline, the New York Sunday News - one of the most rabidly rightist newspapers in the country - published on July 19, 1970 what must surely be the most-hard-to-swallow "book review" of the decade. Yet no doubt the millions of morons who read the News, daily and Sunday, did swallow it hook, line and sinker. Anything goes in America these days.

"The popular - indeed the beloved - President John F. Kennedy was assassinated Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas, Tex., by Lee Harvey Oswald," the "review" starts out to say. This is, of itself, a ghoulish grave desecration. As long as John F. Kennedy was alive, the NY News fought him tooth and nail, every step of the way. He was beloved - but not by the writing bandits of the News who from the start were in cahoots with his real assassins - the CIA, the FBI, LBJ, Nixon, the oil barons and all the rest of the right-wing Establishment.

"Oswald was an admitted Marxist - meaning a Communist - and the Communists and their friends and dupes the world over have been trying to hush up that fact ever since," the article goes on to say. Here, the "reviewer" twice reveals his abysmal ignorance. A Marxist need not necessarily be a Communist. Millions of Socialists and Social-Democrats, especially in Europe, profess to be Marxists while being staunchly anti-Communist. And Oswald never was an "admitted Marxist." He merely posed as one at the command of his employers, the CIA and the FBI.

"A new book pins the crime once more on Communism and consequently is being ignored or belittled by Communists and most 'liberals'" the pseudo-review continues.

Whose book? You've guessed it: Al Newman's "The Assassination of John F. Kennedy: The Reasons Why," which has already been dealt with in TL II/19. This infamous creation which the News "recommends highly" to its imbecile readers - who never read books, anyway - would not be worth further mention except in so far that the way it's being plugged by the Establishment press clearly points to an organized campaign.

Contrary to the assertion by The News that the Newman book is being "ignored or belittled" by Liberals, it has been pushed and applauded on both sides of the imaginary fence that is supposed to separate the Establishment Rightists from the Establishment Liberals.

For instance, the New York Post, supposedly a leader of American Liberals, devoted to it, on May 25, 1970, a long and friendly news story entitled "Call Cuba Oswald's Motive" which labels this fabrication a "study." As to the grotesque Kihss story in the reputedly "Liberal" New York Times, the reader is referred to No. 19, pp. 2-3.

Now here comes the crowning glory of that piece in the NY Sunday News:

"We wish the Newman book a huge sale, in the present edition and in paperback later. No one who wants reliable information on the Kennedy murder can afford to pass it up."

Any reviewer who wishes a book "a huge sale", no matter how much he may really like it, ought to be booted out of the profession. For he reveals by the choice of such words that he is not a bona fide critic, but a paid propagandist.

The same goes for Clarkson N. Potter, publisher of the Newman book. He heads a small firm with an annual output of just over 20 titles. Two of the most recent ones, brought out in quick succession, have been devoted to the perpetuation of the Oswald Hoax (The other is a smear on Jim Garrison written by a shyster named Milton E. Brenner).

The CIA has an inexhaustible slush fund, a large portion of which is spent on the wholesale corruption of Newsmen, editors and publishers. Any rotten publisher - and Ek Potter surely is one of the rottenest in the field - is welcome to a bundle if he is ready to publish another piece of bunk "proving" that Kennedy was killed by the Communists.

The Communists, whether of Russian, Chinese or Cuban obedience, never had a ghost of a motive for killing President Kennedy, for such a murder was bound to throw the presidency to an infinitely greater evil - LBJ. Conversely, all the hate-and warnongers in the US had an excellent motive for getting rid of JFK and putting LBJ in the driver's seat. The whole question of who killed Kennedy hinges on motive, not on 622 pages of pseudo-scholarly garbage like the Newman book.

As I had predicted in TL II/17, the American people now are undergoing the most intensive brainwashing since the Warren Report. The "Big Switch to a Bigger Lie," as I had put it, is going full blast. The CIA, which has adopted and further developed the Big Lie technique of Hitler and Goebbels, will stop at nothing to lend credence to the substitute lie that has taken the place of the Oswald-the-lone-assassin hoax: that the assassination was the work of international communism.

Newman, Potter and the pigmy who wrote that piece in the Sunday News are all creatures of the CIA. They are literary prostitutes of the lowest order. They deserve nothing but our utmost contempt.

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New Disclosures About the RFK Murder

A dispatch from Los Angeles by Helmut Voss, veteran foreign correspondent of the Axel Springer newspaper chain, published in "Bild am Sonntag" of July 19, 1970, throws new light on the assassination of Sen. Robert Kennedy. It is related to and tends to confirm the new version of that event first made public by free-lance writer Theodore Charach (see TL, II/20), though the latter is not mentioned in the story.

Voss interviewed at some length German-born Karl Uecker, a native of Dusseldorf, who at the time was employed as a receptionist at the Ambassador Hotel and who was the first to grab Sirhan's arm after the first shot fired by the Jordanian. He is quoted in the German paper as saying "I'm convinced now that Sirhan did not fire the fatal shot." Uecker holds, the same as Charach, that this shot which, according to the findings of the coroner, Dr. Thomas Noguchi, was fired at close range and an upward angle cannot possibly have come from Sirhan's gun. He also believes that the real assassin was a disloyal security guard (Thane Eugene Cesar), a Kennedy-hater and right wing extremist.

"Everything was hushed up here in Los Angeles," Uecker told the German reporter, "nobody dares to speak out." Uecker, who apparently was fired for his outspokenness - he now works in a Beverly Hills hotel - is a courageous man. But I wouldn't be surprised if he had a fatal car accident one of these days.

The Truth About Chappaquiddick

(I) The Tell-Tale Traces of Violence (ctd.)

The number and variety of the injuries suffered by Edward Kennedy are totally incompatible with his alleged plunge from the bridge (as will be set forth in greater detail below); they are consistent with an assault on his person during which he was knocked semi-unconscious.

Conversely, the total absence of any injuries on the body of Mary Jo Kopechne is also totally incompatible with the official version of the accident, according to which the car was driven off the bridge at a speed of about 20 miles; it is consistent with a fake accident in which the automobile is pushed over the edge of the bridge, with the girl lying unconscious on the back seat.

Before we go further into these crucial matters, it is necessary to take a close look at some of the physical factors involved in the plunge from the bridge. These data are drawn from a report prepared for one of Kennedy's lawyers, Robert G. Clark Jr, by an engineer named Donald L. Sullivan which can be found in the Affidavits section of The Inquest, a one-dollar reprint of the official transcript of the inquest into the death of Mary Jo Kopechne, held at Edgartown, Mass. Jan. 5 to 8, 1970 (Published by EVR Production, Inc. and Lincoln Graphic Arts, Inc., New York).

Fact No. 1: Dyke Bridge is an extremely low bridge with a drop of little more than three feet from the bridge deck into the water. According to Sullivan:

"The bridge itself is a timber structure approximately 85' long and 10'-6" wide. On either side of the structure is a timber curb 9" wide and 5 1/2 " high. The bridge deck consists of 10"x3" timber planking and is supported by longitudinal timber beams of ~~various~~ of varying sizes. The beams are supported by timber pile bents with a center span 11'-9" long. The clearance under this span varies from 3' to 5' above the water surface."

At its highest point, then, the drop would have been only five feet, plus the thickness of the planking (3 inches) and the height of the curb (5 1/2 inches). But Kennedy's car never got anywhere near the top of the bridge. Sullivan writes:

"The front wheel on the passenger of the Kennedy car went over the curb at a distance of 18 feet from the start of the bridge." That means the car had covered less than one-fourth of the bridge's total length when it went off. (For a good look at the bridge on the side where the accident occurred, see the picture on p. 121 of The Inquest) It also means that the plunge occurred at or near the lowest point of the bridge, where the clearance is three feet or just a little over. Adding 8 1/2 inches for the planking and the curb, one arrived at a drop of certainly no more, and probably less than four feet.

This most significant fact has been carefully kept from the public in press accounts and also during the legal proceedings. Most charts and diagrams of the accident site that have appeared in print convey the erroneous impression that the car went off the hump of the bridge or even beyond.

For instance, on the (widely published) chart reproduced on p. 25 of The Inquest, an arrow points to a car lying on its roof in the water with the legend "car left bridge" at a spot which is close to the maximum clearance. Actually this is the place where the Kennedy automobile, according to the diagram on p. 35 "came to rest" after having drifted for a considerable distance.

Anyway, the fact that matters is: At the point where Kennedy's car went off the bridge, the drop to the water surface was, at the most, four feet. A car of the Oldsmobile's size cannot possibly have "gyrated in the air", as some newspaper accounts had it, conjuring up visions of a steep plunge into the sea, when in fact it dropped only 48 inches.

Fact No. 2 (this also has been hushed up in the press and soft-pedaled in court):

When Kennedy's car went off the bridge, it landed in the water squarely on its right side. The testimony of the scuba diver, John Farrar, is conclusive on this point:

"I noted that the two windows on the right-hand front door and rear door were blown out with the glass smashed and most of the glass shattered and spread throughout the car as if from impact. The left-hand side window, the driver's window, was rolled down to within an inch of the bottom. The driver's door was locked. The snap button was pressed down. The only window intact was the left rear window. That was completely intact. The windshield was ostensibly smashed, however, the safety film holding the window virtually intact. In other words, it was not blown out as were the two right windows."

In answer to a question: "Tell us about the right doors, the front seat passenger's and the back seat passenger's side. Were they locked or open?", Farrar replied: "I didn't have occasion to observe the two right doors other than to notice that there was extensive damage to both doors and the entire right side and top."

The "extensive damage" Farrar here refers to is clearly visible in a photo of the car's right-hand side view reproduced on p. 5 of The Inquest. As a matter of fact, the rear door (on the passenger's side) and the adjoining parts of the body of the automobile look so battered one cannot help wondering whether such heavy damage could have been wrought by a drop into the water from a mere four feet above - or even twice that height. (It must be added here that Farrar estimated the drop at "approximately eight feet", but this is contradicted by the exact measurements of the engineer, Donald Sullivan, as noted above. Also, Farrar found the car at a distance of approximately 36 feet from the point of impact, which would be at or near the highest elevation of the center span.)

This raises the interesting possibility that the right-hand side of the car may have been smashed on purpose before it was shoved into the water. If the intent was to frame Kennedy for a murder he didn't commit - and the weight of the circumstantial evidence to that effect is overwhelming - it would have been in the obvious interest of the conspirators to make things look as though the car had been deliberately pushed off the bridge. At a possible trial of Edward Kennedy, the demonstrable fact that only the right-hand side of the car was severely damaged would have weighed heavily in his disfavor, for it would prove that the automobile had been pushed off, rather than driven off, the bridge.

If Kennedy's - and the official - version of the accident were true, the car's momentum would have carried it headlong into the water, the front of the vehicle would have been the most damaged part of it (actually, it is all but intact, as another picture on p. 5 shows) and the windshield would probably have been blown in, instead of just splintering.

Kennedy's version is even contradicted by the findings of his own expert, Donald Sullivan, who writes: "The center of gravity of the car went over the curb at a distance of 24 feet from the start of the bridge. Once the center of gravity of the car was over the curb, the car had to fall into the water. Since the wheels (note the plural!) on the passenger side went over the curb first, the car would tend to rotate with the passenger side falling first. As the center of gravity goes over the curb the car would also tend to flip, end over end, onto the roof."

If the Oldsmobile, coming down Dyke Road in an almost perfectly straight line, really had overshoot the curb as it hit the bridge, even at moderate speed, the two front wheels would have been in the air first, not "the wheels" on the passenger's side together.

There's no two ways about it: that car was pushed off the bridge by manual force and therefore plumped down on its right-hand side. And those who did it, wanted to make it conspicuous that the vehicle went down that way, so a jury would be convinced it was a fake accident designed to cover a murder - with Edward Kennedy as the sole conceivable suspect. (To be continued)

Note: Due to the pressure of current news, the next-to-last instalment of "The Dallas Coup d'Etat" is postponed to the next issue.

An analysis and interpretation of the John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King assassinations. Copyright by J. Joesten, 1968-70.

The Frameup of James Earl Ray (ctd. from No. 21)

Even Time magazine, which is not normally squeamish about perversions of justice in America, wagged a censorious finger at Percy Foreman and his ilk in its issue of Jan. 19, 1970. Under the heading "Selling a Client's Story" the magazine wrote: "Lawyer-agents may be cannily attempting to tout their talents without actually violating the rule against lawyers advertising their services. A more difficult question is whether a lawyer's stake in such contracts affects his conduct of the defense. Consider the case of James Earl Ray, who now claims that he was denied effective counsel because of his lawyers' interests in a book about him..."

"Ray pleaded guilty to the murder of Martin Luther King Jr. Later, however, he claimed that Foreman had advised him to plead that way to avoid a trial, thereby preserving the details of his story for Author Huie. In a motion for a new trial last April, Ray's third defense counsel argued that both his predecessors had represented not Ray but their own financial interests... Ray lost his appeal and a federal court has refused to block publication of Huie's book 'He Slew the Dreamer.' (That book was originally entitled 'They Slew the Dreamer.' This change of title alone gives you the full measure of Huie's duplicity - J.J.)

"Nevertheless, cases like Ray's involve moral issues that are firmly dealt with by the American Bar Association's new code of professional responsibility, which became effective this month. An attorney should avoid publication deals before or during a trial, says the code, lest he be 'influenced consciously or unconsciously to a course of conduct that will enhance the value of his publication rights to the prejudice of his client."

That clause is squarely aimed at Percy Foreman who like no other US attorney in living memory violated the basic ethics of the legal profession by selling his client down the river like a piece of cattle. TRUTH LETTER readers will remember that in Vol. I, No. 15, dated April 15, 1969, I strongly called on the ABA to disbar Percy Foreman, after setting forth in detail the scandalous transactions he was involved in.

"If all this isn't enough for the American Bar Association to take firm steps toward the disbarment of Percy Foreman," I wrote at the time, "one can only conclude that the ethical standards of that organization, already eroded by its stand on the Kennedy Murder Fraud, have disintegrated altogether."

Even though the ABA didn't muster the courage to give the boot to Percy Foreman, one of its most "prestigious" members, it was thus at least spurred into some action by strengthening its code of professional responsibility, which was sorely needed.

In a footnote of the same issue, Time reported: "The Tennessee Supreme Court, however, has just rejected Ray's argument on the ground that by pleading guilty he waived his right to appeal. 'The defendant,' said the unanimous court, 'upon the advice of his well-qualified and nationally known counsel (sic - !! -J.J.), pleaded guilty to murder in the first degree, the offense with which he was charged, a cold-blooded murder without an explained motive (emphasis mine -J.J.). He made a bargain, swapping a guilty plea for a 99-year prison sentence rather than face a jury and a possibly harsher sentence. And now he must live with that bargain."

If the atrocious reasoning and the callous statement of a judicial "bargain" in which a defendant "swaps" a guilty plea "and now must live with it" in this ruling by a unanimous State Supreme Court doesn't make you sick, you've got a better stomach than I have. This, by your leave, is justice in America today.

However, there is still a dim ray of hope for the alleged slayer of Dr. King. In an apparently exclusive story, The Washington Post reported on June 25, 1970 that Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, executive director of the "Committee to Investigate Assassinations" (Washington, D.C.) is "Ray's most recently acquired lawyer" and that "a hearing is expected this summer" on yet another motion for a new trial. According to the same story, Fensterwald and Harold Weisberg forced the Justice Department by means of a civil suit under the Freedom of Information Act, to release to the press and public the documents pertaining to Ray's extradition from England in 1968. (to be continued)