

# Baltimore ONICLE

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COMPLIMENTARY

## House Assassination Report Branded 'A Lie'

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*Fletcher Prouty, former liaison officer between the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency, and author of The Secret Team, has reiterated that there was a conspiracy within U.S. government circles which resulted in the murder of President John F. Kennedy. He scoffed at unsubstantiated theories advanced by Chief Counsel Blakey of the Assassination Committee that "organized crime" figures may have committed the murder. "How could they cover it up?" Prouty asked.*

Colonel Prouty, now retired from the military, was in the key position of Focal Point Officer. From this vantage point, he probably knows more about the CIA's activities than almost anyone else in that organization, to paraphrase information released from Prentice-Hall, the publishing house.

Mr. Prouty says that Regis Blahut "deliberately bungled the break-in" at the Assassination Committee's offices last summer. Blahut's purpose, according to Prouty, was to force disclosure that the Committee did in fact have autopsy

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photographs of Kennedy's body, some of which appear to be forged.

The Committee had not brought the validity of these photographs into question during their investigation. Questions about their authenticity were not allowed in evidence.

"If Robert Groden says the autopsy photos and 'backyard photos' of Oswald are forgeries, then they are definitely fake," says Prouty. "Groden is the foremost [photographic] expert

in the country, and he is merely substantiating the testimony of many others who saw the body of the dying President."

"Robert Blakey is...covering up for the government," Col. Prouty said.

Prouty points out that Blahut worked for the same Office of Security in the CIA that James McCord worked for. Interestingly, for a time McCord was Blahut's boss. Prouty maintained that McCord "deliberately" bungled the Watergate burglary.

"They're professionals. They don't bungle anything unless they want to," Prouty said. "You have one faction entrapping another faction of renegade government employees."

(Allen Dulles first introduced McCord to Prouty.)

Chief Counsel Blakey, of the Assassination Committee, did not allow word of Blahut's

prints were found on the autopsy photographs of President Kennedy's body. These photos were in the safe of the Assassination Committee, which was broken into last year. It has since been found that the photographs were tampered with.

Blahut failed a lie detector test when asked if he had been ordered to break into the safe. He was then fired, but nothing else has been done.

Meanwhile, the release of the Report on the House Select Committee on Assassinations has been delayed yet again. It is due to be released as this paper goes to press. The report was to have been released last January, but the CIA has prevented this. The Committee and the CIA formally agreed to the latter's editing of the Final Report.

The implications of all of the above become more sordid because the CIA stands accused of Kennedy's murder and many others.

The photographic expert hired as a consultant to the Assassination Committee, Robert Groden, says, "Those photographs are fake." The Assassination Committee had an artist's *drawing* made of one of these photographs, which is reproduced on page 234 in *Volume I of their Hearings*. This picture purports to show a bullet entry would near the midline of the back of the head and near the top of the skull. This is where Dr. Russell Fisher, Chief Medical Examiner of Maryland, alleged the wound was located in 1968 when he was on the secret Ramsay Clark Panel which examined the evidence shown the Panel. Fisher's position for the wound was four inches higher than where the Autopsy report placed it (2.5 centimeters from the occipital protuberance).

The doctors who wrote the autopsy report were not allowed to see the photographs; the photographer who took the photos died under questionable circumstances.

The trouble with the autopsy story is that the doctors who

first saw the body in Texas described a massive exit wound, not an entry wound, on the back of the head. Dr. Robert McClelland, who wrote the death certificate on Kennedy, described "The cause of death

from a gunshot wound of the left temple." (See p. 490 of the *New York Times* edition of the Warren Report.) Dr. Jenkins, also at the scene, described "A great laceration on the right side of the head (temporal and occipital)...even to the extent that the cerebellum protruded from the wound." (p. 492)

Altogether, seven doctors at Parkland Hospital described the back of Kennedy's head as having been blown away, meaning that the President was struck from in front, in the left temple. This means there was a third assassination nest along with the two admitted by the present Committee (on the Grassy Knoll and in the School Book Depository); this third site was somewhere ahead of Kennedy's limousine, by the overpass. Bullet scars on the sidewalk point directly at a manhole on the southwest corner of the overpass, not on the Grassy Knoll or the sixth floor window.

The forgery of the photographs, which had to have been done by agents of the government, is easily detectable by photographic experts. A soft-edge matte insertion is the technique used, and tests might bring this out. A matte line shows up in repeated generations [reproductions of the originals]. The forgers took the picture of someone else's skull and fixed it over the blown-out portion of Kennedy's head. The photographs show that the hair outside of the insertion is dry and auburn in color. The hair in the insert is black and drenched. The skin color is different, as well.

The photograph of Kennedy lying on his back on the autopsy table shows that his head is flattened at the back, and appears to be collapsed. The head rests on a steel support raising it above the table and part of the support appears to be inside the massive occipital

wound. The head does not stand up to its full size.

Photo 29 shows a round circle at the left zygomatic process (the left temple), and this is precisely where the Parkland Hospital doctors in Texas described the entering temple wound.

The Assassination Committee has admitted to one more

shot, by one more gunman, than was admitted by the Warren Commission. This brings the total number of shots fired to four. But the Committee's Chief Counsel, Blakey, has privately said that there may have been three more shots above the four, for a total of seven.

A number of experts and Congressmen feel that the shot from the Grassy Knoll actually hit the President. Dr. Michael Baden, Chief Medical Examiner of Connecticut, who saw the photos and x-rays, said, "They are not on the up and up."

A prominent radiologist in Maryland, when shown the photographs of the x-rays reproduced for the public in Volume I, first asked, "Was his face blown away? Was his head removed from the body?" He then pointed out that the spine had been removed from the skull in the pictures, and that a number of bones were missing that should not have been, and were not related to the wounds. The jaw bone, the orbit, the vertebra and the odontid process were missing from the picture on page 241. The radiologist, who asked not to be identified, then pointed to an air space 2.5 centimeters from the occipital protuberance and said, "That is the entry wound [on the back of the head]."

The *New York Times* of Saturday, November 23, 1963 reported the following:

"Later medical reports raised the possibility that there had been two wounds." And, "Mr. Kennedy also had a massive, gaping wound in the back and one on the right side of the head." (Such wounds are bullet exit wounds.) And, "Mr. Kennedy was hit by bullet in the

throat, just below the Adam's apple," they said. This wound had the appearance of a bullet's entry." (The Warren Commission said this was an exit wound.)

"If the government wanted to kill someone and cover it up, Maryland was the place to do it," a famous pathologist said.

Many doctors fear Dr. Russell Fisher, who has great political power in the medical community. Other coroners and doctors recently accused Dr. Fisher of distorting and covering up in the probable murder of former CIA executive John Arthur Paisley. Fisher called Paisley's death a suicide.

"A smart guy, clever, manipulative, charming,

gracious, a powerful person nationally," said Dr. Cyril Wecht of Dr. Fisher. Dr. Wecht is a Pittsburgh pathologist and coroner who was a consultant to the Assassination Committee.

Dr. Fisher's connections with the government include, among other things, his relationship with the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, which is the central mecca of pathology for all of the military services. The Institute uses Baltimore's facilities extensively, with Dr. Fisher's cooperation.

"If there is anyone the Federal government would turn to for favors, it would be Russell Fisher," said Dr. Wecht, who also said, "Russell Fisher is the most politically powerful person within the field of American forensic pathology."

Dr. Fisher reorganized the medical examiner's office in Maryland along military lines. He has total command of the office. When Dr. George Weems, the coroner of Calvert County, attested recently that John Paisley was in fact murdered, Fisher angrily told reporters, "Where the hell did he [Weems] get to be such an expert, anyhow? I don't think my subordinates should be spouting off about things they don't know about." Fisher said he was "mad as hell" at his

"subordinate."

This type of authoritarianism among professionals has no place in medicine or in the medical examiner's office. This is especially true when it would appear that the Paisley murder may be connected either to that of John Kennedy or to matters of crucial importance to the country. Many believe Paisley was silenced to prevent him from "blowing the whistle," said a top former CIA person.

Most consultants on the pathology panel hired by the present Assassination Committee were connected to Dr. Fisher or to Dr. Humes of the Bethesda Naval Hospital. It was Dr. Humes who performed the original autopsy of Kennedy.

Robert Groden, who did the famous enhancement of the Zapruder film of the assassination (which helped to re-open the investigation) also examined the photographs of Oswald known as the "backyard photographs" for the Committee. He showed them to this writer also. One of these photos, showing Oswald with a rifle and copies of left-wing literature, was used on the cover of *Life Magazine*. It is, along with others, an obvious forgery.

Blow-ups of the photos clearly show the brush strokes of the retouching. "It's very amateurish. The pictures are fake," Groden says. These photos were constructed by pasting Oswald's face on the body of another man holding the rifle, and then re-photographing it. The retouching had to try to cover up the disparity in size between the neck and the new head, and cover up the line across the chin where the two pictures join. The heads on the different pictures are different sizes, as well.

Groden also has a rare video tape (seen by Steve Parks of *The Sun* and this writer) that shows Dr. Robert Shaw at Parkland Hospital holding a press conference concerning John Connally's wounds, the afternoon of the assassination. "The bullet is in the leg," Shaw says. "It hasn't been removed. It will be removed." Where did this bullet go? Obviously, it

break-in to leak out for one year, which shows his complicity in covering up the existence of the forged autopsy photos.

"Have *The Sun* put an ordinary crime reporter on this case," Prouty says, "and they'll expose the conspiracies. All of them."

Prouty adds that "We need only to look at who took power in many key jobs after the assassination, and to study the changes in policy and their actions to understand the *coup d'etat* of 1963 and why it happened."

In other developments, *The Chronicle* has also learned that former President Nixon was accompanied by actress Joan Crawford when in Dallas at the time of Kennedy's assassination.

Mr. Nixon has given four different accounts of his activities on that day, including denying that he was in Dallas. However, he is quoted in *The New York Times* in a UPI release from Dallas datelined November 21, 1963. (The assassination occurred on November 22.) Nixon said, "I am going to work as hard as I can to get the Kennedys out of there. We can't afford four more years of that kind of administration."

The article was printed in the *Times* on November 22, 1963.