

Missing Memo Holds Clues To Assassination Mystery

• THE BALTIMORE CHRONICLE •

Mid-May, 1979

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The Final Report of the Select Committee on Assassinations in the U.S. House of Representatives was to be issued this last March, but it is now expected to appear in June.

One thing that will be missing from the final report will be a memorandum written internally in 1966 in the CIA by Tom Karamessines, an assistant to Richard Helms, former CIA director.

According to Victor Marchetti, former executive assistant at the CIA and co-author (with John Marks) of *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*, this missing memo said that E. Howard Hunt, the Watergate burglar, former CIA person and longtime associate of Richard Nixon, was in Dallas on the day President John F. Kennedy was murdered.

Nixon later admitted that he, too, was in Dallas on the same day. J. Edgar Hoover was reported to be with Nixon and other members of the government that would follow the Kennedy assassination. They were meeting with Clint Mur-

chison, a Texas oilman, on the night before the killing.

The existence of the memo was confirmed both within the Assassination Committee and within the CIA itself. It was read and initialed by Richard Helms (whom Nixon later sent to Iran as Ambassador) and by another CIA official, Sammy Helperan. The memo discusses a concern among the CIA bosses that the presence of Hunt at Dealey Plaza [in Dallas, where Kennedy was shot] might be uncovered.

Marchetti suggests that the CIA had thought about taking a "limited hangout" and was willing to concede that Hunt and other CIA agents may have been involved in an assassination plot against the late President. CIA executives were admitting that a "renegade" band of agents, acting on their own, may have done the hit.

H.R. Haldeman, former member of the Nixon staff, seems to confirm this in his book, *The Ends of Power*:

"In all of those Nixon references to the Bay of Pigs [in

the White House tapes], he [Nixon] was actually referring to the Kennedy assassination... After Kennedy was killed, the CIA launched a fantastic cover-up... The CIA literally erased any connection between Kennedy's assassination and the CIA... In fact, Counter Intelligence Chief James Angleton of the CIA called Bill Sullivan of the FBI [number two man under J. Edgar Hoover] and rehearsed the questions and answers they would give to the Warren Commission investigators."

Bill Sullivan was shot to death a couple of years ago, during a period of numerous other mysterious deaths that have been widely reported.

Haldeman goes on to say that Helms desperately wanted to hide the CIA operation that resulted in the Kennedy tragedy. Helms himself has been accused by various researchers as being the operations officer for the assassination.

"This memo does not exist," says Bobby Blakey, former

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Chief Counsel to the Assassination Committee. "It never happened. It is a lie. This story has done terrible damage to Howard Hunt."

It was Hunt who forged cables falsely accusing President Kennedy of ordering the murder of Diem in Vietnam. He was also accused of plotting the murder of columnist Jack Anderson and many others, including Castro. He ran teams of anti-Castro Cuban hit men, such as the large group later arrested in the Watergate scandal.

"You just wait," said Blakey, former professor at Princeton University. "The Report will answer all the critics once and for all."

But Gail Beagel, top aide to Congressman Henry Gonzales (D., Texas), who formerly chaired the Assassination Committee until he quit in protest at the "cover-up" by the former Chief Counsel and others whom he was unable to dislodge, says, "The Final Report will collapse like a house of cards. The ---- will really hit the fan when that report come out."

Although several volumes of testimony and evidence have already appeared, it is the Final Report, with its conclusions regarding conspiracies and the second gunman, that will be the most telling. It is Blakey who must reconcile the conflicts between the evidence and the conclusions he wants to find. Insiders speculate that the Final Report may never be issued due to the impossibility of Blakey's task.

The expected new govern-

ment assassination story, which is expected to be essentially a restatement of the findings of the Warren Report, is contained in "The Second Gunman Syndrome," an article in the April 27, 1979 *National Review* by David Balin. Balin was counsel to the Warren Commission and helped invent the "magic bullet theory" along with Gerald Ford and Arlen Specter. Balin was also executive of the Rockefeller Commission reporting on CIA activities within the U.S. (In the 19th chapter of the Report issued by that study, titled "Allegations Concerning the Assassination of President Kennedy," an effort is made to absolve Hunt, Sturgis and the CIA of involvement.)

In his *National Review* article, Balin starts off by saying, "There was no second gunman." Yet his scholarship is questionable. For example, he also says, "The first chairman of the Committee of Assassinations— Congressman Henry Gonzales—..." Thomas Downing was the first chairman, not Gonzales.

Also, Balin and others are trying to claim that the motorcycle with the stuck microphone was not where the acoustical evidence placed it. But the motorcycle is exactly where the Committee says it is, in photographs and films taken during the assassination, recording the four shots through its open mike.

As a footnote to this case, former CIA officers who knew the late John Arthur Paisley, a former top official of the CIA whose fate on the Chesapeake

Bay has caused heated controversy, say that Paisley was killed because he was about to blow the whistle on various matters of importance to the country.

All people investigating the Paisley case say that the results found by Dr. Russell Fisher, the Medical Examiner of Maryland (who determined that Paisley's death was a suicide) are incorrect, and that Paisley was murdered. Paisley's estranged wife has engaged an attorney, Bernard Fensterwald, in an effort to determine the facts behind her husband's death.

Paisley had been one of the interrogators of Yuri Nosenko, a "defector" who was sent over here from Russia shortly after the Kennedy assassination. He brought with him Lee Harvey Oswald's KGB file, for the purpose of trying to establish that Russia did not make a Manchurian Candidate out of Oswald (i.e., make Oswald a programmed assassin), and that the attempt by ultra-right forces in the United States to pin the crime on the Kremlin would not work. It didn't.

Dr. Fisher was a member of the former Attorney General Ramsay Clark's panel in 1968, which re-examined materials purported to be autopsy evidence in the murder of President Kennedy.

Even Congressmen are having difficulty in obtaining the volumes of evidence compiled in the most recent investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

One writer remarked, "Hitler and Goebels had a name for mass deception: 'The Big Lie Technique.'"

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