

First Draft
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MASTER INDEX TO THE INVESTIGATIONS OF THE ASSASSINATION
OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

FOREWORD

In its Report on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy issued in July 1979, the House Select Committee on Assassinations made the first official Governmental acknowledgement that there had been shots from two different locations and therefore a conspiracy. The Government and presumably the history books will now concede that the American public and the private individuals known as "the critics" were right from the beginning in their certainty that there had been a conspiracy.

The House Select Committee has also to a large measure agreed with the critics that the performance of the CIA, the FBI, the Secret Service, and the Warren Commission--its predecessor official investigating body--was deeply and dismally deficient, and in at least one instance criminal with respect to the destruction of evidence. While the House Select Committee has literally and figuratively demolished the work of the Warren Commission, it has absolved the Commission of bad faith. But the issue of the good faith of the Warren Commission, and, indeed, of the House Select Committee itself, will have to be evaluated in the final analysis by ~~each~~ individual student of the case and by the American ^{people} public. To assist in that judgment, and in the ultimate appraisal of the findings and conclusions of the House Select Committee and the Warren Commission, this volume of indexes has been compiled to facilitate the labors of present and future researchers ~~and investigators.~~

Add: reference to Church Committee and Rockefeller Commission

The courage of the House Select Committee in concluding that there had been a conspiracy must be applauded, not least by the critics who have been laboring in this vineyard for many long years and in some cases since 1963. Yet the fact remains that the case has not been closed but merely reopened and to some ~~small~~ degree clarified. The House Select Committee was dissolved on December 31, 1978 with essential investigations still incomplete--the full analysis of the Bronson film, thought to reveal the presence of two men in the sixth-floor window at the time of the shooting and if so indicative of a wider conspiracy than the House Select Committee has acknowledged, and further analysis of the acoustics evidence, to mention only two areas which require ~~further~~ additional attention.

The news media, which remain deeply committed to the Warren Report and the discredited lone assassin hypothesis, continue to display hostility to the critics and scepticism toward the conspiracy finding of the House Select Committee. Indeed, the press has harped in a virtually orchestrated fashion on the expenditure by the House ~~from~~ Select Committee of more than five million dollars during its two-year^{of} investigation ~~of the assassinations of President Kennedy and of Martin Luther King.~~ It is hard to believe that a nation that spends ~~in the~~ billions annually on cosmetics and chewing-gun really begrudges the use of five million dollars in an effort to solve the brutal assassination of a President. But it may well be true, if one judges by the news media.

The time, effort, and money spent by the House ~~from~~ Select Committee did not, ~~apparently,~~ extend to the indexing of its Report or supporting volumes of Hearings

and Appendices. The Warren Report had an index, and Volume XV of the Hearings included an index to witnesses heard and names mentioned during the testimony, ^{Castles} ^{unindexed} ^{as these} ^{were.} The House Select Committee, knowing as it did the indexing history of the Warren Report and having ~~available~~ at its disposal the immense facilities and manpower of the Government, capriciously and carelessly presented its work in wholly unindexed form.

This volume has been compiled in an effort to fill that most unfortunate lacuna. It was conceived as a research tool with multiple purposes. To mention only a few: it is possible by consulting the subject index to determine whether findings in the Report of the House Select Committee are supported by material in the Hearings or the Appendices. There are some instances in which assertions in the Report have no supporting testimony or documentation whatever. It is possible to compare the areas investigated by the House Select Committee with these areas which emerge ^{from} ^{Commission's investigation} ~~in~~ the Warren ~~Report~~, and to determine whether or not important segments of evidence have been disregarded. And it is possible, of course, to locate almost at a glance all available information on any one element or issue, whether it is the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, the President's wounds, the chicken remains, or the backyard photographs.

The path of least resistance is to accept ^{on} the official Reports or ^a the works in the critical literature. To those researchers, now and in the future, who recognize that the only road to the truth is independent examination, verification and evaluation of Government "truth", this book is dedicated.