

Second draft
Meagher October 1979

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

FOREWORD

The Report of the Warren Commission in 1964, which found only a lone assassin, was supposed to "stand like a Gibraltar of factual literature through the ages to come". ^{1/} Fifteen years later, the Report of the House Select Committee on Assassinations made the first official acknowledgment 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 scorning the Warren Report and insisting 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 FBI, the CIA, and the Warren Commission itself was deeply and dismally deficient--indeed, criminal in at least one instance of destruction of material evidence. While the work of the Warren Commission has been literally and figuratively demolished, the House Select Committee has absolved the Commission of bad faith. But the issue of good faith--of the Warren Commission and of the House Select Committee itself--will have to be judged in the last analysis by individual students of the case and by the American people. To assist in forming that judgment and in the ultimate appraisal of the findings and conclusions of these two major investigations of the Kennedy assassination, ^{2/} this volume of indexes has been compiled to facilitate the labors of present and future researchers.

The courage of the House Select Committee in acknowledging 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 degree clarified. The Committee was dissolved on December 31, 1978 with essential investigations still incomplete. The full analysis of the Brenson 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 suggested, and further analysis of the acoustical evidence, are two of the areas which demand additional attention.

The news media, which remain deeply committed to the Warren Report and the discredited lone assassin hypothesis, have greeted the conspiracy finding of the House Select Committee with scepticism, disdain and indifference. In a virtually orchestrated fashion, the press has harped on the expenditure of more than five million dollars during the two years of investigation by the House Select Committee. In a country that spends billions annually on cosmetics and chewing-gum, that is a picayune and bizarre complaint.

The funds expended by the House Select Committee in an effort to solve the tragic and brutal assassination of President Kennedy cannot be a legitimate point of criticism. What is unfortunate is that the time, effort and money spent by the Committee did not extend to the indexing of its Report or the supporting volumes of Hearings and Appendices. ^{3/} The Warren Report included an index and the Hearings contained an index to the witnesses heard and the names mentioned during testimony, vastly inadequate as these indexes were.

The House Select Committee, knowing as it did the indexing history of the Warren Report and having 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 corresponding material in the supplementary volumes. There are some instances in which assertions in the Report have no supporting testimony or documentation whatever. Second, it is possible to compare the areas investigated by the House Select Committee with the areas which emerged from the Warren Commission's investigation, 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 published information from the two major investigations of the assassination on any one element or issue, whether it is the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle, the President's wounds, or the backyard photographs.

The path of least resistance is to accept an official Report or a work in the critical literature. To these researchers, now and in the future, who believe that the only road to the truth is independent examination, verification and judgment of Government "truth", this book is dedicated.

1/ Gerald Ford, Portrait of the Assassin, Simon and Schuster, 1965.

2/ During the fifteen years between the Warren Report and the Report of the House Select Committee, there were several Governmental investigations of the intelligence agencies during which certain aspects of the Kennedy assassination came under scrutiny. The Senate Intelligence Committee chaired by Frank Church and the Rockefeller Commission conducted two of these investigations. Their findings with respect to the assassination are reflected in or superceded by the Report of the House Select Committee.

3/ As mentioned in the Explanatory Note, the Report of the House Select Committee deals also with the assassination of Martin Luther King and is accompanied by numerous volumes of Hearings and Appendices, which remain to be indexed.