

## O WHAT A TANGLED WEB

### The Non-investigation of the Kennedy Assassination

Another book on the Kennedy assassination? Hasn't every last drop of literary milk been drained from that subject? On the contrary, I believe the reading public has an inexhaustible thirst for material on the still-unsolved mystery of the twentieth century. This may especially be the case as November 22, 1983 fast approaches, and as those who have maintained a sporadic interest in the matter over the years will want to renew their acquaintance with the mystery at this two-decade milestone. Almost any book on the assassination that might be released on that date would be guaranteed immediate and extensive media attention. A well-conceived book written in an interesting literary style but with scholarly documentation to convince the reader of the integrity and seriousness of the author---well, who knows what popularity might be achieved by such a book?

This book does two things that I think have seldom if ever been combined in a book on the Kennedy assassination. It is, like several books before it (but hopefully more thoroughly) an expose of the non-investigation of this crime by the Warren Commission and other agencies that have been charged to conduct investigations. A feature that necessarily distinguishes it from all books published before 1979 is that it considers the work of the House Select Committee on Assassinations published in that year and shows that this Committee, like the Warren Commission before it, was somehow able to avoid a credible interpretation of the investigative materials. Part of the intent of the book, then, is to leave the reader with the uneasy feeling that a crime that he or she might have imagined had been solved by all the extensive and expensive investigations is in fact left in a state of almost total non-solution.

This expose of an un-solved (and really un-investigated) murder is only half the intent, however. Since the flawed investigations are sitting ducks for such criticism, it really doesn't require that much literary marksmanship to blast them apart. The more difficult feat is that of somehow convincing the reader that it is possible to arrive at an accurate understanding of the assassination, that a solution to the crime is available to an honest investigation of it. I comment in the book that people tell me that they think the crime will never be solved, which I take as a cop-out way of saying why bother with something that is not possible to achieve. I want my readers not only to be skeptical about the ludicrous explanations of the crime they have been offered; but to be excited about the real possibility of learning about an event that has been shrouded in mystery. To this end I do not hesitate to speculate about the real nature of conspiracies both to murder the President and to set up a scapegoat and frame him for the crime. However, as a social scientist I try to obey a Commandment that was perhaps written especially for those of my breed: thou shalt not commit an hypothesis without indicating all the known facts both for and against thy hypothesis.

The manuscript of this book is very near completion. It will contain 125,000 to 150,000 words and will have 90-100 illustrations, mostly photographic reproductions of documents from Warren Commission exhibits and from the National Archives. It will contain a preface and eleven chapters as outlined in the attachment. There will be approximately 1200 footnote references.

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Preface

Part 1 Warm Up: Investigators in Action

Chapter 1 Tales from the D.C. Woods: Official Reconstructions of the Crime

Part 2 Set Up: The Development of a Suspect

Chapter 2 Making a Scene: the Construction of an Assassin-to-Be

Chapter 3 Important to Hold That Man: Capturing a Suspect

Chapter 4 Refused to Sign: A Question of Identity

Part 3 Frame Up: The Fabricating of Evidence

Chapter 5 Forging Ahead: the Documentary Evidence

Chapter 6 Shell Games: Weapons and Accessories

Part 4 Cover Up: The Concealment of a Conspiracy

Chapter 7 Unique Insecure: The Laying of an Ambush

Chapter 8 Nut Country: On the Trail of a Local Conspiracy

Chapter 9 You Don't Know Me But You Will: the World of Jack Ruby

Chapter 10 Lee Harvey Oswald: Patsy, Agent or Informer?

Part 5 Wrap Up: By Person or Persons Unknown

Chapter 11 History Also Has Its Claims: What is to be Done?