



PENN JONES' THE CONTINUING INQUIRY

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Refused to Sign

by

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After the Dallas police arrested Lee Harvey Oswald on November 22, they produced a set of fingerprint cards for him that virtually defies human comprehension. A standard set of police-taken fingerprints requires the signature of the fingerprinted person thereon, an assurance that the prints purported to belong to a given individual were in fact taken from that person. In the case of Oswald, his fingerprints were duly taken on the day of his arrest; however, according to the official who fingerprinted him, W.E. Barnes, Oswald refused to sign the fingerprint card, which act Barnes said he shrugged off and told Oswald it didn't matter whether he signed or not.¹ His alleged refusal is a bit hard to understand since Oswald was proclaiming himself "just a patsy" being framed for others' crimes and must have realized that his refusal would facilitate the possibility that someone else's fingerprints might be misrepresented as being his own. At any rate, the fingerprint card so produced is the one depicted in Figure 1.² The difficulty is that, in the place for the fingerprinted person's signature, there is a handwritten version of the name Lee Harvey Oswald. However this signature does not correspond with any of Oswald's other authenticated handwriting or signatures.

Can one reconstruct, then, what may have been the consternation of Dallas police officials on November 22 or 23, when they could compare this signature with other written material of Oswald's that they had confiscated by this time? People of suspicious mind would surely suspect that the "Oswald" in custody was not the Oswald born in New Orleans on October 18, 1939 and whose handwriting appeared on so much other material. The only other explanation of the fingerprint/signature mismatch, which the DPD would again wish to avoid, was that some police or other official having access to the card took it upon himself or herself to sign the card which the un-cooperative Oswald had refused to sign.

The police embarrassment in this matter may explain the appearance of alternative versions of Oswald fingerprint cards. One such card, depicted in Figure 2, appears in the Warren Commission exhibits.³ This fingerprint card has rightly been called a "mystery card." It contains the notation "refused to sign," bearing out the statement of Barnes about Oswald's refusal, but the card is not authenticated by any officials whose names or initials are discernible, and it contains the date 11/25/63. Since Oswald died during the early afternoon of November 24, his uncooperativeness on the following day is perhaps forgivable. At any rate this card allowed the Warren Commission to avoid a confrontation with the meaning of an "Oswald" signature that was apparently not that of Oswald.

The confusion of fingerprint cards escalates significantly with the appearance of still another "refused to sign" fingerprint card which I have found in the Archives.⁴ This is depicted in Figure 3. A covering letter found with this document, from Inspector Kelley to Chief Rowley of the Secret Service and dated December 2, 1963, notes the "Refused to sign" entry and the fact that "identifying data" on the card had not been filled out. The card is "authenticated" by the signature of Lt. K.P. Knight of the DPD's Identification

Bureau. Although this card is never referred to in the Warren Report and is not included among its exhibits, there is an "explanation" of it in Warren Commission testimony. After having been fingerprinted earlier in the evening and after the "midnight press conference" on November 22, Oswald was supposedly taken again to the Identification Bureau where additional fingerprinting was carried out by Captain Doughty and Lieutenant Knight.⁵ Since neither Doughty nor Knight was a Commission witness, this card was never "identified" as a Commission exhibit. If the card had been made available to Warren Commission staff, it is difficult to understand why they would not have used it in evidence, since it avoids the signature mis-match embarrassment (Figure 1) without the substituted difficulty (Figure 2) of implying that the fingerprints of a corpse were the officially-accredited Oswald fingerprint record.

Life is getting hard for the assassination student at this point; further perusal in the Archives only complicates things. I must now tax the reader with the information that this latest mystery card---which I shall call Knight card 1---appears (without explanation) in the two altered forms depicted in Figures 4 and 5 (and which I shall call Knight cards 2 and 3).⁶ It is very clear that all three of these "Knight" cards were produced by photocopying from one another or from another original, since the fingerprints, the Knight signature and the "Refused to sign" notation are identical for the three (except that the "refusal" notation is not shown on my photocopy of card 3). It is equally clear that cards 2 and 3 have been "improved" by the addition of "identifying data," in two different versions, no less! One begins to understand why the Warren Commission may have avoided the Knight cards like the plague: the addition of information on a photocopy of a document after it has already been "authenticated" by an official probably is and certainly should be a crime.

Why were all these fingerprint cards produced? Frankly I am not at all sure. One solution to the multiple fingerprint card mystery proceeds from the assumption that these fingerprints are those of Oswald and also that the signature on the Barnes/Hicks card (Figure 1) is his signature. Since this signature does not match the signatures and handwriting on the mass of documents confiscated from him, a massive job of forgery in these documents is indicated. Because I have, like most people, been awed with the bulk of this material supposedly in Oswald's handwriting, I have resisted the idea of a conspiracy which required so gigantic an exercise in forgery. Yet, as I shall be reviewing in other writings, there are recurring indications that there was such extensive forgery of Oswald's identity documents.

In support of this interpretation---that the problem of the set-up conspirators was the "wrong" signature on the original fingerprint card---there are indications of signature erasure on the "Knight" cards. The following represents my best shot at a reconstruction of how and why the Knight cards were fabricated.

It appears, in the first place, that Knight card 2 (Figure 4) was the original from which the other two cards were photocopied. In making this judgment I rely not only on the pencilled notation at the lower right on card 2 which indicates this was the card received from the DPD. This is also suggested by the badly broken lines and other defects on card 3 (Figure 5) and the fact that card 1 (Figure 3) has a blur on the word IDENTIFICATION in its lower right hand corner. Defective photocopies can be made from unblemished originals but not vice versa. However, card 2 did not contain the "identifying data" when first received; there is no sign at all on cards 1 and 3 of the extensive erasure of this material on card 2 that would be necessary to produce the other two cards. I do believe, however, that card 2 contained a

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signature---perhaps the same "wrong" one contained on the Barnes/Hicks card (Figure 1)---that was obliterated and replaced by the "Refused to sign" notation. The prime evidence for this is the break in the line for signature on the lower left side of the card which can be seen just to the left of the word SIGNATURE on both cards 2 and 3; and the fact (which can be seen with a magnifying glass) that the E and perhaps some other letters in SIGNATURE show signs of the kind of damage that might result from the erasing of marks that had crossed those letters. After the signature was obliterated on card 2 and the words Refused to sign typed in, it was photocopied twice. At this point it seems that, for some reason, cards 2 and 3 parted company with card 1. Card 1, after some alterations described below, was "forwarded" by Inspector Kelley to Secret Service headquarters in Washington. Cards 2 and 3 were either kept in Dallas or given an unauthenticated forwarding and were "improved" in the two versions shown in Figures 4 and 5.

Why were Knight cards 2 and 3 buried in Secret Service files and never officially acknowledged? Perhaps because the typewriters used (two different ones) to complete the "identifying data" on these two cards is not the typewriter used to write "Refused to sign." This fact, when discovered, would lead to embarrassing questions as to why a card supposedly completed in one "sitting" was prepared on two different typewriters. An obvious question is why the forgers did not use the "refused to sign" typewriter, presumably in their possession, to fill out the "identifying data." The raising of this question may provide an important clue to the logistics of the operation: it may well have been that the signature-obliteration and "refused to sign" notation on card 2 occurred in Dallas, while the "improvements" on all three cards occurred in Washington, when conspirators there discovered the ineptitude of the card 2 forgery. These officials would not necessarily have had access to the "refused to sign" typewriter. The ominous fact is, however, that whether done in Dallas or Washington, these fabrications were apparently accomplished while the fingerprint cards were in the hands of the Secret Service.

Having decided against the use of cards 2 and 3, the forgers undoubtedly saw the marks of forgery (damage to lines and letters) indicated above and made the repairs that can be seen on card 1. All the letters in SIGNATURE are fully restored. A stylus was apparently drawn across the length of the signature line, obliterating the small break in the line mentioned above, but also creating a heavy line and one which lacks the random unevennesses of width across the line in cards 2 and 3 that can be seen with a magnifying glass.

There may be some alternative to this tedious explanation of the process of signature erasure on Knight cards 1, 2, and 3, but I do not know what it might be. I assume, in this interpretation, that the fingerprinted Oswald (the presumptive "real" Oswald) was not the person whose handwriting appeared on all the incriminating documents. The motive for the Knight card production is thus clear: to eliminate a signature that would have invalidated this mass of forged material. What is less clear is why the Oswald signature on the Barnes/Hicks card (Figure 1) was not erased as well. I can only assume that the Barnes/Hicks card, prepared earlier in the day, had already entered the stream of assassination evidence and could not be recalled and "improved" without exposing the plot. The conspirators may have decided to create a second set of fingerprints and to erase the Oswald signature, replacing it with a "refused to sign" notation.⁸ (They may have hoped that Oswald would be "cooperative" enough with Knight and Doughty that he would not insist on signing. If he did insist, then they were reduced to the alterations that we have observed.)

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The irony in all this is that the Knight cards were never used for the purpose for which they were apparently designed. I do not know why. Perhaps the end product of this series of alterations, which I think was Knight card 1, was just too obviously altered in the ways I have indicated. The need, then, was for still another set of prints and thus were taken those depicted in Figure 2.

When and how the Figure 2 set of "refused to sign" prints were taken is indeed a mystery. The "official" version, which the Warren Commission has not quite the nerve to state directly, is that these prints were taken of Oswald's corpse before his burial on November 25. In explaining why a corpse would be fingerprinted an FBI fingerprint expert, Sebastian Latona, said that "It was made, I believe, in order to advise us formally that the subject, Lee Harvey Oswald, had been killed."¹¹ Since millions of Americans saw Oswald killed before their eyes on television, this explanation sounds ludicrous. Leaving aside the credibility of the asserted motive for post-mortem Oswald fingerprinting, in fact were these fingerprints taken from the corpse of Oswald on November 24 or 25?

There is, in fact, rather strong evidence (from the undertaker in the Fort Worth funeral home to which Oswald was taken) that people from some crime laboratory did spend some time with the corpse and did leave what appeared to be fingerprint ink on the fingers of the corpse.¹⁰ Why, then, am I skeptical of Latona's version of the origin of these prints? According to the FBI's manual for fingerprinting techniques, law enforcement officials must use rather special procedures for fingerprinting a corpse, necessitated by the fact that the stiffened fingers of a corpse will not roll to produce a full side-to-side fingerprint.¹¹ Consequently, in one technique, small strips of paper are placed inside small cups, the inked fingers of the corpse are pressed against the paper, and then these strips are fastened to a regular fingerprint card.¹² Such a technique produces a fingerprint card of quite different appearance than that of the "mystery" card shown in Figure 2: this card clearly contains the prints of a living person. Assuming the prints are Oswald's, they were taken before his murder on November 24; he refused to sign, was not allowed to sign or had his signature erased; and the "refused to sign" card was dated 11/25.¹³ The scene at the undertakers could have been merely a show of fingerprinting the corpse so that, if need be, funeral parlor officials could verify the post-mortem fingerprinting.

If these things were done, they must have been done as a desperate gamble that this piece of fraud would not be discovered. If only police officials were involved in the investigation, perhaps the perpetrators could count on the collegial good will of fellow professionals not to embarrass the police department by exposing the fraud. What the perpetrators must have feared was that truly independent investigators would cast an incredulous eye on these improbable explanations. As it turned out, they had little to fear either from the Warren Commission or the House Select Committee. The Warren Commission, in an astounding example of its incompetence and/or incuriosity about police practices, allowed a police official, Barnes, to testify that Oswald had refused to sign the fingerprint card without asking him whose signature appeared on that card.¹⁴ A panel of handwriting experts for the House Committee includes the Barnes/Hicks card among documents supposedly examined but totally ignores the "signature" thereon, while its fingerprint expert authenticates the fingerprints as those of Oswald.¹⁵ The three monkeys covering ears, mouth and eyes could have done no better job than these so-called investigators in seeing no evil in the Oswald fingerprint fiasco.

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Footnotes

1. 7H285.
2. 17H282.
3. 17H285.
4. CD 87.337.
5. 4H248.
6. CD87.83.
7. This is precisely the dilemma of the plotters postulated by Lifton in describing another possible "mistake:" their placing on the body of the President of a fake bullet entry wound that was too low to be consistent with photographic evidence that only appeared later. Once the plotters "sent the evidence on its way, the wheels of bureaucracy would turn, and the result would be notes, reports, etc.---the usual paraphernalia of investigation," making it "extremely difficult to call back the evidence, and write a post script to the false history." David S. Lifton, Best Evidence (New York: Macmillan, 1980), p. 374.
8. Since the companion assumption of this version of the plot is that there was a person who had engaged in extensive forgery of Oswald's handwriting, one may wonder why this person was not asked to forge Oswald's signature once again on the fingerprint card. If it ever came to that, it is my guess that the forger may have realized for the first time that he or she had been used in a murder plot against the President and that it may have been the the forger who "refused to sign."
9. 6H7.
10. Lifton, Best Evidence, pp. 354-6.
11. Federal Bureau of Investigation, The Science of Fingerprints (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1978), pp. 134-162.
12. The only real alternative method suggested in the fingerprint manual is the severing of the fingers from the hand before preparing the fingerprint card. The people at the funeral home did not report anything of that sort when they observed Oswald's corpse after the "laboratory" people left.
13. It is also possible that Oswald signed a set of prints with the "wrong" signature and this card was destroyed when the mismatch with other "Oswald" handwriting was discovered. This possibility is raised by a photograph published as an illustration in the Doubleday edition of the Warren Report. The caption for this photograph represents Oswald's fingerprints as being held by an "investigator" and the officer to his right as the policeman nearest the President at the time of the assassination, presumably James Chaney. Chaney's presence suggests that this picture may have been taken in mid-afternoon of November 22. Another motorcycle patrolman (3H266) mentions Chaney among those assembled at headquarters after the assassination and who "got off" at 4:00 p.m. The alignment of those prints visible in the investigator's hand does not correspond to that on any of the other three versions of fingerprint cards depicted here. Since these fingerprints were never introduced in evidence or otherwise accounted for, it is very conceivable that these prints were signed by Oswald and then subsequently destroyed. The Warren Commission's failure to inquire about the disposition of this first set of prints was a serious investigative error.
14. 7H285.
15. HSCA VIII 225-49.

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NAME LEE HARVEY OSWALD

54018

POST-8

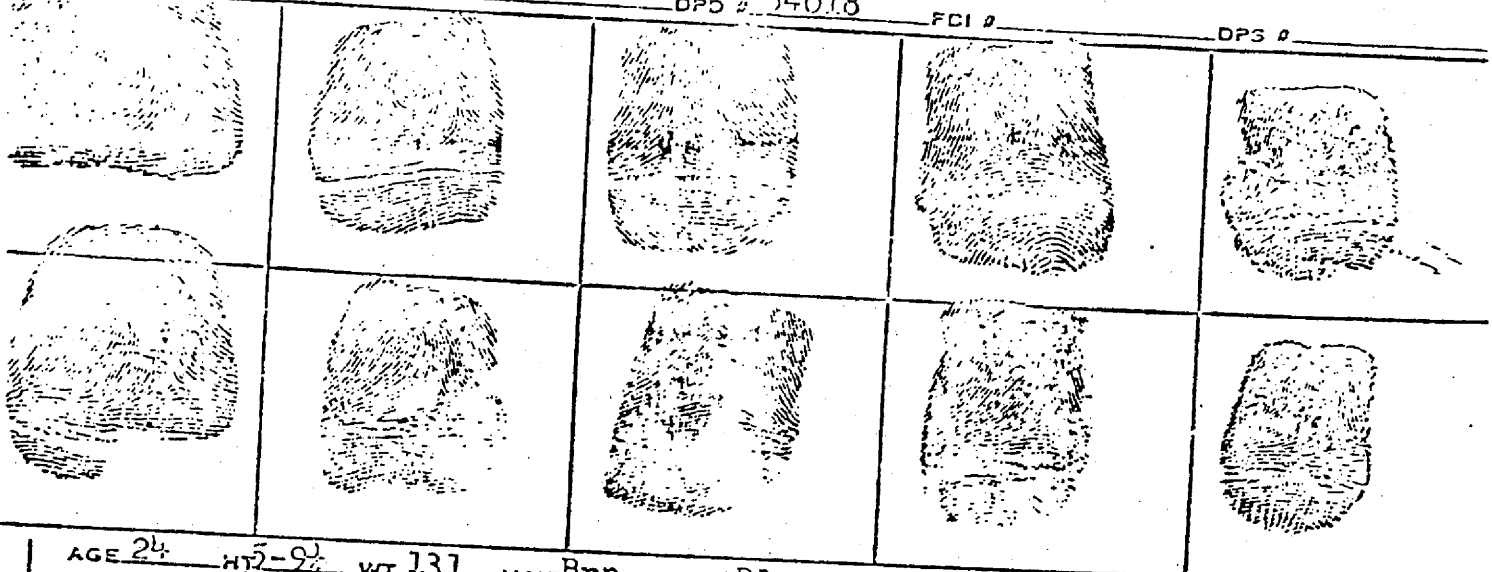
SEX Male

RACE White

DPD # 54018

FCI #

DPS #



AGE 24 HT 5-9 1/2 WT 131 HAIR Brn EYES Blue COMP. Med. OCC. Photographer

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH New Orleans, La, 10-13-39

PRESENT ADDRESS 1026 N. Beckley, Dallas, Texas.

SCARS AND MARKS Clear

DATE OF ARREST 11-22-63

CHARGE Inv. (Murder)

ARRESTED BY M. N. McDonald, K. E. Lyons, P. L. Bentley et al ARREST # 63-98155

PRINTED BY [Signature] CLASSED BY _____ SEARCHED BY _____

NEAREST RELATIVE AND ADDRESS Mother - Marguerite Oswald, Arlington, Texas.
1 1/2 Yrs. Married

SIGNATURE



BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION FORM 12-1



*Fingerprint of Oswald
of Oswald from
Dallas Police
11-23-63*

Figure 4 Oswald fingerprints (night Card 2)

Jack Ruby and the FBI

by

Jerry D. Rose

In 1975 the FBI was dragged, kicking and screaming in protest as usual, into admitting that it had a pre-assassination "relationship" with Jack Ruby. Representative Don Edwards' FBI Oversight sub-committee elicited the information that Bureau agents met with Ruby nine times during 1959, treating him as a "potential criminal informant" from whom, unfortunately, little if any "information" was ever forthcoming.¹

That it would require the Bureau a dozen years after the assassination to remember these 1959 tete-a-tetes with Ruby is not surprising, as it required the same length of time to acknowledge that agent Hosty had received before and destroyed after the assassination a note from Oswald. The strange thing is that FBI agents, by several independent accounts, had their supposedly unproductive potential agent on their minds on November 22 and 23, before Ruby gained his universal notoriety by shooting Oswald.

Two indications of pre-November 24 FBI awareness of Ruby are familiar stories, though both have been denied by the Bureau or generally dismissed as "mistakes" made by unreliable witnesses. Marguerite Oswald, for one, swears that agent Bardwell Odum showed her Ruby's picture on the night of November 23, asking if he were one of her son's associates.² Odum claims, in contrast, that the picture he showed Mrs. Oswald was actually the mysterious picture of a Lee Henry Oswald distributed by the CIA on October 10 and supposedly depicting Oswald entering the Soviet embassy in Mexico City.³ The man pictured⁴ resembles Oswald not at all and Ruby only very slightly; but Marguerite Oswald, of course, is easily dismissed as one obsessed with the idea of a shadowy relationship between her son (and perhaps Ruby) and the United States government.

The second witness to claim she was shown Ruby's picture before November 24 was Julia Ann Mercer, who said she had seen, shortly before the assassination, a man go up the grassy knoll with a rifle after leaving a truck driven by a middle-aged man.⁵ She says she was shown a picture of a man she identified as the truck driver; that the man was Ruby; and that she saw that name written on the back of the photograph. The Bureau did not bother to deny her allegation; apparently accepting without question a statement from her to the Sheriff's department which omits all reference to an identification session; a statement that Mercer later claimed was inaccurately written up and containing a forged signature.⁶

An intriguing bit of fuel to this fire of suspicion is added by an internal FBI memorandum on the afternoon of November 22. In one of his earliest reports to his staff about who the suspect, Lee Harvey Oswald, might be, Hoover furnished the "information" that Oswald "made several trips to Cuba; upon his return each time we questioned him about what he went to Cuba for and he answered that it was none of our business."⁷ When I read this document in the FOIA files I think my lower jaw must have dropped. Oswald had never been to Cuba so far as any records show, but Ruby had indeed been there "several times," as the House Select Committee later found.⁸ What's more, these Ruby trips to Cuba occurred in mid-1959 at the very time that the FBI was holding its allegedly futile meetings with him. Was Hoover thinking of Ruby on November 22nd and, if so why-the-hell was he confusing Oswald with a strip joint operator in Dallas? Earl Golz read the memorandum and took it with more equanimity: "Hoover could have mistaken Oswald for Ruby except that the Dallas

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nightclub owner was found by the FBI to have visited Cuba only once in 1959."9 Sorry Earl, but we don't really know what the FBI found on the subject, only what they were willing to admit; and there is often a vast slippage between the findings and the admissions of the Bureau.

My own trouble with the "confusion" interpretation of Hoover's remark is that it makes J. Edgar seem incredibly stupid, whether it was an "innocent" examination of the "wrong" file or a very incriminating reference to a man whom Hoover may have known was the designated hit-man to dispose of the patsy. In any event, the triangulation of pre-November 24 references to Ruby or a "Ruby-like entity" by Marguerite Oswald, Julia Ann Mercer and J. Edgar Hoover should keep open for continuing inquiry at least the possibility of such an incriminating FBI/Ruby relationship.

Footnotes

1. Anthony Summers, Conspiracy (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1981), p. 466.
2. 1H152-154.
3. 11H4681.
4. 20H691.
5. 19H483,484.
6. Paris Flammonde, The Kennedy Conspiracy (New York: Meredith Press, 1969), pp. 167, 168.
7. Hoover to staff memorandum Nov. 22, 1963; FBI releases under FOIA.
8. HSCA R 151.
9. The Continuing Inquiry, vol. 2 #11, June 22, 1978, p. 6; reprinted from Dallas Morning News, May 6, 1978. End.....

The Washington Post - B16
30 March 1984

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.—Roy H. Kellerman, 69, the Secret Service agent who was riding in the front seat of the car when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, died here March 22. The cause of death was not reported.

Mr. Kellerman served with the White House Secret Service detail during the administrations of presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson. He was assistant administrator of the service when he retired in 1968.

Hart and a Colleague Writing a Spy Novel
NYT — 3/4/84

WASHINGTON, March 3 (UPI) — Senator William S. Cohen, Republican of Maine, says he and Senator Gary Hart of Colorado have joined to write a spy novel about terrorism in a free society.

"We started this project in 1980," Senator Cohen said in a telephone interview Friday. "It's been on and off. A lot of it is done already, but it still needs substantial editing. It's a contemporary spy novel. Its subject is terrorism and what happens when it occurs in a free society and how we can cope with it."

A volume of poems and other books by Mr. Cohen have been published. Last year a book by Mr. Hart, "The New Democracy," was published, outlining his vision of the future.

5,000 Protest Reunion of SS

OBERAULA, West Germany (UPI) — Five thousand demonstrators led by Nazi death-camp survivors yesterday mobbed a Hessian country village where 200 veterans of one of Hitler's notorious Waffen-SS divisions held their annual reunion.

The mostly young demonstrators bore badges, banners and placards demanding a ban on future such meetings.

The SS unit, the 3rd Panzer Totenkopf Division, has been accused of a string of Nazi war crimes, including a role in razing the Warsaw Ghetto where 56,000 Polish residents were murdered in 1943.

Led by five Holocaust survivors, two of them in concentration camp stripes, the protesters paraded through the streets Oberaula, a town of 8,000 located 100 miles southeast of Bonn near a popular spa at Bad Hersfeld.

Wearing yellow Star of David armbands, they chanted, "Nazis out," and laid a wreath on the site of a Jewish synagogue that was destroyed by Nazis in 1938.

New Set for Reagan Allows Quick News Session Exit

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON — Mr. Reagan last night tried a new approach to his news conference—literally.

At his previous sessions in the East Room of the White House, the presidential lectern has been set up against the eastern wall of the room. This meant that, to enter or exit the room, Mr. Reagan had to walk through rows of reporters who sometimes tossed questions at him. At his previous session, he was collared by a reporter associated with fringe presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, who demanded to know why he wouldn't give Mr. LaRouche Secret Service protection.

Last night, however, the lectern was on the western side of the room, with the White House foyer behind him and the reporters turned 180 degrees from their usual positions. At the end of the conference, Mr. Reagan simply turned and walked out of the room—and two Marine guards closed the doors behind him.

April 5, 84

Lee, Harvey Oswald in Mexico City

by

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It has become an axiomatic view among many assassination researchers that Lee Harvey Oswald was "set up" by conspirators to take the blame for the assassination. If we can determine who perpetrated the set-up against Oswald, we are seemingly on the road to a solution to the identity of the assassins. This investigative approach was, of course, ignored completely by the FBI and the Warren Commission, which contented themselves with dismissing stories of Oswald's various compromising pre-assassination activities by showing that these were "mistaken identity" situations. Any thought that Oswald impersonators were deliberately inducing these "mistakes" was apparently never entertained by these erstwhile "investigators."

All right, so maybe Sylvia Odio was mistaken or lied about the identity of the "Leon Oswald" who visited her, as may have the furniture store ladies in Irving, Albert Bogard and Company at the Downtown Lincoln-Mercury Company, Dial Ryder about the source of an "Oswald" notation on a gun repair order. In one impersonation episode, however, "mistaken" or "lying" witnesses cannot be blamed for placing Oswald in a compromising situation. Voluminous government documents themselves support the story that Oswald went to Mexico City in late September 1963 seeking an entry visa to Cuba with the intention of proceeding from there to the Soviet Union. The alacrity with which this startling information hit the newspapers on the assassination weekend betrays the likelihood of pre-assassination planning: conspirators knew before the event that a "friend" of the Cuban revolution would be arrested as the assassin. They misjudged the public reaction which they doubtless hoped would accomplish a military invasion of Cuba. Only because, perhaps, the American people were so pre-occupied with their grief over the President's death did the expected groundswell of demand for "revenge" against Castro not develop.

The above is simply to set the context of the importance that I attach to extremely careful study of the Mexico City incident. With their "no conspiracy" biases, the failure of the FBI and the Warren Commission to do this careful study is not that surprising. What is stranger to me is that "conspiratoralists" of various stripes have also failed to study important aspects of the incident even though the Warren Commission documentation (in an oversight, perhaps?) left plenty of material for close and critical scrutiny. As a case in point, I cite a statement by Anthony Summers, whose research on the Mexico City incident has greatly advanced our understanding of the assassination conspiracy. While demonstrating that it was very likely not Oswald who made those provocative visits at the Cuban consulate and the Soviet embassy, Summers says (referring to a resident of the Hotel del Comercio): "there is no serious doubt that the young man on the bus and the man in Room 18 was indeed Lee Oswald. Bus and frontier records, later identification by fellow passengers, and the handwriting in the hotel register make compelling evidence that Oswald did go to Mexico City. It is also clear that he returned to the United States, again by bus, six days later."¹ Like Summers I yearn to find something about the official versions of Oswald's activities that is "clear" and without "serious doubt" but, alas, the "compelling evidence" he cites does not compel me to believe that Oswald actually did go to Mexico City. I expect to write later of the ludicrous "bus and frontier records" which do not prove that he ever

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crossed the border and rode buses to and from Mexico City; and the quality of the "fellow passenger" evidence is not much more compelling. Here I want to focus on a single piece of evidence: that hotel register in Mexico City which contains Oswald's name in what appears to be his handwriting. What I am compelled to believe after studying this register is that Oswald's name was forged by our dear friends at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The story of this hotel register's discovery has the familiar ring of FBI invincibility in the pursuit of evidence. Apparently no one in Mexico City who may have seen Oswald at a hotel came forward with such information after the assassination. Rather, a Mexico City informant of the FBI did a canvass of cheap hotels in downtown Mexico City (a nice bit of deductive logic: that Oswald would, of course, stay downtown and in a cheap hotel; or was the anticipation based on a bit more than logic?) and, on November 26, at the Hotel del Comercio, he found a register for September 27 with the name Lee, Harvey Oswald opposite room 18 (see illustrations).² The informant photographed that page of the register and sent it to the FBI laboratory in Washington, D.C. where, on December 11, 1963, it was determined that the name was in Oswald's handwriting.³ In 1978 the handwriting experts of the House Select Committee re-authenticated this as the Oswald handwriting, without the Committee batting a collective eyelash at how the name in his handwriting got in that register.⁴ As scavengers on a carcass of investigation left for dead, we may arrest our attention on a couple strange things about this register.

The first is the form of the registration: Lee, Harvey Oswald. The same inversion of name appears on Oswald's FM-8, his 15-day permit to visit Mexico.⁵ Apparently this "mistake" was based on the way Oswald wrote his name on his application for a Mexican tourist visa, filled out on September 17 in New Orleans.⁶ He apparently first wrote his name Lee H Oswald and then filled in the Harvey, giving the name line the appearance of Lee HarveyOswald.

If this confused the clerk who typed his FM-8, the "mistake" might have been repeated by a hotel clerk at the Hotel del Comercio who might have copied his name from the FM-8 (although it was signed Lee H. Oswald). But why would Oswald, assuming his sanity at that time, have been mistaken about his own name and have copied it in his own handwriting in the register?

The deeper problem, however, is why Oswald's handwriting appears at all on that register. The most superficial examination of this register will show that all the other names are in the same handwriting,---presumably that of a hotel clerk---and that only Lee, Harvey Oswald signed his own name. Why? If that question screams for an answer, the FBI was able to keep a deaf ear until March 3, 1964 when the FBI finally bestirred itself to question the hotel manager about the discrepancy. The manager's "explanation": on the first night of a hotel guest's stay, he or she signs the register: on any subsequent days of his or her stay the name is copied into the register by a clerk. This explanation seemingly satisfied the Federal Bureau of "Investigation", but the Bureau's own research demolishes it. The clear implication is that only Lee, Harvey Oswald registered for the first time on September 27. Not so. In a completely unrelated study of the tenures of hotel guests during the "Oswald" stay, it is shown that the residents of rooms 5,8,13,22,24,25,26 and 28 also first registered on September 27.⁸ So why are their names not in their own handwriting?

The developing likelihood of a forgery of the register is enhanced as we examine the registers for the following four days of Oswald's supposed residence there (see illustrations). For September 28, 29 and 30, the resident of room 18 is re-styled as Lee Harvey (a transposition from the September 27 register that

Continued....

makes no sense whether the comma was seen or ignored. The resident was either Lee Harvey Oswald or Harvey Oswald Lee) and the handwriting is neither the Oswald-authenticated signature nor the handwriting in which other guests' names are recorded. Only on October 1 does the Lee Harvey appear in the handwriting that appears elsewhere on the page. This development is well-nigh incomprehensible. Who was Lee Harvey and who wrote the name? An impersonator who knew he was to represent himself as Oswald but forgot the last name (or who was told to use a transparent "alias")? A fabrication by investigating officials who wanted to establish that Oswald was registered in an "alias" but who forged the "wrong" handwriting? (The same thing may have been done in Dallas where Oswald's purported "O.H. Lee" signature on the rooming house register at 1026 N. Beckley is not in Oswald's authenticated signature). I am hardly compelled by either of these explanations. Perhaps we need a TCI contest to solve this mystery.

Where there is no mystery, in my view, is in the fact that the September 27 register at least is the product of flagrant forging activity. It is possible, of course, that the forgery was committed by unknown conspirators as early as the September 27 date of the register. It seems altogether more likely, however, that the FBI's unnamed Mexico City "informant" found a register with room 18 blank (or perhaps with the same Lee Harvey that appears on registers for subsequent days) and that the signature was "furnished" by FBI agents somewhere between Mexico City on November 26 and Washington D.C. on December 11. Hotel register forgeries are seemingly not beyond the capacity nor the morality of agents of the Bureau. Scarcely ten years prior to 1963, FBI agents had apparently fabricated a hotel registration for Harry Gold at the Hilton Hotel, Albuquerque when Gold's presence in New Mexico had to be proven to establish himself as the courier for the atom "spy," Julius Rosenberg.¹⁰

In the overall assassination conspiracy scheme, Oswald's signature on that hotel register may have been no big deal and its mysterious appearance may reflect nothing more sinister than investigators' over-zealous determination to make a "case" against Oswald. Believe it or not, such criminal malfeasance is the best face I can put on the apparent official fabrication of evidence. If I allow myself to think in darker terms, I have to wonder if that agency, the FBI, that maintained such a shadowy relationship with Oswald in Dallas and New Orleans did not have some of its agents among the cast of characters who went to Mexico City to plan the set up of a "patsy" for the upcoming assassination.

Footnotes

1. Anthony Summers, Conspiracy (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1981), p. 370.
2. 24H593.
3. 24H572.
4. HSCA VIII 234, 237.
5. 24H571.
6. 24H677.
7. 24H593.
8. 24H595.
9. 20H276.
10. Walter and Miram Schneir, Invitation to an Inquest (Baltimore Penguin, 1973), chapter 29.

Continued....

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ANEXO 5.

Subido a 8 de Sep. 1963

Nº	Nombre	Procedencia	Categoría	Observaciones
1	Alfonso Flores	Ciudad Guaymas	Engle	10X
2	Tomás Robles	Puebla Jalisco	Engle	10X
3	Dr. Lida	Puebla Jalisco	Engle	10X
4	Antonio Olita	D.F.	Mexico	10X
5	Dr. Remigio Sierra	Querétaro	Engle	10X
6	Fernando Valenzuela	Chihuahua	Engle	10X
7	Agustín Pareda	Yucatán	Engle	10X
8	Emilio Linares	Yucatán	Engle	10X
9	Manuel Guerrero	Sonora	Engle	10X
10	Don Luis Morales	Chihuahua	Engle	10X
11	Pedro Quintana	Texas	Engle	10X
12	Manuel Santos	Salt Lake	Engle	10X
13	Fidelis Sierra	Sonora	Engle	10X
14	Octavio Contreras	Yucatán	Engle	10X
15	Julio Linares	Sonora	Engle	10X
16	Gregorio Guerrero	Yucatán	Engle	10X
17	Rodrigo Rodríguez	Chihuahua	Engle	10X
18	Lee Harley	USA Texas		
19	Pedro Flores	Sonora	Engle	10X
20	Manuel Pareda	Yucatán	Engle	10X
21	Manuel Rosendo	Salt Lake	Engle	10X
22	Dr. Lida y familia	Chihuahua	Engle	10X
23	Dr. Remigio	Yucatán	Engle	10X
24	Edmundo Martínez	Querétaro	Engle	10X
25	Dr. P. Samboromb	Yucatán	Engle	10X
26	Alfredo Sierra	Querétaro	Engle	10X
27	Manuel de la Torre	Puebla Jalisco	Engle	10X
28	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X

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ANEXO 6. Subido a 10 de Sep. 1963

Nº	Nombre	Procedencia	Categoría	Observaciones
1	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
2	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
3	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
4	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
5	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
6	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
7	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
8	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
9	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
10	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
11	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
12	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
13	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
14	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
15	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
16	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
17	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
18	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
19	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
20	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
21	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
22	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
23	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
24	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
25	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
26	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
27	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
28	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
29	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
30	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X

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ANEXO 5.

Subido a 30 de Septiembre 1963

Nº	Nombre	Procedencia	Categoría	Observaciones
1	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
2	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
3	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
4	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
5	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
6	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
7	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
8	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
9	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
10	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
11	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
12	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
13	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
14	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
15	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
16	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
17	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
18	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
19	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
20	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
21	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
22	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
23	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
24	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
25	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
26	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
27	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
28	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
29	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
30	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X

ANEXO 6.

Subido a 10 de Octubre 1963

Nº	Nombre	Procedencia	Categoría	Observaciones
1	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
2	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
3	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
4	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
5	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
6	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
7	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
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14	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
15	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
16	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
17	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
18	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
19	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
20	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
21	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
22	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
23	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
24	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
25	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
26	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
27	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
28	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
29	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X
30	Manuel Sierra	Yucatán	Engle	10X

END

....COINCIDENCE....CONSPIRACY....OR HAPPENSTANCE

By Steve Barber
With Penn Jones & Elaine Kavanaugh

From one assassination researcher to another. Do any of you get the feeling that some photograph processing companies have orders not to process "correctly" film from the Kennedy assassination that might show something that proves conspiracy?

Recently, I took several slides of the assassination to a photo company to have 5X7 prints made. The photo company lost one slide, printed one backwards, and I had to have them run a "photo search" to find the lost slide. Why so much trouble over Kennedy assassination photos?

Just to prove my point, I did some research on this subject and discovered that other people across the country have had the same trouble getting photos reproduced that contain evidence that might prove conspiracy in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Researchers in California, Texas, and myself in Ohio, have had much trouble getting photos reproduced. This could only point to one thing: the government is giving orders to photo companies not to develop any film, slides, ect. that show conspiracy in the death of President John F. Kennedy.

Recently, some very important information was given to a Dallas man who reported it to us. On Friday November 22, 1963, FBI agents entered a photo processing plant in Dallas and ordered the employees to develop film that had been picked up on the sight where President Kennedy was assassinated. The employees of the photo plant were not allowed to leave the plant the entire weekend of November 22, 1963. They were held prisoners until all of the film was developed. The FBI was behind this strange incident.

No one knows what happened to the processed film. The employees were simply instructed to develop the film and were not allowed to leave at any time until the processing was finished.

Perhaps even today photo labs are instructed to "check" all film containing damaging evidence to the NO conspiracy theory. Certainly, the strange happenings that occur when researchers try to get assassination film developed indicates that the order has been given by someone from "on high", probably the government.

Twenty years after the assassination and the government is still trying to cover its bases. And it has been successful because few people seem interested in the case of the assassination of President Kennedy any more. So few photos filter in that might contain evidence that support a conspiracy in the crime. One thing is certain. The government considers it important enough to have photo processing plants across the country informed to stop processing on film containing anything that might expose the truth.

When one considers that the Zapruder film had to be stolen because it was not released to the public, the idea of photo labs across the nation NOT developing Kennedy assassination film, is more than just coincidence.

When one considers that Dan Rather went on national television that weekend and lied to the American people about the direction of the fatal head shot to the President, we have more evidence of a coup de etat. Dan Rather, after viewing the Zapruder film, still went on national television and lied saying, "...and the head went forward with considerable violence." We all know now that the head went backwards at a rate of 163 feet per second. Dan Rather knew this too, but agreed to go along with the coup and look where he is today. Not a bad pay-off for a guy who was a nobody before the assassination.

Most interest in the assassination of President Kennedy has declined today. Few people care. Young people and teenagers care less. With the violence and blood and gore on television today, teenagers are little affected by the Zapruder film.

The coup de etat that took place that day....November 22, 1963 was totally successful. Only we the people are the losers. Take a look at the elderly grandfather we have in the White House today and weep.

For this man was too old to go to World War II, yet today retains the position of the most powerful man in the world, and is commander in chief.

Our nation is lost. A few of us have tried to save what little democracy was left and have failed. We cry out now for an answer.

It is doubtful we will find one.

The End

TIME called it American soap opera, NEWSWEEK described it as hard-edged elegance. But both magazines along with press and media coverage made mockery of the death of David Kennedy. All along the press, (gutless and cowardly that they are) has never taken a stand against the lies and cover-up they are instructed to dish out to the public. They continue to ride the wave with the coup de etat that took over this country during the years after World War II. Of course when young John F. Kennedy won the presidency in 1960, it was necessary for the military to stage another coup. This coup was responsible for the brutal bloody assassination of young John Kennedy. And when the killers blew his handsome Irish head to bits in the streets of the decadent city, Dallas, we did not think that the press and media would lie to us. But the press did lie, and the media lied. They told us that a silly little ex-Marine named Lee Harvey Oswald killed our President with an Italian rifle. They told us he also killed a policeman less than an hour later and then they lied and told us that he was arrested in the Texas theater because he did not pay for a ticket.

And later when Lee Harvey Oswald was shot in the Dallas jail by a cheap whore-house operator, the press told us that Jack Ruby wanted to spare Jacqueline Kennedy the agony of having to return to that decadent city, Dallas, for the trial.

And then when Jack Ruby screamed in the court room to reporters, "Take me to Washington where I can tell the truth," the press and media refused to notice or report. When Jack Ruby died of cancer and closed the case forever, the press again went along with the lie.

And it was the press that kept the Zapruder film from the American people. It was the media that put Dan Rather on national television to lie to the people; and both press and media continued to lie to us during the Warren Commission and the investigation of the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

The Kennedy family gave the oldest son Joe Jr., then Kathleen during World War II; by assassination John and Robert were lost. Son Edward was ruined politically and otherwise by his entrapment at Chappaquiddick. Now, for those of us who care, we must witness the younger generations of Kennedys come of age and then plunge into dark despair. And again the media and press give us glossy photos and write a sad tale of yet another Kennedy who died and was buried on a golden spring day.

Well, that isn't enough! For something stinks of dishonor and betrayal. The truth was never told to us by the press and media when John F. Kennedy was assassinated. When Robert Kennedy was shot, the media and press gave us photos of him lying with his head in a pool of blood, but they never told us the truth about his killing. And now when another young Kennedy life is snuffed out because he could not live with the lies and the murder, the press gives us a fairy tale-like story of the events of David Kennedy's life. But the young man died not really by his own hands, but at the hands of a dead democracy; a democracy that was assassinated as surely as were the young gallant Kennedy men who gave their lives for the pursuit of truth, justice, and honor; things the press and media never gave a single thought. ----David Anthony Kennedy---MAY YOU REST IN PEACE.

THE CONTINUING INQUIRY
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