

THE HUNTS AND THE KENNEDYS

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Where The Paths Crossed

The story behind the death of an American president in November, 1963 still resembles an iceberg in that only a small part rises above the surface, the great mass is hidden from human eyes.

The official version saying that the murder was the work of a single individual does not satisfy world public opinion and it hardly takes a prophet to predict that this version will not be long-lived. In the coming years facts will gradually become known which in time will permit the true picture to be reconstructed from the separate details.

But it is clear even now that John Kennedy was sucked into a deadly quagmire of passions, self-interest, fears, ambitions and intrigues that materialized in the conspiracy that reached its culmination in rifle shots on a street in Dallas.

In all of this the part played by the conflicts of interest between the various groupings of American monopolies in competition with each other was not the least. That which in political literature is called "American monopoly capital" is not an abstraction nor is it at all homogeneous. United only in the very broadest of class interests the monopolistic dynasties collide in violent warfare for spheres of influence, sources of raw materials, profitable orders, customers, in the final analysis for profits.

The warfare goes on not only between dynasties and groupings but also within groupings, dynasties, families. For instance the Rockefeller family of billionaires is well known. Less well known is the fact that this family is divided into two camps waging financial war on each other. This occurred at the begin-

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ning of this century when William Rockefeller split with his brother, John D., and founded his own business.

The Du Pont family has two mortally hostile clans. The struggle within the Ford family ending in the mysterious death of old Henry Fords only son, Edsel, all but led to the collapse of the family business. Brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor, city against city, the tycoons of one economic region against the magnates of another.

But perhaps the sharpest hostility of the biggest big shots of America into two camps is the hostility between the "old" and "young" groups of capitalists.

After the war a group of unbelievably rich and unpardonably ambitious business men sprouted like mushrooms after a shower in America. Forced to overcome the resistance of those who had long since seized a place in the sun they entered into a life and death struggle with the "old" groups. Harold Hunt in character and business interests is typical of the "young" money.

Money too has age. And just as the external appearance of a person, his character, habits and manner change with time so too money is not insensitive to age. The tycoons of the so-called "old" monopoly groups, respectable and discrete, consider it a sign of bad taste to publicly display their avarice. The Wall Street money magnate does not put all his wealth on a horse nor rush headlong into business adventures. He calculates and recalculates, weighs and again calculates. Broad international connections with the bankers and industrialists of Western Europe which have been maintained for generations has given rise to a whole galaxy of "international diplomats

of business".

The money aristocracy prefers a sure thing. It is in no hurry, it has enormous capital behind it. Money itself makes money. ~~The~~ The old monopolistic family groups in the United States seek to insure themselves against chance. Their capital is invested in the most varied fields: if production limps - financial operations take up the slack, if competition becomes too fierce in America - huge foreign investments may be maneuvered.

Not so the "young" money. Several tycoons and groups with big capital exploded to the surface in America during the post war years. They scrambled to the peak of the business Olympus by various routes but these nouveaux riches had one characteristic in common - they all rose on the yeast of war business - the rockets, aviation and electronics of California and the oil business of the Texas billionaires. They have as yet not been able to sink their roots deep, they cannot maneuver their capital abroad and should a genuine ~~re~~ relaxation of international relaxation set in they could fly up ~~to~~ the chimney. Hence the panic, a state in which even a John Fitzgerald Kennedy seemed a threat to them.

The most adventurous, the most headstrong, most turbulent people in the world of American big business are the representatives of the "young" group. Goldwater - the tub-thumper for their political ideas; the John Birch Society and the Ku Klux Klan - their favorite incense; an ultra aggressive foreign policy - their program.

The struggle between the young groups straining towards wealth and power and the old dynasties doing everything possible to deprive them of the first and withhold the second is, of course, only the

general background against which the hostility between the Kennedy and Hunt families flared - the Montagues and Capulets of the XX century in an American variation. The same psychological background - and for the proper understanding of the course of history the psychological factors should not be forgotten - it was the hatred of the provincial, uncultured upstart for the metropolitan aristocrats, the lustre of their wealth and power.

Hoever, background is background, but against it occurred events that were very real. The young President from the Kennedy family stepped on Hunt's favorite petroleum corn. Large fortunes do not come out of nowhere in the oil business (where the greatest personal fortunes are possessed by Getty and Hunt) it is the "write-off for drilling and exploration" - producing an annual income of one billion dollars.

This "write-off" dates back to the middle of the 1920's and was intended to stimulate the exploitation of the petroleum riches of the country. This "write-off" works as follows: if the owner of an oil well receives a net income of a thousand dollars he must pay an income tax - not on the full amount - but only on \$725.00 and the balance of \$275.00 or 27.5 per cent he puts in his pocket without deduction. After all it is a risky business a well may run dry therefore you give tax write-off at the expense, of course, of the ordinary tax-payer.

This privilege turned out to be a gold mine for the oil men. The reader may judge what a windfall it is from just one figure: through this loop-hole there flows from the Treasury into the pockets of the oil men neither more nor less than the sum of one billion

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dollars a year.

Washington leaders have long eyed this costly privilege of the oil magnates with disfavor. Fifteen years ago Truman in a message to Congress admitted: "I know of no other loophole in the tax laws as unjust as the excessive deductions for depletion now enjoyed by the oil companies." However Truman limited himself to this grumbling. Eisenhower didn't even dare grumble,

As to Kennedy, the general economic conditions of the country when he came to power was such that he could not overlook the oil deductions. It is worth adding to this that the notorious deductions had long been of annoying concern to the chemical and machine-building dynasties, to banking moguls, merchants and stock brokers. Both every day envy and considerations of competition impelled them to express pious indignation over the looting of the taxpayer by the oil companies.

Envy is a powerful emotion that motivates much in this world. In a word, the White House began preparation for the repeal of the depletion allowance. Even before entering upon his official duties the just elected president decided to proceed against the "holy cow" of the oil companies. A special committee was formed to investigate the situation and prepare reforms.

One can imagine the wrath of the Hunt family as well as that of the other oil families - after all it was not a matter of abstract concepts but of their own dollars, and plenty of them. This was very graphically made plain to me on the shore of Lake Timberlake when a red headed Goldwaterite assailed the President with uncensored abuse, screaming with anger in a hoarse voice: "Did he give me my

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money? Why is he pushing himself into my business, taxing my income? Suddenly I saw before me - not a freckled-faced kid in a sailor suit but an angry old Texan enraged by threats to his profits.

Powerful magnates of the old industrial states were preparing to strike a blow at the Texas upstart-competition by the hand of the President. A shrill campaign began in the press and on the air the air in Texas. The editors of many American newspapers were swamped with material originating in part from Hunt's headquarters in which the President's proposals were characterized as a "copy of the Soviet five-year plans", "preparation for nationalization" etc. The magazine of the Texas oil industry characterized the plans in an editorial with the loud and graphic heading "A Blow At Texas".

The oil kings dragged out the old bugaboo of "Communist peril" for the purpose of arousing the businessmen of the country in their effort to ward off the threat to their profits. The organs of the press that were connected with them began to scream about the threat of "Soviet oil which they said endangered the country's economy and which, in turn, served as ground for unleashing an anti-Soviet campaign. However, it was not only the political aspect but also the fact that the oil men and certain other groups whose prosperity was linked wholly and completely with the business of death became thoroughly frightened by the perceptible weakening of international tension which to a certain extent was associated with Kenned's activities.

The writer of these lines was in America in those days. I saw the satisfaction with which the majority of Americans received the statement of the President made from the rostrum of United Nations that between the USA and the USSR an agreement had been reached to

bar the orbiting of rockets bearing nuclear weapons. But I also saw something else: the fury of the Goldwaterites, the abusiveness of the reactionary press. Just two years had passed since Vienna (meeting with Khrushchev) but it was plain that it had not been an easy time for him.

That day the President talked with newsmen and expressed his satisfaction with the talks he had had with the Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs, A.A. Gromyko and expressed the hope for further relaxing of international tension. He laughed, he joked - less than one month remained for him to live.

---We do not know exactly what the Dallas big ~~shots~~ shots gathered in their clubs and homes those fall days of 1963 were discussing, what schemes they were hatching, what plans they were developing. However, it is definitely established that just two weeks before the Dallas murder of the President the three largest organizations of the American oil companies demanded an immediate audience with Kennedy.

The parley which lasted 25 minutes apparently did not satisfy the visitors and they departed infuriated - banging their car doors behind themselves. "Oil and Gas" the magazine of the oil industry stated sadly, - "Representatives of the oil interests who visited the White House left disillusioned."

Not long before this this same magazine made a statement in an editorial which in light of subsequent events looks very expressive: "From the moment of John Kennedy's election as president the oil industry has been nervously and discontentedly waiting to see what policies he will pursue in respect to the oil industry." The thinly



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threat was provoked by the publication of conclusions of the committee appointed by Kennedy to study measures for liquidating the extraordinary privileges of the oil barons followed by the introduction of appropriate legislation for the consideration of Congress.\*

\*One of the first steps taken by the new president within two weeks after Kennedy's death was the scrapping of any meaningful intervention on the part of the government in the affairs of the oil business. "This step by Mr. Johnson," - wrote the New York Times, - "is a break with the policy of President Kennedy. In the Kennedy administration the White House was deeply involved in the oil problem".

In a word no hope of compromise existed and war was declared. This war whose many interrelationships so far remain under a thick cover of secrecy. A war in which the Hunts joined with whole groups of monopoly magnates dissatisfied with the president's acts. A war in which not a little has been already written and of which a great deal more will be written because the fates and the interests of different people, their passions and hostilities are fantastically <sup>linked</sup> with events immeasurably greater in scope and effect. The powerful corporations and banks of the Northeast have displayed their intention of depriving their young but dangerous competitors of their special advantage in the competition war. One week - just one week before the Dallas murder words rang out from from the rostrum at a meeting of oil men in Chicago which can only be evaluated as direct threats to Kennedy. One of the leaders of the petroleum association, Leonard F. McCollum, attacked the President saying his policies caused them "concern and alarm".

A certain Ted Dealy was the publisher of the "Dallas Morning News" one of the main holdings in the Hunt domain. And this same

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Dealy just one month and five days before the assassination suddenly took off on a flight from Dallas to Washington. There, using his own and other connections he was invited to a White House breakfast that Kennedy gave for newspaper men.

As told later by Charles Bartlett, a wellknown American journalist who was present, a scandalous and unprecedented episode occurred. To the amazement of the dumbstruck newsmen, Dealy, in violation of etiquette and ordinary decency, undertook to lecture the President on his policies in a coarse and unduly familiar manner. Hunt's friend concluded his intentionally insolent tirade with words bordering upon direct insult. "Mr. President" - said Dealy. "You instead of being a leader on horseback are dragging a garbage wagon". "Following Dealy's words a silence like that of the grave reigned around the table." - Bartlett tells. "The President, highly indignant, was clearly trying to master himself. Finally after a pause the President answered him in a quiet, dignified voice: - 'The difference between you and me, Mr. Dealy, is that you were not elected president of the United States, but I was and that you do not bear the responsibility for the lives of 180 million people, but I do.' And then the President, a former naval officer with unconcealed sarcasm said that in his time he had seen many people who enjoyed war until they got a taste of it. And then these warriors very soon had a belly full. 'Talking about wars is much easier than fighting them', - Kennedy concluded the dressing down of Hunt's emissary. Not once during the rest of the breakfast did he take any notice of Dealy.

Two other things should be noted concerning this same Dealy. Just five weeks later on November 22, 1963 he published an advertise-

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ment in a prominent position in his newspaper that was bordered by a mourning band and had the cynically mocking heading "Welcome to Dallas, Mr. President" the text of which was a direct instigation to violence. Having sent the issue to press Dealy remained in his office and soon received a visitor. And who do you think it was? According to eyewitnesses - Jack Ruby. If that was a coincidence it must be said it was a very notable coincidence!

The black-bordered advertisement that was published in the "Dallas Morning News" just hours before the fatal shots drew the attention of the investigation that followed. Such prophesy seems very suspicious, if it is only prophesy and not something more - well, we'll say information. Naturally, it was, therefore, it was of no little importance for the investigation to answer the question as to whose doing it was, who stood behind the publication of the advertisement. The Warren Commission investigation could not pass by such an important circumstance. This is what it found: The advertisement was paid for quite generously - \$1,463.00 went into the paper's treasury. It was paid by a certain Joe Grinnan (?) a member of the "John Birch Society". According to his statement the money for the advertisement was obtained from three Texas businessmen. Their names are: Edgar R. Crissy, H.R. Bright and Nelson Banker Hunt. Yes, yes, Hunt. Hunt Junior, the son of Harold Lafayette Hunt. But this is still not the last link in the chain.

Let's return to Ruby. On the very morning of the assassination he was talking with Hunt's friend in the <sup>editorial</sup> office just after the provocative editorial appeared. And when Ruby was arrested just after Oswald's murder and when a search of his apartment had been made,

a fat package of Hunt's propaganda material including two scenarios intended for broadcast from Hunt's radio station. The question arises: what relationship did Ruby, the proprietor of a shady nightclub, have to the broadcast, was he somehow involved with Hunt and his money?

Jack Ruby, nightclub owner and murderer and the materials of Hunt's radio station - it would seem that these have no connection with one another but circumstances suddenly acquire an ominous and direct mutual connection in the light of another one of the "coincidences" that are suspiciously numerous for a single event.. On the morning of the fatal day Hunt's radio program "Lifeline" began its transmission with a commentary that can only be called outright instigation. Under the present administration began the speaker ominously "the time may be coming when an American will be forbidden to bear firearms with which he could deal with his rulers." In other words, hurry up, shoot the President, don't let the moment pass, it may be too late. But the chain is not yet closed. There is still another link from which we obtain a likely picture.

It became known that eight days before the President's assassination, on November 14th, a secret meeting took place in the back rooms of the "Carousel", Ruby's nightclub. Participating in it were Ruby himself, a certain Bernard Weismann (a man who attracted the attention of the investigators as one who might have some relation to the matter), policeman J. Tippett, murdered on a Dallas street within 45 minutes after the murder of the President (Oswald was first accused of the murder of Tippett) and also a man of mystery. Reports flashed in the American press to the effect that the head of

the Commission investigating the murder, Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in examining Ruby called the mysterious unknown a "rich oil man".

In an effort to confuse the investigation and picture the Carousel conference as an innocent get-together of bosom pals (what pals! - the owner and operator of a shady establishment, a yellow journalist, a guardian of the peace and a "rich oilman"), Ruby at first maintained that since the meeting took place on November 14th it could have no connection with the murder of the President because nothing was then known of his coming to Dallas. But this little ruse collapsed when it was shown that the Dallas police were mapping a route for the President's motorcade on the 13th of November, the day before the meeting at the Carousel - and one of those present was a policeman.

But let's go back to the mysterious "rich oilman". What brought him to the nightclub in the company of nonentities? What connection did he have with Jack Ruby and the suspicious secret meeting just one week before the crime? "The mystery surrounding the oilman," - said the "New York Journal American" - "is still unsolved and it weighs upon the conscience of those who feel that in a full and thorough <sup>INVESTIGATION</sup> of one of the greatest tragedies in American history not a single question should be left unanswered".

So far the investigation has left this question unanswered. There is no direct evidence but the possibility of its appearing can not be excluded. However there are those who believe that much concerning the assassination, including the name of the oil man, will forever remain in the secret graves of history. Included among

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such agnostics is Jack Ruby.

On the 9th of September, 1965 several newsmen were given an opportunity to visit Oswald's murderer in the death house. The organizers of this interview took pains to see to it that Ruby said nothing out of the way. But Ruby outwitted his guards and made a statement to the press. He said, in part, that the facts connected with the President's assassination would never be known because "powerful people in high places did not want them to be". Ruby's lawyer, Sol Dann (?), who was present tried to silence his client but to him Ruby said sharply: "Leave me alone. I know what I am doing".

Judging from everything he really knew what he was doing. Ruby, one of the many participants in the conspiracy, a minor performer of somebody else's evil will, this Dallas nightclub owner was made a scapegoat and shut up in the death house. And he made use of the first opportunity to threaten the "powerful people" with sensational revelations. He made no revelation, just let it be known that he would resort to it in his fight for his skin, if they didn't free him. The hint was sufficiently transparent and ominous...

Heavy clouds shroud the Dallas assassination. Many ends are chopped off and buried in water. But too large a number of people are privy to the crime. It is unlikely that the secret can be preserved forever. even now it is evident that regardless of who shot the President, regardless of whose fingers squeezed the trigger or triggers, the assassination of John Kennedy was not the individual act of a fanatic but an act in a grim struggle of forces - forces that are mighty, merciless and that shun nothing in the execution of their designs.

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The enclosed is a translation of the concluding section of an article published in the October, 1966 issue of the Soviet periodical "Znamya". The writer is Valentin Zorin identified as a historian - but isn't that the name of a former Soviet representative at the U.N.?

I took your name from the recent article in the "New Yorker" and your address from the telephone book.