

Title: Finishing the Commission's
 Author: Unfinished Business Page of Pages
 Sylvia Meagher

1 (subtitle) A new investigation should start with the most important
 uncalled witnesses, unfollowed-up leads and unasked questions

Intro.) Investigators, researchers, critics, scholars, assassination buffs
 5 -- and future historians -- will forever be in Sylvia Meagher's debt.
 She indexed the Warren Commission Report and the entire 26 volumes of
 Hearings and Exhibits, an awesome accomplishment that helped to earn her
 a reputation as the best scholar among assassination researchers.

10 Probably better than anyone (including members of the Commission),
 Mrs. Meagher knows what those volumes contain. Her research convinced
 her that the official version of the assassination is "a deliberate, out-
 right, demonstrable fraud" and that the hearings ought to be reopened
 within the framework of an adversary proceeding.

15 She proposes a list of witnesses (not heard by the Warren Commission)
 who should be called by any new investigation and a list of evidential
 leads (ignored or overlooked by the Commission) which should be followed
 up.

20 Mrs. Meagher^{is} a researcher at the World Health Organization in New
 York, ~~has lectured and written extensively on the Kennedy assassination.~~
 This article has been condensed -- with her consent and updating -- from
 her book Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, the Authori-
 ties & the Report (1967) and her article "~~Notes for a New Investigation~~"
ⁱⁿ~~from~~ the December 1966 issue of Esquire. (copyright line)

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1 Discrepancies, distortions and misrepresentations of crucial points
of evidence are sufficient, even on a selective rather than a comprehen-
sive basis, to condemn the Warren Report. The Commission has issued a
false indictment. It has accused Lee Harvey Oswald, after first denying
5 posthumous defense and then systematically manipulating the evidence to
build the case against him. Even so, the Warren Commission's Report
leaves the case against Oswald wide open.

Although the evidence showed that Oswald had no motive, no means
(marksmanship of the highest order), and no opportunity (his presence on
10 the second floor of the Book Depository little more than a minute after
the shooting, which to the men who encountered him at that time eliminated
him from suspicion, constitutes an alibi), there is no indication in the
vast collection of documentation that the Commission at any time seriously
considered the possibility that Oswald was not guilty, or that he had not
15 acted alone.

No more time need be devoted to denouncing those who are responsible
for this frustration of justice. What must now be done is to set about
finding the assassins. Such a new investigation, if it is undertaken,
must be performed by a competent and impartial body, and in the light of
20 the bitter lesson learned from the Warren Report, the new investigation
must be in the framework of an adversary proceeding.

The new investigative body should first attack the evidence against
Oswald presented in the Warren Report and the Hearings and Exhibits,
and present an objective and scientific evaluation of that evidence so
25 that the ambiguity about his role in the assassination will, if possible,

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1 be dispelled. The new body must also be given access to the suppressed
documents of the Warren Commission. The 75-year time vault must be opened
and its contents must be put before the new body -- and, at the appropriate
moment, before the public, within our lifetime. The leads and clues which
5 were not followed up by the Warren Commission, or which were incompletely
investigated, now must be pursued with vigor, by independent investigators
and not by the governmental agencies compromised by their role in the
protection of the murdered President.

* * *

10 Restudy the evidence,stage new tests

The Commission's failure to follow up leads, its dependence on un-
realistic tests and its omission of vital evidence necessitate further
research, such as:

15 1. A conclusive reevaluation of the autopsy photographs and X-rays,
which have been reviewed by successive panels appointed by the government
and by a urologist-apologist for the Warren Report. (A forensic patholo-
gist and critic of the Warren Report who examined the photographs and X-
rays in 1972 found them inconsistent with the official conclusions.)

20 Such a reevaluation must take into account the fact that the Warren
Commission, at its executive session of Jan. 27, 1964, discussed an
autopsy report completely inconsistent with the undated autopsy report
subsequently published as an appendix to the Warren Report.

25 2. Rifle and marksmanship tests on the basis of a reenactment of
the shots from the Depository, using dragged car and dummies, and rifle-

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1 men whose capabilities correspond with Oswald's level of skill. (The
Warren Commission used experts.)

3. Tracing of the rifle obtained by Robert Adrian Taylor to deter-
mine whether the weapon was ever in the possession of Oswald or persons
5 associated with him. Taylor claimed that Oswald had given him a rifle
in lieu of payment for car repairs in the spring of 1963.

4. Tracing of laundry tag on the jacket discarded near the Tippit
scene (number "B9738") to determine whether Oswald or someone else had
it cleaned.

10 5. Reenactment of Oswald's taxi ride, in a metered vehicle, to
determine the actual time. In reenactments performed for the Warren
Commission the estimate was progressively reduced from eleven to nine
to six minutes.

15 6. Re-auditing of the police radio log to make an authoritative
transcript which would resolve the conflicts among the three transcripts
made for the Warren Commission.

7. Auditing of tapes of statements to the press by Parkland Hospital
doctors describing the President's wounds (tape of the first press con-
ference is said to be "lost").

20 8. Tracing of Tippit's clipboard, never requested by the Warren
Commission although it is visible in a photograph of his car before it
was removed from the scene of the shooting.

9. Scrutiny of all test bullets fired in the wound-ballistics
experiments with human cadavers, goats, and ⁹gelatin blocks (260 rounds
25 of ammunition were obtained for use in those tests but only two of the

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1 test bullets are shown by the Warren Commission for comparison with the
stretcher bullet).

5 10. Examination of all unpublished films and photographs of the
assassination (i.e., the missing Zapruder frames; the Moorman photograph
encompassing the Depository; the Betzerⁿ photos showing the fence area on
the grassy knoll; the Robert Hughes film showing the sixth floor window;
delete the Ralph Simpson film).

10 11. Investigation of the repositioning and ultimate disappearance
of the Stenmons Freeway sign which obscured the President from Zapruder's
camera for some fifteen frames of the film.

12. Tests of authenticity of the palm print lifted from the rifle
barrel.

15 13. Examination of all withheld FBI and Secret Service reports of
interviews with witnesses, including Parkland Hospital personnel (some
30 interviews with the doctors and others, none of which is published
in the Exhibits).

14. Examination of all transcripts of off-the-record passages of
testimony.

20 15. Conclusive evaluation of the neutron activation analysis of the
bullet and bullet fragments which was carried out at the request of the
Warren Commission but was completely suppressed from the published Report
and from the Hearings and Exhibits. This will determine once and for all
whether the stretcher bullet actually caused Connally's wounds (as the
Warren Report says), and thus whether the single bullet, lone assassin
25 thesis is tenable.

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1 Call the important witnesses
not heard by the Commission

Oswald's Activities

5 Pierce Allman, television newsman: Oswald had said that someone had approached him outside the Depository after the shooting and had asked to be directed to the nearest phone. Oswald's account corresponds with the actual experience of Pierce Allman, and this conflicts with the Commission's reconstruction of Oswald's "escape."

10 Mary Dowling, waitress at Dobbs House: She told the FBI that Oswald and Tippit were in the restaurant at the same time, two days before the assassination, and that Tippit especially noticed Oswald when he complained about his food. The Warren Report says that the two men were not acquainted and had never even seen one another.

15 John Rene ^eHindel, ex-Marine acquaintance of Oswald's: Heindel was known by the nickname "Hidell" to Oswald and to other Marines. The Warren Report says that there is no real "Hidell" and that it was only an alias invented by Oswald for his own purposes.

20 Alonzo Hudkins, reporter for The Houston Post: He gave the Secret Service information suggesting that Oswald was being paid \$200 a month by the FBI as an informant holding assigned number "S172."

25 Milton Jones, bus passenger: He told the FBI that Dallas policemen had boarded the bus and searched the passengers just after Oswald had debarked, which was before anyone noticed Oswald's absence from the Depository.

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1 1:10 p.m., while the Commission says that he was shot at 1:15 p.m. If Bowley was correct about the time, Oswald could not have walked from his rooming house to East 10th Street in time to kill Tippit.

5 Radio-car patrolman R.C. Nelson: Tippit drove to central Oak Cliff, supposedly on a simultaneous instruction to him and Nelson. But Nelson went to the Depository, casting doubt on whether either of them was really ordered to Oak Cliff.

10 Radio-car patrolman H.W. Summers: He obtained a description of the Tippit suspect from an unknown bystander -- who said that the suspect had "black wavy hair," was 5'11" tall, and carried a .32 automatic pistol.

Marie Tippit, widow of J.D. Tippit: She probably saw her husband about an hour before he was killed, when he came home for lunch. Also, she could have given information on such things as their unlisted phone and Tippit's "work at home" in the evenings.

15 Frank Wright and his wife: They lived across the street half a block from the spot where Tippit was killed. Mr. Wright heard the shots, saw a man standing right at Tippit's car who "ran as fast as he could go," got into a small old grey 1950-1951 coupe, and "drove away as quick as you could see." Mrs. Wright phoned the police to report the shooting;
20 it was her call that resulted in the dispatch of the ambulance.

Ambulance drivers Clayton Butler and Eddie Kinsley were never questioned either.

Oswald's Arrest

25 There are many unanswered questions as to who pointed Oswald out to

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1 the police, who drew a gun, whether Oswald tried to shoot an officer, and
what was said by whom. The following witnesses present at the theatre
might have thrown light on those matters:

5 Bob Apple, insurance investigator. Detective Paul Bentley: He
found a forged "Hidell" card on Oswald. Bob Barrett, FBI agent. Jim
Ewell, reporter.

Detective E.E. Taylor: He stayed behind at the theatre after the
arrest to make a list of the names and addresses of the patrons. The
list is not among the Commission's exhibits.

10 Police officers Baggett, Buhk, Cunningham, Lyon, Stringer, and Toney.

Oswald's Interrogation

15 Although Dallas Police Captain Fritz "kept no notes" or transcript
of the interrogation of Oswald, and the reports submitted by Fritz and
federal agents (primarily from memory) were incomplete and in some
vital respects contradictory -- e.g., Oswald's trip to Mexico, where he
was at the time of the shooting, and his "Hidell" alias -- the following
persons present were not asked to submit reports or to testify: Jim
Allen, former Assistant District Attorney; Secret Service agents Grant,
20 Howard, Kunkel, Patterson, and Warner; FBI agent Joe Myers; U.S. Marshall
Robert Nash; Chuck Webster, Professor of Law.

The Autopsy

25 In view of the conflicting descriptions of the wound in the Presi-
dent's back by the FBI and the autopsy surgeons, witnesses who saw the

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1 body could have given crucial information.

Admiral George Burkley, presidential physician: He was in the motorcade, then at Parkland Hospital, and later at the autopsy, and he received the autopsy report submitted by the pathologists.

5 Francis X. O'Neill, Jr., FBI agent: He was present throughout the autopsy and his description of the wound in the President's back conflicts with the official autopsy report.

James W. Sibert, FBI agent: Same as O'Neill above.

10 John T. Stringer, Jr., medical photographer: He photographed the President's body.

Fourteen other armed forces or federal officials named in the FBI report, and four funeral-home workers who prepared the body for burial.

The Stretcher-Bullet

15 Richard E. Johnsen, Secret Service agent: He was handed the stretcher bullet by O.P. Wright, chief of personnel at Parkland Hospital, before the presidential party departed. Wright was not called either.

A Possible Conspiracy.

20 FBI agent Warren De Brueys: Before the assassination he reported on Oswald's activities in New Orleans; he was present at Oswald's interrogation; and he investigated allegations suggesting that Oswald expected to receive a large sum of money.

Robert Adrian Taylor, former service station attendant (see above).

25 The Warren Report mistakenly asserts that Taylor retracted his identifica-

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1 tion of Oswald.

5 R.W. Westphal and other Dallas policemen prepared reports immediately after the assassination in which Oswald's old Elsbeth Street address was specified when the police had no known access to that address and although they claim they had no record of Oswald before November 22, 1963.

Names Unknown

10 About ten or more witnesses present at the Texas Theatre when Oswald was arrested, named on a list compiled by detective E.E. Taylor.

Caterer at the Depository, who sold lunches to employees and might have sold lunch to Oswald on the day of the assassination or on other occasions.

15 "No. 279 (Unknown)" who, according to the Dallas Police radio log, actually found the jacket discarded near the Tippit scene, although the Warren Report credits Captain Westbrook with the discovery.

Postoffice employees at the main office, where Oswald maintained P.O. Box 2915, who were not questioned about specific records or recollections of the delivery of packages addressed to "A. Hidell" containing the rifle and the revolver.

20 Inmates, County Jail, who were permitted to watch the motorcade from a window and may have observed significant happenings at the sixth-floor or other Depository windows.

25 Gunsmiths, Aberdeen Proving Grounds and Klein's Sporting Goods, Inc., concerning the opinion by the Aberdeen gunsmith that the scope on the assassination rifle "was installed as if for a left-handed man" (Oswald was right-handed).

Delete existing text and insert

"A conclusive re-evaluation of the autopsy photographs and X-rays, which have been reviewed by successive panels appointed by the Government and by a neurologist-apologist for the Warren Report. A forensic pathologist and critic of the Warren Report who examined the photographs and X-rays in 1972 found them inconsistent with the official conclusions. Such a re-evaluation must take into account the fact that the Warren Commission at its executive session of January 27, 1964 discussed an autopsy report completely incompatible with the undated autopsy report subsequently published as an appendix to the Warren Report."

Frank Burnett

Doris Robinson

o "Ralph Simpson film"

Page 10 ^{last} para. (item 15) Delete ~~first~~ ^{first sentence}
insert:

"Conclusive evaluation of the neutron activation analysis of the bullet and bullet fragments which was carried out at the request of the Warren Commission but completely suppressed from the published Report and from the Hearings and Exhibits."

Delete last 3 paras on
Garrison and the 3 footnotes