

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

I wish to write a study of the John F. Kennedy assassination. This study will be divided into two parts and will serve two independent purposes.

The first purpose is historical. It will seek to trace the development of the case from November 22, 1963 to the present. Here I have in mind nothing more complicated than a straightforward chronicle of the investigation into the murder of John F. Kennedy and of the controversy which that investigation spawned. First, the official investigation: How did the FBI and the Secret Service pursue their initial inquiries in November and December 1963? What were their conclusions? How did the Warren Commission see its task and how did it come to its conclusions? What investigations have been carried out since 1966 either by the Justice Department or by congressional committees? What conclusions (if any) did these sub rosa investigations yield? Second, private individuals: Who are the so-called assassination "buffs", and what has been their role in the continuing controversy? Third, the media: How have they responded to the continuing controversy? The New York Times, the Saturday Evening Post, Life, and CBS News all mounted independent investigations. How were these investigations carried out and what conclusions were reached? What explanation can be given for the Garrison fiasco in New Orleans?

The second purpose is epistemological. What can we now know about the killing of John Kennedy? A remarkable body of photographic material has come to light since the Warren Commission finished its labors in September

1964. The autopsy photos and x-rays were seen neither by the Commissioners nor by their staff; they have since been studied by a series of forensic medical specialists. The famous Zapruder film was studied by the Commission only in the form of a copy of a Secret Service copy; since that time slides made from the original film have been studied in minute detail by myself and others. In addition, photos taken by some 38 photographers in Dealey Plaza have become available for study; the majority of these photos were never examined by the FBI, Secret Service, or the Warren Commission. It should be pointed out that in addition to this new photographic material various scientific tests have been performed to validate or invalidate various hypotheses about the assassination. On the basis of all the evidence (both new and old), what is the most likely explanation for what happened in Dealey Plaza?

My credentials for carrying out this study, I believe, are unique. For six months in 1967 and 1968 I co-directed Life magazine's investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy. The following autumn I published a book entitled, Six Seconds in Dallas. This book was condensed in the Saturday Evening Post, and since that time it has come to be considered the most dispassionate and complete account of the events in Dealey Plaza. Because of the reputation of that book I have been asked to take part in many congressional and media discussions of the case. For example, last May at the invitation of Congressmen Koch and Gonzalez I appeared before a meeting of congressmen and their staffs to present a briefing on the evidence in the case; I anticipate doing the same thing for the Senate in the very near future. Last month, I appeared on the David Susskind Show to debate the case with Warren Commission counsels David Belin and Wesley Liebeler. Yesterday, I completed six hours of

taping for a CBS News documentary on the assassination to be aired November 20, 1975. Over the last ten years I have kept in contact with the continuing research on the case. This expertise, I believe, makes it possible for me to carry out the proposed project with the rigor and completeness it deserves.

As referees, may I suggest you contact the following individuals whose full addresses are given below: (1) Dr. John Silber, President, Boston University, (2) Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, Coroner, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Director, Institute of Forensic Sciences, Duquesne University School of Law, past-President, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, (3) Mr. Allard Lowenstein, ex-Congressman from Brooklyn, past national president, American for Democratic Action, and (4) Mrs. Sylvia Meagher, Liaison Officer of the World Health Organization to the United Nations, author of Subject Index to the Warren Report and Hearings and Exhibits (1966) and Accessories After the Fact (NY: Bobbs-Merrill, 1967)

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