

Racist Policies Prevail at St. Francis Hosp.

by Horace J. McMillan, M. D.

During my 16 years as a resident of Santa Barbara, I must say St. Francis Hospital's race relations have been very sad, especially with the black Americans. To review some of the bigotries of this hospital one would have to put it in the category of a southern racist medical institution.

When I started my practice here, St. Francis was the only hospital in the city that segregated the American citizens of color (or the so-called Negro). Anyone else of color or any thug or communist who were not even U.S. citizens who happened to be white or who the hospital thought didn't have "black blood" was given royal treatment. After many months of embarrassment to everybody and a lot of hell-raising, the policy was changed.

EXAMPLES OF EMBARRASSMENT

1. Every doctor as he telephoned for patient reservations had to give the race of the patient and sometimes when the response was uncertain, a request was made to investigate further. New physicians in the community were bewildered.

2. Mistakes were made with fair skinned Negroes and when black relatives would show up, shifting of beds would shake the hospital's foundations.

3. There is a documented case of a fair skinned Negro wife (still alive - husband dead) who paid admission fees, made room reservations for her serious-

ly ill black husband and when he appeared for hospitalization suddenly there were no beds available because of an admitted segregation policy and "we are sorry but we didn't know he was black." This resulted in the patient waiting hours in the hallway on a stretcher, the wife hysterically sobbing as she collapsed on the stairway, the doctor protesting vehemently and another shifting of beds to make a private room available. There were many similar cases and St. Francis could have been sued many times over for jeopardizing patients' lives.

EMPLOYMENT POLICIES

The hospital policy of categorically denying blacks equal employment opportunities can be well documented. The first Negro to my knowledge to be hired was a nurse, who eventually became Director of Nursing but few realized this nurse was a Negro. I am sure this nurse, a former schoolmate of mine, who is now working for Cottage Hospital as a floor nurse, can write a book on unfair hospital policy.

The present Negro laboratory technician employed by the hospital was thought to be white when she applied from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The second Negro hired by the hospital almost required an act of Congress - a girl with recommendations a mile long. The employment agency went far beyond the call of duty to secure this employment and I had several meetings then with the Sister Superior (whose name I cannot recall at this moment).

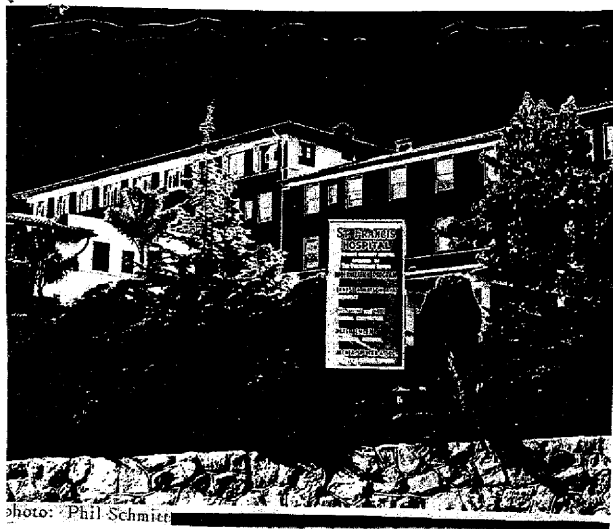


photo: Phil Schmitt

This girl worked as a transcriber in X-ray and did a fantastic job, getting many compliments. She was finally "stolen" by the County Hospital radiologist who was also at the time the radiologist at St. Francis, and who felt the girl was not being treated fairly. Sister Superior became very upset with me for not asking her to stay at St. Francis. The radiologist assured me the girl would make a better salary, have continuous (and not split) hours, and would not have a gestapo boss.

The hospital's (St. Francis) black minority employment total census has been quite small compared to the other hospitals in my 16 years here. For example, I can remember only one Negro in the housekeeping department.

If you feel I am unfair with my criticism, compare statistics today and the past 16 years with other hospitals in the area. These types of figures can be obtained because it is a legal requirement.

LAST STRAW

The recent refusal of the hospital to hire a Negro inhalation therapist is really the last straw. The therapist,

second in qualifications in the entire city and possibly county too, applied in February of 1968. After months of buck-passing, the Negro finally filed a complaint with the Fair Employment Practices Commission. The excuses given for not hiring this Negro have been unfair and prejudicial. He was out of a job until September of 1968 and finally hired by the Valley Community (Goleta) Hospital. I purposely waited until now to write this protest because I wanted to see for myself what type of therapist this young man was. I must say St. Francis missed a great opportunity to have a wonderful person in the hospital. He is friendly, courteous, efficient, works well with others, and is concerned about the patient's welfare. He is exactly what his letter of reference from Duke University said about him.

Many say education will solve the problems of blacks but I say if we don't get rid of prejudice, there will be many more black citizens go 8 months and years either underemployed or unemployed. Here is a Negro who received proper training, had working experience and there was a need, yet he was denied. This man went hungry for 8 months and still would not have employment if left to St. Francis Hospital - and we wonder about the recent burnings in our country.

"The universal response to frustration is violence." - a sociologist.

LIFE Implicated In Oswald Forgery

By Fred T. Newcomb

(This is the second part of a two-part series about the fraudulent Oswald photographs.)

In Part I, the two photographs of Oswald with rifle and pistol were shown to be composites. The Warren Commission's Report, in its "Speculations and Rumors" section, labeled as speculation that "The rifle picture of Oswald was a composite one with Oswald's face pasted on somebody else's body." It added, "Experts also state the picture was not a composite."

One of the photographs (133-A) was featured on the cover of LIFE magazine of Feb. 21, 1964 (Fig. 8). The circumstances of that cover raise questions about LIFE's responsibility in publishing a false and incriminating photograph.

RETOUCHING

In correspondence with the Warren Commission, LIFE admitted retouching the photograph. In a telegram of June 25, 1964, LIFE stated, "our retouching consisted only of filling in some cracks." In a letter 4 days later, LIFE said the retouching "was simply to bring

the figure out a little more clearly." And in a letter of July 8, 1964, LIFE added that the rifle bolt had been retouched and that "the retoucher was a little careless in making the rifle stock straight instead of with a slight dip."

The Warren Commission had only one "expert" - an FBI agent - testify on the subject. He noted, in detail, LIFE's retouching of the rifle stock, telescopic sight, right arm and shoulder, neck, chin, cheeks, hair, and background shadows. The Warren Report, however, asserted that it was speculation that the photograph had been "doctored."

COMPOSITES

Although the Commission's "expert" felt that the two photographs were not composites, he observed, "I cannot entirely eliminate an extremely expert composite." As has been shown in Part I, this was not an expert composite.

The "expert" also limited himself to one method for making composites:

See Life Implicated p. 8

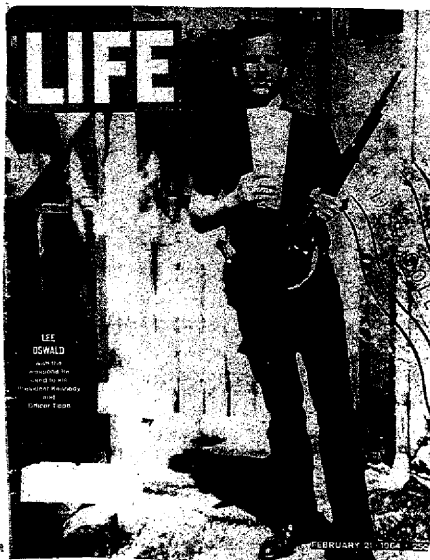


Fig. 8

302 W 12 St
New York, New York 10014

"I'm a Patsy!"

By Lillian Castellano

On the Sunday that the Warren Commission Report was released simultaneously by all the news media, CBS TV Station KNXT presented a 2-hour replay of video tapes of interviews in their files. One of those video taped interviews was with Oswald in the bedlam of the Dallas police station.

I remembered that interview very well from the time I had first seen and heard it soon after the assassination. I remembered because the only time I had ever seen Oswald look frightened was when the reporter had told him, at that interview, that he HAD been charged with killing the President. Consequently, I was watching the replay intently when the scene occurred - the reporter told him that he HAD been charged with killing the President - he got the frightened look on his face - then, to our complete surprise, Oswald said, "I'm a patsy!" That remark was not on the video tape that I had heard at the time of the assassination. It evidently had been cut out of the tape before it was shown to the public.

In the Commission Report (Ch.5, p. 188) it states:

Throughout the period of detention, however, Oswald was not represented by counsel. At the Friday midnight press conference in the basement assembly room, he made the following remarks:

OSWALD: Well, I was questioned by Judge (Johnston). However, I protested at that time that I was not allowed legal representation during that very short and sweet hearing. I really don't know what the situation is about. Nobody has told me anything except that I am accused of, of, murdering a policeman. I know nothing more than that I do request someone to come forward to give me legal assistance.

QUESTION: Did you kill the President?

ANSWER: No. I have not been charged with that. In fact, nobody has said that to me yet. The first thing I heard about it was when the newspaper reporters in the hall asked me that question.

* * * * *

For the sake of the record, I give you the words that should have been recorded in the Commission Report in place of that row of asterisks:

REPORTER: You HAVE been charged with it

OSWALD: Sir?

REPORTER: You HAVE been charged with it. (Oswald looks frightened)

OSWALD: I'm a patsy!

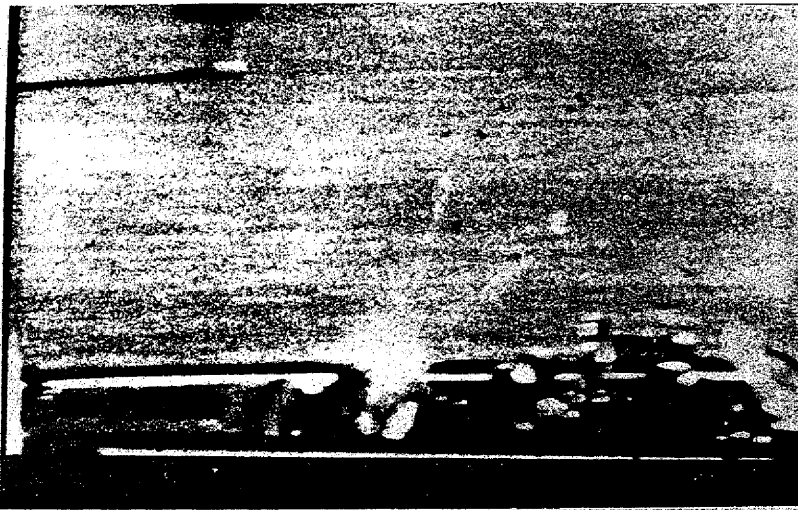
In the Hearings and Exhibits of the Warren Commission (vol. 20, p. 366), there is this notation in reporter Seth Kantor's notebook: "7:55 - 'I'M just a patsy.'" The time, 7:55, did not jibe with the Friday midnight press conference at which Oswald said, "I'm a patsy!" - not, "I'm just a patsy."

In early 1965, NBC presented a program called "Oswald and the Law." While the title of the program was showing on the TV screen, the sound in the background was the sound of a tape made in the police station sometime after the assassination. The shouting of the reporters was unintelligible, but Oswald's voice could be heard as he shouted, "I'm just a patsy!"

In the Hearings and Exhibits (vol. 21, P. 516) the same time - 7:55 p.m. - is noted as being the time that Oswald was being taken back to Capt. Fritz's office from the line-up room. In order to get from the line-up room to Fritz's office, Oswald had to be taken through the hall where the newsmen were. That must have been when Seth Kantor and the NBC microphone both recorded his desperate cry, "I'm just a patsy!"

So now we know that CBS has a tape where Oswald shouted "I'm a patsy!" at the Friday midnight press conference and NBC has a tape where Oswald shouted "I'm just a patsy!" at 7:55, the time noted in Kantor's notebook.

I have never seen either remark called attention to by any news media, have you? This is rather frightening when you think of how many representatives from news media from all over the world who were present and some of whom must have heard Oswald's desperate shouts. Who instructed them NOT to report it? And how come they all complied?



COMMISSION EXHIBIT 390

If Oswald didn't do it, who did?

LIFE Implicated

From p. 1



Fig. 9

"they would have had to make a picture of the background with an individual standing there." Another method is shown with Fig. 9. Assume the post is perpendicular. If a string with a weight on the end is dropped from the center of the mouth, it falls outside the weight-bearing foot in the photograph. Anyone who tries to duplicate this pose will tip over. Because the figure is not in motion, the only way to explain this as a composite is that separate photographs were taken of 1) the entire body and ground shadow (against a white background) and of 2) the background of Oswald's place, then the two were combined. They made two obvious errors. First, the figure was crookedly placed in the photograph. Second, unlike the other photograph (133-B), they forgot to retouch the ground shadow: it is clear and sharp. In 133-B (Fig. 2), the shadow follows the contour of the ground, bumping up and down over the grass.

THE RIFLE

LIFE, and later the Warren Report, claimed that the rifle in the photograph was the one found in the Texas School Book Depository and also the murder weapon. If so, a composite can be shown using another method - comparative measurement (also ignored by the Commission). Critic Sylvia Meagher noted this in her book, *Accessories After the Fact*. Oswald was 5'9". The rifle is 40.2". Adding an inch to his height to account for his shoes, he would be 70". By proportion, the rifle is 57.4% of his height. On the LIFE cover, he is 12.75" and the rifle is 7.76" - which is 61%, not 57.4%, of his height.

The Warren Report reduced to speculation that the rifle in the photograph was unlike the one found in the Book Depository. The Commission's own expert, however, testified that he was unable to make a "positive identification" that the two were the same.

ORIGINS

What is the source of LIFE's cover photograph? According to a letter from J. Edgar Hoover of March 12, 1964 to the Commission, recently uncovered in the National Archives by critic David S.

Lifton, the Office Manager of LIFE's Washington Bureau claimed she bought it from Marina Oswald's former agent. The agent, however, testified to the Commission that 1) he never had a copy of the photograph in his possession and 2) LIFE did not indicate to him where they had obtained it. He added that an attorney from the *Detroit Free Press* told him that LIFE obtained it "from a leak through the Commission." The agent said he then contacted LIFE, which denied the leak as its source. The Commission also denied it. Hoover's letter observed that shortly after the assassination, "numerous unaccounted for copies of this photograph were readily available in Dallas, Texas."

Even the origin of the photographs raises doubts about their authenticity. Supposedly they were found among Oswald's belongings at the Paine home in Irving, Tex. Capt. J. W. Fritz of the Dallas Police Dept. told the Warren Commission that, around noon, on Nov. 23, 1963, his officers had returned from the Paine home with the photographs. One of Fritz's officers specified the time to the Commission. He said they did not arrive at the Paine home until 1:30-2 p.m. and left around 4:30-5 p.m. on Nov. 23.

Not only is the time questionable, but also the date. Michael R. Paine told the Commission that FBI showed him the photograph that LIFE later used on its cover on Nov. 22. Hoover's letter of March 12, 1964, notes that a newsman in Dallas stated he saw the photograph either on the night of Nov. 22, or morning of Nov. 23.

WHY?

The Warren Commission has long been discredited. The need for Congress to investigate who murdered President Kennedy is still as strong today as it was 5 years ago. Possible complicity in disguising the truth should also be investigated. When there is little to no evidence that indicates that Oswald shot anybody on Nov. 22, 1963, why did LIFE magazine publish such a photograph? It was the single, most damning piece of evidence against Oswald and it convinced the public Oswald was guilty. LIFE magazine has a photographic department second to none. That these LIFE experts could not spot this as a composite is very curious, to say the least. Why also has LIFE not made the entire Zapruder film of the assassination public?

(A complete set of colored slides portraying Mr. Newcomb's photographic analysis is available by writing to Probe; enclose \$6 to cover costs. - Ed.)