

"Brilab" Have the Feds got Carlos Marcello this time? We'll see. At the moment, all I know is what I see in the papers. (Clippings will be listed in the next issue.) Nothing I have yet read mentions the HSC's remarks about Marcello, but the JFK connection will certainly be brought up by one side or the other, or by the press. Nothing I have seen suggests a connection between the HSC's work and the FBI operation, said to have started about a year ago. It's certainly intriguing to read about Irving Davidson in the papers, and I'm sure there will be more intriguing tidbits. A couple of obvious points: putting Marcello in jail on an unrelated charge is no substitute for an investigation of his alleged role in the JFK assassination, and an investigation of that role is no substitute for a full investigation of the unresolved issues in that case.

Score one for our side: CD 347 released A suit by Mark Allen has forced the CIA to release part of CD 347, their 14-page report of 31 Jan 64 to the WC about Oswald in Mexico. (Mark is now finishing his third year at the U. Va. law school.) After the big CIA releases in 1976-77, only 4 CD's remained withheld in full. As late as January 1979, the CIA insisted that the withholding was proper. Admitting that most of the substantive information is available in unclassified documents, the Agency said that in CD 347 "it is inextricably mixed with operational details which, if exposed, would compromise" sensitive foreign intelligence sources and methods. Last month, mentioning releases of information by the HSCA and other investigations, the CIA released a heavily sanitized version of the document. There are 3 sections, dealing with Oswald in Mexico City (with the Embassy visit information present, with deletions, and the Duran story (including perhaps the Dorticos-Armas phone call [11 AH 489]) deleted in full); with Kostikov; and with the story of "D" (Alvarado).

Mark noted an internal CIA document (item 498-204) which indicated that this report would be "presented so as to protect your [Mexico's] sources and techniques." The HSCA said that identification of sensitive sources and methods had been completely deleted. (11 AH 485) I do not see any justification for the original withholding in full. There is no apparent reason why this deleted version could not have been released in 1976.

I speculated long ago that CD 347 was being withheld because it would confirm what I had deduced from other CIA and WC records: that the CIA was initially not candid with the Commission about the description and photo of the Mexico Mystery Man. CD 347 does not mention any photograph, and does not give the description; it says that an erroneous description was included in the report of 10 October 1963 which was disseminated by the CIA in Washington. That is, the fact that the description originated in Mexico was "protected."

CD 347 may contain significant information, beyond these two main points (improper original withholding, and lack of candor with the WC). I have no energy for updating my 1975 chronology on the basis of released documents, now that official investigations have had access to the classified material. Anyone who is interested is welcome to have:

- (18) [5 pp.] Affidavit of 9 Jan 79, by Robert Owen (CIA), explaining why CD 347 is withheld.
- (19) [9 pp.] Owen affidavit, 11 Jan 80, explaining release of CD 347, and justifying the deletions.
- (20) [14 pp.] CD 347 (without cover letter). [Pp. 5-8 are deleted in full and will be left out, unless specifically requested.]

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FOIA exemption for the CIA? There are press reports of proposed legislation to exempt the CIA from the FOIA, except for requests from individuals for their own files. Obviously this would not be a good thing. Maybe the CIA's release of JFK documents has caused them more trouble than they expected, so I can see why they would like an exemption broad enough to cover cases of historic significance. The CIA's record on this case hardly justifies such an exclusion. I doubt if there is much we can do about the current atmosphere, but if hearings are held on this proposed legislation we should probably try to get together a submission.

The CIA is certainly taking its time on the review of the last batch of JFK documents (originally promised for mid-1978). There has been no action on my 1976 requests for specific documents relating to the interception of Oswald's mail, and to the Rockefeller Commission.

Previews of coming attractions: Our book is still in limbo, awaiting word from the libel lawyer.

Tony Summers' book is moving ahead, with publication now expected in May.

The next\* (April) issue of Playboy will have a profile of William Harvey by David Martin. Martin, now with Newsweek and formerly with AP, has been interested in Harvey for years. Everyone should have his Washington Post piece of 10 Oct 76, "The CIA's 'Loaded Gun'." [3 pp.] Very heavy stuff. \*[Now out - see #44 below.]

Bibliography on the U.S. Intelligence Community: A well-placed Washington source has provided a copy of

(21) [90 pp.] A selective bibliography on the U.S. intelligence community, prepared by the Congressional Research Service. Definitely selective; some entries of interest but this is definitely not about the JFK case. There is a one-page table of contents.

Rec'd  
3/6/80

Query: Can anyone identify the new medical witness referred to in Robert Tanenbaum's presentation of 17 March 1977 to the HSCA? (The transcript of this executive session is the one which was "accidentally" released. It deals with the "orchestration" of the HSCA's work, the babushka lady, etc.) On page 106, Tanenbaum referred to a doctor, in 1963 a resident at Parkland, "who noticed wounds on the Governor's body that appeared to be somewhat inconsistent with the official reporting of what happened." The HSCA's source, a lawyer friend of this doctor, also alleged that the doctor "was barred from seeing the President's body by certain security people, which by his experience he deemed to be quite unusual, I am sure." This is not a particularly plausible story (especially the last part, and especially considering the source), but any further information would be appreciated.

Indexed data bases: I have the "JFK-Assassination" pages from the New York Times index, for each year since 1963 (through June 1979). There are about 62 pages in all, with 1 to 9 pages per year (and, typically, 2 pages for each recent year.) Copies available, of course. Also: does anyone have a collection of nontrivial material in the Congressional Record, especially for recent years (say, since 1975)? I have odds and ends, but I haven't checked the indexes. Can anyone save me the trouble?

Clipping collection: My clipping files for 1975-8 are unlisted and not sorted by topic. There is some very good stuff and a lot of miscellany, totaling maybe 3" per year. If there is anyone out there who is really into clippings, I would be glad to send copies of any of these files in exchange for the copying cost plus whatever lists you prepare. If you're interested, let me know.

Books: As predicted, Mark Lane has landed on his feet, with the publication of his book on Jonestown. The title, "The Strongest Poison," seems to be a reference to the way the government and the media poisoned our minds about Jim Jones. The book is being advertised as the book the NY Times tried to suppress. (I heard, by the way, that Lane has actually sued John Crewdson, over the story that Lane was going to Switzerland to retrieve Jones' money.) I am not going to read the book. [Hawthorn, \$12.95, 494 pages.] I did hear Lane on KGO; he's horrible.

Penguin has put out a CNSS compilation of documents on various topics, mostly obtained under the FOIA. [\$8.95; about 225 pages plus 175 pages of facsimilies] There is a little on the CIA versus the WC critics. Good for college courses, perhaps.

Schlesinger's book on RFK has interesting material on Cuba, the reaction to the assassination, organized crime, etc. (Plus a cite to the AIB newsletter! [P. 285])

Can anyone provide a capsule review of Wm. Sullivan's posthumous book?

I gather we should be watching for L. Farago's biography of Hoover. Also Warren Hinckle (and Bill Turner?) on Cuba.

Werner Erhard speaks: Everyone is responsible for making sure he has all the Meagher-Owens indexes he wants, and all the issues of this newsletter. I do my best, but speak up when I leave something out. As you know, I don't usually distribute the newsletter as soon as it is done, but include it with my letters. Please continue to send memos, clippings, queries, gossip, or anything else you want distributed.

FBI Documents: I haven't really had a chance to get into the HQ file microfilm. Over the past two years, Harold has been sending me selected items, which I haven't had time to process (i.e., pick out and list the ones which are worth distributing). My overall impression remains that we've seen a high percentage of the goodies, but that still leaves a substantial number. Many of the documents reinforce what is now common knowledge about FBI procedures and attitudes, and therefore are not worth getting too excited about - although if any of them had surfaced in 1964, there might have been a major flap. To give you some examples of the goodies, here are three items Harold sent recently (all from the 105-82555 file):

\*\* (22) Ser. 1712 31 Jan 64 [2 pp.] HQ to Newark, requesting a rewrite of a report of an interview of Nelson Delgado (since the report will have to go to the WC and the Archives). Bureau "is of view that Delgado ... may be overstating facts...." Interesting procedurally, and also substantively, in light of some peculiar Delgado FBI documents Harold sent me earlier

\*\*\* Justice Department letter: (Most of you got this with the last issue:)

(25) 12 Dec 79 [1 p.] Keuch to Stokes. For a change, less promising than the press reports. It's hard to tell just what the JD is doing, and I don't know what to make of a letter which starts by complaining that they had not gotten the full report until recently. Are they talking about the missing MLK footnotes, or a secret report (or list of "hot leads"), or what? Can anyone explain this letter?

Clippings: Perhaps I should explain that inclusion of an item on these lists does not imply my endorsement, or any special relevance. All it means is that I happened to see the article and found it interesting enough to copy, or that someone sent it to me. Some of the following items may not be relevant to the JFK case at all. (All listed clippings are 1 page, unless otherwise specified.)

- \*\* 26. 17 Mar 75 Jack Anderson (WP) "Soviet Plan to Kill Nixon [if elected in 1960] Reported" [by Golytsyn]
- \*\* 27. 17 Jun 77 Jack Anderson (WP) "Castro Plotted Against Nixon in 1969" (Includes a summary of the CIA-Castro plots columns, starting 3/3/67.)
28. 17 Dec 79 New York (Intelligencer) Re Hougan piece on McCord in Harper's (#12 supra). More installments possible, depending on reaction.
29. 21 Dec 79 Am. Med. News; More on the Elvis story; Wecht mentioned
- \* 30. 29 Dec 79 C. McWilliams (Nation); on Elmer Pratt and other Cointelpro victims
- \* 31. 6 Jan 80 Ostrow (LA Times); "Extensive [FBI] Probe of Jean Seberg Revealed"
32. 7 & 21 Jan 80 Inquiry [3 pp.] Review of Powers book on Helms, by R. Borosage
33. " Inquiry [2 pp.] Review by Russ Stetler of 2 books on Israel
34. 24 Jan 80 Rolling Stone; item on tasteless singer/satirist "Lee Harvey"
- \* 35. Feb 1980 Reader's Digest [13 pp.] John Barron (!) on Chappaquiddick. All I can say is that I sure hope that neither getting the JFK case solved nor a lot of other Good Things depends on EMK!
- \*\* 36. 1 Feb 80 Daily Cal; review of Powers book by Peter Dale Scott
- \* 37. 3 Feb 80 S.F. Chron (by Mark Bloom, from Science) [4 pp.] "Untold Story of the Shah's Illness" Changing diagnoses on a political matter, doctors who won't talk, etc. (Plus Rockefellers in the background.) No relevance to the JFK case, but an interesting medical detective story.
38. 9 Feb 80 Nation; Merle Miller liked Donner's piece! (short letter)
- \* 39. 9 Feb 80 New Republic [3 pp.] Morton Halperin on the unleashing of the CIA
- \*\*\*? 40. 9 Feb 80 NYT [2 pp.] Jeff Gerth on Brillab. (Quotes Aaron Kohn on Marcello.)
- \*\* 41. 11 Feb 80 NYT [2 pp.] Crewdson: "Ex-Immigration Official [Noto] Is Said To Have Assisted Crime Figure [Marcello]"
- \*\*\* 42. 16 Feb 80 Nation [3 pp.] Letters from Blakey, Oglesby (especially good), Fred Cook, and Jo Pomerance, with an unconvincing reply by Donner.
- \* 43. 16 Feb 80 Nation [4 pp.] Lardner: "Moynihan Unleashes the CIA" (Release of CIA files on JFK case mentioned in passing.)
- \*\*\* 44. April 1980 Playboy [13 pp.] David C. Martin, "The American James Bond." A profile of William Harvey, from the book "Wilderness of Mirrors," "due soon" from Harper and Row. Much on Harvey's character, the Berlin Tunnel, etc.; not much on the Castro plots. Interesting anyhow.
- [I am told that the current issue of "The Absolute Sound," a stereo buff's magazine, includes a description, in layman's language, of the HSC's acoustics analysis. It's not worth buying at \$4, but does anyone have a copy?]
45. 6 Jan 80 "Inside Woody Allen" (in SFC) The relevant excerpts follow:

