

Acoustics update:

[MORE: p. 10]

On November 7, the Barber observation was discussed in a DMN story by Earl Golz. (#564) Ramsey would not comment, beyond saying that he was favorably impressed by Barber's discovery, and had made voiceprints to confirm that the same message appeared on both channels.

Ramsey said that drafts of the panel report "are around, but it's not written," and that the report would probably be released in December, after a final meeting of the panelists. On November 3, Ramsey indicated that a December release would be pushing it. On November 19, he told a reporter that the report would not be released before the first of the year.

According to a UPI story (in the Montreal Gazette on November 23; #565), Barbara Jorgensen of the NAS said that the report was complete and undergoing "internal review," and that the NAS hoped to release it by the end of the year. I don't know if the report will be made public as soon as it goes to the Justice Department and/or the House Judiciary Committee.

I don't have any hard information about the content of the final report. Golz's recent (but second-hand) account of a preliminary copy is reprinted below. Two important cautions: most of my comments about the panel's work are based on what I have not heard. (That is, I assume that if they had done certain studies, I would have heard about them - a dubious assumption.) Also, the content and tone of the report may change significantly before the "internal review" is done.

The information reaching me remains fragmentary and slightly conflicting. The report will certainly place heavy emphasis on the Barber observation. I will be surprised if the panel satisfies those of us who suspect that the Barber analysis results from a discontinuity in the Channel One recording, and that the BB&N work is valid. That is, I have not heard anything about the panel doing a convincing study of the authenticity and chain of possession of the "original" Dictabelts.

On the other hand, to satisfy a reasonable opponent of the HSC results, the panel would have to find some error in the HSC analysis, or some other way of understanding their results. I have not heard of any such major demonstrable flaw in the HSC's work, although at least one panelist has been looking very hard. (At first, he emphatically argued that what seems to be a minor error in one published graph of a test shot was proof that the BB&N analysis was no good.)

Will the verdict of history be that the shots detected by BB&N were just a fluke? Was it one of those bells that now and then rings, just one of those things?

If it was a fluke, was it just a 1-in-20 coincidence? The panel should review the probability estimates made by the HSC experts. Was the 95% estimate by W&A in fact quite conservative, as they indicated (correctly, I think)? If so, the coincidence was much more striking than 1-in-20.

I know of no indication that the panel has made any detailed study of the other three shots, or that the panelists are inclined to recommend further work.

It remains to be seen what kind of consensus the panel can reach. The many delays suggest that reaching agreement has not been easy. Perhaps the panel will reveal hard new information, sufficient to satisfy both sides and to generate a report which takes a hard line (presumably against the acoustics). Another alternative is a report in which real differences are minimized by the use of careful phrasing and footnotes, in the Washington tradition exemplified by the Warren Commission's treatment of the single-bullet theory. That is, the panel might just end up by saying, here are reasons for believing and disbelieving the HSC analysis; on the other hand, here is the Barber observation, supported by the voiceprints but conceivably the result of tampering with the Dictabelt; so, on balance, there is no firm scientific proof of a conspiracy, and can we all please go back to our other work now. I don't know how many panelists will resist discarding the HSC's work (and the conclusion of conspiracy) without finding something definitely wrong with it; we'll soon find out. I am familiar enough with Alvarez' style to expect him to push for a firm and unambivalent statement.

On questions of substance, I don't have much to add to what was in the last EOC. In TCI, Gary Mack has been emphasizing the indications of a significant delay (30 to 45 seconds) between the shots and the first response on Channel Two by Curry. Although Mack's evidence is soft, it has persuaded me that there was some delay. However, witness estimates of any time span are generally unreliable; 30 seconds may be a substantial overestimate. I think that if one includes a delay of 30 seconds or more, there are timing problems with two of the explanations I have suggested.

First, suppose you assume (contrary to the reported voiceprint evidence) that the words on Channel One at the time of the shots are not the Decker message. A later message can be heard on both channels - quite clearly, I think. (It is a question by Sgt. Bellah referring to the traffic on Stemmons. This cross-channel message, and two more, are mentioned in the Vaughan-Barber report, which I now have.) On Channel One, there is only about 166 seconds between the HSC's last shot and the reference to Stemmons. From Channel Two, we can tell that there was about 60 seconds of post-assassination voice traffic before the Decker message, and about 120 seconds more before the Stemmons reference. If you add in Mack's 30-second delay, you have about 210 seconds between the shots and the Stemmons reference on Channel Two, compared to 166 on Channel One. That is, the shots seem to be too late even if you look only at the Stemmons message and ignore "hold everything secure." This argument is not rigorous: the indicated Channel Two time estimates could be high due to the skipping which clearly occurred when the "critics' tape" was made; on the other hand, the estimates are low if the Channel Two recorder stopped between messages.

Also, there may be timing problems if you assume that the original Dictabelt was accidentally shifted, re-recording one segment. As Barger showed, the pre- and post-assassination time checks fit well on the same straight line. (8 HSC 74) However, the best straight-line fit may no longer be acceptable, if you assume that part of the Dictabelt was recorded over for 90 seconds or more (Mack's minimum estimate for the time from the shots to the Decker message.) The problem gets worse as the delay is made longer.

If Mack were right about the length of the delay, an explanation might require postulating that careful re-recording was done, without changing the total length of the open-microphone interval. The hypothetical purpose of this hypothetical tampering might be to remove some voice traffic right after the shots; then maybe the shots were accidentally shifted so that they coincided with the Decker message. Obviously this is a speculative and complex scenario, but I won't rule it out until someone comes up with a better explanation for all the facts.

I am still very curious about the early Secret Service copy of the DPD recordings. I don't know if the Ramsey panel has tried to locate this potentially significant evidence, as I suggested to them. Even if it can not be found, someone should establish why the Secret Service wanted the tape obtained, filtered, re-recorded, transcribed, and returned to the Dallas office. (That's five questions, not one - think about it.)

The re-recording hypothesis remains improbable, but far from incredible (given what happened to Oswald's note to Hosty, to Oswald himself, and, it seems, to Kennedy's body, while in official custody). To check out this hypothesis, one should look at all the Dictabelts. I am particularly suspicious of the authenticity of some messages to Tippit. To supplement Meagher's arguments (noted in the last EOC, p. 5), I have tried to pin down my earlier impression that the crucial messages "sound different" - as if they were being read, for example. In fact, the formal wording of "you are in the Oak Cliff area, are you not" and "you will be at large for any emergency that comes in" does seem to stand out. In a hasty review of the Channel One transcript, I found no other routine message where the dispatcher said "you will be" or "you are ... are you not." (Normal usage would have been something like "aren't you in Oak Cliff" and "stay at large for any emergency.") On November 22, such messages to Tippit would have been totally routine; even David Belin did not yet know that Oswald would shoot Tippit. If the messages were added to the recording later, however, they would not have been routine. The Ramsey panel should have checked out the "original" Dictabelts, but if both the

12:30 Dictabelt and the Tippit messages were tampered with, it was probably a subtle process which left no visible evidence on the surviving Dictabelts.

There seems to be a real possibility of public hearings in the House on the Ramsey Panel report, but no certainty of any official reaction. This is, I think, the time for us to draw attention to the non-acoustical evidence of conspiracy, old and (if possible) new.

* * *

"Expert lambastes panel's examination of JFK slaying data" (DMN, 5 Dec 81, p. 45A)

By Earl Goltz
Staff Writer of The News

The chief architect of the U.S. House committee report that concluded the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was probably the result of a conspiracy says a panel of scientists has come up with a "serious challenge" to the committee findings.

However, Notre Dame law professor C. Robert Blakey, counsel for the now-defunct House Assassinations Committee, criticized a panel of the National Academy of Sciences for "doing just an analysis of our (committee) findings only to refute us." Blakey was in Dallas Thursday to speak at the second an-

nual National Legislative Conference on Arson.

A preliminary copy of the panel's report, not yet publicly released, is being circulated among interested members of the scientific community. All 13 panel members unconditionally reject the House committee's contention that a Dallas police radio Dictabelt in 1963 recorded the sound of four shots at the time of the assassination in Dealey Plaza, Blakey said.

The committee's conclusions that four shots were fired — not three as found by the Warren Commission in 1964 — made it impossible for accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald to have been the only person shooting in Dealey Plaza. The

committee's scientists determined that a second gunman on the grassy knoll to the left of the presidential limousine probably fired a single shot that missed Kennedy.

Blakey agrees with the National Academy of Sciences panel that voice prints have identified Dallas County Sheriff Bill Decker as already reacting to the shooting at the same time the 4-shot sequence allegedly is being heard on the same Dallas police radio tape. A second police radio recording on another channel clearly shows Decker did not issue the same word-for-word post-assassination command to his deputies until about a minute after the last shot.

Blakey criticized the panel for

not making a microscopic examination of the police recording to determine if it is a "re-recording" that somehow resulted in the splicing of Decker's voice into the background of the sound of the shots. He also asserted the panel scientists did not check the timing of the shots through the recorded sound of speed of the engine on the motorcycle from which the House committee said the recording was made or through the blurs in movie film being taken at the time of the shots.

The panel made no attempt to determine the exact origin of the three shots that apparently did not come from the grassy knoll area, Blakey said.

Oswald in Clinton?

The HSC report dealt briefly with the allegation that Oswald tried to register to vote in Clinton, Louisiana, around the beginning of September 1963, while "a voting rights demonstration was in progress." (HSCR 142) The Committee recognized that this story had to be handled cautiously, since it first appeared during the Garrison investigation. I have always had difficulty believing the Clinton story, and the HSC did not assuage my doubts.

A conspicuous problem is the alleged presence of Clay Shaw with Oswald and David Ferrie. Can one believe the witnesses in part, but not the testimony that Shaw was involved? On the other hand, is it possible to believe in this Shaw-Oswald association, in light of the nature of Garrison's whole case against Shaw? (I'm still waiting for some Garrison supporter to tell me what serious evidence Garrison had, before he arrested Shaw, that Shaw had actually conspired to kill Kennedy.)

Summers resolved the Shaw problem by accepting the plausible idea that the third man was Guy Banister, not Shaw. The Committee report did not confront the problem, but just wrote around it: "... the Committee believed the Clinton witnesses to be telling the truth as they knew it. It was, therefore, inclined to believe that Oswald was in Clinton, La., in late August, [or] early September 1963, and that he was in the company of David Ferrie, if not Clay Shaw." (HSCR 145) In this context, "if not Clay Shaw" is so vague that it is meaningless.

Before the HSC material was published, Rep. Preyer said he found the Clinton witnesses "very credible." (See EOC 3/10/79, #27) As I recall, he indicated elsewhere that their demeanor was a significant consideration. Blakey and Billings note that the question of their credibility "was squarely put to the members ... who listened carefully to their testimony in executive session; it was their considered opinion that the witnesses were 'honest folks,' telling the truth as they knew it." (P. 170) For reasons unknown to me, not one of the Clinton witnesses appeared in the public hearings, and none of their testimony was published!

The Committee published nothing about the serious charges of collusion and intimidation involving the Clinton witnesses which were made by Hugh Aynesworth and summarized in Kirkwood's book, "American Grotesque." (Ch. 19) Certainly the demeanor of the witnesses as they were asked about their Shaw trial testimony and their contacts with Garrison's office should have been noted when their credibility was evaluated.

The Committee did not even publish a staff report on Clinton, or a cited memo on the subject by Patricia Orr - the staff's most attractive, if not brilliant, researcher.

Putting all the doubts aside: if Oswald was in Clinton, why? The HSC repeated without comment the story that Oswald was told that registering would make it easier to get the job he said he wanted at the state hospital in Jackson. Characteristically, the HSC emphasized the notion that any Oswald-Ferrie link contributed to an Oswald-organized crime connection. If Oswald was under Marcello's wing, it is hardly likely that he would have trouble getting a job, or getting on the voting lists without having to stand in line.

Regardless of the tenuous Mafia connection, there are problems with this explanation for Oswald's presence in Clinton. The origin of the idea that registration would help with a job is uncertain. According to Kirkwood (pp. 213-4), Jackson barber Edward McGehee said that he made the suggestion to Oswald when he referred him to state Representative Reeves Morgan, and Morgan said he made the same suggestion. Henry Palmer, the registrar of voters, said that Oswald gave him that reason. (Summers, p. 334) One reading of the B&B book (p. 170) is that someone at the hospital told Oswald the same thing. But was local voting registration really a condition for getting a state hospital job? And could anyone expect that even a white in Louisiana could register without a genuine local address? Did all these people really think, and volunteer to Oswald, that local residence would help, and that it could be established easily by means of a fraudulent voter registration? This whole explanation does not ring true. I would suggest that it does make sense as a cover story concocted to divert attention from Oswald's real role in Clinton, which may have been known or suspected by some of the HSC's witnesses.

Summers noted that "it seems highly unlikely that Oswald really wanted either to live or work in Clinton. The possible presence of Banister and Ferrie only adds to the mystery. A plausible explanation is that the incident was connected with some agency operation like the FBI's now infamous ... COINTELPRO.... When CORE leaders in Clinton spotted the black Cadillac, their immediate suspicion was that the FBI was up to its customary capers." (P. 336)

Summers suggested that the operation might have been intended to link Oswald, the future assassin/patsy, "with yet another left-wing cause." Banister's work against the civil rights movement is well known. Even before the assassination, Lt. Martello of the New Orleans police was quite interested in a possible link between Oswald and various New Orleans "left-wingers," notably integrationists. (See especially CE 3119.) One possibility is that someone wanted to smear the CORE voting campaign by connecting it to Oswald, who was by that time a rather visible pro-Castro leftist.

Larry Haapanen has discovered evidence supporting such a hypothesis; the authorities were indeed eager to discredit CORE by talking about its leftist connections. The possibility that Oswald himself was involved in this effort deserves further study.

The information provided by Haapanen comes from "Southern Justice," a 1965 book edited by Leon Friedman. It includes a chapter on Clinton (8 pp., #566), written by three N.O. lawyers, which deals primarily with the legal situation and the political context.

On August 2, 1963, a white CORE worker was arrested in Clinton, after accompanying two blacks trying to register. On August 20, Clinton and the parish went to court for an injunction against CORE activities. A temporary restraining order was issued by Judge John Rarick, and was later extended until late October, when a hearing was held. (Rarick later became a well-known right-wing Congressman; Haapanen says that in 1971 he inserted remarks into the Congressional Record critical of the corruption charges being brought against Garrison. How's that for a coincidence?) It appears that Oswald's appearance in Clinton was during the ten-day span of the original restraining order.

At the trial, counsel for the parish (a Mr. Van Buskirk) made an opening statement, quoted at some length in "Southern Justice." In typically extreme

terms, CORE was said to be engaging in a conspiracy, using the same tactics as "any other rabble-rousing communist-front organization." Van Buskirk was prepared to show that "on only 14 members of its advisory board, there are over 400 citations of communist-front connections and associations." Getting down to specifics, Van Buskirk said "we will show that included in the task force operating in the town of Clinton, was at least one individual who is an active member of a communist-front organization."

This certainly suggests that a connection, through Oswald, between the CORE drive and the Fair Play for Cuba Committee would have been useful to the forces of law and order. Of course, Van Buskirk may have been referring to someone other than Oswald; by Louisiana standards it should have been easy to find a pinko among the genuine CORE workers. (There may have also been several provocateurs on the scene; Banister was hardly the only detective of his ilk around.)

As already discussed, the hospital-job story may have been a fiction; perhaps Oswald was brought to Clinton to help in the CORE drive. If Ferrie and Banister took him there, Oswald may not have known what they were really up to.

Given Oswald's reported anti-segregation sentiments, it is easy to believe that he would have gone to Clinton willingly. Carlos Bringuier testified that at their trial on August 12 for disturbing the peace, Oswald sat "in the middle of the seat of the colored people," which angered Bringuier but suggested to him that Oswald was "a really smart guy and not a nut." (10 WCH 39) CORE was also interested in courtroom seating arrangements; before an August 15 hearing in Rarick's court, CORE announced plans to integrate it. (The courtroom was locked and packed with whites.)

The Friedman book provides valuable perspective on the "voting rights demonstration" at Clinton. It was an important part of a major struggle; Clinton is even mentioned in Schlesinger's book on RFK. Like the Kirkwood chapter, "Southern Justice" suggests the atmosphere of extremist politics and intense hostility in which the Clinton incident must be considered. In September, for example, twelve local blacks wrote a polite letter to the mayor, asking for a biracial committee. After the assassination, all the signers were indicted for "public intimidation" - including Corrie Collins, the local CORE chairman who testified at the Shaw trial that Oswald, Ferrie, and Shaw were in Clinton (and gave an affidavit to the HSC).

Under these circumstances, I find it hard to accept the scenario endorsed by the HSC after "synthesizing the testimony of all" the Clinton witnesses. (P. 142) If Oswald had been brought to Clinton by Banister to link CORE to the pro-Castro FPCC, a lot of people would have had good reasons for not discussing that story.

It seems worth trying to establish the name of the individual referred to by Van Buskirk, and his reason for being in Clinton. All reports of provocateurs should be looked at, especially if Banister might have been involved. There are many potential sources: court records, the files of the national and state HUAC's, the files and recollections of CORE lawyers and workers. Can anyone check newspaper files, at least for the major N.O. papers? There might be relevant information in already-released FBI files - the FBIHQ and New Orleans files for the Garrison period are extensive. The best source might be the FBI files on the Clinton voting drive. (If Reeves Morgan told the FBI about Oswald after the assassination, as he claims, the information might be in the Clinton file rather than the Oswald file.) Haapanen's new insight into the Clinton story strikes me as significant, and I hope someone can pursue it.

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A few words about EOC:

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Clippings: Items dated 1981, on the JFK case and relevant individuals. Coverage of the exhumation, and pre-1981 material, is not in this section.

567. Excerpts on Nosenko from Rositzke's new book on the KGB. [4 pp.] "Only a small fringe of conspiratorialists still ascribe the President's murder to Moscow. Their arguments violate both political and professional common sense."
568. 16 Feb (Hartford Advocate) Review of Lifton's book by Andrew Lidell. [2 pp.] "A Most Horrifying How-Done-It"
569. April 1981 (CFTR radio, Toronto) My handwritten notes on a 30-minute tape of a report on Lifton's book. The tape includes substantial excerpts from Lifton's filmed interviews of witnesses, on the head wound and the caskets. In a 1975 interview, McHugh said that he saw LBJ in the bathroom on Air Force One, saying that he had been told to hide, and was convinced there was a plot.
570. July/August 1981 (Saturday Evening Post) "The Assassination Syndrome," by Dr. Lawrence Freedman [3 pp.] After the assassination, the author developed a profile of presidential assassins for the Secret Service. The usual stuff on Oswald's mother and his sex life. "If appropriate studies are carried out by competent scientists, it may be that the personality profile of Ronald Reagan's assailant will resemble those of that tiny band ... who preceded him." Right.
571. 13 Jul (WP) "Forensic lab experts turn bits of evidence into convictions" [2 pp.] Former FBI agents Frazier and Killion now in private practice.
572. 15 Jul (AP) Ford's WC papers now available at the Ford Library. If anyone has specific ideas for research, I will forward them to our Ann Arbor station (Sandy Plotkin, formerly with the AIB).
573. 18 Jul (Montreal Gazette) Review of Blakey-Billings book [2 pp.] "The Mob vs JFK? Pages of conjecture but no real proof"
574. 18 Jul (Toronto Globe & Mail) Review of B&B and Lifton [2 pp.] "Blakey is obsessed with the mob and therein lies both his credibility and his bias. But the analysis is sound, reasonable and mostly logical.... [T]he startling contradictions in the evidence and the weight of Lifton's awesome research give some of the work an unsettling authenticity." [1 p., + 1 p. photo]
575. 19 Jul (DMN) A nasty little review of B&B by Kent Biffle (who helped LHO's mother call him after he defected). The usual references to the "lucrative field" and the "flimsy" acoustical evidence "gathered by the financially desparate [House] committee."
576. 22 Jul (Boston Globe) "US aide [Richard Allen] linked to Vesco" [5 pp.] By McTigue & Strasser. Includes a confusing reference to the alleged possession of a surveillance report (commissioned by Vesco) by Bud Fensterwald.
- * 577. 2 Aug Draft article by Harrison Livingstone, prepared for the Baltimore Sun. [3 pp.] Questions the authenticity of the autopsy photos on the basis of statements to Livingstone by Dallas medical witnesses.
578. 3 & 24 Aug (Inquiry) "Miami Confidential," by John Cummings [6 pp.] Cubans, the CIA, World Finance Corporation, and much more.
- 579A. 5 Aug (JD press release) on the indictment of Marcello, Sciortino, and Rizzuto for attempting to bribe a federal judge. [2 pp.]
- 579B.(filed 23 Jul) The indictment [11 pp.]
- * 580. 6 Aug (LA Times) On the Marcello indictment [2 pp.]
581. 7 Aug (LA Daily News) (Same topic) (P.S.: he was convicted on 12/11.)
582. 8 Aug (LA News) More on Marcello et al., from a NOTP story.
- * 583. 9 Aug (UPI in LA Valley News) "Oswald dictionary includes emphasis on death phrase" This seems to be the dictionary Oswald used in Moscow at the end of 1959. It has supposedly never been inspected by government agents (although the HSC knew about it). The significance (and for that matter the authenticity) of the underlining is unclear.
584. 10 Aug (UPI in Springfield Union) The same story, headlined "Oswald's dictionary foreshadowed Kennedy assassination"
585. 13 Aug (Pete Hamill) On the personal impact of the assassination
586. 16 Aug (UPI in SF Examiner) "Man in coffin [in snapshot taken by a former police official] is not Oswald, widow says." Looks like Oswald to me - do you know what photogrammetry is, Mrs. Oswald? (Photo is Summers' #30.)

587. 19-21 Aug (WP) Columns by Jack Anderson on alleged prosecutorial misbehavior in the ABSCAM case involving Sen. Williams. [3 pp.] In the first column: "Blakey ... principal draftsman of the Organized Crime Control Act ... recently told the Senate Ethics Committee he was 'shocked' that the Jan. 15 videotape 'would have been included in an indictment.'"

* 588. 21 Aug - 4 Sep ('1981, Washington's Alternative Newspaper') On Phillips' suit against Fonzi and the Washingtonian, which the defendants have "stalled" for three months, "with preliminary objections." The magazine will stand by the story; their lawyer said "We really haven't much choice."

589. 23 Aug (SFC) Judy Stone (I.F.'s sister) on the Brian De Palma film "Blow Out." [2 pp.] The film was inspired in part by the work of the HSC in synchronizing the Zapruder film and the acoustical evidence. The last book on the case De Palma read was "Best Evidence," which he thinks failed to take into account the confusion in the Dallas hospital.

590. 25 Aug (Globe) "Oswald and Ruby were Mafia hit men - says lawman who headed Congressional Committee" [2 pp.] (Book review; favorable)

591. 25 Aug (Valley News) "Marcello pleads not guilty" in bribery case

592. 30 Aug (Ward Sinclair, WP) "[Philadelphia] Bulletin's [anti-Sprague] Yablonski series raises questions about paper's conduct" [2 pp.]

* 593. 1 Sep (Jonathan Marshall, Inquiry) "Requiem for a mobster" [3 pp.] Excerpts from, and analysis of, the FBI tapes played at Marcello's BRILAB trial.

* 594. 3 Sep (Lardner, WP) "FBI says its spy in KGB [Fedora] was a fake" [2 pp.] Analysis of the Hurt article (#611) and the implications concerning Nosenko's validity. The FBI's secret conclusion, reached in 1980, was based "to some degree on new information." (The Helmich case [#516], by any chance?)

595. 3 Sep (UPI in LAT) Nosenko "Called double agent" by Hurt article.

596. 4 Sep (UPI) On articles by Hurt, and Robert Moss on the GRU.

* 597. 9 Sep (SFC) From a society-page article on "What the celebrities love to brag about most": "Mel Belli likes to gloat about the time he introduced mobster Mickey Cohen to the ABA as an income tax expert named O'Brien.... 'He spoke for half an hour and had them enthralled. They never guessed his identity.'" Ruby knew Cohen too; see B&B (p. 325+) on how Belli got to defend Ruby.

* 598. 10 Sep (Firing Line) Belin, Blakey, and Buckley talk about the Warren Report. [18 pp.; send \$2 for program #476 to Box 5966, Columbia SC 29250.] Buckley sneered a lot (even, in passing, at Lifton); Belin interrupted and complained about not being called by the HSC in public; and Blakey ended up looking like the most reasonable man in the discussion. Worth reading.

599. 14 Sep (Newsweek) "Tale of a double agent" (Fedora) In David Garrow's new book ("The FBI and Martin Luther King, Jr."), Fedora is identified: Victor Lessiovski.

600. 14 Sep (FWST) "Eddowes: Reagan, Pope [were] KGB targets" [3 pp.] Along with JFK, Gaitskell, and many more, of course. "Five months before [11/22], the FBI asked Eddowes to supply it with inside information on political sabotage in London and New York, he said. Through his vast [half-vast?] international connections, Eddowes said he also foresaw the KGB's assassination of Kennedy's brother." (Reprinted in TCI, 9/22.)

601. 16 Sep (AP) "Critics rake Schweiker for magazine pose" in formal clothes at a banquet table; photo included. (If he wants to avoid press attention, maybe he should go back to investigating the JFK assassination.)

602. 16 Sep (LAT) "Castro delivers vitriolic attack on U.S. - accuses Reagan administration of fascism, germ warfare, lying." What's the matter with this guy - is he still bearing a grudge?

* 603. 17 Sep (Babcock, WP) "Soviet secrets fed to FBI for more than 25 years - infiltration [of CPUSA] by two [Childs] brothers detailed in [Garrow] book on Dr. King" [2 pp.] The HSC was briefed about this operation ("Solo"), but not given the names. Jack Childs told the FBI that Levison was an active CPUSA member.

* 604. 17 Sep (Safire, NYT) "The other shoe" The FBI now knows that it was misled by Fedora "and moved to correct its evaluations. Now the CIA must go through the pain of finding out exactly how it was deceived to make sure it is not still being deceived by a mole or triple agent." Safire thinks that the stories

on DCI Turner's 1977 purge of "realists" which attribute the purge to the Libyan dealings of renegade agents are "part of his cover-up for being suckered by Mr. Nosenko, 'Fedora' and the disinformation scheme." Safire gets the award for the most provocative throwaway line of the year: "One of these days a story of a similar operation [to 'Fedora'] will come out: in 'Solo,' we thought we had two men penetrating the Communist Party apparatus. With one of these triple agents dead and the other dying, we can only surmise the extent of that disinformation operation." Heavy stuff; no details provided. Is Angleton perhaps at it again?

* 605. 18 Sep (Andrew Liddell, Hartford Courant) "FBI accused of misusing assassination evidence" Harold Weisberg charges that the FBI misrepresented, withheld and destroyed important evidence, and is asking Judge Pratt "to order the FBI to either produce missing tests or conduct a new and public examination of the President's shirt and of the bullet mark on a curbstone...." There is a dispute over the existence of certain FBI laboratory files.

606. 18 Sep (Pub. Wkly) Ad for Ray Cline's new book on the CIA; includes material on the plots against Castro.

607. 21 Sep (UP) "Castro likens Reagan to Hitler"

608. 23 Sep (New Republic) "The paranoia bug" A thoroughly silly piece on the "CIA phobia" of Castro and others. Mentions, briefly, the AIB, "an organization of obsessively earnest conspiracy enthusiasts who subsisted for almost a decade [sic] on a diet of Zapruder reruns and Jack Ruby appointment books."

* 609. 27 Sep (NYT) Letter from Blakey, claiming that Safire (#604) is seriously in error, and that the question of Nosenko's good faith is not inextricably intertwined with that of any other defector - according to the HSC's reasoning, which is classified. (The letter refers to the B&B book and its publisher, Times Books.)

610. 28 Sep (SFC) "Fear of exposé: \$250,000 FBI offer reported" Garrow says that the FBI tried to get him not to publish his book, with the names of the FBI's "Solo" operatives. (#603)

611. October (Readers Digest) "Is this American [Nosenko] a Soviet Spy?" Excerpted from "Shadrin: The spy who never came back," by Henry Hurt. This is the exposé of Fedora which started all the fuss. [5 pp.; reprinted in TCI, 9/22]

* 612. October (The American Spectator) "Betrayed once too often? The Mafia and the Kennedy assassination" [6 pp.] Review (by Karl O'Lessker) of Lifton, Summers, and B&B books. Despite the shortcomings of his scenario, Lifton "has accumulated a great deal of strongly suggestive evidence ... that something awfully peculiar might have occurred between Dallas and Bethesda; and you do not make the evidence go away by denouncing the scenario or its author." Summers' is the best of these three books. "What is important is that this government make the very best effort it can to solve the greatest unsolved crime of the century. Heretofore it has not done so."

613. 1 Oct (NYT, in Des Moines Register) "Asylum for Haitians," by Clemard Joseph Charles. The author is identified here as "a banker [and] chairman of the Federation for the Liberation of Haiti," but is better known to us as the mysterious figure who was accompanied by his friend George deMohrenschildt when he met with Army Intelligence in May 1963. (12 HSC 55-61) [2 pp.]

614. 5 Oct (UPI in CT) "Sabotage downed Powers, [Norwegian] spy says" Russian agents in Turkey sabotaged the plane, Selmer Nilsen says.

615. 7 Oct (San Rafael Ind.-Journal) "Comedian talks at College of Marin: [Dick] Gregory claims U.S. cabal behind Sadat killing" [2 pp.] Sadat was killed in the hospital, Reagan was shot in the car, etc. - you don't want to hear his theory about the Feds killing black kids in Atlanta to harvest interferon. The audience of 450-plus loved it! Sounds like the College of Marin is the intellectual bastion of Marin's legendary "Church of What's Happening Now." Egads!

616. 8 Oct (SFC) If you liked Tracy Kidder's Atlantic article on the HSC's hearings, you might enjoy the short but Harvard-trained author's new book on computer development (or at least this summary). [For you newcomers: the joke is that Tracy called me "short" and "dignified," which I categorically deny.]

617. 9 Oct (WP) "Democrat's district may be left intact: GOP has a surprise for Rep. Edgar" (The GOP wants to capture the district for itself, later.)

618. 9+ Oct (Detroit Free Press) Three letters, in response to what seems to have been a silly pro-Warren Report editorial (which I don't have).

* 619. 11 Oct (UPI in Sacramento Bee) A post-exhumation wrapup by Dan Carmichael. [2 pp.] "Many of the more prominent assassination 'buffs' were mystified at why Eddowes' theory got such media coverage and felt it was diverting attention from much more fruitful areas of discovery." I am quoted at some length, disparaging Eddowes and saying nice things about the HSC, and the theories of Blakey, Summers, and Lifton. Also quoted: Penn Jones and a Dallas researcher (Mary, I think). A pretty good article, if I do say so myself. [If you have a version of this article, please send it to me; I probably don't have the full story.]

620. 11 Oct (Broder, WP) "Fateful crimes" On the impact of the assassinations. If JFK had lived, Broder thinks, we wouldn't have had candidates of the previous generation in 1968 and later. (Broder suggests that people who believe in conspiracies do so because they find it hard to accept that "a man like Oswald could have ended the hopes that were embodied in John Kennedy." Do any of you believe that? It seems to be just the anti-conspiracy buffs who think of explanations like that.)

* 621. 15 Oct (DMN) "Reward" ad placed by the CTIA, offering \$500 for facts which explain the alleged presence of French (OAS) terrorists in Dallas-Fort Worth on 11/22/63. (Souetre is not named.) [Reprinted in TCI, 10/22]

622. 16 Oct (Pub. Wkly) Included in an item on 14 books benefitting from the FOIA is a forthcoming book by historian Michael Kurtz (U. Tenn. Press) on the JFK assassination: "Crime of the Century."

623. 17 Oct (Eve Pell, Nation) "Spooks' lib: Taking CIA critics to court" [2 pp.] On Phillips, his organization, and his suits; Phillips gets no sympathy.

624. 18 Oct (NYT) Letter from Dick Billings, responding to a review (13 Sep; included) of "The Fish is Red." The letter simply notes that the HSC did not conclude that the mob and possibly anti-Castro Cubans were the most probable conspirators (which I think is a perfectly reasonable reading of the HSC's language). Billings points out that the conclusion that the mob did it is presented in the B&B book, duly cited ("Times Books, 1981"). (The NYT takes care of its own?)

625. 21 Oct (SFC) Memorial notice for Dr. Alton Ochsner, who supported the N.O. anti-Castro cause and may have known more about Oswald than we know.

626. 22 Oct (UPI) Gerald Ford says "I don't think [the] security people did their job," and that the assassination could not have been carried out "so skillfully and so effectively without having some higher authority or participants to help plan it." He's talking about Sadat, of course.

627. 31 Oct (Detroit FP) "Kennedy limousine on display in [Henry Ford Museum in] Dearborn" (photo)

628. November (Gallery) "Omega 7: From Cuba with Blood" by John Cummings [7 pp.] Many familiar, if not relevant, names.

629. 1 Nov (SFX) An "atmosphere" piece on Cape Canaveral before the shuttle launch. For \$2.50, you can see Oswald's neighbor's car, Oswald's bedroom furniture, and the ambulance which took him to Parkland. [2 pp.]

630. 4 Nov (FWST) "TCU library gets [Marguerite] Oswald material"

631. 4 Nov (UPI) "Internment hearing clash" John McCloy, 87, gets flak for referring to the relocation of Japanese in WWII as "retribution." (The HSC didn't give him such a rough time - but the man who did had been in the camps.)

632. 8 Nov (SFX) Article on marketing of network news videotapes; CBS has released a tape on JFK (with just a little on the assassination). [2 pp.]

633. 8 Nov (SFX) Scandal! The Green Berets have been shooting anesthetized goats! When the HSC's goat-killing film was shown, we were told that the Defense Department no longer conducts these experiments. (1 HSC 416) First they destroy the Oswald file, and now this!

634. 8 Nov (AP) "Report suggests that wasn't Eva at Hitler's bunker" Forensic dentistry strikes again!

635. 9 Nov (CBS-TV News) Oil swindle case goes to trial; Robert Sutton allegedly told Marcello he might need some legs broken.

* 636. 11-12 Nov (JA in SFC) On alleged CIA payoffs to Willy Brandt. One

took place in 1956, under the cover of a meeting of the International Rescue Committee. Bill Donovan, who handled the payment, "headed a special IRC commission assigned to protect Iron Curtain defectors from being forced back to Eastern Europe." Oswald approached the IRC for help, but apparently got none. (WR 709)

637. 13 Nov (Lardner, WP) "CIA doublespeak cloaks proposals for homespy and datahide" A biting commentary on the impending revival of domestic CIA activities. At Langley, they must wonder why Lardner quotes at length from "1984" without admitting that it was a favorite book of the Commie assassin Oswald! (11 WCH 90, 151)

[More clippings in the next issue.]

Credits: Thanks to Anonymous, T. Davis (#567), M. Ewing (579A-B, 587, 592, 594, 599, 613, 617, 620, 637), B. Fensterwald (572), J. Goldberg (570-1, 576, 588, 594, 603, 609), J. Gordon (584), G. Hollingsworth (570, 580-3, 591, 594, 596, 599, 602, 606, 612, 622, 635), A. Lidell (568), H. Livingstone (577), J. Marshall (612), J. Martin (604), S. Meagher (604), J. Meek (614), G. Owens (574, 608, 612), R. Pensack (615), R. Ranftel (566, 623-4, 638), T. Rubinstein (619), P. Scott (619), G. Shaw (564, 565+[Unrec.], 575, 600, 621, 630), and L. Sproesser (605).

Exhumation clippings: Fourteen of the 20 pages of the October TCI consist of copies of the extensive Dallas/Fort Worth coverage. Interested? Send \$2 to TCI's new address (Route 3, Box 356. Waxahachie, TX 75165). I have some additional exhumation clippings, which I will list eventually.

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More acoustics update:

On the December 18 NBC Nightly News, Carl Stern reported that Stokes "has been informed" that the Ramsey Panel will refute the Committee's conclusion, assert that the "shots" occurred a minute after the assassination, and "indicate it does not believe additional study would be worthwhile." Ramsey "said there could still be significant changes in some parts of the report, but Committee experts who've been negotiating with the ... panel reported no luck in changing the panel's basic position that the two-gunman theory was wrong." (#638)

I sent Golz's December 5 story to Alvarez, and talked with him after we both saw the NBC report. Alvarez told me that the panel has not yet communicated its conclusions to Stokes. (NBC showed the first page of what appeared to be a letter to Stokes, without saying who it was from.) The Golz and Stern reports apparently refer to a "talking paper" prepared by Ramsey for a meeting of the panel about a month ago. The panel met for two days; an abstract has been written and approved, and Ramsey is now working on the report itself. Nothing has been circulated to outside members of the scientific community. Alvarez declined to comment on substance, but he did confirm that the panel was unanimous.

Let me make one thing perfectly clear: I don't care what they say about the acoustics; I like the title of this newsletter and I'm not going to give it up.

Queries:

Q21. Anyone have video tapes of Charach's "Second Gun" or "Executive Action"?

Q22. Anyone have audio tapes of the 1964 and 1967 CBS programs on the WR, NBC on Garrison (mid-1967), or Garrison on the Carson show (Jan. 1968)? Requester is willing to pay.

Q23. Anyone have a copy of Diana Hunter's 1970 book, "Jack Ruby's Girls," to sell or lend?

Q24. Anyone know the dates of death of Fred Lee Chrisman, Charles Batchelor, Blackie Harrison, or John Martino?

Q25. Anyone with information on Rolando Masferrer-Rojas (a former Cuban senator killed in Oct. 1975) please pass it on to Gordon Winslow (5900 SW 2 Terrace, Miami FL 33134).

I have gotten answers to several of the queries in 3 EOC 5 (Q1, Q3, Q5, Q14-5, Q18-20). Write me if you want any of that information; thanks again to all who responded.

SYLVIA -

SEASON'S GREETINGS + ALL THE BEST FOR THE NEW YEAR

Paul