

Acoustics:

\* Last month, Barger sent a letter to Blakey with his suggestions for further work on the acoustical evidence. This letter has not yet been made public, but an informed source has provided some details.

Barger has been persuaded that the crosstalk match is real, but beyond that he seems quite unconvinced and unchastened by the Ramsey Panel (CBA) report. He concedes that the Barber analysis of the timing would prove that he had not found the shots, but he does not regard that hypothesis (which depends on having a recording which is continuous and not altered in any essential way) as firmly established.

Barger suggests, first, several different studies of the integrity of the "original" recordings. These include an attempt to extract (by means of "phase demodulation") and compare irregularities in the 60-Hz power hum, which should be the same on both channels at any specific time. Also, Barger has apparently found certain peculiarities in the Channel II recording at about 12:30 p.m., and he recommends looking at the power hum for indications of re-recording.

If those studies fail to support the Barber-Ramsey hypothesis, Barger suggests improved correlation studies on all the supposed shots, and, next, application of the Weiss & Aschkenasy method to the other three shots. Then, if the HSC results survive those tests, more work should be done on possibly corroborative non-acoustical evidence, including photos in which McLain might appear, the motorcycle speed (as reflected by the recorded engine noise), and the sirens.

Barger reportedly does not want to do any of this work himself. He gave Blakey some cost estimates - over \$300,000 in all, and about \$25,000 just for the phase-demodulation work. Unfortunately, that's a lot of money.

According to Gary Mack, the HSC experts are also working on a detailed rebuttal of the CBA report, to be sent to Rep. Stokes, perhaps in March.

Issue #5 of "Coverups" includes an article by Mack on "The Dallas Police Sirens: a Hidden Key." He argues persuasively that the CBA's explanation for the relatively slow motorcade speed after the shooting is seriously flawed. He has also convinced me that the CBA's estimate of that speed (43.8 mph) is probably high by at least 7 mph or so.

In "Coverups" #6, Gary reprints and analyzes Jack White's blowups of parts of Zapruder frames 178, 179, and 180. There is some change in an area near Phil Willis' head which, Gary says, is consistent with part of the motorcycle required by the HSC analysis, or its shadow. I think that a professional study of the Zapruder film and other photos should be done soon, without waiting for further analysis of the DPD tapes.

\* #1983.1 18 Aug 82 [5 pp.] My letter to panelist Richard Garwin, with my main questions about issues not resolved by the CBA report. A pretty good summary, if I do say so myself.

\* 2. 16 Sep 82 [2 pp.] Garwin's reply. He says he doesn't "know what the House 'experts' were looking at." As I interpret it, his position is that there is no real point in arguing about whether the HSC's probability calculation should have yielded 78% or 99% or whatever, rather than the 95% result the HSC used; this issue has been made moot by the timing discrepancy from the crosstalk match and the poor experimental design of the HSC work. Garwin says that I am wrong to infer that the CBA deliberately minimized the weakness of the FBI rebuttal of the HSC.

On the hypothesis of an altered recording, Garwin says "I thought about it and looked at it, but I can't go beyond the conclusions and analysis stated in the report." I appreciate the sentiment expressed by another panelist - once you start speculating about tampering, there is no end to the hypotheses which can be raised. However, I still feel that if there had been any panelist with as much prior knowledge of the JFK case as Alvarez and comparable enthusiasm in

the opposite direction, the CBA would have done the kind of authenticity tests proposed in what I have written and in Barger's letter to Blakey.

3. 27 Dec 82 "Signal Processing Analysis of the Kennedy Assassination Tapes," by R.C. Agarwal, R.L. Garwin, and B.L. Lewis. This is an IBM research report (46 pages, of which 14 are figures) which has been submitted for publication in "Science and Society." (If you want a copy, you may prefer to wait until I have the published version, which will be fewer pages.) Most of this paper deals with work done at IBM and already presented (generally with less detail) in the CBA report. The paper is strongest in its argument that the crosstalk match is real; this is a point I have never doubted since I first listened to a cassette copy on a cheap tape recorder, but the IBM experts say that the Committee could not confirm the presence of crosstalk just by listening.

There is a detailed analysis of the observed effect of AGC during the crosstalk, but the paper does not deal with the point raised in September 1982 by Gary Mack, who alleged that there was no automatic gain control on the audio in this particular system. The authors simply note that "most radio receivers have an AGC circuit at IF [intermediate frequency] stage."

There is some new material, including a timing analysis based on another instance of crosstalk. The "bell" tone appears on both channels; from the similarities and differences, the IBM experts conclude that it comes from electrical interference and not from a physical bell.

4. (in TCI, 22 Feb 83) "The Dallas Police Tapes ... The Truth Is....," by Steve Barber. [3 pp.] Barber recounts how he got a skip-free copy of Channel II from Garwin and discovered that the BB&N "bell" was there also. (It is on a section which was skipped when the ancestor of the "critics' tape" was made. The NAS tape is available from Barber.) "Somehow," Barber notes, the CBA panelists all missed this bell. Barber told the panelists about this, and later about a similar tone at 12:46 p.m.; the result was the analysis reported in the IBM paper. (That paper, by the way, notes that Barber "who works with musical instruments insists that this is not a bell sound.") When the experts make so much use of Steve's observations, it certainly doesn't make me confident that they did not miss some evidence of re-recording. Finally, Barber says that disproving the BB&N analysis weakens the HSC case for shots from the TSBD; he feels that Oswald did not shoot anybody on November 22.

5. 28 Feb 83 "DPD Channel I Dictabelts: Chain of Possession" [5 pp.] A well footnoted chronology, compiled from published sources and private correspondence by Chris Scally (a buff in England).

6. Sep 82 (Physics Today) "NAS panel says sounds on JFK tapes are not shots" [3 pp.] A summary of the CBA findings (in the "State & Society" section), supplemented by brief reactions from Blakey and the HSC experts. The latter allegedly "are not disputing the Academy critique of their statistical calculations. Barger felt, however, that 'probability estimates are of little importance in view of the non-acoustical evidence that the HSCA found to corroborate our findings.'"

7. 8 Oct 82 (Science) Substantial excerpts from the Ramsey Panel report, presented as an article authored by the Committee on Ballistic Acoustics. [7 pp.] I was disappointed to see the subject dealt with in this form, rather than in the "News and Comment" section, which is generally good at dealing with controversial issues. Last spring, I pointed out the Barber observation to the "News and Comment" staff, noting issues raised by the Panel's secrecy and composition, by the FBI's public position on the HSC report, and so on; my letters were not acknowledged.

This article is basically pages 3 through 34 of the CBA report, with 4 figures. There are quite a few routine stylistic changes and omissions; also, the short section on the FBI analysis is omitted. (In subsequent issues of Science, through December 3, I found no letters or comments on the acoustics.)

8. My 1-page listing of 19 more items (54 pages) from the NAS public access file. (This supplements my earlier listing, #1982.99.) I think I now have just about everything of substance from that file. A couple of interesting items in this batch consist of technical points raised by Alvarez and Chernoff.

Here are a few non-technical documents about the workings of the CBA:

9. 4 Feb 81 [2 pp.] Stokes to Ramsey, asking for the preservation and transcription of the recording of the CBA meetings of 31 Jan and 1 Feb 81, at which the HSC and FBI experts appeared. By all accounts, the HSC experts were vigorously challenged by Alvarez and others.

10. 23 Mar 81 [2 pp.] Ramsey's reply to Stokes, explaining that "in the judgment of our professional staff, the taped recording would be impossible to transcribe at any acceptable level of completeness or accuracy," because of multiple simultaneous conversations and references to blackboard notes. The tape would nevertheless be available to Stokes' staff, and minutes "incorporat[ing] the relevant material on the blackboard" were kept and will be made available.

11. [2 pp.] The minutes of the 1/31-2/1 meeting. These were the only such minutes in the NAS public access file when it was made available. There is nothing of substance on the discussion of Barger's work; these minutes simply say that "members of the Committee raised a number of questions." [Items #9-11 are #84, 83, and 52 in my first listing, #1982.99.]

12. 20 Dec 82 A reply from Ramsey to my inquiry about the lack of available information about the CBA meeting. Ramsey said he was surprised to learn that the blackboard notes were not in the public record; after I wrote, the staff told him that they were omitted because of their lack of clarity. Ramsey sent me the memo with these notes, and it has been added to the public record.

13. The notes in question - just one page; nothing special, really. So, unless Stokes' staff has listened to and transcribed the tape, we are left with no detailed account of this important CBA meeting. Unless the tape is really bad technically, I expect that Alvarez still comes through loud and clear. The crosstalk match, of course, has diminished the significance of questions about the thoroughness and possible biases of the Ramsey Panel.

14. 20 Jan 81 (#109 in #1982.99) Ramsey to Alvarez, noting that revisions were made when Ramsey forwarded Alvarez' comments to Barger, "to diminish the danger that he would feel the Committee was prejudging the issue before his presentation."

Critic Richard E. Sprague has made available the following correspondence (19 pp. total) with the Justice Department:

15. 7 Jan 80 RES to the AG, offering to present evidence (previously given to but ignored by the HSC) that the HSC acoustical analysis was wrong.

16. 6 Feb 80 [2 pp.] Robert Keuch (Special Counsel to the AG) to RES, "welcoming" the opportunity to set up a meeting. (I guess that Keuch jumped at the chance to discredit the HSC. For more on Keuch's attitude, see 2 EOC 10, p. 1. Did any other critic ever get such a positive response from Keuch?)

17. [2 pp.] RES's agenda for his March 11 JD meeting, with a list of those present - two JD lawyers (Cubbage and Fogel) and 4 FBI people.

18. 18 Mar 80 [2 pp.] RES to Jeffrey Fogel, on the identity and location of the motorcycle officers.

19. 1 Apr 80 JD letter to RES, noting that Sprague's data has been referred to the FBI and will go to the "private sector" [i.e., NAS] analysts.

20. 3 Apr 80 RES to Fogel, on McLain in the Hughes film. (He is allegedly too far behind the limousine to fit the HSC analysis.)

21. 17 Jun 80 RES to Fogel, expressing concern about the JD's willingness to receive information, in light of Cutler's difficulty in reaching Fogel.

22. 18 Jul 80 [2 pp.] JD (drafted by Fogel) to Sprague, explaining a general policy of limited personal contact because of the volume of unsolicited mail on the assassination (and asking Sprague to please "consider this letter as an acknowledgement of all such future submissions.") The March meeting was an exception, permitted "because of the potential relevance of your data to our

pending acoustics research."

23. [7 pp.] Sprague's handwritten notes on McLain's location, etc.

Last and definitely least, an item on acoustical cuing, which would have been relevant if the crosstalk match were in doubt:

24. 21 Dec 82 (AP in SFC) "Doll's matricidal talk translates into love" "Some customers were irate when they thought they heard a blond, blue-eyed doll called Baby Darling say 'kill mommy.'" The Spanish-speaking and English-speaking versions were actually saying, respectively, "Quiero [I want] mommy" and "Kim loves mommy." (Cf. "Oak Cliff" heard as "Darryl Click" in 1963. [WR 654])

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"Did Lee Harvey Oswald Drop Acid?"

That is the title of an article in "Rolling Stone" (3 March 1983), by Martin A. Lee, Robert Ranftel, and Jeff Cohen. (It will probably be reprinted in "Coverups" soon, and can be obtained from me as #1983.25. [4 pp.]

When Mae Brussell first heard this title, she responded "That's the most far-out thing I've ever heard." The Washington Post has awarded "Rolling Stone" "the Golden Question Mark for Mastery of the Tabloid Subjunctive: ('Adolf & Benito -- Together Again?')". Before jumping on this bandwagon of critical acclaim, let's look at some excerpts. The facts in this article are, by and large, as real as any facts about Oswald and his mysterious life.

"Since the assassination, the mind of Lee Harvey Oswald has been open turf for historians, psychologists and conspiracy theorists to muck about in, speculating on every conceivable motive and intrigue that might explain what role he may have played in the death of the president. Described as assassin or patsy, lone nut or conspirator, misguided Marxist or CIA operative, Oswald has never been pegged as a dooper."

According to Edward Gillin, then an assistant DA in New Orleans, Oswald made a strange visit to his office in the summer of 1963. "He had a question about a drug - one that Gillin had never heard of before.... [It] would affect the social and economic history of the world for the next 200 years. The young man wanted to try the drug, and that was what had brought him to Gillin. He wanted to know if the drug was legal and if he could bring it into the country from somewhere else. It was important, he insisted, speaking for the better part of an hour on the wonders of this new chemical." Gillin suggested the man talk to his doctor and the New Orleans city chemist.

After the assassination, Gillin identified his visitor as Oswald, and told the FBI that he believed Oswald had been using unusual drugs. The FBI discounted this sighting because of Gillin's poor eyesight, even though he claimed to have recognized Oswald's voice. "I was very curious about any guy who would come into the DA's office asking if a drug is legal and giving me a long spiel about a book by Aldous Huxley," Gillin recalled recently. The FBI recorded the author's name as "Hucksley" and apparently nobody noticed that Oswald had in fact checked some books by Huxley out of the New Orleans public library. (22 WCH 82) "Given Gillin's inability to eyeball Oswald and the FBI's blindness as to who 'Hucksley' was, it is not surprising that the bureau's probe was inconclusive.... 'Hucksley' can, of course, be none other than Aldous Huxley, author of 'The Doors of Perception,' the manifesto of psychedelic consciousness."

In 1963, LSD and similar psychedelics were of interest to relatively few people - including Prof. Tim Leary and some of my classmates at Harvard, and, of course, the CIA. "As it turns out, there is good reason to believe that Oswald was taking psychedelics at a time when the CIA was handing them out." The article looks at the relationships between the CIA and drugs, and between Oswald and the CIA.

Some of the facts about the CIA and drugs are generally familiar to us - for example, the MK/ULTRA mind control programs, and the information about Soviet use of brainwashing provided by the CIA to the Warren Commission. (CD 1131) Marty Lee, who is completing a book entitled "The CIA and the Acid Generation: the Secret History of LSD," has come up with some provocative information.

In the 1950's, the CIA used LSD and other chemical aids in Project Artichoke, which "was aimed primarily at developing unorthodox methods of interrogation." LSD was not a reliable "truth drug," but those early studies "led to totally new methods of interrogation. Often a subject was given a surreptitious dose of acid, and ... told that unless he spilled the beans, he would be kept in a tripped-out state indefinitely. This tactic proved successful; LSD interrogations of enemy spies were in full gear by the mid-1950's and continued through the early 1960's."

Enter Oswald: "Since the early 1950's, Atsugi served as one of two overseas field stations where the CIA conducted extensive LSD testing. A 1953 memo stated that LSD was being stored [there] ... and that its use in special interrogations in Europe was being considered." Oswald, of course, served at Atsugi, and a Marine from the same unit "recounted how two CIA officials gave him a variety of drugs [including LSD] and apparently tried to recruit him for CIA service.... If Oswald was sent to Russia as a pseudo-defector, performing some covert task for the U.S. ... then it's quite possible he was given LSD as part of his training. A lengthy CIA memo entitled 'Truth Drugs in Interrogation' reveals the agency's predilection for administering LSD to agents who were destined for dangerous overseas missions. The CIA feared that the Russians might use LSD in interrogations or as a brainwashing device.... But as the report states, 'an enlightened operative' (that is, someone who had tripped before and was therefore familiar with LSD's [transient] effects) would not freak out.... The question is, was Oswald 'enlightened'?"

There is a drug angle to the CIA-Mafia-Marcello-Oswald connection also. William Harvey, before he got heavily involved in the CIA plots to kill Castro, "was one of a handful of CIA officers kept abreast of behavior-control projects from the beginning, and as CIA chief in West Germany in the 1950's, he employed LSD in special interrogations." David Ferrie, of course, "fancied himself a biochemist. He claimed to have created drugs that caused cancer ... heart attacks indistinguishable from natural death ... and amnesia." Ferrie's alleged passenger and boss, Carlos Marcello, was, "according to his tax returns, one heck of a tomato salesman," claiming "\$1600 per month income from tomato sales," but his many other sources of income allegedly included illicit drugs.

"By 1963, Oswald had had several opportunities to acquaint himself with psychedelics: through the CIA at Atsugi or through his contacts with intelligence and underworld types. Indeed, one could argue that Oswald's life had been a psychedelic mine field, almost impossible to pass through without tripping."

Once during his Marine service, "while Oswald was on guard duty, gunfire was heard. He was found sitting on the ground, more than a little dazed, babbling about seeing things in the bushes. His colleagues, unfamiliar with what in the Sixties would become known as a bad trip, walked him back to his barracks and put him to bed."

"During [Oswald's] years abroad, the drug expertise and enthusiasm of the CIA had advanced to the point where various chemicals, including LSD, were routinely used in questioning defectors, suspected double agents, and the like. The returning Oswald seemed a prime candidate for special interrogation, given the circumstances of his defection and the suddenness of his return. Yet there is no evidence that the CIA or any other agency met with Oswald upon his arrival."

George DeMohrenschildt described Oswald as "ahead of his time, really. A kind of hippie of those days." By 1963, Marina "was beginning to see him as a bit of a space cadet. 'Lee no like Russia,' she once said. 'Lee no like America. [Maybe] Lee like moon.'"

Obviously, any interpretation of Oswald's character and actions based on these scattered facts is very speculative. Then again, one is also taking a narrow view of Oswald if one focuses on Uncle Dutz the bookie, or on the fact that young Lee lived over a pool hall. With less eloquence than the "psychedelic mine field" metaphor, Aaron Kohn said of Oswald's Exchange Alley neighborhood that "you couldn't walk down the block without literally being exposed to two

or three separate forms of illicit activities and underworld operations." That was relevant enough to get quoted in a HSC staff report (9 HSC 93).

I recommend that you read and enjoy this article. You might not learn anything about the assassination, but it does say something about the methodology of historical analysis. When many of us think we know most of the answers, it's good to be reminded that we may not even know all of the questions.

Some related items:

26. A drawing of Oswald in the famous backyard-photo pose, holding his rifle, his pistol, and Huxley's book, "The Doors of Perception." (CE 134-LSD?) For the full-size version, in psychedelic orange and purple, you'll have to find the March 3 issue of "Rolling Stone," but I can send you a b&w copy. [1 p.]

27. 13 Feb 83 (Detroit Free Press, probably from UPI) A very short summary of the RS article, in the "Names and Faces" column (sandwiched between items on the marriage of David Stockman and the crowning of Mrs. Michigan).

28. 1 Mar 83 (WP) Part of a review of March magazines by Curt Suplee, including the "Golden Question Mark" award, as noted above. The article's answer to its title question is summarized as "Hey, c'mon, anything's possible!"

Exclusive! EOC interviews Robert Ranftel:

EOC: First of all, let me start with the question that is on everyone's lips (as the HSC pathologist said to Dr. Humes [7 HSC 243]): are you guys serious?

RR: I'm afraid that we are. Everything in the article is true, and we tried to include every item of evidence that suggested LHO might have taken LSD. Naturally, we left out evidence that he might not have. In a way, I think that what we did is very similar to what Earl Warren did in his much longer piece, "Did LHO kill JFK?" One of the things we wanted to do with this article, which we saw more as a literary effort than an investigative one, was to show that what you find in an investigation depends a lot on what you set out to look for. If you want to show that Oswald, acting alone, killed Kennedy, there's a lot of evidence you can point to that shows just that. When the HSCA found itself with acoustical proof of a conspiracy, they went back to the evidence, and - what do you know - it suddenly turned out that there were earwitnesses whose testimony had been on the books for years and who suddenly became credible.

EOC: Okay, seriously, then: what's the bottom line? If Oswald did drop acid, does that have anything to do with November 22? Was he high in the TSBD when Kennedy was shot?

RR: The bottom line is - here's some new information about Oswald's life. I don't know what that has to do with November 22. I don't necessarily think that the reason he wasn't watching the parade with everyone else was that he was off somewhere getting stoned. But before the bottom line is drawn, you've got to add the possibility that he took drugs to the equation.

EOC: How did you come across this story?

RR: I was reading FBI files for David Lifton, who was working on "Best Evidence," and Marty Lee was reading CIA files on LSD and mind control. We would hang around together at Marty's house and talk to each other about what we found, and one day it occurred to us that with his new information about acid at Atsugi and my reading of Gillin's allegations from the New Orleans field office file, we had a new hypothesis: the Oswald-acid connection. We thought it an interesting story, albeit "National Enquirer" kind of stuff.

EOC: Can Gillin be taken seriously as a witness? I remember seeing his story in some CD many years ago, and I just assumed it was a typical crazy Oswald sighting.

RR: Jeff Cohen found and talked to Gillin. While he might easily have said, yeah, I thought it was Oswald once, but who knows?, instead he said, absolutely, I remember it as if it happened last month. Gillin also took issue with FBI allegations of his blindness. I haven't gone to N.O. and stood in front of Gillin, asking "How many fingers am I holding up?"

We're not convinced that it was Oswald who visited Gillin, but we are convinced that Gillin is convinced. Granted the N.O. DA's office has never

seemed to have too high a standard for employment, but with Gillin's story of the encounter and the various records that show that indeed, Oswald was at that time reading Huxley, and had been at one of the CIA's LSD-connected stations, the idea seems believable.

EOC: It seems really bizarre that anyone would ask a DA about LSD.

RR: Oswald seemed to enjoy doing bizarre things. It's bizarre to shoot at General Walker, or to create incidents with Bringuier in N.O. or at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City. It's bizarre to pose with a rifle and "The Militant" or to leave a threatening note at the FBI. When you consider all the things that Oswald or Oswald impostors are reported to have done, this seems right in character(s).

EOC: One trouble with seeing Oswald as a doper, I would think, is that people who took LSD talked about it - often wouldn't stop talking about it, in fact. Priscilla McMillan's book tells us a lot about Oswald - e.g., that he disliked fat women - but there is no reference to drugs in the index. Isn't it hard to believe that nobody knew of and talked about LHO's interest in drugs, if it really existed?

RR: Yes. However, there are a lot of facets to Oswald's life that he never talked about but that reasonable people suspect existed nonetheless. An organized crime connection, for instance, or a CIA one. He kept himself pretty busy jabbering about Cuba and Marxism, and who among us believes that? Tim Leary's incessant acid-babble at that time was the exception and not the rule. One didn't really hear Henry Luce or Cary Grant or the wife of a prominent Senator talk about acid, but they all took it. One of JFK's mistresses supposedly was "experienced." (Hint: she was married to a CIA official, although that's not how she is reported to have gotten the stuff.)

EOC: What's all this about a possible LSD connection to explain Oswald's visit to Mexico?

RR: That's not the strongest of allegations. Elena Garro de Paz claimed that she attended a "twist party" in Mexico City where Oswald was present. Her husband, Octavio Paz, has written about his involvement in LSD experimentation. Except for the proven LSD connection of her husband and how that added to our thesis, I wouldn't be interested in her story. The HSC did seem to take her pretty seriously, however.

EOC: Could Oswald have been on Mafia LSD, rather than CIA LSD? It's hard to believe that Marcello's people recruited Oswald by taking care of his \$25 bail, but if they were supplying him with controlled substances....

RR: I have to depend on the acid historian, Mr. Lee, for this information; he contends that acid did not fall into the hands of the mob for some years. In 1963 it was still available only from the CIA and some of the centers of higher learning in this country. (Tulane? I don't know.)

EOC: Did anything good get left out of the "Rolling Stone" article?

RR: The best evidence is there, but there is a lot more. For instance, just before Oswald's Mexico trip, Leary was quoted in newspapers as saying he was going to Mexico to form a community based on Huxley's writings. If one can postulate that LHO read Dr. Castro's pronouncements, why not Dr. Leary's as well? Tito Harper's parents contend that George DeMohrenschildt led their son into a life of drugs in Mexico. I wonder what drugs.

EOC: What do you think writing this article will do to your reputation? What will plugging it do to mine?

RR: One of the things the article shows, I hope, is that there is still a great deal that the independent researcher can do. There are still interesting people out there and interesting questions to ask them. You don't need 25 FBI agents and \$2 million to find things out. And there is still an audience for your discoveries. I don't really want to be known as the man who invented the LSD connection (or the Bronson film, for that matter), but I don't mind at all being known as someone who, 20 years after the fact, is still digging away.

I was impressed by how many people noticed the article. At this stage of

the game, I don't think there's such a thing as bad publicity for the case, as long as the information is documented and the investigation responsibly done. Publishers and readers will still pay attention to new information; that means that we should continue. Okay, the LHO-LSD connection seems somehow silly, but the investigation of those facts and the facts themselves are serious. Until we've compiled all the facts, the picture is not complete. Earl Warren didn't have it, the HSCA didn't have it, and chances are we still don't have it.

Anniversary coverage of the JFK assassination:

29. 22 Nov 82 (Cleburne Times-Review) UPI's 19th-anniversary story, by Jack Beary. [2 pp., probably not the full UPI dispatch.] A rather routine account, with brief comments from Blakey, Meagher, Epstein, and Kantor. Blakey said that most of the books and articles on the case "are not worth reading"; Epstein was one of the few authors he allegedly praised. On the acoustics, Blakey said that he continues to accept what the HSC did, "but there's obviously a serious question raised" by the NAS report. (I don't have the AP's anniversary stories yet, except for the short report from Dallas in #32 below.)

30. 22 Nov 82 (New Bedford Standard-Times) "Nov. 22, 1963: Historian draws own conclusions" [3 pp.] Includes a photo and some background information on Prof. Phil Melanson, who believes Oswald worked for the CIA. This article includes his comments on Oswald's expertise in Russian, his defection, and his return. "The conspirators were clever enough to realize that an intelligence agency like the CIA would do much of their work for them by trying to cover up Oswald's links..., Melanson said. The conspirators 'knew the CIA couldn't say, 'This was a low-level intelligence agent, but that has nothing to do with (the assassination), folks,'" said Melanson. "It worked perfectly. To this day, it is like pulling teeth to get documents."

31. 22 Nov 82 (Montreal Gazette) A local radio talk-show host will ask his callers where they were when JFK was killed. "Many North Americans can date the death of innocence and idealism to that bleak day in Dallas," notes the TV-radio columnist.

32. 23 Nov 82 (MG) Two short AP articles: "100 gather in Dallas to remember JFK" and "Guns killed 440,000 in U.S. since [11/22] 1963," according to a gun-control group.

JFK case: additional clippings:

33. 13 Sep 82 (DMN, reprinted in TCI, 10/22) "Tony Zoppi [former DMN entertainment columnist] remembers a different Dallas After Dark" Just two paragraphs on November 22. Zoppi was talking to his friend Jack Ruby when JFK was shot. Ruby said he had skimped all his life and was now going to live a little, moving his club into a fancier neighborhood. Later that day, Zoppi helped carry a coffin for JFK into Parkland. (There are several references to Zoppi in the HSC volumes.)

34. 2 Jan 83 (LAT) "Scratching the itch of curiosity" A brief, favorable review of "Scandals, Scamps and Scoundrels: The Casebook of an Investigative Reporter," by James Phelan. There is nothing of substance here about Phelan's chapter on the "preposterous" Garrison affair, which he wrote about at the time.

35. 16 Jan 83 (Philadelphia Inquirer) A review of the Clarke book, "American Assassins," by Priscilla McMillan. She summarizes and rejects Clarke's typology of assassins, and objects to allegedly numerous errors and "opaque" syntax. "And a final point emerges from Clarke's book in spite of him," McMillan writes. Since assassination involves violence against a political authority figure, "in understanding the mind of the assassin, Freudian theory, with its emphasis on Oedipal drives and the crime of parricide, is not merely a handy tool; it is a tool uniquely adapted to the task." (Speaking of Freudian analysis, why all this interest in handy tools?)

36. (Same paper, same date) Accompanying photos (routine).

37. 12 Feb 83 (Nation) "Not so crazy after all" [2 pp.] Another review of the Clarke book, by C. Sigal. "Clarke's main purpose is to depathologize the



killers.... To Clarke, the typical assassin has not lost his reason; 'rather he is someone who has lost everything but his reason.'" Nothing much on Oswald in this review; Clarke seems to be at his best on Sirhan, Czolgosz, and Booth. "... to Sirhan's lawyer ... it became imperative to portray Sirhan as 'mentally ill' rather than as a lucid if self-appointed agent of Palestinian revenge for very real Israeli crimes against his people...." Clarke's "what can be done?" conclusions are characterized as "very weak when not downright dangerous - [he] even suggests censoring media coverage of assassinations...."

38. 16 Feb 83 (Variety) "JFK miniseries from U.K. outlet [ITV] pitched to U.S." Seven hours on the JFK presidency, "culminating with the assassination," will be filmed starting in April, for showing around November 22. Also:

3 Mar 83 (MG) A brief item noting that "word has it that [this] production will not gloss over JFK's reputation as a ladies' man," and that "the producers are hopeful that Robert Redford will play the lead."

39. 19 Feb 83 (LAT) "Second time around for Condon's 'Winter Kills'" This film, with "enriched parallels" to the JFK assassination, had a short initial run in 1979 and has evidently been re-released.

40. 18 Mar 83 (SFC) "Second chance for a misunderstood conspiracy movie" A favorable review by Judy Stone, including a plot summary. "This outrageous black comedy died an unnatural death after a week or so when it first appeared in 1979. Some people must have taken it too seriously." The film "has taken 'conspiracy theories' to their wildest, craziest, most laughable extremes."

41. 18 Mar 83 (SFC) Ad for "Winter Kills" ("Some people say he stole the presidency .. for his son. He claims he bought it, fair and square.")

42. 20 Mar 83 (SFC) "One man's obsession" [2 pp.] Interview of "Winter Kills" director William Richert, by Judy Stone. The film isn't really about the assassination - that is "only what kicks the movie off." It is about the confrontation between the Joe Kennedy character and his youngest son, who gets involved in his own investigation of the assassination.

43. 16 Mar 83 (NYT in SFC) A photo of Castro and Maurice Bishop at a rally. This Bishop is the Prime Minister of Grenada (young, black, and bearded); he doesn't look at all like the sketch based on Veciana's description.

44. May 1983 (Soldier of Fortune) A small photo of Maurice Curry, a CIA operative who ran a guerrilla training base during the Korean war. Larry Haapanen points out that this Maurice does bear some resemblance to the Maurice Bishop sketch. (This page is from an excerpt of Joseph Goulden's recent book on the "untold story" of the Korean war.)

#### Forthcoming Reader's Digest book:

Some of you have already heard that a 20th-anniversary book is being written by Henry Hurt, a Reader's Digest roving editor. Five years ago, the Digest's contribution to the controversy was "Legend." Epstein's preface credits Hurt with finding and interviewing dozens of witnesses, specifically Oswald's fellow Marines and Jaggars-Chiles-Stovall employees. I would recommend against drawing any inferences from Hurt's association with Epstein. I expect that the new book will be much better than "Legend," and basically sympathetic to the critics and our work. As far as I know, the book is not likely to contain any major thesis as unexpected and controversial to us as Epstein's was. It probably will contain some interesting new information and analysis.

In 1981, Hurt wrote "Shadrin: The Spy Who Never Came Back," about a case which is so complex that I won't even try to summarize it. The book is sympathetic to Nicholas Shadrin and his family, and quite critical of the way the government handled his case. A chapter dealing with Nosenko caused quite a flap by revealing that the FBI had concluded that Fedora (the FBI's man in the Soviet U.N. mission) was a triple, not a double, agent. (See #1981.611.)

Hurt has sent me some additional material, including 107 pages of legal documents in the Digest's FOIA suit for Shadrin documents. (For an itemized list, ask for #1983.45. Of special interest to FOIA buffs; there are only 2 pages of

released documents in this material. The judge was quite unhappy with the way the agencies responded to the Digest suit.)

46. 27 Oct 81 (NYT) Letter from Hurt, in response to Blakey's letter (#1981.609), which was headlined "Unpersuasive case against Fedora." Hurt says that his account of the FBI's conclusion about Fedora has been confirmed. He also notes that Blakey's claim that the bona fides of Nosenko and other defectors were not "inextricably intertwined" appears in his book, but not in the HSC report itself.

47. June 1979 (Reader's Digest) "CIA in Crisis: the Kampiles Case," by Hurt. [4 pp.] A good summary, which raises (and deals with only briefly) some very provocative questions. Helms said that the case raised the question of high-level infiltration. "Other former CIA officials have wondered if Kampiles was a dupe who unwittingly took the rap for an earlier, more sinister compromise of the KH-11 [satellite surveillance] system."

#### Credits:

Thanks to V. Aldrich (#7), S. Barber (#6), R. Garwin (#2, 3), J. Goldberg (#35, 36), L. Haapanen (#44), H. Hoch (#8), G. Hollingsworth (#34, 37, 38A, 39), M. Lee (#28), P. Melanson (#30), J. Mierzejewski (#27), S. Nickel (#37), N. Ramsey (#12, 13), R. Ranftel (#25, 26), C. Scally (#5), G. Shaw (#29), R. Sprague (#15-23), H. Hurt (#45-47), and Anonymous.

#### Subscription information:

There were 6 issues of EOC last year; let me know if you missed any. The minimum rate for a paid subscription is 5¢ per page, plus postage. For 1982 (volume 4), that comes to \$3.05 in the U.S. and Canada. (Including 20¢ per issue postage, the breakdown is: #1 (5 pp.), 45¢; #2 and #6 (10 pp. each), 70¢ each; #3 (8 pp.), 60¢; #4 and #5 (2 pp. each), 30¢ each.) For postage to Europe, add 40¢ per issue; to Australia (yes - there is a reader there!) add 50¢ per issue. (Foreign subscribers may defer payment until \$10 or so is owed, and until exchange rates are favorable.) Note that there was no charge for the attachments (from "Coverups" and ACCESS) to 4 EOC 4 and 4 EOC 5.

This minimum rate basically just covers my incremental costs. My thanks to those of you who have been sending more money. For, say, \$10 per year or twice the minimum rate, you can consider yourself a "sustaining subscriber," or the donor of one of my complimentary subscriptions.

I don't really have a system for keeping track of when subscriptions expire. I won't cut anyone off without notice.

If I have never asked you for money, you are getting a complimentary subscription. Please let me know if you do not want to continue (or if you only want to see pages relating to the acoustics).

#### More to follow:

If your special interests include neither acoustics nor acid, hang in there. I have a large accumulation of information, clippings, and documents to deal with, and I hope to get the next EOC out fairly soon. ACCESS has been working away, in the hope of getting a resolution about the HSC files introduced around April 4, the 15th anniversary of the King assassination. Mark Allen's various FOIA actions have made some good progress. Interesting information about Comer Clarke and his alleged interview of Castro has arrived from England. One of our journalist friends and I have developed a serious interest in the Marilyn Monroe case - not so much her death as the significance of her alleged relationships with the Kennedys. (If you accept the Blakey-Billings arguments about the possible importance of JFK's affair with Judith Campbell Exner, then the Monroe connection might also be relevant.) And, of course, there is the plot against the Pope, and much more.

Please continue to send (or tell me about) just about anything you see on the JFK case, and material of special interest in other areas. I rely almost totally on you for the items listed in this newsletter.