

The JFK case (and people of possible relevance):

98. April 1983 (Technology Illustrated) "The master of spy-tech" [3 pp.] Part of an article on Allan Bell, which notes that he met with Gordon Novel (a mystery figure from the Garrison era), Mitch WerBell, and G. Gordon Liddy.

99. 23 May 83 (LAT) Part of a profile of Mort Sahl, alleged comedian and social critic. He's still a loyal Garrisonian: "We got three convictions, and uncovered the CIA. Hannah Arendt once said, 'Mort's first mistake was bringing it up; his second was in being right.' I stood up to be counted when it came to the overthrow of the government." Well, everyone makes a few mistakes, certainly including Hannah Arendt. (I recently dug up some of Sahl's contemporaneous comments on the Garrison case - truly awful.)

100. 2 Jun (AP) "Prison for reputed Mafioso" Carlos Marcello is off to Springfield, after his latest Brilab appeal was turned down.

101. 4 Jun (Spotlight) "E. Howard Hunt still beyond the pale" Hunt didn't get a pardon from Reagan along with fellow Watergater Rolando Martinez, despite a lobbying effort led by William Buckley. "'I don't know whether Howard ever actually killed anyone with his own hand ... but he was certainly one of the first careerists in the history of the U.S. civil service who saw assassination as simply another bureaucratic instrument,' recalled a veteran agent who knew Hunt in Mexico during the 1950s." Hunt successfully sued this paper over a "speculative article" linking him to the JFK assassination, "although he dropped other efforts to collect damages from writers [Canfield and Weberman, presumably] who have published far more harshly defamatory and incriminating passages about him."

102. 8 Jun (WP in SFC) "The lawyer who helps Congressmen in trouble" A profile of Stanley Brand, counsel to the House of Representatives, whose legal advice played a role in the attempt to give Congressional immunity to HSC-related FBI and CIA documents. (See 3 EOC 4, p. 1.) Brand, a 34-year-old former SEC lawyer, is paid \$67,500 a year.

103. 19 Jun (Jimmy Breslin, SFC) Thoughts on racial integration and the ideals of the 1960s, occasioned by the college graduation of John F. Kennedy Jr. and the 15th anniversary of the assassination of Robert Kennedy. [2 pp.]

104. 20 Jun (UPI) "Castro's spies busy in U.S." They have infiltrated all the exile organizations, says former State Department specialist Wayne Smith. According to the Miami Herald, the Cubans even tipped off the U.S. government about planned attacks on Castro and other Cuban officials. One such attack was planned for Castro's visit to the U.N. in October 1979, by Antonio Veciana and Andres Nazario Sargen, the head of Alpha 66. Shortly before the visit, Veciana was shot in Miami. (See Summers, p. 508.) "'I believe Cuba was trying to kill me because they knew we were proceeding in a plot to kill Castro,' Veciana said." The FBI and Secret Service moved against Sargen and others the day before Castro was to arrive. (I wonder if Veciana and his friends are still trying to get rid of Fidel.)

\* 105. 1 Mar (PP/USA) "Brief notes on the political importance of secret societies," by Jonathan Marshall [9 pp.] Fascinating stuff, although much of it is beyond the scope of EOC. The section on the U.S. touches on Anastasia, Goliniewski, the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem (Knights of Malta), and Herman Kimsey, among many others. "In short, the [Hugh] McDonald/Kimsey/[Frank] Capell network appears to have been a disinformation clique centered around the SOJ, and aiming to smear the Soviets (and LBJ) with responsibility" for the JFK assassination. Add the Nosenko case to the mix, and "the Epstein/McDonald/Kimsey scenario for the JFK assassination is intimately supported by their position on the Goliniewski/mole question." Epstein has argued that moles in the CIA have neutralized U.S. ability to monitor arms control agreements; "thus the 20-year dispute over Goliniewski's bona fides continues to impinge on the highest level of national policy."

As noted in 5 EOC 2, p. 8, Parapolitics/USA is back in business. The second 1983 issue is now out. (To subscribe, send \$25 to 311 E. Reed St., #7, San Jose, CA 95112.) Each issue contains lots of "news and information for the serious researcher on intelligence, crime, and political extremism," both in the U.S. and abroad. I definitely recommend PP/USA for all such researchers.

106. 21 Jun (Globe [tabloid]) "Kennedy died for his father, says Mafia leader" Well, not quite: in his book, Joe Bonanno allegedly says that Frank Costello "always maintained ... that during Prohibition he and Joe Kennedy were partners in the liquor business," and that JFK met Bonanno and alleged Mafioso Gus Battaglia before the 1960 convention, allegedly to raise money for the JFK campaign. Blakey allegedly said that he was "not surprised at Bonanno's references to either of the Kennedys.... He's hinting at the real reasons behind Kennedy's death. Power and wealth were at stake. These are possessions for which the Mob has murdered repeatedly in the past."

\* 107. 22 Jun (TCI) "Where have all the bullets gone?" [15 pp.] A detailed account, by Edgar Tatro, of his attempts to check out an internal FBI memo of December 2, 1963, which noted that Western made 4 million rounds of Mannlicher-Carcano ammunition for the USMC in 1954. R. H. Jevons (an agent in the FBI lab, I think) noted that this ammunition does not fit any USMC weapon, which "gives rise to the obvious speculation" that the CIA had ordered the bullets, using the Marines as a cover. Tatro presents in considerable detail his difficulties in using the FOIA, but he was persistent and, in my opinion, surprisingly successful in getting people to respond. There is no bottom line yet; this remains mysterious. Tatro could not even get the actual Western records said to be the basis for Jevons' claims. Since this FBI document got quite a bit of attention in the press when it was released in 1977 (as part of the first batch given to me shortly before the general release), the HSCA may have checked it out; does anyone know what they came up with, or must we wait 50 years to find out?

108. 2 Dec 63 The FBI memo (Jevons to Conrad, follows 105-82555-89).

\* 109. 30 Nov 77 [3 pp.] My memo on this FBI speculation on the origin of Oswald's ammunition, and related matters.

110. 24 Jun (AP) "Ex-Cuba head Dorticos a suicide" Osvaldo Dorticos, who was President of Cuba from 1959 to 1975, was presumably the subject of CD 1551, a CIA memo to Rankin "w/ attached report of conversation between Cuban President and Cuban Ambassador." This memo must be very sensitive - it was classified Top Secret, and is one of very few CD's still withheld in full. As I recall, the CIA was upset when the Archives released the WC's CD list, with that detailed description. I think someone once told me that the sensitivity was due to the nature of the interception, not the contents, and that there may have been some confusion because of Dorticos' first name.

111. 23 Jul (AP) "Army restores pension to controversial General," Edwin Walker. (Remember him? JFK fired him and LHO allegedly shot at both of them.)

112. 31 Jul (UPI in LAT) "Dallas jail, site of Oswald slaying, closes" Ruby was put in Oswald's cell in the F block of the 1914 building.

113. August 1983 (Atlantic) The first page of "The Pardon" (of Nixon by Ford). Despite his well-known dislike of JFK-assassination (and flying-saucer) stories, author Seymour Hersh mentions the FBI documents which say that Ford served as an informant "on the inner workings of the Warren Commission." Hersh does not mention his denial, such as it was, in his public HSCA testimony. My impression at the time was that Ford said, in essence, if these are all the documents you have, I don't recall any additional contacts with the FBI, but if you have more, maybe that would refresh my memory. (Hey, Ford is no dummy.) I don't know if the HSCA did a thorough review of even the released FBI files on this point, or what, if anything, the staff found.

114. August 1983 (Esquire) "Party in a madhouse" [7 pp.] On poet Ezra Pound's stay at St. Elizabeth's asylum, by E. F. Torrey, a psychiatrist there.

Pound "turned a charge of treason into a 12-year salon." Torrey argues that Pound may have been quite awful personally and politically, but he was not insane; his friends and some psychiatrists arranged for the insanity diagnosis which precluded a trial. A key role in depoliticizing Pound was played by Dr. Wilfred Overholser Sr., who died in 1964. On January 21, 1964, the Warren Commission discussed using him as a consultant. Warren said that "we felt that we ought to have someone ... in that field who could advise us on matters concerning the life of Oswald and possibly the life of Ruby also." (Executive Session, p. 5.) I don't know if Overholser or another psychiatrist actually did any consulting for the WC, or whether they figured out all by themselves how to view Oswald as a relatively non-political lone nut.

[Yes, I realize that the above items are not listed in chronological order. My mistake. About once a month I wish I had a word processor!]

\* 115. 29 Jun (NEA, in Cleburne [Texas] Times-Review) "20 years later: Death of JFK veiled by U.S. secrecy" [2 pp.] An overview of the withholding of some WC and FBI files, based mainly on Harold Weisberg's work plus comments by Marion Johnson of the Archives. For my taste, there is too much of Kurtz' complaints about the withholding of the JFK X-rays.

Reporter Tom Tiede did get some interesting comments. "One officer in Ronald Reagan's White House says a new investigation would be 'just asinine.' As for the classified records, [he] says the secrecy is probably for the best. 'If the autopsy shots were released,' he explains, 'they would be printed in detail in every lurid publication in the country. That wouldn't be freedom of information, that would be tasteless exploitation.'" Also, "'folks like Harold Weisberg are single minded,' says a Secret Service agent; 'they can't be budged by the facts.'"

\*? 116. 7 Jul (AP in SFC) A brief obituary for John Edward Campion, who died in Southern Pines, NC at age 74. He was allegedly "the Secret Service agent in charge of Presidential security for 26 years" prior to his retirement in 1966. This name was not familiar to me. Does anyone know anything about his position or actions on November 22?

\* 117. 9 Jul (SFC) "Mexican's quest for [political] asylum in U.S." "The FBI began keeping a file on Marroquin [in 1968] when he was a 15-year-old high school student in Mexico. During the agency's Cointelpro operations of the 1960s, FBI agents working out of the American Embassy in Mexico City joined Mexican federal police in keeping Mexican leftists and their organizations under surveillance." Did we know that the FBI was running Cointelpros in Mexico? Have any files been released? Was anything happening at the time of Oswald's 1963 visit? Washington station, please check this out!

\* 118. 22 Jul (TCI) "Who's afraid of the grassy knoll south? - Update," by Edgar Tatro. [3 pp.] More on the Aldredge sidewalk scar and the man in a Cancellare photo - allegedly a possible gunman??

119. 22 Jul (TCI) "The Zapruder film ... the sprocket area ... and Clint Hill," by Steve Barber. The images between the sprocket holes are said to show Clint Hill turning to look at the umbrella man before Z241; Barber says that Hill was the only SS agent to react promptly.

[Items 111-114 should have been listed at this point.]

\* 120. 1 Aug (MN) "Exile tormented before fatal spree" On July 31, Jose Aleman went berserk; after a shootout with Miami police, he was dead. (He killed one relative and wounded three others.)

\* 121. 2 Aug (MH) "Fear of Mafia and future led Aleman to fatal finale; autopsy: Aleman, not police, fired fatal shot [to his head]" Aleman was "penniless, depressed and convinced the Mafia was out to kill him.... He believed his 1978 [HSCA] testimony against underworld figure Santo Trafficante had marked him for life. 'He trusted very few people..., ' said recently pardoned Watergate burglar [and former CIA employee] Eugenio Martinez, a close friend.

Aleman did indeed testify, as noted here, that during discussions of a

Teamsters loan "Trafficante had told him that JFK would not be reelected, that he was going to get hit." However, he insisted that Trafficante's comment could have been interpreted as hitting JFK with votes. Evidently the HSCA had not expected Aleman to back away from his previous account, which was published by George Crile in 1976. Blakey remarked the next day that "we have seen manifested in a witness that fear that is all too often characteristic of people called to testify in matters touching on organized crime." (5 HSC 345) Contrary to the impression given in this article, Aleman's fear of Trafficante certainly predated his public HSCA testimony. (See 5 HSC 322.)

\* 122. 10 Aug 83 A letter from the Office of Public Affairs of the Justice Department, in response to my inquiry of May 11 (included) on the official status of the JFK case, now that the Ramsey Panel has spoken. "[We] expect to be advising the House Judiciary Committee on the status of this matter soon." The wheels of Justice do grind slowly, don't they; I'm a bit surprised that the Ramsey Report didn't produce an immediate verdict of "case closed."

The JFK case (TV and films):

123. 15 Apr (MG) Another review, mostly negative, of "Winter Kills," described as "a mystery-thriller with a difference: It doesn't take itself very seriously." My source says that the chief conspirator against the JFK figure was his father!

124. May 1983 (Harper's) "Who killed Winter Kills?", by the author, Richard Condon. [8 pp.] After the assassination, "overnight, a belief in conspiracy came to be equated with raging paranoia.... 'We are not a banana republic!' thundered a member of the Warren Commission. Taken all together, this is the stuff of which satirical novels are made." Condon offers no definitive answer to the question in the title, but I gather that the peculiar nature of the film itself (and of the producers) means that no conspiratorial explanation is required.

125. 11 May (WP) "The 'Blood Feud' of Camelot" [3 pp.] A generally favorable analysis ("refreshing, in a sordid way") by TV critic Tom Shales. (He notes that the Ethel Kennedy role is in the credits, but not in the final film.) The show "could conceivably jolt viewers into troubled new curiosity about how deeply organized crime has infected the American bloodstream.... One of the hardest things to know in life is, how much paranoia is too much, and how much is just enough?"

126. 21 May (TV Guide) A brief item on the NBC miniseries scheduled for November, naming key cast members. Reg Gadney reportedly has been working on his book (the basis for this program) "for 20 years."

127. 28 May (Deeb, in MG) A short note on the NBC and CBS projects. NBC officials "say Kennedy will be no sellout to the JFK-Camelot mystique, but don't make any bets quite yet." On CBS, "RFK and His Times" is being prepared "by several writers, most of them Kennedy sycophants."

128. 18 Jun (TVG) More on the NBC program, and its treatment of JFK's womanizing and Jackie's alleged extravagance.

129. Undated; in TCI, 6/22 (DMN) "Flood of TV specials to mark JFK shooting" [2 pp.] Nothing we don't know about on the assassination; several programs on JFK's life; some comments from Dallas TV people.

130. 24 Jun (LAT) "The British are coming with 'Kennedy' for TV" [2 pp.] "'It's important for us to get this right, because we are Brits, and everybody will be watching for us to make a mistake,' said one crew member...." Actor John Shea: "There is some tough stuff here that may be difficult for Americans to accept." Gadney, described as a 42-year-old British historian and dramatist, says he has done extensive research and interviewed many JFK associates.

131. 24 Jun (Pub. Wkly.) Interview of Richard Condon. [2 pp.] "Condon hints darkly that his theme, that a Presidential assassination is in the interests of many of the world's most powerful people, may be behind the movie's strangely checkered career to date."

132. 11 Jul (WP) "Re-creating Dallas' darkest moments: Kennedy assassination filmed in Richmond" The assassination sequence "is being shown from Jackie's point of view. Thus, no TSBD, no Oswald, no shots of mysterious characters on a grassy knoll." The film will show what Jackie thought happened, not what actually did happen.

133. Accompanying photos from the re-enactment. (One shows the leg of "JFK" flung over the side of the car; I am told that the leg seen in a photo of the car rushing to the hospital is really Clint Hill's.)

134. 30 Jul (TVG) "A Kennedy endorsement?" Probably not, but who knows; Joseph Gargan lunched with the NBC stars in Hyannis.

135. 2 Aug (USA Today) "Media blitz to mark 20th anniversary," says the printed equivalent of Eyewitness News, in a front-page story with very little news in it. "Metromedia's syndicated Assassins Among Us investigates the Kennedy assassinations and others." (One assassin per assassination? We'll see.) "William Manchester - whose most recent Kennedy book, One Brief Shining Moment: Kennedy and Myth, due late this year - is 'troubled by the morbid dwelling on Nov. 22.... This is a tribute to Lee Harvey Oswald.'"

136. Accompanying drawing of the Kennedys, which appeared in color above the fold on page one, captioned "USA gets ready to remember JFK."

I expect extensive anniversary programming on Pacifica radio, and I hope there will be something on the Larry Kelly Show (Channel J on cable) in New York.

I suggest that people try to tape as much anniversary coverage as possible. Significant new information might come from principals interviewed for local programs. I don't want to accumulate a collection of repetitive tapes, but if anyone says anything unexpected, let's spread the word. Especially in Boston, Dallas, Washington, and New York, EOC readers should not just assume that the coverage is being monitored by someone else.

News of books (recent or forthcoming):

137. 9 Apr 83 (MG) A mixed review of Herbert Parmet's book on the JFK Presidency, by former FCC Chairman Newton Minow. Minow objects to the use of confidential sources, particularly on JFK's health problems and sexual activity. (Parmet noted [p. 120] that "dealing with the Kennedy medical history is in some ways like trying to uncover aspects of vital national-security operations.") [2 pp.]

138. 5 Jun (SFC) Review of "Flashbacks," Tim Leary's autobiography. [2 pp.] "Tantalizing episodes - especially Leary's account of his relationship with Mary Pinchot Meyer, the well-known socialite who purportedly experimented with drugs, had a White House love affair [with JFK] and was murdered mysteriously ... are based entirely on Leary's memory & are presented here in the form of stilted and unpersuasive dialogue." The book is unindexed - I guess Leary isn't into being linear - so I can't be more specific yet, but I'm told there is some good stuff.

139. 8 Jun (SFC) "Chilling thoughts from glut city" At a booksellers convention in Dallas, "3 new books on Kennedy are being pitched and huzzahed, incredibly enough." Columnist Patricia Holt is "chilled" to see that Dallas "entertains its tourists" by driving them past the TSBD.

140. 1 Jul (Pub. Wkly.) Ad for "Kennedy," by Reg Gadney. It looks like the initial price will be \$16.95; I don't know who the publisher is.

141. 24 Jul (LAHE) "A clear-eyed look at Camelot" Another favorable review of the Parmet book, "JFK" (Dial Press, \$19.95).

"Blood Feud" is out in paperback (Ballantine, \$2.95); unfortunately, it is just a reprint of the (bad) 1979 edition, not the TV version.

"Mole," on the Popov case, is also a Ballantine paperback. I'm told it is good (and any mole stories might be relevant to the JFK case, because of Nosenko), but I am reluctant to buy it because it has no index.

Some unconfirmed book news from buff L. Picker: "Just out: 'The Factory,' by Jack Lynn (Harper & Row, \$15.95), a trashy novel on the RFK [sic] assassination accusing Joseph Napoli (read: Marcello); no proof or new evidence. In November,

Norton will publish 'Oswald's Game,' by Jean Davison (introduction by Mailer); the blurb indicates that the thesis is that LHO had a political motive to kill JFK. The same month, Simon & Schuster will publish 'Coroner,' by Noguchi."

I have recently obtained assassination-related excerpts from books by Parmet, Phelan, MacNeil, and a few others. (Comments in a future issue.)

The JFK case (silly items):

Here are some dispatches from the New Frontier of critical analysis and public awareness after 20 years.

142. 30 May 83 (in TCI 7/22) Excerpts [8 pp.] from Mae Brussell Tape #599. "Boy, do I have a story for you tonight.... The author - who is David Scheim, this looks exactly like Robert Sam Anson's book ..., that was a computer assisted book.... [Scheim went] into military service for 2 yrs. while he was working on Contract of [sic] America. This Phillip Agee says those are the 2 yrs. you go into the CIA and they give you the sheepskin and you're in the military.... Then ends up at the [NIH] in Bethesda, Md., a real CIA front that was funding mind-control and brain experiments.... Then to top it off in this book, he says 7 Harvard students assisted Scheim's 10-yr. investigation.... 7 Harvard students - let's give them names - is there Kraemer's son? Kissinger's daughter?... Michael Paine, a 3rd-generation Harvard physicist, worked for Bell Helicopter.... So do the Paines have another son at Harvard? Or Priscilla Johnson.... [Marina] was an absolute zombie under control of Priscilla Johnson of Harvard.... Harvard was full of people that killed JFK."

Well, Mae, I usually don't want to argue about your work, but when you accuse my alma mater (and that of Bud Fensterwald and Bob Cutler), can I remain silent? Oh, what the hey, I guess so.

143. 10 May (National Examiner) "Spirit of JFK saves woman from suicide" She was born on 11/22/63, and she says that "the ghost of JFK appeared as she was ready to throw herself onto the eternal flame that burns at his graveside." But, on the other hand:

144. 26 Jul (same paper, same reporter) "Researcher's incredible report: JFK is alive - 'Brain-damaged President guarded in mountain hideaway'" [3 pp.] A leading Swedish parapsychologist figured this out. He was repeatedly unable to contact JFK in seances, which puzzled him; when he finally did get "psychic vibrations linked to Kennedy," it all fell into place. After the shooting, JFK was worked on by "a heroic team of leading neurosurgeons working under top secret conditions at Walter Reed Hospital," and "the A-Team" spirited him to Switzerland.

No, I'm not making this up; if I were, it would be funnier. However, Robert Ranftel suggests that the Examiner may be inventing these stories in an attempt to become the 1980s version of Paul Krassner's Realist. That would explain the attribution of the mandatory supportive quote ("This sheds new light ... and at last provides a rational explanation for some of the many factual discrepancies in the Warren Report") to the "reknown" [renowned] assassination researcher, Chadra Singh, "a professor of political science at the prestigious Institute of GeoPolitical Studies, University of Calcutta, India."

145. 9 Jun (MG) "Method in punk madness" A review of a Montreal concert by the Dead Kennedys, an alleged musical group. Last November 22, I wore a button to work - a photo of JFK with the letters "DK." The older people didn't know what "DK" stood for, and the youngsters didn't know why I was wearing the button on that particular day.

146. 16 Jan (NYTBR) A small ad under "Educational-Scientific," offering "New illustrated JFK Assassination Solution. \$4.40. Revelations! The Key of David. \$5.00." (I assume the latter item isn't about any David I know.)

\* Cuba (Play it again, Ron):

What do we say when people ask why they should be interested in the Kennedy assassination after all these years? One reason is the current relevance of the Cuban connections, real and imagined, which have shadowed the controversy from the first day. The forces behind the overt crises and covert actions of the 1960s are

still in evidence as the fleet sails south.

The good news is that Reagan has not yet accused Castro of killing JFK. Now that we are embarking on a campaign against the Soviet empire of evil with Fidel as Darth Vader, a new wave of "Castro on the grassy knoll" stories would not surprise me. Here are some recent items which caught my paranoid eye:

147. 4 Jul 83 (La Tribuna, Tegucigalpa [Honduras]) "Kennedy - Oswald - Ruby - Castro - La Maffia," by Richard Pedraza [2 pp., in Spanish] The main point of this article (first of a series) is that the Mafiosi used by the CIA to try to kill Castro were in fact working for Castro at the same time. Central to this thesis is the allegation that Santo Trafficante and his lawyer, Rafael Garcia Bango, remained on good terms with the Castro government. Much of this article is in fact lifted, almost verbatim and without attribution, from George Crile's 1976 article! (Can someone tell us how authoritative or influential "La Tribuna" is? Is it considered pro- or anti-government?)

148. 16 May 76 (WP) "The Mafia, the CIA, and Castro," by George Crile [3 pp.; #148A is 2 pp. of graphics] An important and fascinating, but controversial, article. The HSCA reprinted it in connection with the questioning of Jose Aleman, but I do not recall any detailed analysis. Aleman strongly endorsed Crile's allegations of a Castro-Trafficante collaboration.

149. 20 Apr 83 (Joseph Kraft, in SFC) On covert operations in Central America, allegedly pushed by Haig. "Communist penetration ... was very much on his mind when he came to the State Department in January 1981.... He regarded [the Sandinista government and the Salvadorean rebels] as mere tentacles. He sought to go after the body of the octopus - Castro's Cuba. Proposals for forcing confrontation with Castro were repeatedly advanced by Haig." Recall that Haig was involved in anti-Castro efforts in 1963. (See 3 EOC 8, pp. 2-3.)

150. 8 Mar (MG) "'Barbarian' Reagan has told the CIA to murder me, Castro tells summit" Also: 25 Mar (MG) "Soviets give new 'missiles in Cuba' hint," and the Secretary of Defense predicts a "prompt and effective response." These clippings really are from 1983, not 1962.

151. 15 Mar (Toronto Star) "Barry Goldwater wants Cuba for 51st state" Kennedy made "a big mistake in calling off the Bay of Pigs invasion. 'I think someday, we may have to do that [i.e., take over Cuba]. I have always thought Cuba would make a nice state. It's only 90 miles away and it makes a lot more sense than some other places we've taken in as states. It would give Florida a little competition.'"

From Thomas Powers' book on Helms (pp. viii-ix): "American intervention in foreign countries always matters more to the nation in question than it does to the United States. Yet the decision to proceed is often reached in a manner which is shockingly casual.... It is tough enough for Americans to run their own country wisely; the idea that they can do better for someone else's is sheer presumption."

152. 11 Jul (UP in SFC) The Nicaraguan Interior Minister "charged yesterday that President Reagan plans to send U.S. Hispanics disguised in Honduran army uniforms to assassinate leaders of the leftist government." He was not quoted as saying that U.S. leaders should think that if they are aiding terrorist plans to eliminate Nicaraguan leaders, they themselves will not be safe. (Cf. CE 1348.)

153. 27 Jul (WP in SFC) "New U.S. talk on aid to [Nicaraguan] rebels" The administration has prepared a report for Congress justifying covert U.S. support of the rebels. "Administration officials repeated yesterday that their goals do not include overthrowing the Sandinista government. One top official said that no one 'in his right mind' believes that 10,000 anti-Sandinista guerrillas could defeat the well-equipped Nicaraguan army of 25,000." (Unless, of course, executive action is on the agenda.)

By the way, what the whole House of Representatives gets to talk about is not "covert" action, convenient as that term may be. Covert action is something you don't read about on the front page of your newspaper while it is going on.

The ideal covert operation is secret "from inception to eternity." (Lyman Kirkpatrick, quoted in "Best Evidence.") It is safe to assume that some real covert operations are under way.

154. (LAT in same paper, same date) "Reagan pledges no 'Vietnam'" "It would take 'something in the nature of a terrorist attack' on the U.S. troops [in Honduras] to cause an outbreak of hostilities, he said." (Or perhaps another Fair Play for Cuba fanatic, maybe caught before he actually takes a shot at the President.)

For more on Cuba, see 3 EOC 5 (p. 8), 3 EOC 3 (p. 8), and items 104 and 120-121 supra.

Items about or by buffs (and other assassination investigators):

155. 11 Jul 82 (Mansfield, Ohio News Journal, reprinted in TCI, 8/22/82) "JFK buff's acclaim mixed blessing" [2 pp.] A nicely done profile of Steve Barber. Despite his discovery of the crosstalk rebuttal to the HSCA acoustical analysis, he still believes that Oswald was a patsy and that there were two gunmen. The article (which, says Barber, contains a number of errors) discusses Barber's contacts with the Ramsey Committee and with various buffs.

156. 22 Sep 82 (TCI) "Epstein's 'Legend' - an explanation," by Robin Ramsay [5 pp.] "Angleton's fall is the heart of 'Legend.' The rest - Oswald, Nosenko, Angleton's paranoia about Soviet 'moles' - are mere props.... The real secret [is] the secret Epstein is trying to conceal - the CI-IIS [Counterintelligence - Israeli Intelligence Service] relationship. It is impossible to prove this, but when 'Legend' is examined in the context of U.S.-Israeli relations and related changes in the Israeli lobby after the Yom Kippur War, only this interpretation makes sense." Interesting, and well footnoted.

157. 23 Nov (UPI) FBI agent Edward Tickel, who bugged Marcello, is fired after being indicted in a stolen diamonds case. Later stories: #1983.58 & 68.

158. 21 Dec (AP) and 3 Jan 83 (Newsweek) Brief obituaries for Dwight MacDonald, who wrote about the JFK case in 1964 and 1965.

159. 30 Nov 82 (AP in SFC) "Laid-off [Task Force 157] spies [represented by B. Fensterwald III] win U.S. pensions" (See #1982.219.)

160. 22 Dec 82 (UPI) "IRA denies DeLorean tie" (That's a compliment, says his attorney, Joseph Ball, formerly of the Warren Commission staff.)

161. 23 & 26 Dec (NYT) "Baden says he was misquoted in article that led to dismissal order; writer is firm..." Dr. Michael Baden, head of the HSCA's forensic pathology panel and now chief deputy medical examiner of Suffolk County, was almost fired on the basis of a Oui article in which he is quoted as discussing how an undetected murder might be committed in a hospital.

162. 28 Dec and 2 Jan (NYT) "Move to oust Baden dropped...; misquoting is cited" and "Medical examiner off critical list"

163. 2 Jan (NYT) "Baden case: glimpse at county workings" (analysis)

164. 5 Jan (Pennysaver News) "Morgue Doc off table" It turns out Baden really was quoted out of context.

165. 15 Jan (MG) A brief note on the PBS "Frontline" program, "An unauthorized history of the NFL."

166. 17 Jan (MG) "[Montreal] Man denies TV story NFL owner [Rosenbloom] was killed"

167. 17 Jan [13 pp.] Transcript of the PBS program. One of the investigators and associate producers was Scott Malone, organized-crime buff extraordinaire and critic of the HSCA. The program's allegations about Mafia involvement in gambling and other aspects of pro football stirred up quite a controversy. There's probably something there, but I found the show unpersuasive in its details and (surprisingly) not even up to network standards of exposition and taste. Some of the names which popped up are familiar to those of you who are more interested in who owns the Dallas Cowboys and the N.O. Saints than in who plays for them.

168. 16 Jan (NYTBR) A review of a new biography of Wild Bill Donovan. The reviewer is Edward Jay Epstein, who "is writing a book about deception among

nations." [3 pp.] Epstein drops in the story of Donovan's British aide, Col. C. H. Ellis: "the man who really organized American secret intelligence was a German-Soviet mole" who confessed in 1965. This information was suppressed by the British until 1981. (Did we know about this already?)

169. 20 Jan (SFC) "FBI memo exonerates U.S. Japanese" A recently declassified Hoover memo "disputed the findings of an Army report" which said that Japanese-Americans were communicating with Japanese ships. "But five days before the [Supreme Court] brief was due, Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy persuaded Justice Department officials to cut out any references questioning the validity of the Army report."

170. 20 Jan (in TCI, 3/22) "Mae Brussell puts the pieces together" [2 pp.] A sympathetic profile (from an unidentified California newspaper) of the granddaughter of department store founder I. Magnin. "What distinguishes her from every other hardened cynic with a pet conspiracy is that she is not cynical."

171. 22 Jan 83 (NYT) A book review of "Sara and Gerald," by Honoria Murphy Donnelly with ex-HSCA staffer Richard N. Billings. No, it's not about Sara Jane Moore shooting at President Ford; it is a daughter's story of the Murphys, who knew many interesting literary people in France in the 1920s.

172. 19 Jan (WP) Billings will serve as a consultant to PBS for the "American Playhouse" version of this book.

173. 6 Feb (NYT) Honoria Donnelly talks about Picasso *et al.* [2 pp.]

174. Feb 83 (Harper's) "Minister without portfolio" [17 pp.] A generally sympathetic portrait of John McCloy, "the most influential private citizen in America." There are just a few sentences on his Warren Commission service. "'It was a very emotional period,' McCloy remembers, 'and it was so obvious that something like this had to be done.'" He never saw a case more completely proven, and was convinced that Oswald acted alone - although he started out thinking "there must have been a conspiracy." (What kind, I wonder.)

175. 3 Feb (Lawrence, KS J-W; in 'Coverups,' 3/83) "Baker [Univ.] students shadow Kennedy assassination" Speech professor and long-time buff Larry Haapanen taught a popular class on the JFK case; most of the students knew a little about the assassination, but not about the controversy.

176. 12 & 24 Feb (UPI in MG) On Thomas Noguchi's unsuccessful attempt to regain his job as L.A. coroner.

\* 177. 26 Mar (Nation) "The CIA's secret ties to local police" [6 pp.] A good analysis of recently released documents, by JFK-RFK buff Phil Melanson. A Reagan executive order "provides a legal umbrella that will permit the Agency to dramatically extend those activities." Of special interest to us: in 1972, the D.C. police kept an eye on Bud Fensterwald's CTIA and reported their findings to the CIA.

178. 29 Mar (Fall River, MA Herald) A full-page headline across the top of page 1: "SMU professor's article in national magazine," with a good summary of Melanson's work.

179. 2 Apr (Prov., RI Journal) "Nation piece probes CIA's domestic spying"

180. 29 Mar & 14 Apr (SFC) Rep. Stokes detained, then charged, for driving while intoxicated outside Washington. (On August 8, he was convicted of two lesser charges.)

181. ? Apr (Cleveland PD) "Angry Rep. Stokes denies all" [2 pp.; #181A: photo] He said that media coverage of his case displayed "racism and bigotry."

182. 29 Apr (UP) "Report of California CIA weapons base" Former HSCA witness James Wilcott (see Summers, p. 159) says the CIA is supplying Nicaraguan contras from China Lake.

183. 1 May (WP) "The gang's all here" [2 pp.] An emphatically negative review of Joe Bonanno's autobiography, by Dan Moldea. (But what's all this: "Predictably, all big-time mobsters speak out for strong personal privacy laws and against government-authorized electronic surveillance." So do many others.)

184. 4 May (HC) "He still wants to know: who shot JFK?" Profile of George Michael Evica, author of "And We Are All Mortal," who has a weekly radio program on the University of Hartford radio station.
185. Accompanying photo of Evica, a professor of English.
186. 13 May (NYT in MG) "Investigators fighting rising tide of forgeries" There is a comment on ink analysis from Lyndal Shaneyfelt (the FBI's main technical witness before the WC), currently a private document analyst.
187. 31 May (MG) "His 'Hitler diaries' gaffe baffles historian" Hugh Trevor-Roper (best known to us as the author of the introduction to "Rush to Judgment") on his initial endorsement of the fake Hitler diaries: "I am surprised by the way my skepticism suddenly snapped."
188. 26 Apr & 16 May (MG) More Trevor-Roper/Hitler diary stories. [2 pp.]
189. 23 May (SFC) "Tokyo may have misled Roosevelt" Before setting up the camps, FDR "may have seen decoded Japanese diplomatic cables stating that some ethnic Japanese were performing espionage." These cables were published in 1977, but apparently unknown to the recent commission on the relocation. McCloy, who strongly condemned the commission report when it appeared, said that the commission should have taken testimony from the intelligence community, which would have protected the reputations of Roosevelt and Stimson.
190. 5 Jun (SFX) A detailed account of these Japanese cables. [2 pp.]
191. June 1983 (Mother Jones) "The Man Who Would Be King," by Jeff Cohen. A brief note on the FBI's intention to discredit Martin Luther King and replace him with Samuel Pierce, who would be "the right kind of a national Negro leader." Pierce is now Reagan's only minority cabinet member.
192. 16 Jun (NYT in SFC) "[CBS] Producer [George Crile] suspended for secret tapings" of people interviewed for his program on Vietnam.
193. 23 Jun (LAT in SFC) A review of the play "Last Tape (and Testament) of Richard M. Nixon," by Don Freed and Arnold Stone. The play suggests that Watergate "was a backfire set by [Nixon] to ward off a total takeover of America by the military-industrial complex."
194. July (Mother Jones) "Their Will Be Done," by Martin Lee [10 pp.] A fascinating analysis of CIA relations with the Catholic Church since WW II. (James Jesus Angleton is in the story, of course.) Lee discusses "a number of unlikely channels - both overt and covert - which the agency uses to bring its influence to bear upon [Vatican foreign] policy."
195. 1 Jul (AP) "\$4.5 million award in libel case" In 1973, the Philadelphia Inquirer libeled Richard Sprague in articles about his failure to disqualify himself in the case of a son of a friend. Sprague (later chief counsel for the HSCA) was then an assistant district attorney.
196. 9-16 Jul (Nation) "Atomic bomb test secrets: the human guinea pigs at Bikini," by Phil Melanson [4 pp.] Based on the private papers of an Army radiological safety officer who recognized the potential health problems involved in decontaminating ships exposed to radiation.
197. 27 Jul (SFC) Jack Anderson on the FBI's surveillance of MLK's 1963 march on Washington. The FBI can't even say how many documents on MLK remain unreleased in field office files. "The existence of the FBI's voluminous files on King was discovered by Harold Weisberg of Frederick, Md., an indefatigable researcher on American political assassinations. He obtained a 404-page partial inventory of documents ... in 59 FBI field offices."

Credits: Thanks to S. Barber (#181), J. Cohen (191), M. Ewing (132-3), G. Fonzi (120-1), M. Goddard (161-4), J. Goldberg (125, 170-2, 183), L. Harris (174), G. Hollingsworth (98-9, 101, 111-3, 128, 130-1, 134, 140-1), J. Marshall (147), P. Melanson (177-9, 196), R. Ranftel (146, 162B, 168), G. Shaw (104, 115), L. Sproesser (184-5), T. Summers (106, 144), and Anonymous.

P.S.: Things have gotten busy here and will probably stay that way through November. If I owe you a letter, I hope to get to it soon. In future EOC's: many more clippings and documents, plus Blakey's comments on H. Res. 160 and other matters.