

# JFK ASSASSINATION FORUM 14/15

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APART FROM THAT,  
MRS KENNEDY, HOW DID  
YOU LIKE DALLAS?

I DON'T WISH TO  
KNOW THAT - KINDLY  
LEAVE THE THEATRE.



## THE ASSASSINATION OF ABE LINCOLN: PROTOTYPE FOR DALLAS

"This dust was once The Man" (Walt Whitman)

Readers interested in exploring the conduct of and issues involved in the American Civil War might like to read **THE PENGUIN BOOK OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR**. Lincoln was murdered by John Wilkes Booth, an undisputed Confederate agent, on April 14 (Good Friday) 1865 as the war was drawing to its close.

### PART I: THE LAST DAYS OF LINCOLN

"We are so mixed up in our affairs that - no matter what the system established - a conspiracy to assassinate, if such there were, could easily obtain a pass to see me for any one or more of its instruments.... As to the crazy folks...why I must only take my chances - the most crazy people at present, I fear, being some of my own too zealous adherents."

The common factor, Jim Garrison once told the **NATIONAL TATTLER**, between the murders of Kennedy, McKinley and Lincoln, was that they bucked the military establishment. Lincoln, according to Big Jim, opposed the Union Army Generals and Secretary for War Edwin Stanton in their plan to occupy the defeated South with a massive punitive army. Lincoln, by contrast, wanted to pour federal dollars into a large-scale reconstruction project.

Garrison's account is broadly right, though a trifle out of focus. Few of the more conservative generals wanted to prolong the agony of what they regarded as a fratricidal war. Thus General McClellan was to assert in his memoirs:

"At the outbreak, the Radical party represented only a negligible percentage of the nation. Abolitionists were still regarded with abhorrence by the great majority. If the contest had come to a close within a year or two the Southern states would have been welcomed back into the fold as repentant "erring sisters". Therefore the war had to last long enough to embitter the Northern sections to the point where the populace, saturated with propaganda and embittered by the loss of relations and friends, would become as vindictive as the Radical leaders. Secretary of War Stanton was quite outspoken about this. When a commission from New York called on the President early in 1862 to urge upon him a more vigorous support of General McClellan, it found Stanton with the Executive. Stanton then stated:

"... the great aim of the war was to abolish slavery. To end the war before the nation was ready for that would be a failure. The war must be prolonged and conducted so as to achieve that."

Nevertheless, at least 12 Union Generals gave active or tacit support to Lincoln's assassination, though few of them can have guessed that Edwin Stanton, who orchestrated the killing, sought not merely military domination of the South but absolute personal power. If the three men on John Wilkes Booth's hit-list - the President, the Vice-President and the Secretary of State - had all been killed, Stanton, who came next in the chain of command, would have effectively become dictator.

For years, the case against Stanton was purely circumstantial, but a secret memoir written by Stanton's intimate, Gen. Lafayette Baker, surfaced in 1960 in circumstances which will be described in Part II. Baker, who headed up the Federal Detective Agency (Secret Police) has left us this account of Stanton's role:

'It was on the tenth of April, sixty-five, when I first knew that the plan was in action. Ecert had made all the contacts, the deed to be done on the fourteenth. I did not know the identity of the assassin, but I knew most all else when I approached E.S. about it. He at once acted surprised and disbelieving. Later he said: "You are a party to it too. Let us wait and see what comes of it and then we will know better how to act in the matter." I soon discovered what he meant that I was a party to it when the following day I was shown a document that I knew to be a forgery but a clever one, which made it appear that I had been in charge of a plot to kidnap the President, the Vice-President being the instigator. Then I became a party to that deed even though I did not care to.

'On the thirteenth he discovered that the President had ordered that the Legislature of Virginia be allowed to assemble to withdraw that state's troops from action against the U.S. He fermented immediately into an insane tirade [*sic*]. Then for the first time I realised his mental disunity and his insane and fanatical hatred for the President. There are few in the War Department that respect the President or his strategy, but there are not many who would countermand an order that the President had given. However, during that insane moment, he sent a telegram to Gen. Weitzel countermanding the President's order of the twelfth. Then he laughed in a most spine chilling manner and said: "If he would to know who rescinded [*sic*] his order we will let Lucifer tell him. Be off, Tom, and see to the arrangements. There can be no mistakes." This is the first that I knew that he was the one responsible for the assassination plot. Always before I thought that either he did not trust me, for he really trusted no one, or he was protecting someone until it was to his benefit to expose them. But now I know the truth and it frightens me no end. I fear that somehow I may become the sacrificial goat.

"There were at least eleven members of Congress involved in the plot, no less than twelve Army officers, three Naval officers and at least twenty four civilians, of which one was a governor of a loyal state. Five were bankers of great repute, three were nationally known newspapermen and eleven were industrialists of great repute and wealth. There were probably more that I know nothing of.

(Actually, Lincoln's original order had been dispatched, without Stanton's knowledge, on the 6th. Stanton countermanded it - in Lincoln's name, of course, hence "If he would know who rescinded his order..."-on the 12th, not the 13th. But remember that Baker was writing two or three years after the event.)

Lincoln had probably known for a long time that Stanton was gunning for him; their peacetime strategies for the South were totally at odds and Stanton's malice, egotism and ambition were no secret - yet Lincoln could not have fought the war effectively without Stanton's talents and the support of the radical faction which he headed. On the other hand, had he succeeded in evading the assassin's bullet, there is no doubt that by March of 1865 Lincoln was a broken man and in no shape for a prolonged political struggle. Let us consider some historical facts.

Lincoln had scoffed when, early in 1863, his devoted friend Ward Lamon had warned of a plot to replace him with a military dictator; nevertheless, for the Nov. 1864 election he dumped the feeble Stantonite Hannibal Hamlin in favour of the tough, capable and independent Southern Democrat Andrew Johnson. It seemed an ill-omened choice: For weeks after the election, Johnson was laid up with typhoid fever (Compare the fate of Lafayette Baker in Part II). During this

period, Johnson stayed in Nashville and had little if any personal contact with his chief. When he mounted the rostrum in Washington for the inaugural on March 4, another unfortunate event occurred; Johnson was extremely drunk and expressed extravagant vindictiveness towards the Confederacy. Lincoln, allegedly furious, refused to speak to him again until, as it happens, April 14.

This is a little odd, since Lincoln was a forgiving man. He was also a subtle politician, and there is little doubt that the Washington establishment came to regard Johnson as a negligible buffoon, despised by his chief and, in the event of becoming President, easy prey to pressures from the Stanton radicals. Events would seem to show, however, that Lincoln held quite a high opinion of Johnson. We shall see.

As well as implying that he was disaffected from his deputy, Lincoln began to throw out hints that if Stanton intended to kill him he might as well get on with it. Some time after March 19 he began to tell acquaintances of an alleged dream in which he saw his own corpse lying in state. Lincoln's supposed superstitious fatalism often proves on examination to be a cunning political bluff ( witness his claim that the emancipation of the slaves was the result of a seance with one of the Fox sisters ). To his intimates, Lincoln was evidently more specific about his "dream", since when, years later, Teddy Roosevelt remonstrated with Robert Todd Lincoln for burning certain of his father's letters, Robert replied bitterly: "It would serve no purpose to make them public. They deal with a man who played a part in my father's death, a member of my father's cabinet."

The Visit to Richmond and Seward's "Accident".

"I saw the battle-corpses, myriads of them,  
And the white skeletons of young men, I saw them,  
I saw the debris and debris of all the dead soldiers of the war.  
They suffer'd not.  
The living remained and suffer'd." (Walt Whitman)

Not long after his "dream", Lincoln travelled to City Point where he was close to the front. When Richmond fell, he paced the streets of the erstwhile Confederate capital, but a serious incident brought him rushing back to Washington: Secretary of State Seward had miraculously escaped death when his neck was broken in a traffic "accident". This was on April 9. What with Johnson's typhoid and Seward's broken neck, Lincoln's top men had had more than their fair share of bad luck!

On the trip back to Washington, Lincoln's thoughts returned to his impending death. Twice he disconcerted his companions by quoting these lines from Shakespeare's Macbeth:

"Duncan is in his grave;  
After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well;  
Treason has done its worst; nor steel, nor poison,  
Malice domestic, foreign levy, nothing  
Can touch him further."

And similar thoughts seem to have been in his mind when, on his return, Speaker Colfax remonstrated with him for risking his life in Richmond. Commented Lincoln:

"I should have been alarmed myself if any other person had been President and had gone there..."

April 14, 1865 (Good Friday).

"Then with the knowledge of death as walking one side of me  
And the thought of death close-walking the other side of me  
And I in the middle as with companions, and as holding the hands of  
companions,  
I went forth to the night that talks not." (Walt Whitman)

Lincoln seems to have known that April 14 was the designated day, and his sus-

picious were doubtless confirmed when General Grant, at Stanton's instigation, and on the flimsiest of excuses, turned down the President's invitation to join him at the theatre that evening. Knowing what we do, I see evidence of a certain black humour in Lincoln's request to Stanton to have Thomas Eckert ( the "Ecert" of Baker's memoir ) for bodyguard that night, and, in the light of what subsequently happened, even a touch of black humour in Stanton's reply that he could not spare him because he had important work to do that night.

At 11 a.m. Lincoln presided over his last cabinet meeting. Johnson was not invited. The meeting, which lasted for three hours and at which Stanton presented in detail his proposals for military occupation, was marked by an emotional plea from Lincoln for compassion and generosity:

"I hope there will be no persecution, no bloody work after the war is over. No-one need expect me to take any part in hanging or killing those men, even the worst of them.... Enough lives have been sacrificed."

Shortly after the conclusion of the meeting, Lincoln summoned Andrew Johnson to his office for a private thirty-minute conversation. Nobody knows what was said, but the following facts may give some indication:

1. That evening, Johnson lay low under heavy guard.
2. Once in office, Johnson underwent "a complete revolution of sentiment" (Gen. Grant) and now, instead of demanding revenge, favoured the re-establishment of state governments on the lines of Lincoln's reconstruction programme.
3. Most significantly, he spent three miserable years attempting to remove Stanton from his cabinet in the teeth of a hostile Congress. He was even prepared to face impeachment - and he won. Stanton died soon afterwards, some say by his own hand.

#### Ford's Theatre, and the Immediate Aftermath

But for a last minute whim on the part of the President's shrewish wife, Lincoln and the First Lady would have been alone in the Presidential box. Robert, Lincoln's elder son, "excused himself", the history books tell us, (but note p3 above). Mrs Lincoln's action cost one of her two guests a terrible knife-wound in the arm. Whether Lincoln kept his wife in ignorance to spare her unnecessary worry or to get his own back for a life of domestic misery is a moot point.

How Booth got in on the act, we shall discuss in Part II. Suffice to say that his operation had long been penetrated by a government informer, Louis Weichman, who had reported all the goings-on in the Suratt household, including the assassination plot, to the War Department. Lincoln's guard that night was John Parker, a man of dubious background, but one who took the fancy of Mrs Lincoln. During the crucial period, he left his post and retired to a nearby hostelry where, it so happens, Booth was drinking. Booth entered the theatre and then slipped into the Presidential box after surveying the scene within through a spyhole he had drilled earlier in the day and awaiting the appropriate moment. His shot was deliberately timed so that it would drowned by audience laughter.

After a brief scuffle with Major Rathbone, Booth made an athletic leap to the stage, but broke his ankle in the process. As he passed through the door which led to the rear part of the theatre, person unknown obligingly shut and locked it behind him. Outside the back of the theatre was a hired horse upon which Booth made his getaway.

Sitting in the audience was the Superintendent of the Metropolitan Washington Police, Major A.C. Richards. He had recognised Booth, and by midnight, he had collected enough witness evidence to confirm his identification. Unfortunately, however, at 11 p.m., less than 40 minutes after the murder, all the telegraph lines out of Washington except for Stanton's own military one went dead as a result, it was alleged, of a short circuit in the main batteries. It may be relevant here to note that Major Thomas Eckert was in charge of the military telegraph headquarters in the War Department. The "short circuit" effectively meant that Booth's name did not make the first edition of the following morning's

papers, thus seriously delaying the hue and cry. As for Stanton, it was a full five hours before he named Booth and released a photo (Communications had by now been restored). It was not a good likeness, and was, in fact, a picture of Booth's brother Edwin.

Some elements of the press, however, enjoyed the scoop of a lifetime, if we are to believe the late Frank Edwards, who specialised in unsolved mysteries. According to Edwards ( who unfortunately is not always very reliable ) detailed stories of the assassination were published in two newspapers many hours before the deed!

As for Booth, he escaped from Washington over the only bridge which, for reasons unknown, had not been closed in accordance with normal practice . Clearly Booth was intended to escape and, thanks to Stanton's procrastination, probably would have done so, but for the fact that his increasingly painful broken ankle eventually made riding virtually intolerable. Even then, the military search for Booth seems to have been singularly uncoordinated. When Booth and his accomplice Herold were finally located at Garrett's Farm, Provost Marshall O'Beirne, who was leading the search party in that area, received a wire from the capital ordering him to give up pursuit. Instead, Stanton made Lafayette Baker responsible for the capture operation. Baker dispatched 25 crack troops under the orders of his cousin, Luther Baker. Booth and Herold were cornered in a barn. When Luther Baker threatened to fire the barn, Herold promptly surrendered, but Booth, armed with a carbine, stayed put and the barn was fired. The history books say that Booth was either shot down by a religious fanatic called Boston Corbett or else committed suicide. Readers must judge from the facts. Colonel Conger was watching Booth through a crack in the rear of the barn and saw him looking round desperately to see if there were any way of quenching the fire and then make for the door. Conger testified;

"I ran around to the other side, and when about half round I heard the report of a pistol. I went right to the door, and went into the barn and found Lieutenant Baker looking at Booth ( Editor's italics )... I raised him then and looked on the right side of the neck, and saw a place where the blood was running out."

Booth had been shot at such close range that his skin was powder-burned. Conger's account makes it clear that neither Corbett nor any of Baker's other troops had been near at the time.

Why Stanton and Lafayette Baker had been at first so keen to let Booth escape and why Booth, evidently with Baker's approval, had instead been fatally wounded is a matter for part II. Some clue is provided by the fact that when Booth's diary was produced in evidence at the trial of the other conspirators, some eighteen pages of entries immediately preceding the assassination had been torn out.

The Other Assassins

Lewis Paine failed to kill Seward through sheer bad luck , though he made up for it handsomely by maiming and mutilating several other members of the household. Paine's gun had misfired and, left with a knife, he had gone for Seward's throat; the steel brace which supported his broken neck saved his life.

As for Atzerodt, the man detailed to kill the Vice-President, he merely went and got drunk.

Stanton: One-Man Junta

For ten hours Stanton behaved as if the coup had succeeded. After a brief conversation, the new President Andrew Johnson was "dismissed" for the evening while Stanton took total control of the job of apprehending the assassins. He sent police to the railway terminals; he had naval forces blockade the Potomac; he telegraphed the army to barricade the six turnpikes which ran east, north-east, north, north-west, west and due south out of Washington. Yet he did not dispatch troops to the Navy Yard Bridge (by which Booth escaped)

which, though officially closed, was not well enough guarded to deter even half a dozen determined desperadoes, and he made no attempt to blockade the two roads beyond which led into lower Maryland, a region sympathetic to the Rebels and the gateway of the Confederate underground to Richmond. These crucial routes, alone of all the other exits from Washington, were left wide open throughout the entire night of the assassination.

It was Stanton's brief hour of phoney glory. It would have been one thing if power had fallen into his hands "legitimately", but he knew that he could command support neither from the populace nor the bulk of the army for an open coup.

He was forced instead to gamble on Johnson's compliance and supposed political weakness, and he lost.

#### PART II: THE LAST DAYS OF LAFAYETTE BAKER

MR MARSHALL (on behalf of Baker's heirs): Did his symptoms (Baker's) fit the symptoms observed with any known poison?

DR RICKARDS: Yes.

MARSHALL: Which poison?

RICKARDS: Arsenic.

MARSHALL: In other words, the symptoms shown by Gen. Baker show more similarity to arsenic poisoning than they do to typhoid fever.

RICKARDS: Yes.

MARSHALL: Then it is possible that Gen. Baker died of arsenic poisoning?

RICKARDS: From a medical standpoint, yes.

(Proceedings in the matter of the probate of a paper propounded as a codicil to the Last Will and Testament of Lafayette C. Baker deceased.)

In his excellent book *WEB OF CONSPIRACY* (1959), Theodore Roscoe puts Booth and his accomplices into clear perspective:

"The Confederate Secret Service was highly organized, with spy rings in every major city of the Union. Booth's profession made a perfect disguise. He moved across state and front lines at will; backstage he met messengers and secret agents. Documentary evidence shows him in communication with Rebel intelligence even in Canada. So much for the legend that it was an irresponsible maniac who assassinated Lincoln. John Wilkes Booth was a secret agent, working with numerous accomplices in an intricately organized conspiracy."

Now let us see where the conspiracy went wrong, stressing, of course, that Booth probably knew nothing of the back-stage role of Edwin Stanton, the Rebels' bitterest enemy.

We have seen in Part I how Stanton's ambition to become acting President (effectively, dictator) of the USA as a result of the deaths of Lincoln, Johnson and Seward failed when Johnson and Seward survived. We have seen, in the final paragraph of Part I that Stanton played his part to perfection; we have seen that Booth, his unwitting instrument, planned and executed the Lincoln segment superbly and almost escaped scot-free; we have seen that Paine only failed, because of a jammed gun and his victim Seward's steel neck-brace, to dispatch the Sec. of State.

But what about Atzerodt? Why detail a notorious drunk and coward not merely to Kill Johnson, whose reputation for self-defence was no secret, but to find him first? No wonder Atzerodt took a drink to give him courage...and then another...until he was in no condition to kill anyone, and threw his gun away. Yet Johnson's death was just as vital to Stanton's plan as the other two, and Booth certainly had no love for Johnson. Why Atzerodt then?

In a word, I suggest - BAKER. While Stanton was busily stuffing aces up his sleeve, he failed to notice that Lafayette Baker had rigged the whole deck. Latterly, almost all who spoke of Baker spoke of his deviousness. Stanton needed Baker, but underestimated his guile. Almost certainly, Baker's Detective Agency had penetrated the Confederate bush-telegraph along which Booth received earlier instructions to kidnap Lincoln, and this, in part, no doubt explains the failure of that plan.

Now I theorise. I suggest that Booth received the assassination instructions along the same bush-telegraph, but that instead of coming from some desperate remnants of rebel resistance or from a Confederate "government in exile" which had infiltrated important Union posts, they came from cunning old Lafe Baker himself. And they were very precise; Booth to dispatch Lincoln and co-ordinate the operation; Paine to deal with Seward; and for Johnson.... Atzerdt. Stanton probably instructed Baker to set up the plot (or he may simply have learnt of the Booth plot through Baker's agency or his own sources.) What he did not know was that Baker had detailed dossiers on the whole Booth group and was well aware of Atzerodt's limitations. All conjecture, I admit.

Why should Baker have spared Johnson? Because if Johnson had died, Stanton (according to the games-plan) would have been dictator. And dictators are notoriously hard to blackmail.

Consider the fate of Booth, whose capture Baker had supervised from Washington. Stanton had actually ordered that Booth should be taken alive, yet he was killed, under circumstances which made it look as if Stanton had had him "silenced". Yet what was there to silence? - at most, inconclusive indications that Booth had been taken for a ride by Federal infiltrators; indications which would have carried little weight with the military kangaroo court which Stanton set up for the other accused. Besides, Booth lingered, conscious and in pain, hours after he was shot.

And that diary. If it did contain incriminating information, why was it allowed to get any closer to Washington than the nearest camp fire? And were those 18 pages torn out by Stanton? Baker claimed the diary reached Stanton intact, but Stanton was no slouch. There are 101 ways in which incriminating documents can disappear. Why produce Booth's mutilated diary in court unless you honestly believe that Booth mutilated it himself? I suggest that those pages were removed by Baker and I further suggest that they contained nothing of significance at all.

The death of Booth - the diary. Baker - Stanton. Baker assists Stanton; Baker now has a hold over Stanton; Baker begins to lean on Stanton. The death and the diary - just two signs of how nasty old Lafe could get if he felt inclined.

There is little doubt that Baker made a lot of money out of the assassination. When his sister-in-law Mary Baker died, she was worth a staggering quarter of a million dollars for which her daughter was entirely unable to account at the Probate Hearings cited on the previous page. At the same Hearings, Baker's employee Kathleen Hawks testified that Baker had a tin box "full of money...all new and shiny...fifty- and hundred-dollar bills...all wrapped with little bands of papers." Baker kept the box in his attic and the key on a string round his neck.

This money was probably the pay-off for Baker's part in the assassination. There is, however, factual evidence that Baker put the screws on Stanton more than once, whether in the hope of acquiring wealth or exerting influence and, as we shall see when we conclude this article he badly misjudged his adversary.

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"Betrayal" by Robert D. Morrow.  
\$8.95. 229 pages. ISBN 0-8092-8092-2  
Published May 1976 by Henry Regnery Company.  
180 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill 60601.

One of the leading, responsible, critics of the Warren Commission has stated, after interviewing and questioning Morrow, that this book is about 80% true in detailing the background to the JFK assassination. The following description was published in the magazine "Publishers Weekly" on March 22, 1976 and it is reprinted here for our readers edification. Since that time Robert Morrow has appeared and testified before the Schweiker sub-committee investigation of the Dallas killings:

"On its face, this suspenseful "reconstruction of certain clandestine events" climaxed by the shooting of JFK is a stunning first-time-ever spelling out of the story of that tragedy. If all Morrow's newly supplied pieces of the jigsaw check out, it would seem that New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's attempt to convict some New Orleans men as conspirators was a very near miss. Morrow's forthcoming testimony before Senator Church's committee should establish his story's credibility, or destroy it.

Morrow in 1960 was aide to the anti-Castro Cuban underground leader Mario Kohly; this drew him into CIA activities - and it was his and Kohly's arrest (for counterfeiting pesos in a scheme to destroy Castro's economy) that led maverick CIA right-wingers with some Cubans to plot the ultimate revenge against JFK as a last resort.

Morrow's early sensational style mars his telling; but his minute-by-minute description of the Dallas crime, his naming of names, his explicit behind-the-scenes disclosures, his story of Jack Ruby's role in the assassination - these answer many questions for the first time, and set the stage for a real in-depth investigation."

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"The Assassination Story".

Penn Jones Jr. is distributing reprints of this important compilation of press articles which originally appeared in the November and December issues of the two main Dallas newspapers - "The Dallas Morning News" and "The Dallas Times Herald".

Fully illustrated, copies may be obtained from him at Box 1140, Midlothian, Texas 76065 at \$2.00 each.

\* 1963

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"The Assassination Papers".

Another compilation, this time of past articles published by "Computers and Automation" and "Computers and People", will soon be published by Berkeley Enterprises, Inc. 815 Washington Street, Newtonville, Mass 02160. This volume will include a selection of articles published between 1970 and 1975 together with some new material of substantial value. \$4.75 per copy.

In addition it is recommended that readers subscribe to their monthly magazine "People and the PURSUIT of Truth". Established in May 1975 it has just completed its first year of publication. Devoted to "...facts, information, truth and unanswered questions that are important to people, widely suppressed, and not adequately covered in the usual American press..." it is an important tool for researchers. The rate for an Overseas subscription (i.e. Outside USA and Canada) is \$12.50 (payable to the above address).

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The long-awaited Report of the Sub-Committee chaired by Senator Richard Schweiker which is investigating aspects of the JFK Assassination as part of the overall probe of the Senate Committee on Intelligence was released in Washington D.C. on June 23, 1976. While not having had the opportunity to peruse the written report yet here are some initial views on its verdicts. We hope to provide a fuller analysis in a future issue of "JFK.AP".

News of the publication of the report was first aired on the BBC Radio 4 News Programme at 7.00am on June 24. After a repeat on the 8.00am bulletin there was a distinct silence on both radio and television, BBC and ITV. The press in their June 24 issues contained such widely diverse opinions as: "Kennedy inquiry finds Oswald acted alone", by Patrick Brogan in "The Times" to "CIA and FBI failed to find truth of Dallas killing" by Nicholas Comfort in the more conservative "Daily Telegraph". These were obviously quite differing opinions of the same report and the "Daily Telegraph" followed up with a further article in their June 25 issue with "Kennedy killed on Castro's orders claimed LBJ". (This referred to the 1970 comments of Lyndon Johnson's published in "Atlantic Monthly" in July 1973 - cf "JFK.AP" No.8 - August 1975).

Following a period of non-exposure, on Tuesday, June 29, the late-night BBC1 television current affairs programme, "Tonight", featured a twelve minute interview with Senator Schweiker as part of a short item on the Dallas assassination. The most important point to be brought out of this discussion was that Schweiker stated that he didn't know whether the assassination was the work of pro or anti-Castro Cubans. His committee had unearthed both pro and anti-

Castro leads during their investigation. It is hoped that these may be further investigated by the new Senate Permanent Intelligence Oversight Committee.

The overall verdict of Schweiker's Committee is the Warren Commission failed to reach a totally satisfactory result due largely to a lack of co-operation and the withholding of vital information by both the CIA and FBI. It is felt that new information may come from the Miami area rather than Dallas and it is possible that enquiries may be centered there in the future.

Some years ago in correspondence with a leading critic the opinion was stated that if in the future real pressure was exerted on the Warren Report conclusions its upholders would then fall back to "the second line of defence, i.e. Fidel did it". His prediction would appear to be coming true and whilst we do not for a moment question the sincerity of Richard Schweiker there would appear to be a lot of pressure now being brought by the establishment media to assure us that John F. Kennedy was killed as "Castro's revenge" for the multiple plots which the US Government hatched against him.

Perhaps we are a little more realistic (or cynical??) that most, but we can't agree to that scenario and we therefore hope that truth will out.....

Meantime moves are still being made in Congress to have the whole question of the Dallas killing reinvestigated and we hope to provide more information on that aspect in our next issue. Also we will attempt to provide ordering information on the actual Schweiker Report along with costs etc.

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