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**JFK
ASSASSINATION
FORUM**

A NEW ENQUIRY

News that at last there is to be a specific new enquiry into JFK's death is a wonderful vindication of the efforts of all those who have been called oddballs by people like Louis Heren and Bernard Levin. How successful it is likely to be is a different matter. Below is a discussion of how an effective enquiry would need to be organised and the areas it would need to cover.

The first step would have to be to disband the CIA. The Agency is so deeply implicated in the assassination and enjoys such complex and wide-ranging covert powers that it could certainly frustrate any lines of enquiry of which it disapproved. The Agency's ability to feed false or distorted information into the system is also well-known.

The Enquiry itself would need to take the following measures.

1. Impound, by executive order, ALL investigative materials relating to the JFK assassination. This would mean all FBI documents - including (e.g.) the blackmail photos of Mark Lane on the job with a couple of whores and the dossiers which, in the late Hale Boggs's view, the Bureau collected on members of the Warren Commission. It would mean all the CIA documents - not only investigative material, but, for example, the studies of public reaction to the assassination, and material relating to the coercion of domestic and foreign media and the coercion of would-be publishers of the books of independent researchers (notably Weisberg's WHITWASH, which was turned down by 67 US publishers and publishers in eight foreign countries and had to be published privately, and Buchanan's WHO KILLED KENNEDY?). It would include documents from the Defence Intelligence Agency, from Army Intelligence, from the Office of Naval Intelligence; it would include all material held by the Pentagon, including the full story of that strange message which informed LBJ that there was "no conspiracy" and of the secret cable which went out from the 4th Army Command in Texas to US Strike Command in Florida falsely alleging that Oswald had defected to Cuba in 1959 and is a card carrying member of the Communist Party". It would include documents from such bodies as Intertel (the intelligence arm of ITF). Most importantly, it would include all the relevant documents from the National Security Agency, which probably already has a full, detailed and accurate account not only of the JFK case but of every assassination since Lincoln. Henry Kissinger, of course will have to go - and definitely NOT back to the NSA; I would suggest an assignment cleaning lavatories in Cyprus. Finally, it would include information collected by private eyes, particularly those undoubtedly employed by the Kennedy family.

To insure compliance with this order, the executive would have to make available huge rewards (and guarantees of protection) to those who exposed the withholding of information. For officials thus implicated, remand without bail would be the order of the day; the charge of course would be treason - What else?

2. The second stage would be to assemble a library of all books and articles relating to the assassination.

3. The third stage would be to assemble a team of readers (vetting, of course, would be extraordinarily difficult) to sift the above material and propose lines of enquiry. They would have a fair measure of independence, but would also have to be responsive to the Committee, and to the Expert Team to be discussed below. They would note questions which need to be answered and propose lines of enquiry. Where government documents were concerned, one of the Readers' main jobs would be, quite simply, to provide correct descriptive titles. The ploy by government agencies of giving important and relevant documents bland and, sometimes downright misleading titles is now an open secret.

4. The Expert Team

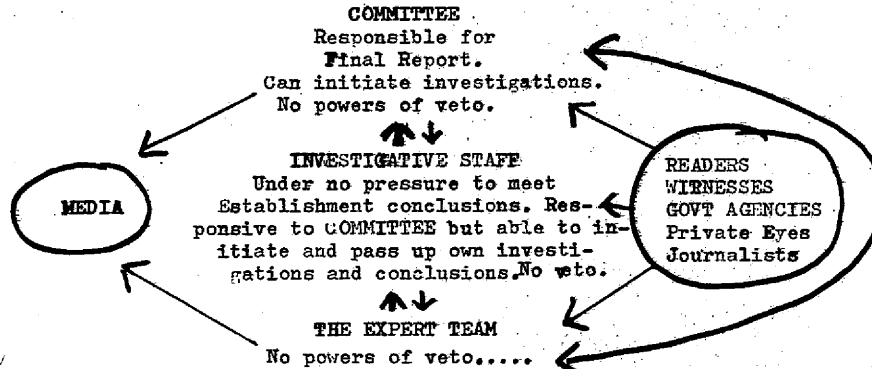
This would be an advisory body, but one with substantial powers. It would consist of acknowledged assassination experts. Sylvia Meagher, Jim Garrison, Mark Lane, Harold Weisberg and Vincent Salandria would be indispensable. Tainted experts like Edward Epstein, who may not be a government stooge, but whose ludicrous attack on Garrison ("Counterplot") and even more ludicrous whitewash of the Black Panther massacre indicate very poor judgement, would be welcome as witnesses but not as officials. The Team would be empowered to initiate lines of enquiry for the Committee and to order the Readers to research certain areas. (At no level - Team, Investigative Staff, Committee - would anyone be empowered to issue negative orders - i.e. to close off lines of enquiry). Members of the Team would be empowered to issue press statements both collectively and individually. Finally, the Team would be empowered - individually or collectively - to subject Committee witnesses to further questioning.

5. The Investigative Staff

This would be the equivalent of the Warren Commission Staff, but unlike that staff would contain no establishment-oriented young lawyers on the make. On the contrary, members would be chosen for their willingness to stick their necks out on radical issues, be they of the left or the right. Wm Kunstler of the Chicago Seven trial would be one obvious choice. Like the Commission staff, the Investigative Staff (IS) would interview witnesses and initiate research and investigation. Although they would be guaranteed co-operation from the FBI, they would not be at the mercy of the Bureau and would make extensive use of private agencies, constantly duplicating lines of investigation. Government Agencies would naturally be presented with the spectre of severe punitive action for employees who supplied misleading or obstructive information, and severe disciplinary action for officers higher in the hierarchy who condoned or abetted obstruction. A lot of jumped-up people would have to be offended, and a lot of heads would have to roll - as Patrick (chinless) Gray's did in the Watergate case.

6. The Committee The smaller the better. The obvious choices are those people who, having built up solid prestigious reputations, subsequently won their spurs in the Watergate case. Any Committee would have to include Sam Ervin, Elliott Richardson, Archibald Cox and Judge Sirica. Like the Warren Commission, they would produce the final report; like the Commission they would be able to initiate their own lines of enquiry; UNLIKE the Commission they would have no power of veto over enquiries by subordinates

Here then is the schematic structure for any enquiry which hopes to get at the truth:



It goes without saying, of course, that Committee Hearings would be public.

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PART TWO - CONDUCT OF THE ENQUIRY

STAGE ONE: CLEARING THE GROUND

1. Repudiating the Warren Report. This document should once and for all be stripped of any pretension to legal validity. Nearly 10 years ago (in March 1967 to be precise) a panel of three judges, including the Senior Criminal Court Judge of New Orleans, decided that the Report was inadmissible evidence. Judge Matthew S. Braniff observed that the Report was "fraught with hearsay and contradictions". Other reasons for rejecting the Report include a) the dubious legality of its establishment - JFK's assassination was a matter for Texas, not Washington, jurisdiction. b) The Hearings were held in camera, which precluded a possible dialogue with the press and with informed members of the public. c) The transcriptions of some witness evidence are inaccurate (cf S.M. Holland and Nancy Perrin Mich) d) Partiality was shown towards some witnesses - Although the Commission was empowered to bring witnesses to Washington, Jack Ruby was refused this privilege. e) The unrepresentative nature of the Commission itself, with its inbuilt bias towards the military-intelligence caucus.
2. Repudiating the autopsy findings. Quite apart from its dubious legal status, the irregularities surrounding the actual conduct of the autopsy and the conflict between the final report and the reports of FBI and SS observers deprive these findings of any credibility. The autopsy report should be declared null and void, and its contents should have no bearing whatever upon a new enquiry.

STAGE TWO: AREAS FOR INVESTIGATION

1. BALLISTICS AND WOUNDS. Once one accepts the obvious: that, on the evidence of the Z film, no one person using Oswald's Carcano could have wounded both Kennedy and Connally in the time available, arguments over the precise nature of JFK's wounds become irrelevant. Add to this the possibility that JFK's wounds were tampered with before the autopsy and that the surviving X-rays and photos may not even depict JFK's cadaver at all, serious controversy on this score becomes fruitless and unproductive. All the autopsy materials should be declassified at once and become a subject for informed public debate. The Enquiry, however, should not concern itself them. Instead, it should -
 - a) On the basis of the Z film, make a categorical declaration that JFK was shot at by more than one gunman, and then address itself to the following issues:-
 - b) Why was JFK's doctor not allowed to travel in the limousine; why, in fact was he relegated to the rear of the motorcade?
 - c) Why did the FBI declare EVERY DOCUMENT relating to events at Parkland Hospital "TOP SECRET"? Most of these documents, which were published in the Hearings, relate to ordinary hospital administration rather than to measures taken to save the President or to security procedures. Was there an intention to rewrite history on a grand scale? (a grander scale, I shd say.)
 - d) On whose orders and authority was the President's body illegally removed from Texas? if the removal was really the result of an emotional reaction by JFK's devoted aides, why was the body not quietly flown back to Texas? An autopsy-room full of federal agents would surely have deterred Dallas medics from falsifying the conclusions, and legalit would have been respected.
 - e) Why were the autopsy surgeons selected from men uncractised in dealing with bullet wounds? Who selected them?
 - f) Who forbade autopsy surgeon Pierre Finck to dissect the track of JFK's throat wound?
 - g) Why did Finck (morally at least) perjure himself before the Warren

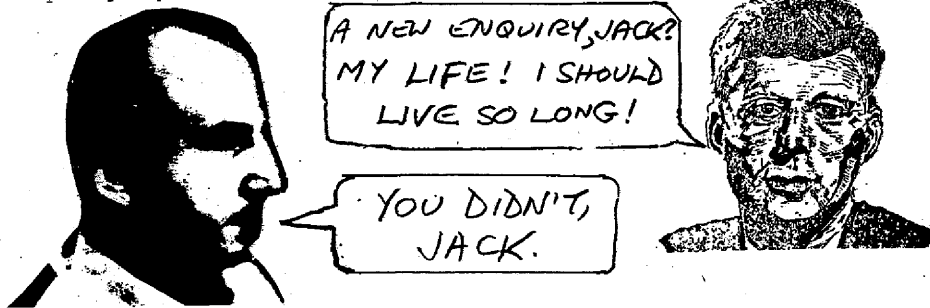
Commission on the above issue?

The above points by no means exhaust the administrative anomalies surrounding Kennedy's autopsy. Investigation of these anomalies would mine a far more rewarding vein than sterile and imperfectly informed discussions about bullet trajectories.

2. After the Miami conspiracy was blown, why were no special measures taken to preserve JFK from snipers?
3. Why was LBJ, "a heart-beat from the Presidency", allowed to travel in the same motorcade as JFK in a town where he had already been an object of hostile activity?
4. Why were the trained US Army Units which normally work to augment the Secret Service told not to go to Dallas?
5. Why are the reports from Army Intelligence Personnel, including Powell, who was arrested in the TSBD, still not only secret but also unrecorded so far as the public sector is concerned?
6. Who were the bogus SS personnel encountered by reliable police officers in the areas of the TSBD and the Knoll?
7. Was it pure coincidence that Robt MacNamara and 6 other cabinet members were in aircraft over the Pacific at the time of the assassination? Was it pure chance that the code-book which, but for the common sense of the operatives involved, was essential for communication between cabinet and Washington, was missing from the latter aircraft?
8. Why was it that despite an extensive dossier in Washington (all too quickly made available to the press) and constant attention from the local FBI - and agent Hosty's personal belief that "he was capable of it", no special watch was placed on Oswald and no warning was passed to the Dallas police? (To give him credit, Chief Curry did place local racist bodies under surveillance for JFK's visit).
9. Why, since there was no evidence one way or the other, did the Pentagon assure LBJ as he flew back to Washington that there was no conspiracy and that Oswald was sole assassin?
10. Why has JFK's determination to pull out of Vietnam and reach a sensible accommodation with Fidel been withheld from the public for thirteen years?

Many more points could be added to the list. Readers who think of others should write to the Chairman of the Committee as soon as further facts become available. All we have at the time of going to press is the bare announcement, which has been greeted with deafening silence by all papers except the DAILY MAIL.

THIS issue is intended as a discussion document. Therefore, I appeal to readers to send their own comments to me, not merely on points I have raised but on points they feel ought to be raised. - Oh yes - (11) was it just coincidence that, shortly before the assassination, OPERATION BIG-LIFT had placed enough troops in the air over the USA to pacify any civil disturbances which might arise?



One can only be glad at the defeat of Gerald Ford. It means the temporary eclipse of the Nixon-Kissinger cabal and of thirteen years of political chicanery which stretch like a broad yellow streak down Jerry's past - from his ignoble and obstructionist performance on the Warren Commission (to get Nixon off the hook) to his outrageous free pardon for Nixon's Watergate malfeasance (to get Nixon off the hook). In the words of the great John Webster: "Let them, like tyrants, never be remembered but for the ill they have done..." Meanwhile the election of Carter is no great cause for rejoicing: we still have to find out if he is his own man!

The most interesting feature of this election was the intervention of Gene McCarthy, as an Independent. It could have cost Carter the presidency, especially with no George Wallace to siphon off the extreme right vote. Readers with long memories will recall that Gene challenged LBJ for the Democratic nomination in 1968 on a stop-the-war platform. When Johnson stepped down, offering his mantle to the execrable Humphrey, RFK entered the lists and his doves soundly trounced McCarthy's doves in the important California primary. Enter Sirhan. In an article which appeared in Private Eye for June 5, 1968, Paul Foot alleged that McCarthy's campaign was being funded by the CIA through various of its business allies. This does not, of course, mean that McCarthy necessarily knew that he was being manipulated.

The chief cause for unease with Carter relates to the fact that much of his material support and promotion seems to have originated with the Rockefellers. David Rockefeller set up and financed the infamous "Trilateral Commission" - ostensibly an international organisation to promote links between businessmen, but with a covert political role too, including unsavoury associations with totalitarian coups in Brazil and Bolivia. Trilateral's first director, Zbigniew Brzezinski, was Carter's chief advisor from 1973-1975. The Rockefeller family connection with the intelligence community is well-known and was confirmed by the ridiculous Rockefeller-Belin report on the CIA. Nelson R. (David's brother) spent years of fruitless posturing as a liberal and then finally won his spurs (and jackboots!) with the Attica horrorshow. After that he went on to become the (unelected) Vice-President.

So, is there much hope of JC scattering you-know-who to the winds and then flinging open the Archives? Let's just cross our fingers and hope that his motto is: "Heaven preserve me from my friends"!