

JFK Assassination FORUM

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NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

As we approach the 14th anniversary of Dallas, in the absence, to our knowledge, of any special programmes or articles planned by the British media, here are details of items from other parts of the world:

The November issue of Gallery will include an investigative report by Mark Lane on the late George deMohrenschildt - "The mysterious death of a key JFK witness"... pp.41+

On November 22 on Canadian TV CBC's investigative programme team, "Fifth Estate", will present a documentary on the JFK killing. They will check out Miami/Cubans/Las Vegas/Mafia connections with Peter Dale Scott as a consultant. The show MAY also broadcast for the first time the complete version of the Jack Ruby deathbed taped interview!

This month also is scheduled for the publication of Bob Cutler's latest volume of Evidence of Conspiracy. Titled Sixty-Six Seconds in Dallas it promises to be his best yet. We will provide details and costs and ordering information just as soon as we can....

P.S. An added bonus is the just-released news that the FBI intend to release 80,000 pages of their files on the initial 6-months probe of the JFK assassination. The sting-in-the-tail is that this action will NOT effect the declassification of FBI Warren Commission Documents. Hang around until 2039 for those!

"GRIFF" FAILS TO OBTAIN LEE HARVEY OSWALD'S ACQUITTAL!

Since an obscure Cornell University law professor, G.Robert Blakey, was appointed as Chief Counsel to the House Assassinations Committee last June in succession to Richard A.Sprague his main accomplishment would appear to have been the establishment of a total news blackout of the Panel's activities. This conspiracy (oops - there goes that word again!) of silence would almost indicate to us at this distance that the investigation had aborted but we are advised that it does continue and indeed the Committee plans to grant immunity to 100 witnesses in exchange for testimony on the JFK and MLK cases.

Do not despair! The U.S. TV companies have taken up the challenge and they are going to crack the mystery of Dallas once and for all. Who needs Congress?

ABC were first in the field with their four-hour epic, "The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald". This was screened in two parts, on September 30 and October 2. Britain was treated to a longish article on the proposed film in Sunday Times Magazine on September 18. Therein we discovered the good news that the supervising producer was, our old friend, Larry Schiller, and he was depicted as an eager crusader for

the truth. We found this most unacceptable and visualised the final outcome to be, that "Gary Gilmore did it!".

The scenario for the film's plot was that Jack Ruby did not, in fact kill Oswald on November 24, 1963 and that he survived to stand trial for the murder of JFK. However, despite the appearance of Lorne ("Griff") Greene for his defence - (Ben Gazzara prosecuted!) - ABC in the final analysis avoided the issue, had Ruby do his deed before a verdict was reached by the court, and then threw the question on to their viewers' laps and asked them to provide the answer.....

Only 52,000 viewers responded to a write-in poll. 17% believed Oswald completely innocent and 83% guilty. 21% of those voting guilty thought him to be the lone assassin and 79% as part of a wider conspiracy!

The alleged assassin's widow, Marina, was later quoted as stating that she found the film "pretty true" although she later admitted that "I watched part of it but I fell asleep.". In real life perhaps she had seen it all before - or had she?

Marina Oswald Porter has indeed been very busy over the past few weeks attempting to perpetuate the myth of her husband's guilt. In early October her new book (on which she had been co-operating with author Priscilla Johnson McMillan since 1964!) was finally published. The mind boggles as to why it has taken so long for "A fascinating and richly detailed portrait of a man who was driven to kill and a woman who was determined to survive" (as the publisher's blurb describes this account) took so long to hit the bookstores. Anyhow Marina and Lee, published by Harper and Row (remember Death of a President?) has now been released with such gems of information as her opinion that LHO shot JFK because she (Marina) had once had a Russian lover who resembled the President!!

At a press conference in New York a spokesman for the publisher refused to say what percentage of the book's royalties she will get.

A second docu-drama is scheduled for TV transmission around late November. This has been produced by CBS ("Cover-up Broadcasting System") as an obvious rival to the ABC film. Titled "Ruby and Oswald. Four Days in Dallas" it will be a three-hour dramatization of the events of November 1963. We have been promised that the CBS News Division will check out the show for accuracy but with their past performances on their "investigations" of 1966 and 1975 to go by that sounds like the poacher turned gamekeeper to our ears!

In the interests of authenticity we are already aware that James R. Leavelle, the Dallas police officer on the right of Oswald and to whom he was handcuffed when he was shot, has agreed to portray himself in this reconstruction. Now, if CBS follow this rule along and give us all of the true facts we are in for a nice surprise! Of course we aren't THAT naive!

To return for a moment to the afore-mentioned ABC production. To our minds the most important question is how does Larry Schiller now enjoy

being a "scavenger"? Welcome to the club!

At the moment there are no plans to screen the film on British TV. Instead, we believe that it will be released over here as a cinema movie! This action is hard to understand when we remember the hassles and distribution problems that plagued both "Executive Action" and "The Parallax View".

HONEST ABE: ANOTHER LINCOLN THE CHAIN

In our bicentennial issue (No.14/15), we advanced the thesis that Lincoln was murdered not by the vengeful South, but by his own Northern Hawks. Our thesis was based on coded memoirs of Lincoln's Secret Service chief, brought to light by Civil War buff, Ray Neff.

We also theorised that Booth, who had worked as an agent for the South, had been duped into believing that his orders to kill Lincoln came from a source not a million miles away from Jefferson Davis. On that score, it turns out, we were wrong, and Booth was not a misguided idealist but an unprincipled whore.

In an article co-authored by Jack Anderson, we read that the missing pages from Booth's diary have turned up - in a box of Stanton's effects. They show Booth intriguing with intimates of Lincoln, including, of course, Stanton himself; they also indicate that Stanton, the uncrowned king of the radical abolitionists, may actually, have been planning with Booth to snuff out Frederick Douglass, the most effective and most radical of the black leaders of that period.

OMINOUS NOTE: In the wake of this discovery, the men from the FBI turned up at Ford's Theater Museum and confiscated Booth's original diary for "tests" (- at what temperature it would burn most fiercely? -).

(BB)

LORAN HALL TELLS A LITTLE

Thanks to Svlvia Meagher for sending a copy of a long interview which Loran Hall gave to Dick Russell in Village Voice - October 3, 1977.

Like anyone who has had extensive dealings with the press, Hall has shaped up as a formidable bullshit artist ("I was in Monterey Park, California, shaving, when the news (of the assassination!) came on TV. I'd just taken my wife to her job" - Face or armpit? What job? Never mind, we have had enough column inches already!). Much else is just a rehash of what we have read elsewhere already. The real meat of the interview comes in the penultimate column:

"A few months before the assassination, Hall says he attended a portentous meeting in Dallas at which he was offered \$50,000. The meeting began as a fund-raiser for his anti-Castro cause, Hall says, but then "a man who owned a trucking company in Dallas jumped up and offered me \$50,000 to blow Kennedy away." Hall says that oilman Lester Logue, in whose office the meeting occurred, immediately dissociated himself from the offer....., and broke the meeting up."

Logue naturally denies the story, but it is one of many which identify Dallas, not merely as the operational, but also the financial nub of the conspiracy. Hall also makes it clear that he believes Cuban exiles played a large part in the killing.

P.S. H.L.Hunt's special assistant J.W.Curington, has said that Hunt, who poured money into the coffers of right-wing organisations during his lifetime, confided in him that he had personal knowledge of a plot to kill JFK, though he was not himself involved.

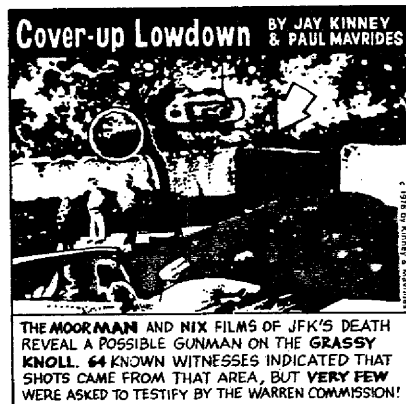
BOOK NEWS

Myth, Fantasy or Fact? The Story of Lee Harvey Oswald.
by Jacob Karmin. July 1977. 159pp. \$5.50.
Vantage Press Inc. 516 West 34th Street. New York. NY 10001.

An interesting account of the complex background of LHO which utilises his "Russian Diary", unpublished manuscript and letters. An unusual book from an obscure publisher.

The Assassination Please Almanac.
by Tom Miller. September 1977. 284pp. \$5.95.
Henry Regnery Co. 180 N.Michigan Avenue. Chicago. IL 60601.

This book is presently NOT for sale outside the U.S. although it is hoped that a British edition may be issued at some stage. As a research tool it is invaluable with an excellent chronology, a comprehensive bibliography of books, records and films etc, a concise history of developments since 1963 and a very useful list of researchers and research groups with addresses etc. Brilliant artwork and illustrations by, amongst others, Kinney/Mavrides (see below). Highly recommended!



The absurdity of the humour of Jay Kinney and Paul Mavrides related to the JFK assassination does not detract from its importance. They remind us not to take the subject, or ourselves for that matter, TOO seriously all of the time!

If infected by this accompanying example readers may be interested to know that a comic-book collection of their drawings is due for imminent publication by: Rip-Off Press Inc. P.O.Box 14158. San Francisco. CA 94114. Price 0.75c PLUS postage.