

JFK Assassination FORUM

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The month of March has witnessed a veritable rush of activity in Britain as regards the Dallas assassination. The forthcoming book by Edward J. Epstein has been serialised by The Sunday Times and has been subjected to massive pre-publication publicity on TV and in Book Trade journals etc. Obviously a lot of cash is being spent on this project and this modest journal has no plans to aid his campaign. We will add our brief comments later in this issue.

On March 6 BBC televised their "new" documentary on the JFK killing. Originally titled "Who really killed Kennedy?" the 50-minute film was finally screened as "The Kennedy cover-up". Utilising some very interesting new film footage and interviews it came across as a good attempt to probe the mysteries. Produced by Anthony Summers it is shown in the US as "The Kennedy Assassination. What do we know now that we didn't know then?" Summers authored a follow-up article in The Listener on March 9. The programme's basic conclusion was that the truth about the whole affair had not yet emerged and that it was highly likely that Lee Harvey Oswald was being used by the Mafia and/or the CIA.

(For any US readers who might be interested in a tape cassette of the programme soundtrack the Editor will be happy to supply Airmail copies at cost price of \$3.00.)

TAPES DISPROVE WARREN REPORT

by Ted Gandolfo

The Warren Report's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole assassin of President John F. Kennedy was the result of a blatant misrepresentation of the known facts, evidence and until recently, suppressed Commission documents themselves.

According to earliest TV accounts from Dallas, which were truthful ones from on-the-scene reporters there, the Commission's conclusions subsequently reached bore no serious relationship to what actually occurred on November 22, 1963. What follows is a small sampling of chronological verbatim accounts of media reportage derived from the actual NBC-TV tapes in my possession:

*1:50 p.m. (Dallas time-CST) "We know that Mr Kennedy was hit in the right temple." - Frank McGee, NBC newsman.

*3:09 p.m. "Mary (Moorman) started to take the picture as the President became right even with us. Three shots - we looked at him and he was looking at the middle of the street - three shots rang out and he grabbed his chest - and a look of pain on his face and fell across towards Jackie and she - uh - fell over him and said, "My God, he's shot." And -uh - there was an interval and then three or more shots rang out." (Question by reporter) "Did you see the person who - who fired the ... " (Answer) "No, I didn't see any person fire the weapon." (Question) "You only heard it?" (Answer) "I only heard it and I looked up and saw a man running along the top of the hill." - Jean Hill's statement to a Dallas reporter.

*8:04 p.m. "The Dallas Police reported a moment ago that a foreign-

made rifle believed to have been used in the shooting of the president had no fingerprints on it. It has been sent here to the FBI laboratory in Washington for an analysis." - David Brinkley report from Washington.

So much for earliest media reportage. Next, we turn to originally suppressed Warren Commission documents relating to the case. Some relevant verbatim excerpts follow (emphasis added):

*May 7, 1964 - Under title "Probable Radius Within Which The First Two Shots Occurred."

"The governor feels he was hit at approximately frame 230; some members of our staff feel that it could have been as late as 240."
- Letter from Warren Commission counsel J. Lee Rankin to J. Edgar Hoover - FBI.

NOTE: Zapruder frame 225 shows JFK has already been hit at this point and Connally has NOT, thereby demolishing the "single bullet theory" crucial to the Commission's case against Oswald.

*July 23, 1964 - "It has been alleged that the palmprint lifted from Oswald's rifle by the Dallas police is false. This allegation is supported by the statement that the FBI told the press in an off-the-record briefing session on November 23 or 24 that there was no palmprint on the rifle." - Letter from J. Lee Rankin to J. Edgar Hoover.

And of course, two classic examples, among many, of deceitful practices by the Commission; the first, barely two days before release of the Report:

*"Reference is made to footnote 563, page 307 of chapter six. The FBI was simply unable to get to us in time a comprehensive list ... Consequently, in addition to the authority already cited; I have inserted a phantom CE (Commission Exhibit) number which can be filled in with something. I believe I have fudged the text sufficiently so that almost anything can be fitted in." - Inter-office memo from W. David Slawson to Howard Willens entitled, "Subject: Pending Matters."

Also: an insight into how Warren Commission staff members dealt with witnesses whose statements were contrary to the official mythology can be gained by reading an until recently suppressed, "Off the Record" interview conducted by staffer Burt W. Griffin of Dallas Police Dept. Sgt. Patrick T. Dean on March 24, 1964. The memorandum reads as follows:

"Just immediately before I began to speak to Sgt. Dean concerning a movie film which he said was being sent to him from Canada, I excused the court reporter from the room and told Sgt. Dean that I did not believe two aspects of his testimony: (1) that Ruby had told him that he planned to shoot Oswald when he saw him in the show-up room on Nov. 22, and (2) that Ruby told him that he had come down the Main Street ramp. I explained to Dean that the work of the Commission was of the highest importance from the standpoint of national security, that I felt that if he had a statement to make to the Commission which was more truthful than the one which he made, that every effort would be made to give him the kind of protection that was necessary in order to permit him to correct that statement."

The Warren Commission submitted its final report to President Johnson on September 24, 1964. Shortly thereafter, a wave of new books and articles appeared, criticizing the Commission's findings and people were made aware of gross inaccuracies, based on the known evidence, contained in the report.

What they didn't know, however, was of the massive, concerted effort by the Central Intelligence Agency to counter and demean critics of the Warren Report's conclusions. For nearly 9½ years, this document dated April 1, 1967, was suppressed until it was obtained under the Freedom of Information Act in September 1976.

It is CIA document number 1035-960, addressed to "Chiefs, Certain Stations and Bases" - Subject title, "Countering Criticism of the Warren Report," and has the provision, "Destroy When No Longer Needed." I quote a portion of the verbatim text:

"Our organization itself is directly involved: among other facts, we contributed information to the investigation. Conspiracy theories falsely alleging that Lee Harvey Oswald worked for us. The aim of this dispatch is to provide material for countering and discrediting the claims of the conspiracy theorists, so as to inhibit the circulation of such claims in other countries. Background information is supplied in a classified section and in a number of unclassified attachments."

"ACTION - We do not recommend that discussion of the assassination question be initiated where it is not already taking place. Where discussion is active, however, addressees are requested:

(a) To discuss the publicity problem with liaison and friendly elite contacts (especially politicians and editors) ..."

(b)"To employ propaganda assets to answer and refute the attacks of the critics. Book reviews and feature articles are particularly appropriate for this purpose ... Our play should point out, as applicable, that the critics are (1) wedded to theories adopted before the evidence was in, (2) politically interested, (3) financially interested, (4) hasty and inaccurate in their research, or (5) infatuated with their own theories."

There is more to this document, but this above portion is an indication of the phenomenal power play by the CIA to rebut honest, valid questions of a proveably false and fraudulent Warren Report. Since November 22, 1963, I have compiled perhaps the largest, chronologically listed, tape-recorded library in the world related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. 4,000 hours in all. I have followed, and am aware of, how the establishment media has treated this case as few people know it.

I am of the firm conviction that the United States of America will remain a nation of, by and for the people, as our heritage so proudly proclaims, if, and only if we find out, finally, the truth about who killed John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. Then, and only then, can we be successful in the prevention of future assassinations of the great political leaders of our times. Only then can we truly be free.

(NOTE: Ted Gandolfo, a 14-year researcher on the JFK assassination, is the Chairman of the Assassination Information Committee and the Host of the weekly New York Cable TV show, "Assassination U.S.A." He is currently organizing a write-in campaign to draw attention to the cover-up activities of Robert Blakey on the House Committee and to have him dismissed as Chief Counsel. We urge our readers to consider supporting this project and to write to Ted at: 1214 First Avenue, New York, NY 10021. We hope to publish more material from him in future issues.)

BOOKNEWS

76 Seconds in Dealey Plaza: Evidence of Conspiracy.
by R.B.Cutler. February 1978. 113 pp.+index. 41 illustrations. 47 photographs. \$12.00. Privately published. Manchester, MA 01944.
(Box 1465).

This book, like the author's four previous works on this subject, puts forward no theory, be it anti-Castro, pro-Castro, CIA/Mafia, or even "Fidel did it!" Instead, it deals simply and coherently with a minute study of the strange behaviour of the mysterious "Umbrella Man" and his

Accomplice during their brief stay in Dealey Plaza.

As an extended introduction, the book begins where its predecessor left off - with a painstaking attempt to establish beyond all doubt the exact sequence of events which led to the five non-fatal wounds to Governor Connally and the four to the President. Cutler's attitude has never been of the "I'm right and you're wrong" variety; he has done his own thorough research, yet corrected his findings where they have been shown to be wrong by others whose efforts have earned his respect. This open-minded attitude has resulted in a seven-shot sequence being discussed in detail in the book.

The author establishes that at Z188, when the President was first hit in the throat from the front, a shot from the grassy knoll was not physically possible. With only one second to track, aim and fire and no viable sniper's nest on the knoll Cutler plumped for TUM (The Umbrella Man) as an assassin.

This hypothesis became a strong possibility with the receipt of the transcript of Charles Senseney's testimony before the Church Committee where he testified that among the arsenal of exotic weapons produced for the CIA from the 1950s onward at the Edgewood establishment at Fort Detrich, Maryland, was an Umbrella Gun. With a suspect and a known, if unusual weapon Cutler goes on to do everything but name the two participants. Their probable names although not mentioned in these pages have been passed on the the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Without a doubt this book will form a very useful addition to any serious collection of assassination literature and, as such it is highly recommended. His earlier books are becoming - rapidly - collectors' items so, get this one NOW!!

(Chris Scally)

(As Bob Cutler has requested the Editor to collate and arrange any British orders for this latest publication those interested in ordering a copy should send £6.50 to fully cover the cost and postage, to the address below, as soon as is possible!)

Legend: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald.

Edward Jay Epstein. Hutchinson. London. April 1978. £5.50.

This hugely-funded book (by the Reader's Digest to the tune of £500,000+!!) will be published in its British edition on April 24. To judge from the three-part Sunday Times serialisation it will blindly accept that Oswald was the lone assassin and will merely content itself to exposing the lurid details of his past life. We can hardly wait for that!!!

Operation Mind Control.

Walter Bowart. Fontana Books. London. February 1978. £1.00.

An intriguing account of hanky-panky by the "invisible government" of the US whereby they control and manipulate human minds by the use of hypnosis and drugs to turn ordinary people into CIA-controlled zombies. The alleged links between the three assassinations of the Kennedys and King make it a worthwhile buy.

+++ One other recommendation now available among Woolworth's remaindered paperbacks is Harry S. Truman's Plain Speaking. Worth every penny of the 0.14p which Woolies demand for his remarks on Richard Nixon - "a shifty-eyed goddam liar" and his comments on the CIA (before the JFK murder).

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