
From the Bay of Pigs

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An eerie web of circumstantial evidence gives credence to once scoffed-at theories that an "invisible government" has been controlling America's destiny for the past dozen years.

If these theories — and they're just that — are correct, behind the scenes forces involving intelligence agents and perhaps the agencies themselves, have determined who would and who would not be President of the United States during that period.

The strange web of circumstances go back to the Eisenhower Administration when then Vice President Richard Nixon was placed in charge of the CIA planning of what would become the Bay of Pigs Invasion in an effort to overthrow Fidel Castro's rebel government of Cuba.

Fifteen years later, a defected and disgraced Richard Nixon paces the lonely beach at San Clemente, Calif. — perhaps trying to size up himself what caused what to happen during those chaotic years.

DURING THAT period, gun barrel politics removed a President from office. Gunshots put another presidential contender out of the running — just at the point that it looked like he was winning. Gunfire crippled another candidate — knocking him from the race — just at the point it appeared he was winning. Campus demonstrations placed a President in such despair he chose not to run again. A bribery investigation caused a Vice President to resign. A bungled "third rate burglary" caused the resignation of a President — Richard Nixon, where the chain first started.

And evidence — some actual, some circumstantial — shows that government intelligence agents were involved in every one of those momentous events.

A fascinating aspect of the entire chain is the emergence of many of the same figures involved in the coverup of the John F. Kennedy assassination — if indeed there was a coverup — in the Watergate scandals of the Nixon Administration and even now in the investigation of American intelligence operations — especially the dread CIA.

In analyzing the intriguing pattern of how the paths of the individuals have crossed during the most momentous events of the 20th Century, take a look at the participants.



Richard Nixon

NIXON WAS IN Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, the

to JFK's

Death to

Watergate: Same

Cast

day John F. Kennedy was shot. It was years after Nixon's clandestine plot with the CIA to overthrow the Castro government.

Nixon, a New York lawyer, was in Dallas for a bottlers' convention. At that same moment, a supposed Castro sympathizer named Lee Harvey Oswald was at the Texas School Book Depository Building a few blocks away.

Two hours before Kennedy landed at Love Field, Nixon stepped aboard a New York-bound American Airlines plane at the same airport.

Three moments later, Nixon would be unable to remember he had been in Dallas on the day Kennedy was shot, perhaps the only sober adult that could not remember exactly what he was doing that historic day.

FBI agent John F. Malone quizzed Nixon in New York on Feb. 28, 1964. The agent reported to J. Edgar Hoover:

"Mr. Nixon advised that the only time he was in Dallas, Texas, during 1963, was two days prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy."

Five years later, two separate events would cause Richard Nixon to become President of the United States:

Assassin bullets would remove John's

brother, Robert F. Kennedy, from politics forever. He was shot down in Los Angeles at the height of a race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

BOBBY KENNEDY had been a thorn in the side of the CIA, and had he become President, undoubtedly would have scuttled the agency.

The other event that insured Nixon's election was the decision of President Lyndon B. Johnson not to seek re-election. He made his announcement "with a heavy heart," influenced by the unrest, violence, and campus demonstrations of forces on both the left and right.

And recently it has been revealed — and confirmed — that government intelligence agents, both from the CIA and the FBI, were the leaders of many of these demonstrations.

Thus the intelligence network — either by accident or design — definitely had a hand in changing the Administration of the most powerful country in the world.

Then the next year — 1969 — a third Kennedy brother, Sen. Edward Kennedy, had his tragic accident at Chappaquiddick that resulted in the death of Mary Jo Kopechne. Kennedy had done a fair job himself of crippling his presidential chances, but the Nixon Administration dispatched White House "plumbers" — drawn from the intelligence ranks — to Massachusetts to do what they could to make sure the damage was permanent.

IN 1972, assassin's bullets again decided who would be President of the United States. George Wallace was shot down at a shopping center in Maryland. Wallace had a good shot at getting the Democratic Presidential nomination. His crippling assured a nomination for the controversial George McGovern, which assured a re-election victory for Richard Nixon.

Two years later Nixon would resign and go into seclusion after the revelations of the crimes of his administration.

And the revelations were largely made by E. Howard Hunt and James McCord, who as CIA operatives had long been altering the course of world history. Again, people drawn from the intelligence community had helped change the administration of the United States.

Gerald R. Ford

FORD WAS HANDPICKED by Richard Nixon to be one of the seven members on the

commission chaired by Chief Justice Earl Warren to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy.

President Lyndon B. Johnson asked Nixon to recommend a Republican to serve on the commission and Nixon recommended the obscure congressman from Grand Rapids, Mich.

Ford played a dominant role on the commission — present for the testimony of more witnesses than any other commission member except Earl Warren himself.



CIA wanted air support for the invasion of the Bay of Pigs. JFK turned them down.

Ford was present with Warren — the only two actual commission members there — when Jack Ruby pleaded with them to take him to Washington to get his full statement of what he knew about the assassination. Ruby, who murdered Lee Harvey Oswald, died soon after his request was denied.

Ford hired a staff to assist him in his role as a Warren Commission member. And after the commission was dissolved after its lone-assassin declaration, Ford came out with a book, "Portrait of an Assassin" which tried to put down any connections between Oswald and the intelligence community.

IN HIS BOOK, Ford even "edited" out of a "Top Secret" transcript of a commission executive session damning testimony concerning speculation that Oswald was either an agent of the CIA or the FBI. (See related article, page 00.)

If the Warren Commission "report" on the Kennedy assassination was a coverup, Ford must have been a part of it, knowingly or unwittingly.

When the intelligence branch of the Internal Revenue Service made its case against Vice President Spiro Agnew and forced his bribery conviction and resignation, Richard Nixon again hand-picked Gerald Ford — this time to be Vice President of the United States.

And when Nixon was forced into resigning, Gerald Ford became President. No longer was he the obscure congressman from Michigan handpicked by Nixon to investigate the assassination of the President; he himself held the most powerful office in the world.



John Connally

CONNALLY RESIGNED as John Kennedy's Secretary of the Navy to become governor of Texas. He was riding in Kennedy's open-top limousine and was wounded

in the barrage of gunfire that killed the President.

The governor's name was found in the notebook of accused assassin Oswald. Connally had routinely corresponded with Oswald concerning Oswald's Marine Corps records.

Years later, after Nixon became President, Connally switched his allegiance from the Democratic Party to the Nixon camp.

Connally became Nixon's Secretary of the Treasury. Connally was a top contender for the Republican presidential nomination in 1976 until he was indicted for accepting a \$10,000 bribe from Texas attorney Jake Jacobson to influence legislation.

Many Connally observers asked: Why would a self-made multi-millionaire such as Connally be interested in a mere \$10,000 bribe?

The jury that found Connally innocent of the charge recently may have asked the same question.

But one fact had no question mark: Another presidential candidate was tainted, and for whatever motive, would not be the next President of the United States.

Fred Korth

KORTH WAS ANOTHER Secretary of the Navy under John Kennedy. He quit the job shortly before Kennedy was killed during a nationally-publicized controversy over awarding the \$6.5 billion TFK — later known as the F-111 contract — to General Dynamics in Texas.

The Fort Worth-based plant got the contract through President Johnson's influence after he became President after Kennedy was killed.

The fascinating fact about Korth was his connections with Lee Harvey Oswald. Korth's name also appeared in Oswald's address book. Korth acknowledged he had known the Oswald family for many years.

He'd represented Edwin A. Ekdahl in a divorce suit against Marguerite C. Ekdahl, now Marguerite Oswald, the mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, who has contended her son was a government intelligence agent.

Korth now practices law in Washington.



Leon Jaworski

JAWORSKI WAS prominently involved in the investigation of the assassination of

President Kennedy; he was equally prominently involved in the prosecution of the Watergate crimes that led to the resignation of President Nixon.

A Houston attorney, Jaworski had been assigned by then Texas Attorney General Waggoner Carr to head up a Texas court of inquiry into the Kennedy assassination. Carr has told TATTLER he was called off the investigation by Lyndon Johnson.

But Jaworski misrepresented himself in a telephone call to H. Louis Nichols, then president of the Dallas Bar Assn., on the day after the assassination.

Nichols visited Oswald in the Dallas city jail for a few minutes. He asked Oswald if he was being treated fairly and if he wanted the bar to appoint him an attorney. Oswald said he wanted to be represented by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Jaworski, after Nichols' visit to Oswald, telephoned the lawyer and asked to know what Oswald had said. Jaworski, according to Nichols, said he had been asked to make a report on the Oswald matter to a Miami, Fla., meeting of the American Trial Lawyers Assn. Jaworski failed to mention he was representing the state attorney general in an investigation of the assassination.

JAWORSKI CONTINUED to take a role in the Warren Commission probe — or, coverup, if it was — of the Kennedy tragedy.

He was present June 7, 1964, when Ruby begged to be taken to Washington.

"Gentleman," the little nightclub owner said, "unless you get me to Washington, you can't get a fair shake out of me. If you understand my way of talking you have got to bring me to Washington to get the testimony ..."

Jaworski, Ford and Earl Warren, who were present at the meeting, ignored Ruby's further plea addressed to Warren personally: "If you want to hear any further testimony, you will have to get me to Washington soon, because it has something to do with you, Chief Warren."

JAWORSKI, WHO has had past ties with the CIA and once prosecuted the Nazi war criminals at Nuremberg, would surface a few years later to again take a role in history.

He became Nixon's second choice as chief prosecutor in the Watergate crimes — chosen after Nixon fired Archibald Cox for stepping on too many toes.

As special prosecutor, Jaworski was importantly involved in what led to changing the administrations of the United States government.

Arlen Specter

SPECTER WAS FOR a time a member of Richard Nixon's defense team in the allegations smothering him during the Watergate scandals.

A White House aide said Specter's selection

was "logical and inevitable."

Specter was also involved in the Warren Commission investigation — prominently.

In fact, it was Specter who came up with the highly controversial "single" or "magic" bullet hypothesis in the Kennedy assassination.

Specter propounded the theory after tests by leading sharpshooters showed the alleged murder weapon could not have been fired within the time period a film showed that both Kennedy and Connally were wounded.

J. Lee Rankin

RANKIN WAS CHIEF counsel for the Warren Commission and thus his role became

one of the most controversial of all in the numerous and varied charges of a coverup.

A decade later Rankin's name would surface again in the Watergate scandals.

Rankin was the choice of Charles (Chuck) Colson, the Nixon hatchet man, for special prosecutor in the Watergate scandal, but the appointment was never made.

Colson was the one who said he wouldn't hesitate to run over his own grandmother to get Nixon elected.

David Belin

BELIN WAS A junior counsel on the Warren Commission.

He took a deposition from Dallas County

Sheriff's Deputy Roger Craig, who later claimed Belin changed his testimony 14 times in the version that appeared in the Warren Report.

Warren Commission critic Sylvia Meagher claimed Belin suborned the perjury of witness Charles Givens. Givens said after the assassination, he saw Oswald on the first floor of the Texas School Book Depository 30 minutes before the shooting. This would have given Oswald an alibi had he lived to stand trial.

By the time Givens gave his story to Belin, he had changed it to say he saw Oswald on the sixth floor of the Depository — the floor the Warren Commission claims Oswald stood to fire the shot that killed the President.

Belin is back in the news now. He is executive director of the commission Gerald Ford appointed Vice President Nelson Rockefeller to head to investigate affairs of the CIA — including a possible role of the agency in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Belin has since said repeatedly that there is absolutely no evidence to connect the CIA with the assassination.

Gordon Novel

THIS FASCINATING CIA agent was probably the most elusive of the witnesses New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison sought to pin down before his grand jury in-



Hauntingly those who participated in investigating JFK's death have popped up in other important roles.



The Watergate complex: Home of the "third-rate burglary" that forced a President of the United States to resign.

investigating a conspiracy in the death of John Kennedy.

Garrison was never able to secure Novel's testimony.

Novel was a key figure in the Garrison probe. When first subpoenaed March 16, 1967, Novel admitted to reporters he knew David Ferrie, whom Garrison had accused in the Kennedy conspiracy, and Sergio Arcacha Smith. Novel also admitted knowing the late Clay Shaw, a businessman who was tried and acquitted for conspiracy to kill the president.

Charged along with Ferrie in a munitions bunker burglary, Novel said: "You will see that it was the most patriotic burglary in history."

A few years later, Novel expressed some interest in another matter involving a burglary.

NOVEL, ACCORDING to syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, conspired with Chuck Colson to erase electronic tape recordings incriminating Nixon.

The plan, never carried out, was to fire a laser beam from a Buck Rogers-type cannon from a truck toward the White House to erase the tapes.

Watergate Gang

BOTH FRANK STURGIS AND E. HOWARD HUNT were longtime CIA

operatives. Both have admitted participating in plots to assassinate foreign leaders.

Both deny they were involved with a plot to assassinate President Kennedy.

But both, as CIA operatives, were highly involved in anti-Castro operations. In fact, so was Eugenio Martinez, another of the Watergate burglars.

Hunt himself was political officer of the abortive Bay of Pigs Invasion. He was also station chief of the CIA in Mexico City the year Oswald went there to try to gain a visa to enter Cuba.

NEW YORK DETECTIVE Jack Caulfield was a Nixon secret policeman who testified about his super-spying before the Senate Watergate Committee.

Recently-declassified Warren Commission documents show that Caulfield, on assignment from the FBI, investigated Lee Harvey Oswald and his Cuban connections both before and after the John Kennedy assassination.

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It could go on and on — the list of prominent and not so prominent Americans who played roles in more than one of the staggering events of the last decade that shaped the course of world history.

The significance of it all? Future historians will ponder it for centuries.