

## AUTHOR'S NOTE

The unresolved questions in the Kennedy, King, and Wallace shootings require new investigations of them all. But this book is about the murder of Senator Kennedy; that is the only case about which the authors have special knowledge. We have tried to deal fairly with the facts, to summarize what is known, and to show why the matter cannot be allowed to rest till we find out what is not.

For what commands the reopening of this case is not curiosity, nor devotion to abstract concepts of justice, nor sentimentalism about Robert Kennedy. What commands the reopening of this case is the grisly question of whether disasters may loom ahead that could be averted if we found out more about disasters past. That possibility is what makes it necessary to examine each of these deaths with a clarity and determination that transcends old attitudes and assumptions.

Those who have endured the ambivalences of my involvement in this case know that this is not a book I have wanted to write; more accurately, it is a book I have not wanted to write. From the beginning I have wished and believed with almost relentless naivete that each step taken would be the last I would have to take, since there is no way that private citizens can muster the resources required for an effective investigation. This book is the next step in the effort to get an appropriate public agency to act responsibly on this matter.

I am especially grateful for their continuing partnership in that effort to Paul Schrade, my colleague, client, and friend; to Dr. Robert Joling, the generous and talented president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences; and to Greg Stone, without whose research skills and total selflessness this material could not have been developed.