

Farber announced Sylvan Fox as the man "who single-handedly reopened the question of who really killed Kennedy and why."

Farber--said Fox was risking every bit of respectability, asked how he felt about that.

Fox--said it didn't bother him at all. He wrote what he had to write.

Farber--The WR was like a loaded gasoline dump, the Fox book was like a missile that hit it squarely. How come there was no explosion? Either the WR or Fox should be completely discredited.

Fox--it was not that simple. A book is a book. The Warren Commission no longer exists, doesn't feel any responsibility to reply to criticism of the Report, has had no calls, no answers to the questions he raised.

Farber--Officially the country doesn't care?

Fox--That's right.

Farber--If you believe the Warren Report, do not continue listening. If you do, you may have a day and night of restlessness or a lifetime of bewilderment. He had tossed the book into the wastebasket without really looking at it because he was tired of "books like that...too many...like butterfly belches, wind, water, and eyewashes..." This book was different. When he noticed it was written by his acquaintance, Pulitzer Prize winner Sylvan Fox, he fished it out of the basket and read it. The introduction was by Silberling, chief of Organized Crime section under Robert F Kennedy (reads excerpts). Having read the book, he wants answers to some two dozen unanswered questions.

(commercial)

Asks Fox, where were you on "October" 22nd (sic)?

Fox--describes, as in book, was having lunch, received phonecall from his secretary, began to walk back to the office, faster and faster, visualizing JFK at first post-assassination-attempt press conference with arm in sling, radiant and witty...but when he saw a secretary being carried limply into rest room, he realized that he had been kidding himself.

Farber describes where he was and what he did when news flash from Dallas came (irrelevant), then says, Fox in his book fired short hard questions which throw the whole WR into serious doubt--or throw Fox into serious doubt. Wasn't Fox concerned about the risk of his reputation?

Fox--He feels there is no risk at all.

Farber—Do you accuse the Warren Commission of deliberate evasion or of incomplete investigation?

Fox—I regret that I have to accuse them of both. Deliberate evasion is seen in the whole matter of the transcript of Oswald's interrogation sessions. It may be that the practices and procedures of the Dallas Police are different from other police forces and that they made no transcripts of any interrogations of any suspects. But it is not possible to interpret the Warren Report that way. The WR does not say Fritz made no notes—it says he KEPT no notes...In the Appendix to the Report, Fritz himself testifies (sic) that he DID make notes.

Farber—What are the five or six or eight or twelve strongest "bombs" against the Report?

Fox—First, a number of major questions are not answered...Why did Oswald KILL JFK? No answer is given. The WR says that Oswald's motive cannot be determined, and invites everyone to speculate...Second, the number of bullets, the trajectory, and the rifle tests...several complicated aspects are involved.

The WR says that there were three shots "probably" but admits there are some problems...The WR says two bullets hit, one missed...But JFK was hit twice, and Connally was hit once, which suggested three shots that hit and one that missed, because Connally insists that he was hit by a separate bullet. But only three shots can be allowed in the time available (up to 8 seconds)... assuming normal performance—loading with a clip, cocking each time, resighting through the scope each time...etc...It IS physically possible...Another problem arises when we examine Connally's wounds...The thesis that one bullet hit both men does NOT stand up, there is no testimony at all to support the single-missile theory. But if there were four bullets, there had to be another sniper in addition to Oswald.

Farber So you're pointing to the overpass...?

Fox Either the overpass or the so-called grassy knoll, on which interesting events seem to have taken place during the confusion after the shooting...some of the witnesses who testified about the grassy knoll are included in the WR, others are not included...Much more weight could have been placed on the testimony of those witnesses...The Warren Commission admits it based its judgment on a "consensus..."

Farber asks about the extent of public interest and concern about the assassination after the passage of almost two years.

Fox Says that one indication was that he spent a lot of time reading the Hearings and Exhibits at the public library and no volume had ever been opened by anyone before him...The WR was not even categorical in concluding that Oswald acted ALONE...the WR says that there was "no evidence of conspiracy" and that "negatives are difficult to prove"...Lying is a rather strong word...He does not ascribe overt lies to anyone...but there had to be a consideration beyond that of determining the truth...

Farber suggests "terminological inexactitude" is an apt phrase.

Fox I dislike ascribing motives...I can only say that they probably were concerned to calm the uneasiness and unrest of the people...~~My~~ My only interest is the truth, I am not affected by the concerns of the State, as the Warren Commission was...

Farber The book is a ruthlessly researched book covering the same ground as the Warren Commission and coming out with another verdict--saying that the WC did not do its job well enough. Has ~~any~~ anyone from the WC or the Government called you? Has there been any talk of a new Warren Commission?

Fox No. Other people have called, urging me to send a copy of the book to every member of Congress, asking for a new investigation...but my job was writing the book (and he doesn't feel that he should go beyond that by promoting or agitating for a new look, words to that effect)...

Farber The hardest evidence is the wound in the throat...It was an entry wound, and the autopsy was never released?

Fox Right.

Farber Why?

Fox That is an excellent question, which I raised.

Farber Why did no one else ask that question?

Fox Everyone wants the country to forget the whole thing...it was national trauma...Mrs Kennedy...does not even remember climbing on to the back of the car...

Farber Tell us about the car reported by Earlene Roberts...

Fox The Warren Commission seemed to overlook this almost entirely. It is a great story (outlines testimony of E Roberts)...She saw the car drive up while Oswald was in the house...she wasn't sure of the number on the car, and there was no reason then why she should have remembered it...the horn sounded, "just kind of a tit-tit twice"...2 uniformed policemen were in the car...she thought it was either number 106 or 107 or 207...The Commission "investigated"...They say "no evidence"...207 and 106 were at the TSBD ...cars 170 and 107 were SOLD in April 1963 and the numbers were not reassigned until February 1964...What happened to those cars? To whom were they sold? Couldn't they have been used with the numbers still on the cars...as part of a conspiracy...knowing that the numbers had not been reassigned...?

Farber Tell about the rifles, the Mauser...

Fox (describes the events)...for 24 hours the press was told time and time again that the rifle was a 7.65 Mauser...later Wade announced that the rifle was not a Mauser, it was a Carcano...The Carcano was shown to reporters...it had two clear identifications "Made Italy" and "6.5 mm"...An explanation of this confusion was never given (NB: Fox did not mention Weitzman, much less Boone etc)

Farber What does that point to?

Fox It points in diverse directions, unfortunately...Buchanan and others tried to develop a conspiracy theory...sheer whimsy...couldn't report accurate facts ...and devised fantasy...

Farber What about Seth Kantor's story that he saw Ruby at Parkland Hospital?

Fox (says that he knows Kantor personally, he is a very responsible man)
WC rejected his testimony saying he was mistaken, there was no corroboration...

Farber How about the alleged strange deaths of Ruby's friends and associates?

Fox They were not alleged deaths, they were deaths...(describes shooting of Warren Reynolds, suicide of Betty Mooney MacDonald)...and a reporter, said to be the first or one of the first to enter Ruby's apartment, also came to a mysterious end...

Farber How about Ruby's timing?

Fox Every reporter knows police buffs...not unusual...Ruby known to many cops...His presence Friday night disturbing but not crucial...but his presence Sunday was different, because the reporters had been told the transfer would be 10 am--at that hour they all gathers, TV equipment was in position, strict searches and security measures...Ruby was at home, he did not leave until after 11 o'clock...walked in just as Oswald was brought out into the open...and Ruby had a loaded gun...Ruby himself raised the question, how could he have timed it without prior knowledge? He tried to tell Warren many things...kept warning Warren that his life (Warren's) was in danger...said he could not talk freely...at one point had the room cleared of all Dallas officials, then told Warren he wanted to come to Washington, where he could tell the truth...he could not do that in Dallas...

Farber I know you don't want to speculate but take a guess---if we knew the truth, where would the ball bounce--Havana? Moscow? Albania? Peking? or inside the USA??

Fox I doubt outside of the USA...It was probably a domestic plot, with orientation outside this country...If ~~he~~ I learned the truth, I would publish it regardless of the consequences...

Farber Could it happen again, that you are called away from lunch and a secretary tells you on the phone, come on back to the office, they have just cracked the case?

Fox It is possible...it may take a lot of digging and a lot of concern on the part of the American people...only two years have passed...it may need 5 years or 10 years, may take a long time, for something to happen, for one of the conspirators to make a slip and expose himself...

(End of roughnotes of
broadcast, which also
ended at that point)

(Meagher 11/2/65)