

## LEAVES

Sunday, August 24, 1975. Article in NY Times Magazine "Conspiracy To The Left Of Us! Paranoia To The Right Of Us!" by Mark Harris, "novelist, essayist...professor of English," reactionary, elitist, intellectual snob. His line support single-assassination theory JFK murder by contemptuous ridicule opposed "conspiracy theories." Extends Warren Commission "findings;" suggests Oswald lone "demented" killer. Conspiracy theories divided into "left" antiestablishment, immature, student protest, and "right" John Birch, middle-aged, anticommunist paranoia; then subsumed in a discussion of common psychological characteristics. No historical review - Harris belief "momentum or accident of history" explains "occurrences." Political "analysis" consists of psychological drive. No theory examined against evidence or for internal logic. Harris overt contempt for students academic component of growing establishmentarian antipathy to youth in U.S. as American imperialism regresses with diminishing economic and educational needs and opportunities. Harris bankruptly evident in solution: education. Article, author, publication an affront.

Monday, August 25. Tried write polemical reply; addressee diatribe editor Times; theme academic vomit; parallel Ntl Enq search Kissinger garbage cans, ironically long-time practice "intelligence" agencies which obverse of flushing incriminating paper evidence down toilets. Thought clear: easy demonstrate Harris piece subjective, emotional, prejudiced mishmash; but Harris disdain "dull" facts no handle discussion relation evidence to theory, fact to truth projected 1965 by Dwight Macdonald in spurious defense Warren Commission. Endless beginnings. Unpalatable choice: regurgitate with Harris or explicate on abstract philosophical grounds. Cannot find middle way leading up. Why agonize? Times will not print; creation for "desk drawer" a la writers in soviet world. Not necessary; students will answer, hopefully in class; greeted Shockley effectively. Literary constipation good occasion eliminate adulterated physical evidence from mental diet. Resolved.

Tuesday, August 26. Letter from Roger forwarded from N.Y. Unusual curious salutation: My dear Stamm. Friendly? Expostulatory? Admonitory? Patronizing? Combination? Body of letter aspects JFK autopsy - physical evidence, medico-ballistic problems. Central point time autopsy ended: Humes 11 pm, Weisberg et al in trap accepting this time; Roger theory "well past midnight," and "This bit of trivia is the key to the mystery of what happened at Bethesda Naval Hospital," mystery seems "link between Parkland and Bethesda" and hinges on time Humes-Perry telephone conversation; relation this link Burkley, other links ignored; "link" not connected moving chain frameup; attributed motivation falsification time autopsy ended by Humes speculatively possible, significance unclear; speculation failure to dissect neck track ignores Finck New Orleans testimony unexplained restriction by Robert Kennedy. Roger ignores request information Burkley appointment-nonappointment Kennedy physi-

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cian, asks "evaluation" his "questionnaire" to "physician who will examine the autopsy materials for CBS News," his "conceptualization of this autopsy question." Dilemma: questionnaire submitted before request for evaluation, no opportunity to influence contents or tactic; this plus reticence details Burkley indicates individualistic approach a la Weisberg, others; not good basis collaboration; but cannot ignore; back in evidentiary quagmire.

Wednesday, August 27. Thinking.

Thursday, August 28. NY Times account autopsy Egyptian mummy more 2000 years old. More thorough than JFK autopsy! As always contradictory physical evidence: antecedent X-rays indicated female, painted finger, toe nails male.

Friday, August 29. Thinking.

Saturday, August 30. AP report Hartford Courant "Plots To Kill Ford, Rockefeller Probed;" in Dallas and NYC; not in NY Times.

Sunday, August 31. UPI dispatch "Oswald FBI Threat Destroyed After Kennedy Died Kelley Says." Target Hosty. Compatible with O hostility to H during interrogation; could explain H name in O notebook. Source FBI; net effect contra obviously planted rumor O FBI connected. Why revelation this time? Connection with pressure new investigation? To divert against CIA? Other possibilities?

Monday, September 1. Evaluation: Author's view questionnaire embodies "conceptualization;" concept autopsy does not emerge; buried by overnumerous questions evincing questioner's comprehensive grasp of medical evidence; also failure to probe autopsy per se and later autopsy reports obscuring understanding two stages in frame up. Questionnaire tactically dubious: CBS vital communications medium capitalist state, ruling class; criticism government specific issues cannot expose transfer power one group interests to "mother via murder president, frameup Marxist victim; CBS record support official account assassination; no indication any source change line; possibility CBS join clamor new investigation, "impartial" respect left vs CIA, right vs. communism; "physician" no more able "find" contrary CBS line than Warren Commission to Johnson policy denuding assassination political motivation; medical evidence only one or part one of four upcoming programs; no doubt selection "physician" carefully considered; "responsible" nominee constrained by professional prestige, ethics, career, basic loyalty government, aware position CBS and critics, at least some knowledge autopsy controversy, literature; possible prior consultations Humes, Parkland medics, Burkley, Wecht, others.

Tuesday, September 2. Evaluation. Questions not shaped by tactical analysis. All questions have same importance, not pinpointed limited number critical issues. No reason "physician" answer all; hence opportunities, if so disposed, successful evasion, simple affirmation, denial sans explanation;

moreover some questions exceed limits physical evidence ("V. Source of the Shots"); also while questions generally have form seeking information, some frankly argumentative ("III. The Back-To-Front Nexus...C. Bruises in the Neck...6. On this one point, please indulge my argument..."); other instances less evident. Few specific points: reference to "Oswald's rifle" a la Roffman supports Warren Commission "finding" and weakens case frameup by planting rifle, shells, etc. "II. Characteristics of the Wounds...16. The President's head is known to have moved forward presumably under the impact of a shot from the rear;" not "known;" claimed by Wecht, others; failed to see in two inspections of Z film ten years apart, second time looking for same. "17. Is there any other explanation for the backward movement than a neuromuscular reaction or a posited front side shot?"; astonishing, front side shot the unassailable evidence of Z film, supported by other evidence; neuromuscular reaction an invention out of whole cloth to offset Z film, validate spurious frameup autopsy findings. After twelve years, unforgivable.

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