

BY GROVER B. PROCTOR, JR.

That this statement, a quote from BBC television producer Anthony Summers' new book *Conspiracy*, could appear on the cover of a volume published by one of the nation's largest and most reputable firms demonstrates how far attitudes concerning the investigation into the assassination of John F. Kennedy have come. That it represents not the research and findings of the stereotypical conspiracy "nut," but a major governmental investigative body, indicates how major a re-think has occurred concerning the case in the last few years.

Ever since the House Assassinations Committee exploded the myth of the lone assassin last year, there has been a need for a volume that would tie together all of the myriad facts uncovered in that investigation into one comprehensible narrative. In doing this, Summers has, to my mind, produced the finest, most authoritative, and best researched piece of investigative journalism ever published on the Kennedy murder.

With obvious diligence and discipline, Summers has waded through the morass of imponderable evidence, evaluated, collated, and sorted it all out, collected reams of his own interview transcripts, and written the "state of the art" document on assassination research. It is, however, so eminently readable that Norman Mailer compared it to a John Le Carre' novel.

The responsible and cautious weighing of well-documented evidence

and the inescapable logic of its presentation are the hallmarks of this book. With the detachment that comes not only from his journalistic skills but also from his British "outsider's" viewpoint, Summers bows to no sacred cows. If he feels the evidence does not warrant a given conclusion, be it one held traditionally by conspiracy minded assassinologists or by Warren Commission advocates, he will attack it with an impressive arsenal of reasoning and fact. It is, in short, a compelling document.

The Today Show

No book dealing with perhaps the most controversial subject of this century could appear without touching off sparks of its own. For Summers, it began a few weeks ago when he was interviewed on NBC's *Today Show* about the book. The fireworks concerned Summers' reporting of one of the key mysteries of the case as uncovered by the House Assassinations Committee.

Antonio Veciano, a leader in the militant Cuban refugee movement of the Sixties, told House investigators that for 13 years his CIA contact was a man who called himself "Maurice Bishop," and that in August or September of 1963, he met with Bishop and a man he later recognized as Lee Harvey Oswald. In attempting to find the real identity of "Bishop," the Committee issued a composite drawing based on descriptions provided by Veciano.

Editor's note: *Spectator* reviewer Grover Proctor, Jr., has for years studied the assassination of John F. Kennedy. As an amateur expert on that black day in Dallas, Mr. Proctor has spoken to civic groups and has written several articles on the subject. When it was discovered that a new book on the assassination has been received by the academic and scientific community as

the authoritative guide, and that a previously disregarded slip of paper connecting Lee Harvey Oswald to Raleigh was a part of the research in the book, we asked Mr. Proctor to review it, contact his other sources, including the author, and pull together for our readers the sense of the book and whatever information is available on "The Raleigh Connection."

The Phone Call

That Never Was

RALEIGH SPECTATOR, 17 JUL 80

Evidence in new book brings mystery to Raleigh

Conspiracy by Anthony Summers; New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co.; illus., 640 pp.

"It is certainly possible that a renegade element in U.S. intelligence manipulated Oswald — whatever his role on Nov. 22, 1963. That same element may have activated pawns in the anti-Castro movement and the Mafia to murder the President."

that evening, and was told by a fellow worker, Mrs. Louise Swinney, that their supervisor had asked them to assist law enforcement officials to listen to a call that Lee Harvey Oswald would be making soon. Two men, that Mrs. Troon thinks might have been Secret Service agents, subsequently came into the switchboard room...

demonstration... rage and venom. Since the deal of the time, Phillips said, "Welcome to America, Mr. Summers. I accuse you of assassination!... You've written a book that... cajoles the reader to believe that I was somehow involved in the Kennedy assassination!" Summers handled himself quite well, pointing out that he reported others' findings, and did not accuse either in his book nor that morning...

