

# THE CONTINUING INQUIRY

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THE PURLOINED LETTER (With apologies to Edgar Allen Poe)

by Penn Jones

This editor purchased a letter written by Jack Ruby which had been smuggled from the Dallas County Jail. Several such letters were gotten out of the jail and sold at auction by a well known auctioneer in New York City.

Our letter was purchased for \$950 over the telephone. We mailed a check that day, and two weeks later Charles Hamilton called demanding our payment and stating that the check had not arrived. We wired the money that day and the Ruby letter duly arrived.

The letter was 32 pages long written on 4 x 6 sheets of paper. The letter clearly and plainly asserted that Lyndon Johnson was involved in the conspiracy to kill President Kennedy.

Shortly after the charges were brought against Clay Shaw in New Orleans by the then District Attorney Jim Garrison, our letter took on new significance. A hand written letter by a member of a conspiracy is evidence admissible in court. Our letter took on that new importance.

Soon after the Garrison charges were filed, we started getting some new "friends". Black Star, a photography agency suddenly took a great interest in this editor. Black Star sent a photographer, Matt Herron, to Midlothian from New Orleans, he took literally hundreds of pictures of this editor. It went on for days, and we began to feel that we must be a new photographic find. Of course none of the pictures were ever printed, assuming he had film in the camera.

But it worked, the photographer became a "friend". He in turn recommended a "friend" who also was "greatly interested" in the assassination. The friend was from England and said he was in New Orleans studying jazz; nevertheless he was a great "student" of the assassination of President Kennedy. This friend, Tom Bethel, came to live with us--for months. We never had a more unpleasant guest. In addition to other things, he only bathed once a week at two o'clock in the morning--with loud splashing in the bathroom.

But the letter was in the bank vault. Help arrived. Ramparts Magazine sent one of its editors who was "deeply interested" in our letter and the assassination. Ramparts had run a big story on us earlier. It was a fair story, but although they quoted extensively from our FORGIVE MY GRIEF I, the magazine failed to mention that they were quoting from a book that was for sale by us.

The Ramparts editor arrived, terribly interested in the Ruby letter. Could we let him see it? Finally after a few days we took the letter from the bank vault and the editor agreed to publish the letter, minus the names, paying us \$300.00. NOTE: a printed letter is not admissible as court evidence. Only the hand written letter is admissible in court. Then the editor left.

We took the letter to Fort Worth and prevailed upon our friend, John Howard Griffin, to photograph this piece of evidence. We returned with the letter and negatives in a folder which promptly disappeared from our home.

The New Orleans Jazz, assassination buff, Tom Bethel, left too. Bethel was later hired by District Attorney Jim Garrison in Garrison's attempt to prove Clay Shaw had been a CIA agent and had been part of a conspiracy to assassinate

President John F. Kennedy. Garrison was sharper then we had been. Bethel had to admit to Garrison that he, Bethel, had stolen Garrison's Shaw trial plans and gave them to Clay Shaw's attorneys.

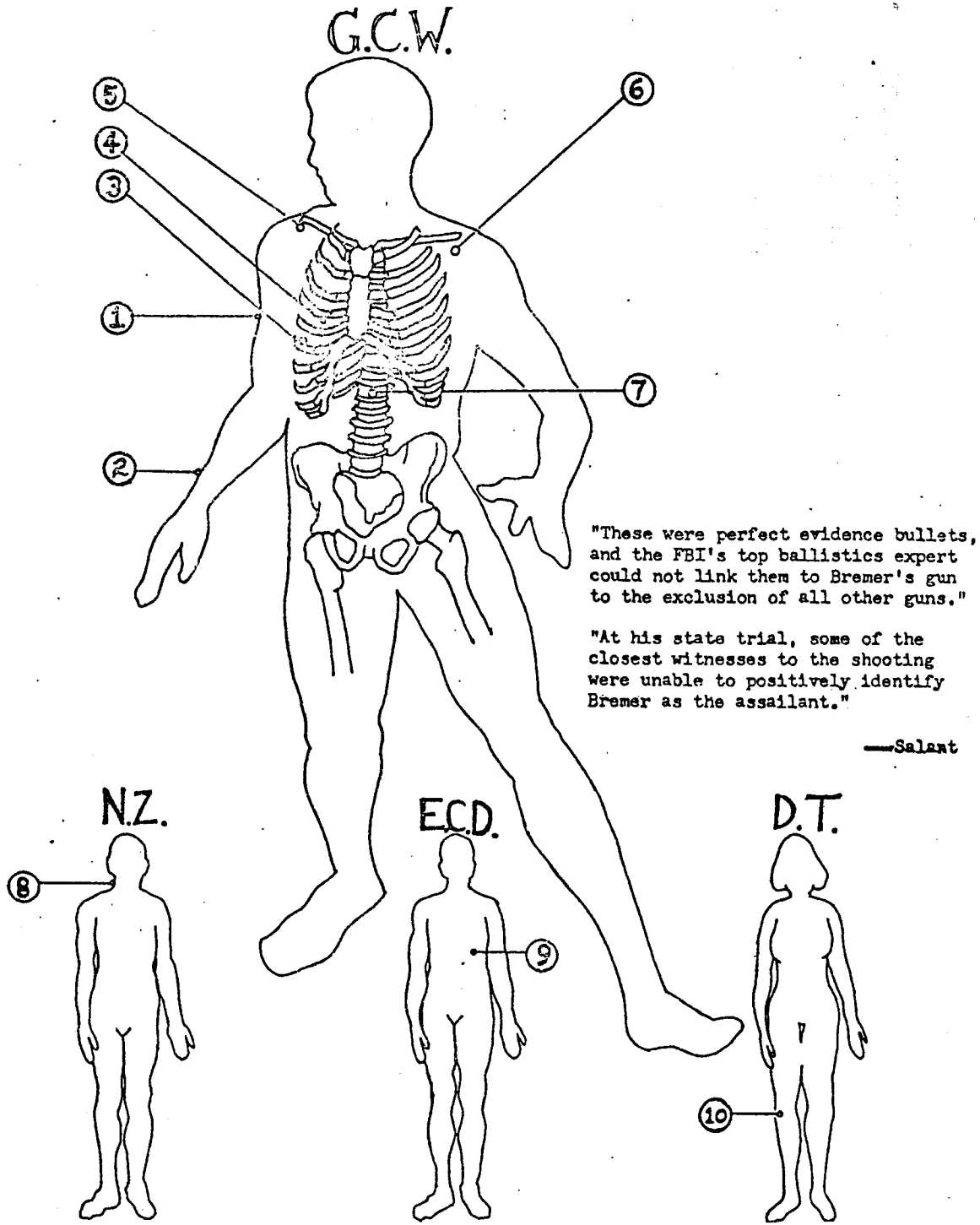
In 1976 the CIA finally admitted that Clay Shaw had been one of their agents. Life is just a big bowl of cherries, if you can stay off of these conspiracy kicks.

We lost our letter. Garrison lost his case against Shaw, and Bethel became the editor of a Washington, D.C. magazine. The photographer and his family sailed for a vacation overseas.

THE SHOOTING OF GEORGE WALLACE  
A Synopsis of Ballistics Data

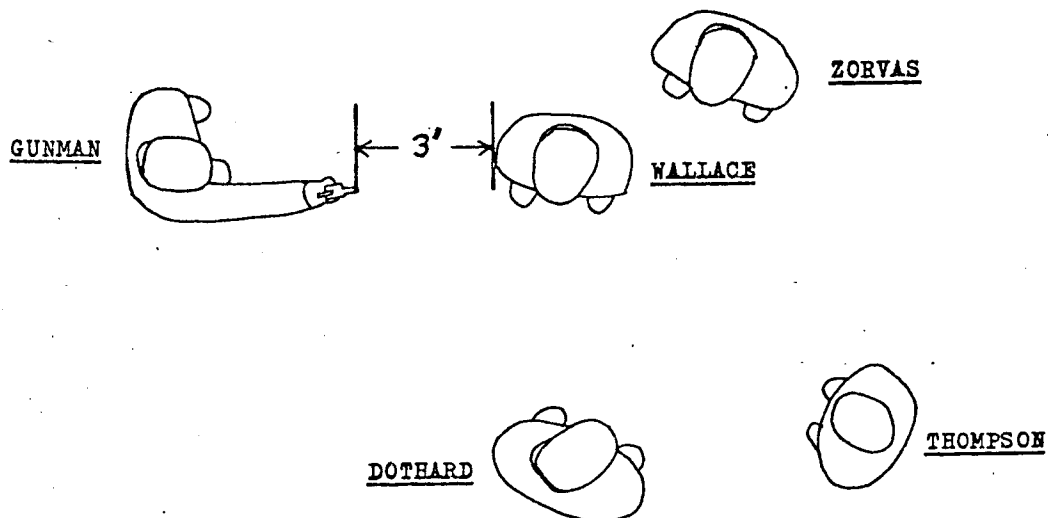
By R. Frank Salant

- There were conflicting views from witnesses on the number of shots fired. Some said four, others five. The .38-caliber pistol found at the Governor's feet, was a five-shot revolver. The Justice Dept. said it had been discharged five times.
- Although there was broad speculation on how four persons had suffered at least 11 separate wounds from a purported maximum of five shots, the various law enforcement agencies with personnel on the scene said that none of their officers or agents had discharged their weapons.
- Doctors at the Holy Cross Hospital in Maryland said that Governor Wallace was struck by four and possibly five bullets from the assailant's gun. They could not tell the exact number of bullets that struck the Governor. Dr. Edgar Berman of Baltimore, a retired surgeon, was responsible for assembling the doctors who operated on the Governor.
- There were two through-and-through wounds of the right arm, one in the forearm ②, and the other in the upper arm ④. There was also a superficial wound of the right shoulder ⑤ and a glancing superficial wound of the left shoulder blade ⑥.
- The most serious wounds were two in the chest, one on the right side ③ and the other in the right hand region of the chest ④. It was considered possible, although not certain, that these wounds were caused by the same bullets that passed through the Governor's right arm. One of the bullets hit ligaments of the intestine and brushed the large intestine on the left side. One bullet penetrated the Governor's stomach. It was not certain which of these bullets was the one which lodged in the patient's back ⑦, which was the cause of his paralysis. Bullet ⑦ lodged against the first lumbar vertebra, just below the ribs. Dr. Schanno speculated that the bullets that caused the wounds in the Governor's arm might also have entered his abdomen and chest, but he was not certain on this point.
- Wounds in the right shoulder ⑤ and left shoulder blade ⑥ were superficial and evidently the bullets causing them did not lodge in the body. The areas shown in the accompanying diagram indicate the locations of the bullet penetrations.
- The bullet which had perforated the Governor's stomach, torn through ligaments of the small intestines and brushed past his large intestine on the left side of his body was removed during the first operation at Holy Cross. The second operation was performed at Holy Cross on June 18, 1972, for the removal of the bullet in the spine.



- Order of penetration - The official version of the incident: The first bullet passed through the right shoulder - The second bullet passed under the left shoulder blade - The third bullet pierced the upper right arm, continuing down into the chest, nicking the large intestine and blood vessel leading to the kidneys, and finally lodging in the abdomen - The fourth bullet passed through the right forearm and chest, physiologically transecting the spinal cord around the hip area and lodging in the spinal column, though not severing it.
- Wallace's own recollections: The Governor recalls hearing five shots in rapid succession. He was instantly spun around by one of the shots, possibly the first, though on this point he is not positively certain. The Governor believes the first bullet grazed his back and then the other four bullets penetrated him. Wallace sus-

DIAGRAM INDICATES APPROXIMATE POSITIONS OF ASSAILANT AND VICTIMS



tained four wounds of entry and two of exit, not counting the two wounds to his back. Wallace suffered a total of at least eight wounds,

- Mrs. Dorothy Thompson, a 34-year-old Maryland Campaign worker, was struck in her right lower leg by a bullet.
  - Nicholas Zorvas, a 37-year-old Secret Service agent, was struck in the neck by a bullet. The bullet entered in the right side of the neck and lodged beneath the left jaw bone. It was removed in surgery and the voice box was repaired by physicians.
  - Captain Eldred C. Dothard of the Alabama State Patrol, was struck in the abdomen by a bullet. Both Dothard and Thompson sustained superficial wounds and were released in a few days. Initial reports stated that Dothard was wounded in the chest.
- \*-Four victims received a total of at least 11 wounds.

\* (Another bullet was found embedded in the asphalt - Salant)

-Ballistics data from the trial: At Arthur Herman Bremer's state trial, the FBI could not match bullets taken from the Wallace shooting to the .38-caliber revolver found next to the Governor. Benjamin Lipsitz of Baltimore, Bremer's court-appointed defense attorney, raised substantial doubts as to whether A.H. Bremer had fired the alleged assassination weapon. Lipsitz told the jury that the FBI could not prove that the bullets came from Bremer's gun. He got FBI witnesses to concede that Bremer's finger and palm prints were not found on the gun, and that there was no ballistics proof that Bremer had fired a gun. Also, the trial brought out that paraffin tests indicated Bremer did not fire a gun, and that no finger or palmprints were found on the gun of an identifiable nature. FBI firearms expert Robert Frazier conceded that he could not prove that the bullets matched Bremer's gun. He said that the bullets could have been fired by any one of thousands of similar revolvers. This evidently means that the bullets bore the class characteristics of a Charter Arms .38, but not the accidentals that would distinguish this weapon to the exclusion of all others.

#### CUBA AND THE KENNEDY'S

by R. Frank Salant

Recently, an article appeared in Harpers Magazine alleging a desire to bring down Fidel Castro by the Kennedy administration. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our history, as it is commonly taught, is the reverse of the facts.

Fanatical enemies of the Kennedy's have purposefully created "cover stories" and presented them as historical truths, misconstruing the known facts concerning the actual role that John Kennedy played in U.S. relations with Havana, and have generally put themselves forth as great "authorities" on the subject. In fact, what they profess to have been the truth is a completely unjustified smear, an attempt to destroy the faith and love most Americans had for the Kennedy brothers. These overt lies shall soon be stricken from the history books and the originators condemned.

The facts, buried under layers of red tape and classified Top Secret, overtly manipulated by the government and the press, shall speak for themselves and expose the real conspirators behind this perversion of history. Isn't it remarkable that the assassinated are now becoming the assassins? Only cowards would accuse those who cannot answer back.

A legacy of suspicion obscures the fundamental economic and political reasons behind the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. For many years, Cuba had been a haven and a godsend for the Mafia and right wing politics. A coalition government was created in the 50's between Batista and Meyer Lansky that transformed the island paradise into a giant casino and sex-pot for rich American Industrialists and "businessmen."

Though the skyline of Havana was changed to resemble the Riviera or Miami Beach, the influx of millions of dollars from tourist trade, gambling, drugs, and gun-running did not benefit the Cuban people at all.

"Fidel" changed all this. He kicked out Batista, whose regime was so corrupt that it practically crumbled by itself without Castro, along with the Mafia, and enacted reforms designed to benefit the Cuban people and restore national dignity and self-respect.

Few people know that Richard Nixon was the moving force behind the Bay of Pigs invasion. In his book, Six Crisis, Nixon proudly takes responsibility for the training and organization of the Cuban exiles. Batista and Lansky not only had good friends in the White House, but also in the U.S. Senate and the CIA. Barry Goldwater was a good friend of the corrupt, right wing Cuban establishment. Goldwater wrote:

"It is inconceivable that Castro, that show-off puppet, that lackey of Kennedy be allowed to make fun of us and jeer at our freedom only a few minutes flying time from our closest city..."

Lansky himself put a million dollar price on Castro's head. Through his lieutenant, Howard Hughes enlisted a notorious west coast gangster to assassinate Fidel Castro. George Smathers of Florida lobbied in the Senate for Castro's assassination, while Nixon, from the White House, was organizing the Florida-Texas Axis to back the CIA, with the aid of former Batista operatives, to come to the rescue of the then stranded gangsters on Cuba.

In Washington, D.C., Ike acted on Nixon's recommendations, although he was kept in the dark about the scope and nature of the operations under way. You see, Richard Nixon had been "assigned" the task of returning the Cuban island back to the "proper" hands.

An army was created, largely funded and manned by the Syndicate, the Texas Oil empire, and the CIA, the Florida-Texas Axis, the "Unholy Alliance."

But due to circumstances beyond the control of Nixon and his cohorts, the planned invasion was delayed until after the 1960 Presidential elections. One story has it that the CIA (Dulles), had supposedly decided upon Kennedy as the more attractive and more intelligent candidate and had thus, dumped Nixon. But most probably, bad weather conditions and unpreparedness forced the Axis to stall until the spring of 1961.

Nixon lost the 1960 election, and John Kennedy became the 35th President of the United States.

When Kennedy entered the White House, he encountered a strange and bizarre situation. Tremendous pressures were being placed on the new and young President. The preparations were already under way for the invasion, all that was needed by the Axis was the OK signal from Kennedy. How could he refuse them? He had only been elected by a small majority. He didn't have the power. An Executive Order signed by President Eisenhower on March 17, 1960, had authorized the clandestine training and arming of Cuban exiles and refugees.

On October 20th, 1960, towards the end of his electoral campaign, Kennedy declared that the U.S. should "attempt to strengthen the non-Batista, democratic anti-Castro forces in exile, and in Cuba itself, who offer eventual hope of overthrowing Castro." Unknown to Nixon, Kennedy had been informed to a limited extent, of the planned invasion by Dulles, and was using the issue to irritate his opponent and draw him into a debate on the matter.

His position on Cuba, which helped him in the election, was for the purpose of reassuring the CIA and the military. However, from private papers of the period, Kennedy was not all that keen on the invasion. He did not want to return Cuba to the Mafia, which was to be a major target of his administration, and the operation diverged too sharply from his views on foreign policy, since such an invasion would be a blatant violation of the Neutrality Act.

Kennedy freely expressed his opinions on the secret government. He did not trust the hidden government. He knew it was carrying out assassination attempts

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## Cuba and the Kennedys (Continued from page 6)

and sabotage operations without his direct knowledge or permission. He did not know, at first, how to stop the free-wheeling CIA. He feared its awesome power and once he was President, publicly stated that he desired "to splinter the CIA in a thousand pieces and scatter it to the winds."  
(New York Times, April 23,26,27,28,29, 1966)

Chronology of Invasion

1. At 1:30 on the morning of the Invasion, the extra B26's, piloted by Cuban exiles, stationed at a clandestine base in Nicaragua, started up their engines to conduct the planned second raid over the airfield where Castro's T38's were positioned, the only combat planes Castro had left from the first bombing raid.
2. The plan was to destroy these second groupings of planes at sunrise by a low level strafing raid, a simple and straight-forward action for trained combat pilots.
3. The pilots waited for their orders. They were supposed to receive orders automatically according to the master plan of the invasion. But the first strike the day before had started an uproar at the U.N. The second and crucial strike did not take place on that hectic weekend; Allen Dulles was in Puerto Rico on this occasion where he was acting as Commander in Chief of the entire Invasion.
4. The plane's engines idled for hours. Only Kennedy could give the final orders to let the planes fly. But before he had gone to bed, President Kennedy had instructed his aides not to wake him up, no matter what was happening to the Invasion. He remained peacefully sleeping at his Virginia estate.
5. As a result of the President's actions, morning came with no strike and Castro's 3 jets annihilated the 2 ships off shore, strafed the beaches, and shot down many of the B26's, 4 with American pilots on board from the Alabama National Guard. In the National Security Council, it had been agreed that the planes were a crucial part of the mission; they had bombs loaded and were ready to take off. During the second phase, when the Invasion was going poorly, Kennedy again declined to send in additional Navy Aircraft, a contingency plan which the Cuban exiles never benefited from. This would have been an overt act. Kennedy was not willing to play ball with the CIA any longer, and he had deniability. An overt operation over Cuba by the U.S. was out of the question. Kennedy subscribed to the identical overriding view with regards to Vietnam.

Thus, Kennedy torpedoed the Bay of Pigs Invasion, and fired Allen Dulles and a number of other top CIA men, blaming the CIA for the fiasco."

In June, 1961, Kennedy published two little-known documents. They were called National Security Action Memoranda 55 and 57. NSAM 55 was entitled "Relations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to the President in Cold War Operations." Since the military is never supposed to become involved in clandestine operations, it was surprising for President Kennedy to address the Chairman of the JCS directly on this matter. It was also highly unusual that President Kennedy signed this document himself, and that he addressed it individually to the Chairman.

Kennedy sent copies only to the Secretary of Defense and to General Maxwell Taylor, who was Kennedy's National Security Advisor, the official contact with the CIA. But Kennedy didn't send a copy to his Secretary of State, Dean Rusk.

Suddenly, President Kennedy had laid down the law; for the first time, an American President was really taking control into his own hands! The most significant line in this short document reads: "The Joint Chiefs of Staff have a

So it was the JCS who would now be his primary advisors on matters concerning clandestine operations, not the CIA!

responsibility for the defense of the nation in the Cold War similar to that which they have in conventional hostilities."

Then, President Kennedy addressed a similar NSAM 57 to the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the CIA. This document said that the CIA would only become involved in clandestine operations when properly authorized, and only when the operations were strictly of an "Intelligence nature," and only if the operation was very small and could be denied by the U.S.

Now, Kennedy was for the first time in control, or so he thought he was. Because in January, 1963, some of the same men who cursed and spat at Kennedy when he congratulated them in Miami, were secretly called back by the CIA and were sent to secret camps in Louisiana and Florida where they began training for a new invasion.

In Strategy Of Peace, the President wrote.....

"Just as we must recall our own revolutionary past in order to understand the spirit and significance of the anti-colonialist uprisings in Asia and Africa, we should now reread the life of Simon Bolivar, the great liberator of South America....

"Fidel Castro is part of the legacy of Boliver...The economic and social reforms undertaken in Cuba must be encouraged."

On March 13, 1963, Kennedy said..."For the first time we have the capacity to strike off the remaining bonds of poverty and ignorance--to free our people for the spiritual and intellectual fulfillment which has always been the goal of our civilization...

"This political freedom must be accompanied by social change. For unless necessary social reforms, including land and tax reform, are freely made--unless the great mass of Americans share in increasing prosperity--then our alliance, our revolution, our dream, and our freedom will fail. But we call for social change by free men--change in the spirit of Washington and Jefferson, of Bolivar and San Martin--not change which seeks to impose on men tyrannies which we cast out a century and a half ago. Our motto is what it has always been--progress yes, tyranny no--progreso si, tirania, no!"

On July 31, 1963, Washington ordered the FBI to surround, attack and close down all the CIA bases across the Southern U.S., that were illegally training for a new invasion of Cuba.

In those last few months, Kennedy had made dramatic and sweeping decisions that would have changed the course of history. The Cold War was rapidly closing. A Nuclear Test Ban Treaty had been signed with the Russians. Kennedy had decided to set a date for the complete withdrawal of American forces from Vietnam: all Americans would be out by 1965.

Kennedy was in the process of destroying the power of the CIA. Diem was holding secret peace talks with the Viet Cong, and Kennedy was outraged when news of his murder reached Washington, D.C. In September of 1963, Kennedy withdrew 1000 men from Vietnam. And then, MacNamara announced that all Americans would be out of Vietnam by 1965.

And Kennedy was conducting secret negotiations with Castro's representatives to normalize U.S. relations with Cuba. At least, he thought they were secret.

It was on August 1, 1963, that Kennedy announced the conclusion of his Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the installation of the "hot line" between Washington and Moscow.

Some days later, a New Orleans "businessman," Clay Shaw, Director of the International Trade Mart, contacted David Ferrie and made his proposition.

Control of the CIA died with JFK in Dallas, Texas.

#### A LITTLE PHILOSOPHY

by Penn Jones

In Mort Sahl's new book, HEARTLAND, he tells of attending a dinner given by Henry Luce honoring a LIFE Magazine Detroit bureau chief who was being transferred to the Los Angeles bureau of LIFE. Sahl asked Luce how thoroughly the editor had covered Chrysler Auto Company while he was in Detroit. Luce replied, "No major publication in America exists without automobile advertising. Integrity is a word I left at Yale."

No wonder America is lost. No wonder less than fifty percent of the qualified voters will not bother to go to the polls this year. No wonder four editors go to jail rather than reveal their news sources. No wonder a great newsman like Daniel Shorr can be relieved of his duties, can be harassed by Congress with the American public little aware and caring less about his case.

The First Amendment to the Constitution says: "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press: (emphasis ours) or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

This is pretty plain language. For two hundred years Congress and the courts have had little trouble interpreting what these words mean. Now we seem to be mired and unable to know where to go from here.

The old Saturday Evening Post once had a cartoon of two old ladies staring at a man slouched and apparently asleep in an overstuffed chair. Said one lady: "That is the trouble with being married to a philosopher, you never know if he is working or just goofing off."

Well, maybe the cartoon didn't hurt, but it didn't help the cause of logical thinking. For example, When Felix McKnight, executive editor of the Dallas Times Herald talks about responsibilities of the press in his public addresses, he should be using the word duties.

It has been said that every man is a philosopher. Many men are poor at it, but philosophers nonetheless. One old man in Midlothian was caught in an undeniable inconsistency. Smarter than most, he realized it. When pressed on the point, he simply explained that he had gotten his whiskey mixed. (Most every one knows mixing your whiskey will make you sick.) The Dallas Times Herald mixed their whiskey badly in 1960 when the newspaper came out belatedly with an editorial simultaneously endorsing Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon.

I think it would help editors as well as average citizens to have a little philosophy thrown at them occasionally. Newspaper people do not furnish logical explanations for their great and exalted position regarding freedom of the press. Lawyers as well as editors are shy in presenting the different relationships regarding rights, duties, privilege, obligation, license and responsibility.

Law schools often describe the relationships of governments and citizens as a bundle of sticks. The usual portrayal is a neatly tied bundle of sticks, all the same size and length.

A more apt concept, in our opinion, would be a bundle of sticks of different lengths and thicknesses. My bundle of sticks would be made up of equal contributions from a government and its people. Our forefathers by concerted co-operative action formed a new entity, the government. This new entity then had the power to act. These acts are authorized by the equal contributions of government and of the people.

## THE GOVERNMENT GIVES

RightsPrivilegesLicenses

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## THE PEOPLE GIVE

DutiesObligationsResponsibilities

These relationships are traded one for one between the people and the people's creation, the government.

When a government is formed, that government places a stick into what will become a bundle of sticks, and the people place a similar stick into the pile. The Government lays down a stick which represents a right. It is the most precious thing a government can grant to its people; therefore it should be represented by being the heaviest and longest or most important stick in the bundle.

The people under that new government lays down an identical size stick, also the most precious thing the people can give the new government. It is called duty.

Next, the government puts down a smaller stick, called privilege. It is matched by the people when they contribute their next finest stick to the bundle--obligation.

Then the government places a still smaller stick called license. And it is matched by the people with responsibility.

Let us go back to our most precious stick--right. An example of a right is freedom of religion, granted by the Constitution. The basic law of the land, the Constitution, must be changed before that right can be taken from us. The only restriction imposed upon us is derived from the stick we gave up which represents our duty. This duty prohibits me from interfering with other people in the freedom of their religion. I, citizen Jones, cannot have a religion which requires that I dance for joy, or shout at the top of my lungs, or do the twist during and in the presence of another faith. If I do disturb others at worship, I can expect to be punished and prohibited. I have the right of freedom of speech, but I must not interfere with others freedom of speech.

As a citizen of this nation, I have the right of trial by jury, if I desire. There is not a judge in the land who would consider denying anyone a trial by jury when requested. The punishment is almost automatic for not fulfilling the duty demanded by the three rights used as examples here.

Now as to freedom of the press. The right of freedom of the press must be paid for by editors living up to their duty of telling the truth as honestly as possible to the public. The right was granted in the firm belief that editors would keep the public truthfully informed. With other rights punishment can be expected when the duty is not fulfilled, but no one is even reprimanded when editors fail to fulfill their duty.