

The Rosetta Stone Hanging from David Belin's Neck

Nobody, not even those former Warren Commission Counsel David Belin castigates as "conspiracy theorists" and "sensationalists", has been as lustful for personal attention as he when he sees a chance to get it when there is anything on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy he can use as an excuse.

A recent illustration is his op-ed page article in the New York Times of June 25.

In it, as usual, Belin flaunts either ignorance, his disregard of truth or both.

He exploited the controversy over whether the fragments of bullet that remained in former Texas Governor John B. Connally's body after the assassination should be removed and studied with care.

Misrepresenting as usual, Mr. Belin described all those who believe that evidence of "the crime of the century" should not be buried as "sensationalists" and "conspiracy theorists." He said the "spurious" reason was to prove that there had been a conspiracy.

I wrote the Department of Justice before any news story appeared. The reason I gave to explain the need for their recovery was to avoid justifying a new wave of rumors and because the national honor required that no available evidence be buried.

For a man who had his Warren Commission responsibilities and was later appointed to head a different presidential commission by former Warren Commission Member Gerald Ford, Belin displays a remarkable ignorance of the Warren Commission's fact. The only alternatives are much uglier.

He says that all the fragments left in Connally were "tiny bullet

bullet fragments in his right wrist ... each of which weighs less than a postage stamp."

Therein lies one of Mr. Belin's ineffable talents: he knows the weight of the fragments buried and never seen.

The fragments to which I referred, my knowledge of them coming from the Warren Commission's own testimony and records, are in Connally's chest and in his thigh.

Mr. Belin does not even acknowledge that they exist. He at the least implies they do not.

Without checking to see whether Mr. Belin is incorrect as I think he is in ² what else he says about how Connally was wounded, the doctors he says he quotes, those who treated Connally, testified before the Warren Commission. With that one bullet that is officially blamed with infliction^{NG} of all seven nonfatal injuries on both men in their hands, each and every one of those doctors testified that they saw more bullet metal in Connally's wrist alone than was missing from that bullet. And that was after the FBI removed most of what can be said to be missing from that bullet!

~~Im~~plying that all the fragments not remaining in Connally's wrist had been recovered and tested, which is false as Belin knew, more having been washed away during the cleansing of that wound, Belin then says that all those recovered fragments were tested in 1978 by the expert on neutron activation evidence, Dr. Vincent P. Guinn.

That also is not true.

Writing in the September 8, 1978, Post of what Guinn actually testified to before the House Select Committee on Assassinations, George Lardner wrote:

"Guinn's tests also created a new mystery, however. 'The fragments the FBI tested in 1964,' he told (Congressman ^(Flouder) Fithian), have all disappeared. ... Where they are, I have no idea."

The only fragments recovered from Connally's wrist were those the FBI tested, those Guinn swore he was not given to test and "have all disappeared."

Neither Guinn nor that committee made any effort to identify the source of what Guinn did test, not unnatural for that committee or its honcho, Robert Blakey, whose dependability rivals that of Mr. Belin.

Belin concluded his propaganda for which the Times gave him and him alone the space by saying of the CIA JFK assassination records that he "had access to all these files" and that when disclosed they "would confirm the Commission's finding that Oswald was the lone gunman."

It does not require a law degree or the experience of which Mr. Belin so often boasts to know that the latter is an absolute impossibility. There is no way of "confirming" that other gunmen did not fire shots that missed. That one did is the conclusion of the House committee Mr. Belin cites.

It is the Philadelphia lawyer in the Des Moines lawyer Belin that impels him to the tricky and deceptive writing of the first quotation above, that he "had access" to all the CIA's relevant files. But he certainly did not read the estimated 300,000 pages of them and do anything else at all for years!

Then there is the question, what did he do with the CIA records he did have when he headed t he Rockefeller Commission?

He suppressed what most directly addresses the Commission's indispensable single-bullet theory his Times piece ~~he~~ says "is solid."

It is essential in the Commission's conclusions that the first shot in the assassination was fired at precisely the point represented in Frame

210 of the amateur motion picture taken by Abraham Zapruder. The CIA's National Photograph Interpretation Center made a careful study of that film to determine when any shot was or could have been fired. Mr. Belin got them and did not use or publish them. I got them under the Freedom of Information Act. I added them to the 1978 reprint of my third JFK assassination book first published in 1967.

I have not heard a peep from Belin and I was quite specific in saying that he suppressed what disproved the Warren Report, the CIA's photo interpretations.

What he got and did not publish I published in facsimile, the CIA representation of two sets of analyses.

In neither one did it even consider that there was a shot fired at essential Frame 210.

I published Belin's personal record in the Warren Commission's conclusion that Oswald also killed Dallas Policeman J. D. Tippit. In his book on the assassination Belin refers to that crime as the assassination "Rosetta Stone."

For Oswald to have been able to kill Tippit it had to be shown that with all that was known about him and his movements he had to have been able to get to the scene of the crime in time to do it. Belin's own personal time reconstruction proved Oswald could not have gotten there until some time later, until after several failed efforts to report the shooting ^{with Tippit's police records} did succeed.

I think it is past time for the media to tell the real "sensationalist" of all of his own "theories" to stick to his law books and to stop misusing the media for his personal rewriting of the fact of the JFK assassination, of which he has already done much too much.

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