said. "I don't know why that came through my mind."59 our beloved President to save her the ordeal of coming back," Ruby the emotional feeling came within me that someone owed this debt to

Commission categorically ruled it out. As for the possibility that Ruby and Oswald knew each other, the

Carousel Club. All such allegations have been investigated, but the seen in the company of Ruby prior to November 22, often at Ruby's Commission has found none which merits credence. . . . [T]here have been numerous specific allegations that Oswald was

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proved to be persons of erratic memory or dubious mental stability.60 allegation. Frequently those responsible for the allegations have denied making it or admitted that he had no basis for the original the claim to its source, the person responsible for the report either In all but a few instances where the Commission was able to trace

limited to the professional gamblers who frequented his clubs. Law enforcement agencies, the Commission wrote, had thoroughly invesmight have had ties to organized crime. A short section in the Warren affiliated with La Cosa Nostra families then operating in the United tigated the matter and were satisfied that Ruby was in no way that any links Ruby may have had with the mob were undoubtedly Report was dedicated to the subject. In it, the Commission stated The Commission also gave little credence to suggestions that Ruby

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As he finished reading the Warren Report, Howard Donahue was no more inclined to believe the Commission's critics than before. The may have existed. seemed more than sufficient in his mind to resolve any doubts that Commission's exhaustive account of the events and people in Dallas

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with the arguments made by those who did not believe the government's explanation of the killing. knew that for his True article to be credible, he would have to deal Still, fairness required that he examine both sides of the story. He

every book he could on the assassination and started to read And so, buying a little more time from his editor, Donahue found

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amount of written material about Kennedy's death. ments" of the Warren Commission's findings and had "deep and that 60 percent of the American people rejected the "main argusurvey conducted by The Washington Post in October 1966 found others like him were fast becoming a minority by the mid-1960s. A the Warren Report. books had been written on the murder.2 Most were sharply critical of abiding doubts about the official explanation" FOR ALL OF DONAHUE'S CONFIDENCE IN THE Warren Report, he and This skepticism was driven by, and in turn, driving, a tremendous Donahue began his research, dozens of articles and close to twenty of the assassination. By the time

aftermath of the shooting: Oswald: Assassin or Fall Guy?, The Wayan Judgment, The Bastard Bullet - NAK a botto Report, Whitewash II—The FBI-Secret Service Cover-Up, Rush to by Second Oswald, Inquest, Whitewash I—The Report on the Warren This the scholarly, while their titles often reflected competing conspiracy theories that seemed to mushroom monthly in the dark, uncertain In tone and content, the books ranged from the sensationalistic to

mission's findings. The red flags emerged after reporters and writers bizarre coincidences and outright contradictions in the Warren Comscripts and evidence and after they started talking to witnesses the sians to the Central Intelligence Agency, organized crime, right-wing began scrutinizing the Commission's twenty-six volumes of trantheories with what they claimed were a host of unanswered questions lanatics, or any combination of the above. Writers sustained these Commission chose not to hear. Alleged conspirators ranged from disgruntled Cubans to the Rus-

ory: the claim that both Connally and Kennedy were wounded by the derisively became known as the Commission's "magic bullet" the same bullet, probably the first Oswald fired. According to the critics One of the areas of greatest doubt centered on what quickly and

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a telescopic sight in the first two weeks of November.18 Yet the gun investigators a man named Oswald left a rifle to have it mounted with Lee Harvey Oswald used to kill the President was purchased with

the sight attached.19

practicing at rifle ranges in the Dallas area through the fall of 1963 proving Oswald ever went to the ranges in question that autumn.20 with a gun "perhaps identical to Oswald's Mannlicher-Carcano." According to the Commission, however, there was no evidence At least six people reported seeing a man resembling Oswald

took a test drive in a new car at seventy miles an hour on a nearby las, said that on November 9 a man who gave his name as Lee Oswald drive. Bogard nonetheless said he recognized the man to be Oswald freeway. The problem was the "real" Oswald did not know how to from photographs that appeared in the newspapers after the assassi-Albert Bogard, a salesman with a Lincoln-Mercury dealer in Dal-

find out who this person or persons might have been or why they would want to establish sightings of "Oswald" in the weeks prior to precisely the point. In any case, the Commission made no effort to involved in these sightings or encounters.22 But that, critics said, was The Commission eventually decided Oswald could not have been

and in Bethesda, Maryland, where the Kennedy autopsy was coning the President's wounds and his examination by doctors in Dallas gators subsequently suggested the doctors might have been mistaken. ously destroyed the one-gunman scenario, and Commission investiwound in Kennedy's neck may have been one of entry.23 This obviducted. Doctors in Dallas initially told the press that the frontal the assassination. Most of them eventually concluded they had been.24 Finally, there was the prolonged and bitter controversy surround-

days after the operation was complete? And what possible reason, critically with errors. And what possible reason, critically a host of other troubling questions raised by the critics included:

Why was the gun found at the depository initially described as a 7.65 millimeter German Mauser, when Oswald's gun were clearly stamped "Cal. 6.5—Made Italy"? Were why did the Commissions reporter "exporter". asked, would the doctor have had for burning his autopsy notes two procedure was rife with errors. And what possible reason, critics virtually no experience with gunshot victims.25 Not surprisingly, the The Bethesda autopsy itself was conducted by a doctor who had

A host of other troubling questions raised by the critics included:

Why did the Commission never mention that the slaying of the Dallas police officer, J. D. Tippit, occurred just two

> see Ruby when the policeman stopped him?29 blocks from Ruby's apartment? Was Oswald on his way to

THE CRITICS

How was Ruby able to penetrate the basement of the Dallas involved in a plot to kill Kennedy and silence Oswald?30 number of police officers. Did they let him in? Were police police station to kill Oswald? It was a fact that Ruby knew a

 Along the same lines, how did Ruby manage to arrive at the police station at the precise moment Oswald was passing appearance just luck? transfer wouldn't take place until 11:20?31 Or was his timely 10:00 A.M. that Sunday morning. Did someone tell Ruby the through? Oswald's transfer had originally been scheduled for

about the assassination. Harold Weisberg spoke for many when he wrote the following passage in his 1965 book Whitewash I-The Report on the Warren Report: the Commission's methodology and apparent preconceived notions One of the broad complaints about the Warren Report centered on

Oswald could have been the assassin? Neither in the Report or anybecause the Commission considered him a liar. where else is there even any indication that the Commission ever Did the Commission ever consider that anyone other than Lee Harvey shot anybody. The Report concludes his denial was not credible seriously considered such a possibility. Oswald himself denied having

seek out all other possibilities, the Commission conducted an inquiry conclusion of the massive FBI report turned over to the Commission. of President Kennedy. This was the widely but not officially reported assassin. This can scarcely be called the premise for an impartial and validate the conclusion that Oswald was the lone and unassisted "uncover all the facts" to one that could have but a single purpose: To with a built-in verdict. It converted its function from one which would But in determining before it held its hearings that it would not diligently It was the conclusion of the Dallas police. Perhaps it was even the fact Commission ruled out the possibility of anyone else being the assassin unbiased investigation.32 Whether or not Oswald actually was a liar, the fact remains that the

author's analysis of Abraham Zapruder's home movie of the assassigraphs, and other visual aids. Much of Six Seconds focused on the thoroughly researched and included a wide variety of graphs, photo-Josiah Thompson among the most compelling. The book had just years after the shooting, Donahue found Six Seconds in Dallas by been published in the fall of 1967. Thompson's effort was obviously Of the books critical of the Commission written in the first five

This analysis, Thompson concluded, revealed two essential points

bullet from the same rifle.13 seconds, the governor's wound-according to Thompson-came too Given that the minimum firing time between Carcano shots was 2.3 indeed not hit until between ½ and 1½ seconds after Kennedy was that proved the shooting was the work of more than one gunman: First, a frame-by-frame study of the film showed that Connally was ate to be from the same bullet and too soon to have been a second

and then violently backward as the final shot struck. According to rear, then the force of the blow could be expected to jolt Kennedy forward, not backward as clearly appeared on the film," Thompson rear.34 "If, as the Commission had said, the [last] shot came from the simultaneously with two shots: one from the front and one from the Thompson, this motion proved that the President was hit in the head Second, the film showed Kennedy's head move slightly forward

Thompson's final thesis was that

the corner of the stockade fence [on the grassy knoll] north of Flm building rooftop. The fourth and final shot was fired from a point near sion as the sniper's nest. The second shot, wounding the governor, floor, southeast-corner window later identified by the Warren Commisand third shots were from the depository-most likely from the sixththree assassins fired four shots from three different locations. The first fired from the east side of Dealey Plaza-most likely from a

Report, and too many questions left begging. many omissions and seemingly arbitrary conclusions in the Warren sion diminished somewhat. The critics were right: There were too arguments and assertions, Donahue's loyalty to the Warren Commis-As he read Thompson's book and others and studied the skeptics

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a philosophy professor.40 who wrote The Unanswered Questions About President Kennedy's government intelligence analyst-turned-goose farmer. 8 Sylvan Fox dean of the critics and author of the Whitewash series, was a and former New York State assemblyman.37 Harold Weisburg, the ballistics. Mark Lane, author of Rush to Judgment, was an attorney his analytical skills, Thompson, author of Six Seconds in Dallas, was Assassination, was a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter.39 And for all murder, few, if any, apparently had any experience with firearms or these authors were writing with ostensible authority about a gunshot But at the same time, Donahue was struck by the fact that although

ballistic generalizations and often outright fallacies to support their ballistic evidence. Most of the authors, he believed, instead relied on none of the books could he find a thoughtful, rigorous analysis of the To Donahue, this lack of firearms training was all too apparent. In

> arguments. Others played down or ignored evidence that didn't a factor in any costico mis Chartespat ance of the short use and

many other

support their particular bent on the killing.

seemed only to strengthen with the passage of time. rolling Rorschach test open to any number of interpretations, in Donahue's view, fostered many widespread misconceptions that This tendency to misunderstand the evidence or see it as a kind of

from was not that great and out of the three shots he supposedly got off, one missed the presidential limousine entirely wald's shooting was mediocre at best: The distance Oswald fired marksman" a mentioned by incredulous writers in connection with Lee Harvey Oswald's performance in Dallas. Donahue knew Os-One example were the terms "master rifleman," and "superb

in his 1965 book Who Killed Kennedy? "It is doubtful if a single man White Exexists who could have fired this weapon with the skill required [in the world's with the required of the world's with the spinion of the world's with the second of the world Donahue wouldn't have minded being known as "one of the world's Donahue wouldn't have minded being known as "one of the world's Donahue wouldn't have minded being known as "one of the ball." that the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle required a minimum of 2.3 seconds for bolt action between shots. Thomas Buchanan wrote the following was Another fallacy, widely accepted as fact once it was reported, was full at the Mannlicher. Carcano rifle required a minimum of 2 seconds was

world's best marksmen," but he realized Buchanan's phrase and others like it were products of sheer ignorance. In the 1967 CBS reenactment, Donahue had been able to fire his last two shots in all three was well under 5.6 seconds—the time between the first and about two and a half seconds each. And the time it took him to fire that have third shot as calculated by the Warren Commission. Donahue wouldn't have minded being known as "one of the to would's best marksmen" but he minded being known as "one of the to would be to + western didini mark

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Donahuis weapon in the first half of the twentieth century, and its heavy bullet had been designed for deep penetration in house-lo-house falling powerful. The Carcano had been produced as Italy's primary infantry was weapon in the first half of the twentieth century and its beautiful. powered military bullet incapable of penetrating both Kennedy and Connally. In fact, Donahue knew the cartridge was extremely the belief that the 6.5 millimeter cartridge was a low-to-medium-Yet another misconception that later on enjoyed wide currency was 200 x e belief that the 6.5 millimeter cartridge was a low-to-maximum wered military bulls. In War in Chiling

firing from a long distance. The lound a common .22 caliber bullet.

In the 1950s, African big-game hunter Koromojo Bell had demonstrated the weapon's lethal punch by using a Carcano-type rifle and scartridge to kill scores of elephants with single head shots. Donahue's cartridge to kill scores of elephants with single head shots. Donahue's scartridge to kill scores of elephants with single head shots. I later years by photographs of a 6.5 millimeter round passing through a forty-seven inches of pine board. I government and who have the forty-seven inches of pine board. I government and who have the forty-seven inches of pine board. I government and who have the forty-seven inches of pine board. I government and who have the forty-seven inches of pine board. I government and who have the forty-seven inches of pine board. I government and who have the forty-seven inches of pine board. I government and who have the forty-seven inches of pine board. I government and who have the forty-seven inches of pine board. I government and who have the forty-seven inches of pine board. I government and who have the forty-seven inches of pine board. I government and who have the forty-seven inches of pine board. I government and the fort by multiple gunmen. According to Thompson, the slight forward, and ballistic conclusions central to his thesis that Kennedy was hit scientious and scholarly of the critics, made highly suspect forensic Even Thompson, whom Donahue considered to be the most conand the state of t E TOTAL

with his police sources on the off chance they could locate the agent's

As far as the alleged legal threat

Trading & bill and e shirts with the record straight, he knew where to find them. Until and unless the and Reppert were in full agreement. Work on the book would conevidence surfaced that conclusively destroyed the theory, Donahue Junue.

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only get his hands on it. For years he'd seen references to spectrocomparing the color of the flames produced to those of known incinerating tiny samples of the specimen in question and then graphic tests conducted by the FBI on the bullet fragments recovered alternatively, prove them beyond a reasonable doubt-if he could evidence-evidence that would instantly wreck his conclusions or chemical/metallic standards.2 from the scene of the crime. Spectrography is a process that involves In fact, Donahue had long believed there might just be that kind of

Brawn that had killed the President came from a Carrantee bullet composition of the 6.5 Carcano and .223 AR-15 bullet jackets, Dona-Since there were very likely significant differences in the metallic

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or landin ted of the colored was a sixt tioned about tests done on the bullet fragments.3 To Donahue, these tified about tests done on the President's clothes, was never quesevidence. And FBI spectrographer John Gallagher, although he tesanywhere in the Warren Report or in the Commission's volumes of The curious thing was, the spectrographic results were not included

THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE

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omissions seemed bizarre, given the importance of the information with the Commission will be commission with the commission will to the Commission's lone-gunman thesis.

by arguing that revelation of the test results was not in the "national interest," though they never explained why same with the "national by arguing that revelation of the test receiver attorneys responded by a lawsuit under the newly instituted Freedom of Information Act Will he author of the Whitewash series. Weisberg had some startling news.

Beginning in 1967, he said, he'd peppered the Justice Department with requests for a number of account. nation investigator Harold Weisberg, the Frederick, Maryland-based cluding the spectrographic analysis results. Weisberg eventually filed with requests for a number of assassination-related documents, in- Walk Reppert figured there had to be a way to get at the test data and to Explore White come to look a

graphic tests included in these papers were unidentified, partial, and therefore meaningless numerical notations made during the proceseveral documents that they asserted were responsive to Weisberg's demands. Unfortunately, the only information from the spectro-Eventually, though, the Justice Department relented and released

What HAAis, " vastly superior to spectrographic analysis and is so accurate it often referred to as "nuclear fingerprinting." the substance down to parts per billion. The process was and remains counted, compared, and analyzed to reveal the exact composition of activation.8 The process involved irradiating organic or inorganic The specimens would then emit gamma rays, which could be been conducted on the bullet fragments. This was an extraordinarily for the Warren Commission.7 The letter, dated July 8, 1964, revealed unknown letter from J. Edgar Hoover to J. Lee Rankin, chief counsel materials-in this case the bullet fragments-with nuclear particles. precise and, at the time, relatively new procedure known as neutron that in addition to spectrographic analysis, another kind of test had Then in 1973 a bombshell detonated in the form of a previously

analyzing physical evidence from the scene of a crime. lism, in geology for analyzing minerals, and in law enforcement for Today, neutron activation has found applications in a wide range of areas. Among other things, it is used in agriculture for detecting in silicon semiconductors, in medicine for tracing metals in metabopesticide residues on crops, in electronics for measuring impurities

of dirt or grease, among a host of other applications. Neutron activation conducted on a strand of Napoleon's hair and on hair removed from the exhumed body of Sweden's King Eric XIV has shown both men were probably poisoned with arsenic from hit-and-run automobile accidents and contrast minuscule spots Using the process, police can identify poisons administered to a victim by analysis of the victim's hair, compare tiny flecks of paint

found in some of the Dealey Plaza bullet fragments, including those Hoover's 1964 letter blandly noted that "minor variations" were

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successful author, and the two men corresponded frequently through the first half of 1985, Davis continued to express a great deal of writer a steady stream of the assassination material he'd assembled interest in a collaboration and Donahue obligingly forwarded the DONAHUE WAS THRILLED AT THE PROSPECT OF WORKING with a

tual relationship was not formalized, the Donahues were confiden They found him to be charming and urbane and although a contrac-Washington at a three-day convention on the Kennedy assassination. Howard and Katie finally met Davis face-to-face that summer in

Davis was in earnest about pursuing the story.

and the diameter of the entrance wound proved, to him anyway, tha Hickey had fired the last shot. how the trajectory of the bullet, the slug's explosive disintegration, same rudimentary questions. Over and over, Donahue would explain the gunsmith had developed. Over and over, Davis would ask the seeming inability to focus on or comprehend the ballistic evidence Donahue became increasingly mystified, then exasperated by Davis's But as the weeks went by and letters bounced back and forth

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or feeling the strain from the grueling publicity tours he undertook to uninitiated with a flood of scientific nuance and detail. Conversely men began to break down. promote it. For whatever reasons, the connection between the two Davis may have been distracted by the success of his Kennedy book information. It was true the gunsmith could sometimes deluge the the problem may have been in the way Donahue communicated the To Donahue, it seemed Davis wasn't listening. Admittedly, part of

nized crime and the Kennedy assassination, Donahue saw the writing write a new book detailing the apparent connections between orga-When Davis finally let it be known that he was under contract to

on the wall. Contact between the two become increasingly strained

Garrison over the course of his 1967-69 Ferrie-Shaw probe. nization. Davis presented his scenario in compelling fashion and drew the Kennedy brothers' attempts to destroy the Marcello crime orgamob boss Carlos Marcello had had Kennedy killed in retaliation for F. Kennedy. The story detailed evidence suggesting that New Orleans seller Mafia Kingfish—Carlos Marcello and the Assassination of John Davis's "mob-hit" book would go on to become the 1988 best-

where Davis thanked one "Harold Donahue" and a host of others was for supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents and information on a content of the supplying "important documents" in the supply in the supplying "important docum grassy knoll, the author made no attempt to present any ballistic with sevidence that could conceivably support the idea that more than one gunman had fired on the President. Adding insult to injury, from Donahue's perspective, was the fact that the only mention the gun-with smith received in the book was in the back-nage acknowledgments. for supplying "important documents and information on an informal nonremunerative basis."

and the well-known shaman of assassination theorists. Davis figured which the veteran Warren Commission critic might be able to offer some billing of the veteran warren Commission critic might be able to offer some with the veteral warren Commission critic might be able to offer some billing of the veteral of weisberg's books and had long marveled at the author's lack of knowledge about up a hail of bullets from the grassy knoll and elsewhere in Dealey Plaza. Donahue was likewise put off by the shrill, excoriating tone of Weisberg's writings. Weisberg spoke at nearly every turn about the black hand of a government conspiracy, yet he never seemed able to develop any logical arguments about who specifically was behind this treachery or why. mended Donahue pay a visit to Harold Weisberg, a fellow Marylander And yet there was one revealing encounter that emerged as a result with of Donahue's involvement with Davis. Early on, Davis had recomtreachery or why.

days later and said he'd be happy to have lunch with the gunsmith ous critic had something else of value in his files. With nothing to that Weisberg did provide key information to Ralph Reppert back in and his wife. lose, Donahue dropped Weisberg a note. Weisberg responded several fragments removed from Kennedy's brain. Just maybe the cantanker-1977 concerning the government's neutron activation testing of bullet could to advance the book project with Davis. And he had to admit Even so, Donahue in late 1985 had been willing to do whatever he

conclusions. Every photograph from Dealey Plaza appeared to disarticle but didn't know of any evidence that justified the gunsmith's prove the accident scenario, Weisberg said. He added that he was aware of Donahue's theory from the Sun

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This vote of no confidence notwithstanding, Howard and Katie with which came up, Weisberg dismissed it out of hand. But despite his well with the earlier claim, he could provide no photographs that refuted the thesis.

Which will be did point out that in the Alternative control of the could be a superior of the could be a s we rhow Con land He did point out that in the Altgens picture, taken just after the first shot was fired, no crack was visible on the limousine windshield.

Ergo, Weisberg said. Donahue's belief that the first was picture. uplained bitterly about the University of Maryland's refusal to accept drove to Weisberg's farm in western Maryland and spent the afternoon with the king of the critics. Through lunch, Weisberg comricocheted, and struck the windshield with a fragment was unsuphe'd collected over the years. When the subject of Donahue's theory ported by the photographic record. his donation of the thousands of assassination-related documents

have made the crack invisible from the front. As well, a bystander where the crack was later found. This likely further masked the wearing white was visible through the windshield at exactly the place Donahue responded by noting that the bright sunlight that day may

presence of the broken glass in the Altgens photo. Weisberg nonetheless remained adamant in his belief that the head

The Arthur Country bullet entered from the front. The wound was surrounded by fragments." Donahue smiled wanly to himself. Weisberg's understanding of the fragments was exactly backward. An M-16 bullet—or and in jacketed, high-velocity round. then deposits fragments on the side opposite from where it enters.

This was clearly demonstrated by the side opposite from where it enters.

M-16 round fired by committee marksmen shattered and tumbled the block, opposite from the side the bullet entered on. (See illustraafter striking the gelatin and caused enormous "tissue" damage Select Committee had conducted in 1977-78. Photos showed the before spraying multiple, minute fragments forward, to the front of This was clearly demonstrated by the gelatin block tests the House

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Hard sand replicated exactly the one Kennedy suffered, although this was never acknowledged by the committee. Moreover Donatus I. would have been a shotgun fired from a few feet away. No shotgun pellets were found in Kennedy's brain and, obviously, no one was

== technicalities to Weisberg as the old man held court that afternoon. seen with a shotgun along Elm Street. explosive disintegration and the size of the entrance wound proved Hickey had fired the last shot. He did not, however, belabor the Donahue did point out that in his opinion, the bullet's trajectory point. It was obvious Weisberg knew absolutely nothing about firedesire to begin learning now arms and ballistics. And it was equally obvious the critic had no Of course, the gunsmith mentioned none of these troublesome

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they with our of which which and with

Weisberg as they drove home that evening. Here was a man over way was And so the day faded and Howard and Katie bid the venerable how he will

assassination documents and, to top it off, his conclusions about how .
Kennedy died were flat wrong. I so this much he asked my to gow him? sity couldn't care less about his painstakingly amassed collection of seventy years old who'd given a good part of his life to studying the and Kennedy assassination. Now his health was failing, the state univer-

Secret Service in general and, in particular, their actions in Dallas. important subject that needed to be reexamined in greater detail: the What more could he learn? have to finish the investigation on his own. He knew there was an Following the encounter with Weisberg, Howard realized he would

charged with investigating and combating currency counterfeiting, which was endemic in the war years. It was not until after the picked up the additional duty of protecting the President.2 assassination of President William McKinley in 1901 that the agency Service was conceived as part of the Treasury Department and Service was forged in the caldron of the Civil War. Originally, the Like many twentieth-century American institutions, the Secret

sophisticated research division that today undertakes the daunting children and visiting heads of state.3 The agency also developed a Service continues to retain authority in cases involving counterfeit task of identifying and monitoring potential assassins. As well, the Presidents and their wives, widows of former Presidents, presidential president, the President-elect, major presidential candidates, former In time the Service would also be responsible for shielding the vice

a free and open society. This image is not exaggerated, for the job is violent times, the lot of an agent was a hard one. dangerous, difficult and relentlessly stressful. Even in earlier, less dominate the public's perception of the famous organization. The lay down his or her life in the blink of an eye to defend the leader of Secret Service agent has emerged as something of an archetypal American hero in recent decades: strong, courageous, and willing to But it remains the President's stoic, steadfast bodyguards who

by Thomas Sugrue in 1946, provides one of the most detailed glimpses of the day-to-day life of an agent. The book captures the nearly incompatible goals of protecting the President and allowing atmosphere of grinding pressure agents face as they wrestle with the the American people a degree of access to their leader. tion detail for thirty years, from 1914 to 1944. His biography, written Kentuckian Edmund Starling worked on the White House protec-

enervating journey—accompanying President Wilson to Philadelphia for the second game of the World Series in 1915: In one of his many letters home, Starling recounts a typically