

"All the News That's UnFIT to Print"

Joachim Joesten's

" TRUTH LETTER "

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Editorial: Who was Lyndon B. Johnson, anyway?

Dr. Lattimer of CIA University

Precede

"Columbia's ties with the secret government are so extensive that the university actually has both an overt and a covert national security apparatus on campus. The overt one is the School of International Affairs whose dean, Andrew Cordier, came from the U.K. Secretariat with an interesting history: in 1960, Cordier used his U.K. post to make possible the successful CIA-backed coup against Patrice Lumumba... The involvement of the CIA, Columbia and the Rockefeller interests in Africa goes deeper. Shortly after coming to Columbia, Dean Cordier established an African Studies program - one of a series of special divisions the School of International Affairs has consistently set up to do helpful research on America's Cold War hot spots. Director of Columbia's African program is Professor L. Gray Cowan, a key figure on the board of the African-American Institute, which once received 95 per cent of its funding from CIA fronts... The AAI is critical to CIA operations in Africa... Such machinations... easily make Columbia Secret Agent No. 1 among competing universities."

From "A Muckraker's Guide to 1968 & Other Horrors" by the Editors of Ramparts.

"About 500 militant Columbia University students... staged a midnight march across campus... and demonstrated in front of the home of acting president Andrew Cordier onorningside Heights... they shouted such slogans as... 'Hey, hey Cordier, assassin for the CIA!'" (From a Washington Post dispatch dated Sept. 19, 1968)

Columbia University's record as a hotbed of miscellaneous CIA activities is well established and documented. Next to the School of International Affairs, the College of Physicians and Surgeons appears to be the division most actively involved in CIA-sponsored intrigues. That, at any rate, is the impression one gathers from the latest episode in Dr. John K. Lattimer's continuing crusade against the Truth about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

A few weeks ago, I received in the mail an unsolicited copy of "Resident and Staff Physician", May 1972, a slick color magazine, lavishly done with plenty of advertising, mostly from drug makers. The lead article, which runs to 32 pages, is entitled "Observations Based on a Review of the autopsy Photographs, X-rays, and Related Materials of the Late President John F. Kennedy" and was contributed by the same Dr. John K. Lattimer whose previous performance in the matter was duly castigated in the Feb. 1, 1972 issue of TRUTH LETTER.

Before we proceed to discuss and refute this latest creation of an obstinate professional liar and faker, a few remarks are in order concerning the ostentatious presentation of his article.

* The reference is to Columbia University in New York City

Dr. Lattimer's piece is preceded by an Editorial written by the "Editor-in-Chief" of the journal, Dr. Charles A. Ragan, who further identifies himself as "Chairman, Department of Medicine, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons;" and also as "Director, Medical Service, Presbyterian Hospital, N.Y.C." These titles are important for they show that Dr. Ragan is in a dual capacity closely associated with and a superior to Dr. Lattimer, a plain member of the College Ragan heads and an employee of the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York.

The Ragan editorial "On the Assassination and Autopsy of John F. Kennedy" is one package of lies and distortions. It starts out with a whopper: "Very shortly after the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963, the family removed the autopsy pictures and x-rays from the official record. To shield the family, particularly the children, as much as possible from further emotional blows, the materials were closely guarded from view..."

Fact is that the photographs and X-rays were immediately impounded by the Secret Service - this is even confirmed by the Warren Report Hearings, II, 351,372; XVI, 982-983 - even before the photos were developed, and that they remained in effect under the control of that government agency until the Kennedy family could be pressured into signing that famous agreement of Oct. 29, 1966, under which these materials were turned over to the custody of the National Archives.

As it begins with a flagrant lie, so the Ragan editorial ends with one: "RESIDENT AND STAFF PHYSICIAN is honored that Dr. Lattimer has selected this journal to present his findings." This makes it appear ^{he} gracefully permitted his boss to publish his concoction, whereas all the circumstances clearly indicate that Lattimer was given the assignment to come up with an elaborate pseudo-medical fabrication that would take the place of the shoddy Warren Report and still put all the blame for the shooting on Lee H. Oswald.

The pipeline for this assignment is clearly visible. The CIA, which murdered President Kennedy, is anxious to bolster again and again the Oswald Hoax eroded by time and honest research. Thanks to the agency's strong ties to Columbia University, it was easy to manipulate the assignment in such a manner as to make it look like the spontaneous creation of a troubled scientific mind and then to publish his "findings" in a house organ of Columbia U. under the deceptive trappings of a great contribution to medical knowledge and historical truth. This purpose is also transparent in the following passage from the Ragan editorial:

"His (Dr. Lattimer's) objective, detailed report in this issue records for medical history the comprehensive clinical facts in the case. Hopefully it will settle - for physicians at least - the controversy and speculation that have surrounded the death of our 35th President."

Hopefully not. To settle the controversy and "speculation" was to have been also the purpose of the Warren Report which has long since fallen into utter discredit among all honest and thinking people. The doctors' conspiracy against the truth, under the auspices of the CIA and its Columbia conduit, will surely go the same way.

Interesting glimpses of the inner workings of this new fraud are provided by an inset to the Lattimer piece, written again by Editor Ragan. The headline asks tantalizingly "Why Was Dr. Lattimer, a Urologist, Given the First Non-Government Look at the Restricted Kennedy Materials?" and is followed by this deceptive answer to a very legitimate and logically unanswerable question:

"This question is asked so often that it seems worthy of comment. The following factors may have influenced the decision by Mr. Burke Marshall whom Dr. Lattimer has never met. (Neither does he know the Kennedy family).

"The fact that he is a urologist is irrelevant. The detailed ballistic experiments that he, his sons and his staff have done over the years, to investigate some of the questions raised about the Kennedy assassination are relevant... He has firing facilities available on a family farm, where he and his sons could conduct their experiments in an unchallenged manner... While serving as a visiting professor at Southwestern Medical

School in Dallas, he sat on a box in the actual window from which Oswald was said to have fired. This made him realize from personal experience how relatively easy a shot it was. The storm of criticism against the Warren Report on this and other points still open to experimentation, surprised him and stimulated him to investigate many of these points by trying them himself. For example, when the ammunition was said to be unreliable, he procured and tested 500 rounds of the exact lots used by Oswald. (The FBI had tested 100 rounds.) When the rifle was said to be inaccurate or incapable of a high rate of fire, he tested several himself, and published the results. He has probably fired more Oswald-type cartridges in Oswald-type rifles at Oswald-type mock-ups than any other person, including Oswald... (italicized in the original).

Savor that priceless tidbit and pass it around. It is probably one of the silliest sentences that were ever printed in a scientific journal. No doubt Dr. Lattimer is world champion in the field. How many other private individuals have firing facilities available to them "on a family farm" (presumably a CIA firing range)? How many have the wherewithal to procure a whole arsenal of Carcanos and a stack of ammunition five times larger than the FBI could afford to test? As to "including Oswald," nobody has ever suggested that the poor boob owned more than one Carcano (as a matter of fact, he didn't own a single one, for the one he is supposed to have used was strictly Government property) and he certainly never fired at "Oswald-type mock-ups." Come, come, Dr. Ragan.

To here we have a urologist from New York who goes to Dallas of all places as a "visiting professor" and there develops a maniacal craving to experiment for days on end "in an unhurried manner" with Oswald-type rifles and Oswald-type cartridges, not to forget the Oswald-type mock-ups which all by themselves must have cost a pretty penny. It was of course all done on Dr. Lattimer's own initiative and at his "personal expense" as Editor Ragan takes care to point out, lest somebody suspect there might be a lot of taxpayers' money wasted on these shenanigans - as there surely was.

Dr. Lattimer is not only a great shot (Oswald-type), but also a passionate collector (non-Oswald-type) as we learn from this further revelation about him by Editor Ragan, again in italics, in order to underline its tremendous importance: "Dr. Lattimer has accumulated one of the world's largest archives of original materials pertinent to the Lincoln and Kennedy assassinations." (Urology must be a very profitable occupation, for such hobbies are expensive.)

One of the most highly prized items in the Lattimer Collection, we are further informed, is Oswald's rifle score book from the Marine Corps which the good doctor "owns." We are explicitly told. I used to think that all the evidentiary materials in the Kennedy assassination had been turned over to the National Archives by an Act of Congress, but now it seems there are regular auctions going on at which earnest collectors like our Dr. Lattimer can bid for Marine Corps documents pertaining to presidential assassins and walk away with the prize. Several pages from Oswald's rifle score book are reproduced in the Lattimer piece, apparently for the purpose of lending an illusion of credibility to the author's vagaries.

Dr. Ragan has some good news about his colleague and contributor: "He had the capability (note the telltale expression - J.J.) to acquire and test four rifles and telescopes exactly like Oswald's (which he had examined in detail at the National Archives). He has published the results of his experiments to show that the so-called 'pristine' bullet (exhibit 309) that the Warren Commission thought penetrated both President Kennedy and Governor Connally was not 'pristine' at all, and that the four fragments in Governor Connally (plus the two now known to be present in President Kennedy) are by no means too many to be accounted for by the two grains of weight lost by this bullet. Dr. Lattimer was able to make 48 such fragments out of the two-grain sample of bullet in question. These experiments were conducted and published with the advice and help of pathologist Myron Tannenbaum and roentgenologists William Sorman and Joshua Becker at Columbia..."

Great teamwork, indeed, at America's foremost CIA University

(to be continued in the next issue)