

2
2/ "Yeah," he admitted, but it wasn't Rusk, it was Dulles. He had changed his mind, *Lifton and thus the "proof" changed, too.*

Ridicule^d and being asked to face reality did not diminish Lifton's faith in this earlier of his idiocies.

after his call to me) trying to trying!
A year later he was ~~palming~~ *assassination* it off on Robert Richter, then an assistant producer on one of the CBS ~~TV~~ *new* specials that somehow caused no ~~discomfort~~ to official mythologizers.

In a June 7, 1967 memorandum to his boss, Producer Les Midgeley, Richter said that Lifton was working on a book the details of which he was reluctant to discuss "but he intimated he would have proof of the involvement of people 'very high up' in the Federal Government."

To describe what Lifton evolved as merely "intimating" that he "would have the proof" was to cover Lifton's bare ass. Lifton claimed to have it, never retreated on ~~it~~ *it* and apologized for it and, typically, ~~one~~ *he could not. It does not exist.* never produced it.

3 — Lifton, Richter continued, "suggests that camouflage may have been used ~~in~~ in Dealey Plaza and left there, at least for a few days. He suggests that this may have been ~~arranged~~ arranged with ~~the~~ cooperation from the Dallas Mayor, Earle Cabell, because his brother Richard Cabell was one of the leaders in the CIA May of Pigs operation."

General Cabell was then the Number 2 man in the CIA, its assistant director. *Proof? Lifton needs no proof. What he wants to be to him is real, no matter how unreal it is.*

"This camouflage may be," Richter continued, "according to Lifton in the form of additions to trees on the knoll."

What was Lifton's proof? That JFK's head is seen to snap backward in the ~~Zapruder~~ amateur film of the assassination taken by Abraham Zapruder, an important item of the Warren Commission's evidence.

Because this film shows the backward head snap, "strongly suggesting a shot came from the knoll area," Lifton just decided that there were, in Richter's account of what he said,

4 *How one "adds" to a tree is not in Richter's memo. There how one "adds" to support and hide assassins*
"additions to the trees" that Lifton had told me *W* were papier mache trees, *not just "additions."*

Lifton's modification to mere additions to the trees may have been inspired by my laughing at his utterly insane notion that papier mache would support and would be dense enough to hide assassins, *who* when they had to demount them unseen or stay there hours if not days to get away unseen, with their unseen rifles.

5 Lifton also told Richter that "a phony Secret Service agent" was in the area "and may have been one of the riflemen." *19 His presence was enough to make him a rifle man "because nothing else does."*

4) Lifton found reason to credit his personal concoction of "camo^uflage" in what former Commission counsel Wesley Liebeler had told him, that the FBI told Liebeler ~~that~~ "of a big crane being moved through Dealey Plase ~~late~~^{the} in the evening of Nov. 22," ~~that~~ day of the 1963 assassination.

"It turned out to have been a stolen crane," Richter wrote, and that Lifton "speculates that the crane may also have been designed for use to remove the camo^uflage that night."

No doubt with secret compartments for the unseen riflemen to remain unsee^ud!

That Richter described Lifton's "speculation" about that crane, ~~which had been stolen,~~ as "wild," ~~that~~ did not discourage his use of Lifton and Lifton's wildest of his zany theories on the 19⁶⁸ special he produced for public television.

4
"Yeah," he admitted, but it wasn't Rusk - it was Dulles.

Somehow, for all his work, Lifton had ~~no~~ ^{Did not have that} book published for more than two decades.

Then he had an agent, Peter Shepherd, who I'd earlier learned ^{from personal experience} was entirely indifferent to fact. In Lifton's own version Shepherd had him entirely ~~rewrite~~ ¹ the book he had written. What emerged, ^{had} with the ghastly inappropriate title of "Best Evidence," ^{was} just about all that can be considered evidence was second hand to Lifton, having been published decades ~~earlier~~ ^{But in the book Lifton did it all. He is the man who} earlier, mostly by me, is ~~Lifton's account of having invented the wheel and discovered sex.~~

All that was known about the JFK assassination, according to the Shepherd-conceived revision of history and debasing of truth and fact, ^{real-life} Lifton, Dick Daring that he also is, ~~was~~ brought to light.

4
5 There is ~~but~~ ^{in the book} one thing unique, other than his claiming to have brought to light what he read in other books, ^{It} is his body-snatching ^{body-alteration} and altering theory ^{his solution} "solution."

What is not unique with Lifton is his knowledge that ~~it~~ ^{at} was phony - impossible - in each and every detail ~~of~~ ^{at} each and every step of ~~this~~ his enormously successful commercialization and exploitation of that assassination, ^{by it and it alone}

Referring to ^{his concocted "solution"} it as either "best" ^{or} "evidence" is like describing masturbation as ~~sex~~ love.

In fact, he has to ~~have~~ known that his great and all-solving theory was impossible.

When the book appeared and because of the attention it got, which magnified its misleading and deceptive effect, I decided to analyze it and leave a record of ^{its illegence} dishonesty for our history. ^(4A here) To perfect this record, ^{in our history} I made a Freedom of Information Act request of the Military District of Washington for, and limited to, the records it had ^{given} disclosed to him.

With the rest of the text Lifton's claim ^{ad/} to having ^e brought to light what had been published decades earlier, as I noted in the analysis, ^{I then did simple research} on his body-snatching and -alteration "solution." ^(4B here)

4
5 At each and every point it ^{is} ~~was~~ proven to be false and impossible by the available fact.

It was not possible to kidnap the corpse at the ~~hospital~~ Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, where it was never alone and unguarded, or en route to ^{to be flown to Washington on} Love Field and Air

51 To the few who really know the subject, the fact that is available, Lifton's
but it is
witches' brew is flagrant, /not th the uninformed reader seeking knowledge of the fact of
the "crime of the century." That a major publisher did publish, advertise and promote it
accredited it to almost all readers and ^{to} those who provided the radio, TV and review
promotions for it.

6
B)

Responsible publishers, those ~~mit~~ whose standards are not overwhelmed by the glitter of all the gold to be raked in by conspiracy allegations, which always sell, have authentic experts read and offer professional opinions on controversial books said to be of non-fiction.

Macmillan could not have done that ^{more theless} ~~and still~~ published ^{fantasy as truthful.} ~~Lifton's~~

7 Force 1, the Presidential plane. So, Lifton decided, needing no fact and ignoring the existing fact, that the snatch was on that plane.

The ~~kidnapped~~ ^{hot to have been} corpse whose kidnapping was undetected during the several hours of the flight to Washington ^{Lifton prove} ~~he does not say~~ where it was hidden, fortunately for him, because ^{hid ing it} that was an additional impossibility.

He had it wrapped in a ^{plastic} body bag seen so often in film from Viet Nam to account for the absence of blood and other body fluid anywhere on that plane.

At Andrews Air Base in suburban Washington he says it was spirited off the plane via the ^{its} ~~rear cargo~~ door ⁱⁿ the side away from the TV camera lights ^{again} and entirely unseen.

Then, still entirely unseen, ~~it~~ was snuck into a "second" helicopter.

Which flew it to Walter Reed Army Hospital in upper northwest Washington.

Where, without any known witness the body was toyed with to alter the evidence that could be perceived at the autopsy.

For which it was spirited out of Walter Reed and to and into the Navy hospital, at Bethesda, another Maryland suburb on Washington's border, with no known witness ^{or} ~~once again with all silenced or clamping their own tongues into perpetuity.~~

It entered the Bethesda hospital grounds through a rear gate rather than the main entrance on Wisconsin avenue.

When it was in that body bag inside a military shipping casket that was in a second ambulance.

Any ^{with the} part of the ^{of} above stretching reality, possibility and credulity past reason, there is no need to address any other part of Lifton's "solution."

Without any single part of this fantasy being tainted with fact, and with each and every single part essential to the theory presented as a solution, Macmillan published the book and with the ^{its} appearances it arranged ^{his appearances nation wide} all around the country in all media and ^{his} with Lifton's messianic ~~and unquestioned~~ presentation of his cock-and-bull story as the real McCoy the book became a best seller.

Thereafter it was republished ^{this} ~~three~~, once as a paperback and then as a quality paperback.

6
81
For years those researching the JFK assassination who were friendly with Lifton, as I was not, were ecstatic about his great "discovery", the greatest of all assassination-evidence discoveries. He had sworn them to secrecy and they respected their oaths.

Lifton's ^{personal} great "discovery" was the beginning ^o ₁ pint of his "solution" ~~the~~ the crime.

It was a ~~five~~ ^{five}-page report by Baltimore office FBI agents assigned from the ~~FBI's~~ ^{its} Hyattsville, Maryland residency to meet the plane when it landed at Andrews field and to remain with it ~~and~~ through the autopsy on which they were to report. Hyattsville, also in suburban Maryland just across the District line, was the closest FBI office within the jurisdiction of its Baltimore field office.

Francis K. O'Neill and James W. Sibert were ~~dispatched~~ ^{directed} to meet Air Force ~~one~~ ¹ at about 3 o'clock and to remain with the body through the autopsy. They did. ~~The did not dictate~~ ^{all the facts in} their report ~~until~~ ^{was not dictated} November 26. The FBI provided ~~it~~ to the Warren Commission. With those 26 large volumes of appended information, the Commission, really meaning its employees, most of all its general counsel, the former solicitor general of the United States, J. Lee Rankin, ^{official} decided not to publish this Sibert-O'Neill report on the autopsy. With no explanation for any of the Commission's oversights, if that is what its failure to disclose information was, the most probable reason is that what that report says contradicts what the Commission concluded in a way that raises questions about the autopsy and the competence of the pathologists who performed it.

81
9
Lifton's is a large book, of almost 750 pages. It makes a very big thing of this Sibert-O'Neill report. If measured by the length of ^N index devoted to it, it is the subject that is fourth in the attention devoted to it. More than twice as much ^{as} either the FBI or the Secret Service, which is in charge of ^P presidential protection.

It is a measure of Lifton's innate modesty and humility that he devotes only about a quarter of his general index to himself. The "David S. Lifton" listing takes up only about 16 and a half inches of the 70 inches of that index. This is not quite twice as much as is devoted to "wounds" and is more than twice as much as is devoted to "autopsy" in a book ostensibly on the assassination of the President.

7
9 I say "ostensibly" because the book is actually on Lifton and by Lifton. It is his claim to being the outstanding authority, if not the only real authority, on the subject he ^{writes and} acts ^{about} (and speaks) as though he owns it.

With this Sibert-O'Neill report so important in his book that ~~not counting its devotion to Lifton~~ ^{largest} it takes up the third amount of space in the index, it is that essential to his book, and with almost 750 pages to the book, Lifton does not ~~reproduce~~ reproduce that report at all.

Of its five single-space ⁴ typed pages what is important to Lifton is but five words on its third page. The book is built on them because all that the book holds that is new, contrary to Lifton's claims, is his theory and those five words are the basis of his theory. *If They Were*

Lifton's discovery? Hardly.

He got his copy of this report not from his own research. It came from the Commission's unpublished files in the National Archives. *He did not go there search and find it*

Authentic scholarship is not marked by such claims to "discovery."

In ^{my} addition, Lifton made no "discovery" of this report. I found it in examining the Commission's seventh numbered file. It identified its files as CDs, for Commission documents, after earlier referring to them as CRs, for Commission's Records. I showed it to Paul ~~Hock~~ Hoch, then, like Lifton, a California graduate student. He gave his ~~far~~ friend Lifton a copy.

Not believing that claims to exclusive and personal "discovery" is scholarship and not believing that authentic scholarship or unselfish work in a field means keeping information of glue secret, when Tom Gervasi, then handling public relations for Viking press, asked me to help him publicize Edward Jay Epstein's Inquest, the first book to follow mine and, naturally, competing for the market with mine, this Sibert-O'Neill report is one of a number of Commission documents I suggested that Gervasi use in promoting Inquest.

99 May I be forgiven for helping that disinformation ~~from~~ Epstein's right-wing political attack on the liberal Chief Justice Earl Warren, Commission chairman, and Epstein's praise of the FBI for its performance in the investigation!

10 Ignorant of fact as most of those espousing theories in various ways inevitably are, what the supposed scholar ^{Epstein} did not know is that the FBI never investigated the crime ~~it~~ itself and never intended to. Instead it by the crude use of power and threats saw to it that the Commission would conclude as the FBI wanted it to conclude.

11 ^{as} and the Commission did.

~~Five years before Lifton's own paper to himself was published in 1975~~

Gervasi and Viking distributed so many press copies of this Sibert-O'Neill report that I urged ^{them} ~~Gervasi~~ to distribute they had to use two different xerox machines. One reduced the text dimensions on a page slightly.

Lifton's great discovery ^{" was} ~~so exhaustively~~ distributed ^{extensively} by Viking a decade and a half before Lifton's publication!

I did not use that report until I published Post Mortem, in 1969 and 1971 in limited editions and for general distribution in 1975. Lifton's book was published in 1980. I published that report in facsimile in Post Mortem (pages 532-6)

As will be seen, soul of personal and professional integrity that he is, Lifton did not dare give his readers or reviewers or reporters the complete text of the Sibert-O'Neill report. That is the only reason he found no space for it when he had so many pages in his book. He used, which is to say misused, five words of a single paragraph. Those words incorrectly state that in the Dallas emergency room there was "surgery of the head area" on President Kennedy.

Without his ~~knowing~~ misuse of these five words and without his gross and deliberate suppression of what else is said in that single paragraph, Lifton would have had no impossible theory, without which he had nothing new in his book other than his claim to the published work that preceded his.

11/18 While we do not know what accounts for this FBI ~~mistake~~, ^{The} most probable explanation is that the ~~they~~ agents heard the pathologists direct a ^{question} to those in the autopsy room and ~~those~~ ^{it} in the amphitheater who had been in Dallas, ^{asking} if there had been "surgery of the head area" when they saw the massive ~~defect~~ where the head had been exploded out and that in dictating from their notes four days ~~later~~ the agents recorded this as a statement rather than as a question.

10
B The great amount of skull and brain matter missing was more than enough to prompt such a question.

After I wrote this Lifton underscored his abhorrence^d of truth and his method of making virulent personal attacks on those who criticize him and his best-selling works of assassination fiction rather than responding to fact. he cannot refute.

instead of referring to Feinstein

sample of work

13/

In a 74-page diatribe against Roger Feinman rather than in response to Feinman's criticisms of Best Evidence, ^{a personal assault} that Lifton distributed through the Compuserve Library, on May 5, 1993, Lifton said, "I made the discovery that the FBI reported surgery (in the Sibert-O'Neill report, a document discovered by Paul Hoch and then published in several books)" I received a copy of Lifton's slanders in substitution for response after I had written about Lifton's claimed "discovery."

7

This is no less ridiculous a phony claim than the others Lifton makes for himself. It is obvious that everyone reading that report sees and understands its plain language. Each of the many earlier readers and ^{FBI} those reading the prior publication of that report understood what the FBI agents stated. There ^{were} countless Christoper ^h Columbuses before Lifton. Lifton did not "discover" what they said, which is his claim so phrased to make it appear to be accurate when it ^{is} was not. ^{is} That Lifton did was to get on Cloud 9 with his misrepresentation of its ~~meaning and its~~ evidentiary value. He made up that alleged meaning and that invention ^{alone} is the basis for what is new in his book, ^{body-snatch} his ~~theory~~ that he knew was impossible ^{is} when he ^{merely} ignored all the evidentiary disproofs of his nuttiness that ^{is} his sole claim to fame.

And made him temporarily rich.

it is necessary to understand

To really begin ~~not~~ to understand Lifton and his book his own representation of himself; ^{He is} as the only one of all those interested in the JFK assassination and its investigation and all those many reporters, ^{no} reviews and others to whom Vikings distributed so many copies of that Sibert-O'Neill report, in all likelihood before Hoch returned to California and could have given Lifton a copy, ^{who saw its importance!} is important.

13/14

So also is it important to understand that with the totality of any real ~~any~~ accomplishment he can claim for all the many years he has worked in the field being his theory he presents as the reality ~~is isn't by any means~~, he suppressed from his readers ^{five} all of that report except these few quoted ~~pages~~ words. *It why will become apparent.*

The last page in his hardback is numbered 747. With all that space, all those pages, ^{the} all ~~ent~~ vital significance of that report in his work, ^{Lifton} ~~and~~ not only does not reproduce it -

Missing page 12 in Lifton essay
not used

There is no rational basis for Lifton's imagining there had been surgery of the head. The edges of that massive blowout alone ^{and Lifton had the picture of it -} make if obvious not one of the edges ^{was} is surgical. But that is not by ^{all} ¹ an means/ what Lifton knew- or should have known. Certainly would have if he were a tenth the demon investigator he represents himself as being.

Unable to refuse factual criticisms of his work at a midwest conference in late 1992 Lifton ^{N/}resorted to his way of life for pretended response. He launched a ^Cvisious, baseless false and disgusting attack on Roger Feinman, whose factual criticisms/ could not be rebutted. Lifton devoted more than 30 single-spaced pages to ^{distributing them} this and distributed them via the Compuserve Library computer network.

Paul O'Connor was a youthful non-commissioned Navy officer on duty at the Bethesda Navy Hospital when JFK's body was taken there. Lifon used him extensively as a source.

Feinman also interviewed O'Connor. In the course of this interview Feinman asked him about Lifton's use of those ^{Lifton- quoted} words from the Sibert-O'Neill report. Speaking of that ^{FBI} report O'Connor told Feinman, "...Now what they meant by that I don't know, but it ^U seems like it's overridden everything else, and it gets involved -there was no surgery of ^{any} kind. And I know what surgery looks like."

Feinman asked him, "Did you hear anyone ask a question, like, 'Did anyone do ^U surgery to this ^{head} her?' or was it a definite statement -"

Here O'Connor interrupted to say, "There was a question asked by someone to that effect, but I don't know ^U who asked it, unless it was Humes. I don't know what he was referring to, though."

O'Connor merely confirmed what all the many who read that Sibert-O'Neill report- save the self-conceived genius Lifton - knew had to be the fact. There was no surgery of the head but apparently because of the size of that defect one of the prosecutors asked of those who could hear him and had been in Dallas and in that emergency room, ^{Surgery} if there had been to explain the large size of the skull and right-hemisphere of the brain that was missing as he sought explanations/ for it.

If Lifton learned this from O'Connor his ghastly commercialization and exploitation of it is a monstrous scandal. And with O'Connor so willing to be helpful, if Lifton did not ask him his behavior is no less unprecedentedly reprehensible.

neurosurgeon, "Dr. Morris Abrams". In assisting the doctor's understanding of the brain lacerations, Mr. Lifton supplied him with the knowledge that two metal fragments were recovered from the forward right side of the head. But he either omitted to tell "Abrams" or omits to tell us about the passage in Sibert and O'Neill's report pertaining to the extensive metallic fragmentation (estimated at 40 particles) dispersed throughout the brain. Furthermore, while he presents the neurosurgeons comments as probative of surgery, Lifton was not dealing with a forensic specialist.

Lifton attempts to bolster his "surgery" thesis by arguing that Humes (to whom he attributes the surgery remark based on the hearsay public pronouncement of J. Edgar Hoover, see New York Times, November 26, 1966) was told a fragment of skull that had been brought into the autopsy room was "removed", another factoid gleaned from the Sibert and O'Neill report. Of course, the word "removed" might easily have been a euphemism connoting "blasted out during the shooting." Beyond Lifton's semantic foolery, however, this purported analysis was devious because Sibert and O'Neill reported that the skull fragment was delivered "during the latter stages of the autopsy", whereas someone reportedly made the surgery remark at the very beginning. Why wasn't there enough room in a 747-page hard cover book, or any of the subsequent paperback editions, to include the full five-page Sibert and O'Neill report upon which Lifton builds his empire? The only reasonable answer is that readers would then be able to see what deceptive use David Lifton makes of it.

Unquestionably, Lifton's chief witness in support of his "head surgery" theory is Paul K. O'Connor.

On the weekend of the assassination, O'Connor was a Navy 3rd Class Petty Officer attached to the National Naval Medical Center as a student medical technician. Before November 22, he had been working in the Bethesda morgue for six months on 24-hour duty. This meant that he was subject to call at any time.

O'Connor told me last year that, at approximately 2 p.m. on the afternoon of the assassination, he and his partner, James Curtis Jenkins, were in the morgue when the Commanding Officer of the National Naval Medical Center, Admiral Calvin Galloway, came in and told them that they would be getting "a very important visitor." They immediately understood this to mean that President Kennedy's remains were being brought to Bethesda for autopsy. Galloway also told them that they were confined to the morgue for the duration. This was O'Connor's first experience in working with a gunshot victim as a "Med Tech" student at Bethesda. (Author's Interview with Paul O'Connor, October 25, 1992)

Mr. Lifton's account of the same introduction to O'Connor's story omits his witness's mention of "2 p.m.". Therein lies a problem, since Bethesda, Maryland, was one hour behind Dallas, Texas. If O'Connor is correct, officials at Bethesda knew that the autopsy would be held there at nearly the same moment that Dr. Kemp Clark pronounced President Kennedy dead at Parkland Hospital. This is not beyond the realm of possibility, but it does contradict the widely held belief among students of the assassination that Bethesda was not chosen as the site of the autopsy until Jacqueline Kennedy made the selection while en route to Washington aboard Air Force One.

My overall impression of O'Connor was that he is sincere and truthful to the best of his ability; that he remembers vignettes or anecdotes about the autopsy, some of which he has obviously discussed with other participants; but that he has great difficulty placing the events of that night into temporal or sequential order and context. Considering the passage of years, this is hardly surprising, neither does it serve to completely discredit his

recollections. It does mean, however, that his statements must be evaluated with great care and caution.

I asked him about the "head surgery" clause in the Sibert-O'Neill report that Lifton expanded into a book:

"You know something? That surgery of the head remark I think started with Sibert or O'Neill. Now what they meant by that, I don't know, but it seems like it's overridden everything else, and it gets involved -- there was no surgery of any kind. And I know what surgery looks like.

Q.: Did you hear anyone ask a question like, "Did anyone do surgery to this head?" or was it a definite statement --

A.: There was a question asked somewhat to that effect, but I don't know who asked it, unless it was Humes. I don't know what he was referring to though."

O'Connor allegedly told Lifton there was no brain in the President's skull when the body arrived in the morgue; the cranium was empty. (p. 601) What he told me, however, was that, "There was no brain, just brain tissue." The difference between no brain, some brain, or very little brain shatters Lifton's theory, which holds that the brain was surgically removed, then reimplanted, before the body reached the autopsy.

Mr. O'Connor's partner that day, James Curtis Jenkins, has said that there was a brain in the President's cranium when the body arrived. (Livingstone, Harrison. *High Treason 2*. Carroll & Graf, New York: 1991, p. 92 [and see at pp. 131-135 Livingstone's detailed discussion of the conflicts he found in the statements of Jenkins and O'Connor regarding the handling of the President's body prior to autopsy.]

[Note: Researcher and writer Jerry Policoff points out that, if Lifton's reliance on O'Connor for the allegation that there was no brain is well placed, then the autopsy doctors lied when they purported to conduct a supplemental autopsy on the President's brain two weeks after the assassination. Policoff maintains that Lifton cannot have it both ways, although that appears to be his frequent preference.]

The John Ebersole situation is both analogous to the sensation that Lifton makes out of O'Connor's recollections, and illustrative of the perils and pitfalls in evaluating the accounts of witnesses who have come forward many years after the event. Ebersole was nominally the radiologist in charge of X-raying the President's body and reading those X-rays. He told researcher Art Smith in 1978 that the throat wound was sutured at the outset of the autopsy. Lifton repeated the suture story as he obtained it from Smith. (pages 541, 606) Ebersole also recalled that the autopsy began at 10:30 p.m. that night (page 519). This allegation of the autopsy's starting time was a clear error lacking any verification or corroboration, and it is universally contradicted by other available accounts. Lifton excuses Ebersole's mistake, concluding that the throat wound was sutured sometime before what Ebersole thought was the start of the autopsy.

Paul O'Connor, on the other hand, told Lifton that he saw an open, unsutured tracheotomy wound. (pp. 601, 604) (O'Connor confirmed to me that he did not remember any sutures to the throat wound when the body arrived.) How does Lifton reconcile the divergent observations of O'Connor and Ebersole? He never satisfactorily resolves the problem in his book.

12
14
he suppresses even the rest of the paragraph from which he quotes ^{these five words only} and ~~misrepresents~~ the ~~meaning of those word.~~

If he had not been capable of this very greatest of dishonesties he could, ^{not} have ~~have~~ dared submit the book to his agent or to his publisher.

He would have been laughed at and his book would have been regarded by them as what it is, a ~~fraud~~ ^{ridiculous} laughable fraud. This will become clear as we examine the horror he created to deceive and mislead all those who read his book or the reviews of it or heard and saw him on radio and TV and all those who were told of his fraud by those who believed it.

His preposterous invention begins with the alleged snatching of JFK's body.

That was not possible in the Dallas hospital and it was not possible between there and AirForce 1.

The Secret Service guarded the body they had been with through the medical efforts in the emergency room and when ^{momentarily} they were not with it the nurses were and the Secret Service had a Dallas policeman on guard. ~~As Lipton avoids saying, of course~~

The nurses testified before the Warren Commission. It published their testimony and Lipton has their testimony.

14
15
The Commission ignored that, ^{the FBI and} policeman, as ~~Lipton~~ also did.

If Lipton had not been interested in promoting himself and his impossible theory and if he had done any reasearch at all in the ~~xxxxxx~~ records I obtained ^{ef} in the FOIA lawsuits ~~rescued~~ and thus forced from ~~xxxxxx~~ suppression and into the FBI's public reading room, he would ~~ef~~ have known that Douglas Jackson and J.M.Chaney, the two motorcycle escorts on the ~~Presid~~ President's right, both made public statements that refute the official accounting of the shooting.

The Commission's counsel more recently praised as honorable men by Lipton had all the lead they needed to interrogate both of these motorcycle policemen.

Did those ~~honorable~~ men so honorable in Lipton's expressed belief need know anything other ~~ef~~ that that they were ^{the} two of the four Dallas policemen closest to the President when he was assassinated? Another policeman, Marrion Baker, eventold that most honorable of those honorable men, David Belin (3H242) that Chaney had learned what was important.

13
15 *Lifton's*
These honorable men need no better reason not to speak to either Chaney or Jackson.

But then the FBI didn't, either, ^{until} under more than a decade later it was embarrassed into pretending to interview them. The FBI also did ~~not~~ ^{not} want to know what ~~they~~ ^{these men} knew and could have testified to. It even refused to accept the contemporaneous lengthy handwritten statement Jackson wrote put laboriously the night of the assassination when he was deeply troubled over not being questioned by his own police department ~~or~~ the FBI or the Secret Service.

Most of what Chaney ~~knows~~ ^{had a chance to say} said is apparently lost. He was interviewed by Dallas radio station KLIF. The owner, Gordon McLendon, told me the tapes of its assassination coverage had disappeared but he had made a phonograph record of excerpts. A brief bit of ~~Jackson~~ Chaney was on it ~~and I have it.~~ ^{McClendon gave me the record.}

15/16
Had he, or Jackson, ^{testified} ~~testified~~ before the Warren Commission it could never have published its report with a lone-assassin conclusion because both would have testified ^{seeing} to what proves that was not possible.

He and Jackson are both dead, I've been told. But I have what those so honorable men of Lifton's could have had, as could Lifton, too, if his interest had been in the facts of the crime rather than self-promotion.

~~Jackson was~~ ^{Jackson was} so proud the morning of the assassination! For the second time he was escorting his President, the President of the United States. (The first time was two years earlier long-time ^{Sam Rayburn} when the Speaker of the House of Representatives, ~~was~~ in terminal illness.) Referring to himself and the other seven ^{with} motorcycle policemen as "Jackeys," ~~Jackson~~ four with the President and four ^{with} behind the Secret Service follow-up car, Jackson described seeing Texas Governor John B. Connally hit by a separate, second bullet. ^{This alone invalidates the lone-assassin official "solution."} (He then saw the fatal shot: "He appeared to have been hit just above the right ear," not the official account.

He and Chaney led the motorcade to Parkland Hospital. There he helped get Connally out of the car so they could reach the President. He got Kennedy "at his shoulders and helped lay him on a stretcher" and helped roll it into the emergency room. There a Secret Service agent "told me to take up a post here and not to let anyone but doctors and nurses in."

16/ Jackson's is the detailed account of an experienced policeman, ^{He is entirely} of the motorcade and of what he saw and participated in at the hospital. He left the post the Secret Service asked him to keep one, only long enough ^{to} provide the mayor with emergency communications by his police radio, to ask for a Justice of the Peace to be rushed to the hospital.

As they returned to the emergency-room door a Secret Service agent asked Jackson to find out where Air Force 1 had been moved to after it had landed that morning and then "to arrange for an escort back to Love field." He took Officer James Taylor with him and they escorted the hearse with the body to the plane's door.

From Jackson's account the only time he ~~was~~ was not posted at that door a Secret Service agent was. Moreover, Jackson was not away long enough for the body to be snatched. ^{Not} ~~is~~ that others would not have seen it had it ~~been~~ ^{attempted} attempted.

Lifton says the snatch was on Air Force 1. From the sources he cites he knew that was not possible. He does use these sources, but very selectively. He eliminates what is not congenial with or entirely disproves his ^{counterfeit} ticket to fame and fortune.

^{Lifton cites and quotes from} William Manchester's semi-official ^(Hepler and Row 1967) ~~Death of a President~~ ^{he cites and quotes} at ten different points. (Page 737) There are many other places where he ~~avoided~~ ^{avoided} what Manchester wrote. Lifton had to because at those points Manchester proves beyond question that Lifton's penny-dreadful invention was completely impossible.

Lifton ^{also} makes extensive use of a partial and quite limited transcript of Air Force 1's radio traffic. It was obtained by Fred Newcomb from the L.B.J. library.

It discloses that when asked by "AF Command Post" if "you have any passengers ~~aboard~~ ^{aboard} aboard," AF1 responded, "Full load, 40 plus." Lifton does not indicate there was such a crowd for a plane with that internal configuration. The Johnson party was in the front half, the Kennedy party in the rear, with the casket and the body inside it.

As Manchester says (on page 347), not quoted by Lifton for very obvious reasons:

"Mrs. Kennedy, in (Bill) Moyers' words, 'chose to stay with the body'... She sat on the aisle seat, closest to the body." That area was so jammed there were not enough ~~seats~~ seats for all the ^{pass} passengers to sit. Some stood near the body, the entire trip to Andrews Field.

Mrs. Kennedy left only once and then briefly, for the ^{swearing in} swearing in of the new President.

8
That was before the plane took off at Love Field. The only other person in the Kennedy party who left the ^{with} ^{area} casket was Larry O'Donnell.

As Admiral George Burkley, the President's physician, wrote in a memorandum the Commission published and Lifton cites without mention of it, "Throughout the plane trip, Mrs. Kennedy sat in the vicinity of the casket, talking with Mr. O'Donnell and various other members of the party."

~~On the next page of this memorandum, Commission Exhibit 1126, Burkley states:~~
~~"General McHugh had examined in the vicinity of the body throughout this time~~

There is no need to refer to ^{the many} other accounts of the plane trip that were as available to Lifton as they were to me. With the certainty that the body was never unescorted, for the entire trip ^{and} (all but a few minutes on the ground by Mrs. Kennedy, for the body to be ~~stolen~~ ^{stolen} by Lifton's mythical body-snatchers ^{stet -> was impossible} the entire Kennedy party would have been accessories to it - including his widow! ^{I know, where when or by whom it was hidden not say. And that, too, was publishable!}

But Lifton's indecent "solution" is that the body was kidnapped on the plane!

Not that he ^{even shows} suggests where it could have been hidden with that compartment so packed there were ^{it} ~~not~~ enough seats for all. ^{nor by whom it was snatched, or when.}

How monstrous it is that Lifton makes the widow out as a party to the ^{body-} theft and his also imagined alteration of it!

What some people ~~do~~ do for phony fame and transitory wealth!

There was, of course, also no place to hide that six-foot-plus corpse in that overcrowded compartment. When challenged on this long after his book appeared, he told a friend, who told me, that ^{the} compartment flooring was removed to hide the body under it!

With all those people looking on- having to move around to make space for the floor-nappers?

^{endanger} What that would have done to the plane's structural ~~sa~~ safety is another matter.

18
19
It is clear that without the conspiring of the entire Kennedy party, including the widow, the theft of the body was a complete impossibility.

It is also clear that to withhold this from his readers and to assure his fame and fortune Lifton withheld what he knew was the truth, quoted above.

~~It begs better. Which is to say worse. Here is some of Lifton's account.~~

When his book first appeared, skillfully and effectively advertised and promoted by published Macmillan (which almost a decade later again commercialized and exploited the assassination in publishing and promoting and advertising an entirely different theorized mob job conspiracy solution (John Davis's claptrap that it was a ~~mafia~~ Mafia Kingfish) the rights were sold to TIME magazine. It carried ^a two pages ^{Lifton's} account of the book. Among the immediate refutations of Lifton's dream ^{of up} "solution" was the letter from ^a retired Air Force General Godfrey McHugh. Characterizing it all as a "a bizarre new Kennedy assassination conspiracy theory," McHugh stated that ~~the~~ "From the ~~time~~ moment we wheeled the casket out of Parkland Hospital and pushed it into the ambulance I, who was Air Force aide to the President, never left the body except for a few minutes. I did so to talk to the pilot...at Mrs. Kennedy's request. She wanted to expedite our departure. During this time Mrs. Kennedy, along with Larry O'Brien and Dave Powers, remained at the side of the casket. To suggest that anyone could have taken the body out of the coffin with Mrs. Kennedy and two of his most loyal friends is illogical. ("Illogical?" How kind he was to Lifton!) Aboard Air Force One it would have been impossible."

Review written for
of ok to
3 to it

This ^{first person} total refutation ^{of} and the entire basis of Sherlock Lifton's book, did not prompt profit-wise Macmillan to withdraw it. Nor did it discourage ^{three} the ~~four~~ subsequent ~~republican~~ republications by three different publishers. These three, of course, could have assumed ^{that} ~~from~~ Macmillan's failure to withdraw it meant that, despite what McHugh said the book was a responsible work.

fantasy puffed up into a

14
20

It is not now possible for me to draw upon a page-by-page analysis/I made for the historical record when Hercule ^{Point} (Lifton's book first appeared. It was stolen and, I was told, sold to Lifton along with ^{official} ~~other~~ documentation that proved ~~it~~ our newest would-be "Thin Man alone had any need for. But a few relevant excerpts serve to establish just how much of a reincarnated Sam Spade he was.

^{Lifton's} In his Air Force 1 account he made Robert Kennedy, then the attorney general, one of ^{to make the body-snatch succeed, together}

Those who conspired ^{L of the Fort Meyer has on guard} along with the widow and the entire Kennedy party on the plane :

"First, the Lieutenant, didn't understand why Robert Kennedy was in the open doorway, not realizing ~~that~~ he had boarded by the front entrance and run the length of the plane

70

in the few seconds since it rolled to a halt." *(page 395) KFH here*

(Manchester, page 395)

Actually, Robert Kennedy was on the plane before its final stopping. But in Lifton's own words he was where the casket and the body were before any other door of the plane was opened. Or, before it was possible to spirit the allegedly kidnapped corpse out.

Perhaps it is only a coincidence but this reference to Lieutenant Samuel Bird, chief of what Inspector Clousseau Lifton refers to as "the casket crew," which it was not, it was the Presidential honor guard from Fort Myer, near the Pentagon ^{Lifton's} is not in the index. The index should read pages 393-5. Instead it reads, "393, 395." Lifton omits page 394, from which I quote, in his index.

Whatever accounts for it, Pink Panther Panther Lifton had the same gremlinization in the Robert Kennedy index references. They also go "393, 395," again not directing attention to page 394.

In any event, Lifton could not avoid the fact that Bird confirms what Lifton ignores in his ~~it~~ so effectively exploited and commercialized and entirely baseless theory, that Robert Kennedy was at the side of ^{in the coffin} the corpse before the corpse could have been taken from it or where it had to be ~~relocated~~ ^{stolen} if it had already been taken, there being no other place for it. Lifton also ignores other and more complete accounts.

20
21

One is by Manchester, quoted so often ^{by Lifton} but not on all his ~~us~~ ^{es} uses of it as a source. Brother-in-law Sargent Shriver's

Robert Kennedy wanted not to be seen. In a sentence referring to/exploration of the possibility of a Catholic funeral in a national cemetery, Manchester says that "Shortly after 5:30... Robert Kennedy found haven in ^{the} truck at Andrews Field." (page 381) ^{report, JFK White House assistant and Pulitzer prize historian} In longer reporting of it than I hear account, Arthur Schlesinger (?

~~his~~, pages 657-8) says that Kennedy "arrived at Andrews ~~Field~~ half an hour before the plane was due from Dallas. He took a solitary walk in the enveloping night. 'There were all those people out there, and I didn't want to see any people.' He sat ~~there~~ for a few minutes in the back of an Army truck. Then he ^a made arrangement to get on the plane without running the gauntlet of television cameras. 'As the plane came in, I walked around. I don't think anybody saw me, and I went up to where the pilot is - the front entrance. And everybody's eyes were on the back entrance.' He boarded the plane by himself, hurried past the Johnson party, and hugged 'ackie."

21 Manchester's account (page 387) is that, "A ramp had been readied for the front entrance, and the Attorney General vaulted onto it, unseen; he ^was pumping the steps while it was still being rolled into place. Leaping in, he darted past the Johnson party, rushed to Jackie and hugged her!" Manchester then says, "The aircraft glided forward once again and parked."

21/22

Without possibility of question, ^Bobbie was with Jackie and by the coffin and where the body had to be even if as ^{just made up} Lifton ~~invented~~ it had been taken from the coffin, before any other door was or could have been opened.

Only a ghost could have been spirited off of Air Force 1 unseen.

Undeterred by the already total, the absolutely complete, disproof of his belated claim to fame, ~~Inspector Morse, aka Lifton,~~ ^{un ignored} continues to fabricate his imaginary conspiracy, next step a mysterious helicopter and then another ^{mystery}, a "second" ambulance.

What was stolen from me that was of interest to only Lifton and Harrison Edward Livingstone, ~~was~~ then one of Lifton's newer enemies, ~~had any interest in.~~ I had requested of the Military District of Washington under the Freedom of Information Act only copies of what it has given Lifton and ^{them} he cites from time to time, as I learned on getting that duplication of the records he ^{obtained and he cites them by} ~~had~~ ^{selective} and incompletely. ^{Vintage Lifton}

Livingstone employed several ^Baltimore City policemen to work for him when not on duty. One of them, Richard Waybright, visited us frequently when working for Livingstone. As I ^{for} have always done with all writers, ^{for Livingstone} Waybright had unsupervised access to not only the third of a million pages of once-secret records I obtained by more than a dozen FOIA lawsuits - he ^{also} had free access to some of my work. Telling me of the feud that had developed between these two apprentice Keystone ^Kops, junior grade, Waybright asked to borrow my analysis of Lifton's book and the MDW records Lifton received. He said he'd like to take them to Baltimore, ^{where} ~~where~~ he could copy them without cost, ^{He also said} ~~and that~~ he would return them ~~soon~~.

He returned a second MDW file relating to the funeral only. He misfield that among the third of a million official pages in our basement ^{stole} instead of in the working files in my office. Even Livingstone believes he ^{live with} ~~sold~~ ^{them sold} them what he ~~stole~~ to Lifton. Several sources who would have ^{live with} Lifton's venom to ~~confront~~ if I identified them told me that Lifton threatened

22/23

you should have done this

23) Waybright with exposé of his violation of police regulations- with being fired if not also prosecuted - if he did not [^] apply Lifton with what he wanted. As Livingstone himself told me after ^{forgiving} pardoning Waybright for it, he gave Lifton transcripts of Livingstone's interviews ^{with} of some of those Lifton ^{mis} quoted, ^{and so told Livingstone.} Who complained ^{conforming} to L.W.
I therefore can refer ^{to those} NDW records from recollection only.

There is no mystery about the alleged "second" helicopter, a mystery Lifton represents there was. The Fort Myer honor guard came and left in an H21, a "flying banana" chopper. And Lyndon Johnson left in the Presidential chopper. *There also was other chopper traffic.*

In Lifton's fantasy the stolen corpse was flown to the Army's Walter Reed hospital in a chopper. It never happened and ^{it} could not have happened.

Part of Lifton's invented and non-existing conspiracy to steal ~~and~~ the corpse and alter the evidence of its wounds was a second or a "decoy" ~~is~~ ambulance.

Manchester explains that second ambulance. It was hardly any kind of "decoy." as Lifton knew from Manchester's book:

"Captain R.O. Canada, Jr. Bethesda's commanding officer," sent that ambulance "by sheer chance." Johnson "had been Canada's patient after his massive heart attack on July 2, 1955; the ambulance was dispatched against the possibility that the new President might be stricken again during the flight." (page 381)

Even Lifton's account of how the corpse was ^{snuck} out of Air Force 1 was to his knowledge impossible. He says it was on the side away from the TV lights, the side close to the chain-link fence in that remote area of the field.

23
24

Before the plane landed Lieutenant Bird placed the men detailed from all branches of the service "in ranks between the Presidential aircraft's parking space, the Kennedy helicopter, and the helicopter Lyndon Johnson would board." (Manchester, page 385) This meant that all ^{service personnel} these not engaged in getting the casket off the plane would have a clear view of any activity on the other side of the plane including the ground below the plane ^{on} where it obstructed their vision only partially. And legs or wheels would have been obvious to them.

"Between the wire fence and 26000's parking place (the number of AF1) there were approximately fifty dignitaries." This is to say that where the dirty doings were supposed, in Lifton's impossible scenario, to be taking place by stealing the corpse off on that side

24
of the plane, there were ^{also} all those important people ~~in~~ not one of who reported seeing anything like Lifton's ^{snatch.} invention. (Manchester, page 385)

Manchester says ^{that} ^a the large crowd had gathered at the fence where AF1 usually came before it landed. (Page 387)

There were about 3,000 people there, close to the plane when it parked and with the side from which Lifton said it was taken right in their faces. Like all those dignitaries, of those 3,000 not one reported ^{seeing} what Lifton said happened - and ~~of course~~, not ~~of course~~.

Lifton himself quotes Manchester on the size of the crowd ^{so close to and} looking right at the side of the plane the cameras did not see. There were 3,000. (page 395)

Regardless of the rather large number of persons who could have attested that nothing like what Lifton makes up happened, he faced the problem of getting the kidnapped corpse off the plane and to Walter Reed Hospital. Lifton states ^{that} it as a question (on page 688): "Did the

body come off the plane via that exist ~~and~~ "A ramp put ~~at~~ on the starboard side at the front galley doors", and leave by the helicopter so clearly heard on the network tape?" ^(TV) Thereafter he uses what he states as a question as a proven fact, without that ^{fact}, he has no books!

25
If only one helicopter was heard on the tape, the tape was incomplete. There were several there and they should all have been heard when they left. But the sound on the tape does not mean that there was a body in any helicopter. ^{hidden} The crew of which magnifies his ^{simple murmurs} ~~transcript~~ ^{may} ~~been~~ ^{more}. and in 30 years not one has breathed a word.

Lifton follows this with a deliberate misrepresentation of the completeness of the AF1 radio traffic transcript. it is to deceive the reader into believing that the body had been intended to go to Walter Reed. ^{for the autopsy, and thus it was fully prepared.}

There was initially some confusion about that, for reasons Lifton does not indicate. Because the ~~the~~ military's ~~pathology institute~~, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology is located at Walter Reed, it was a natural assumption that the autopsy would be there.

There are a dozen indicated omissions in the tape ^{transcript} and it begins with an entirely different series of communications, with a delegation sent to confer in the far east ^{if} and then ^{was} over the Pacific. The entire first page is devoted to that. The second page begins when AF1 was still on Love Field.

The very first exchange between AF1 and the White House has the body going to both

I get convinced on who you're citing - the page number is 10

Secret Service

25

hospitals. Roy Kellerman, in charge of the detail that went to Texas with the President, told Gerald Behn, in charge of that branch of the Secret Service assigned to the White House, to have an "Have an ambulance from Walter Reed to take the body there." In response Behn said "arrangement has been made for a helicopter to take the body to the Bethesda Medical Center."

26

Admiral Burkley then came on and said "The body is in a casket ~~and~~ and will have to be taken by ambulance and not by chopper."

On the same page the President's military attache, General Chester L Clifton, talked about a "ground return" for the autopsy to be done at Walter Reed.

After that and after several more omissions indicated in the transcript ~~Clifton~~ Clifton ^{that} ^{would} ^{to} ^{return} ^{Bethesda} ~~raduced~~ ^{at} ^{the} ^{body} ^{will} ^{go} ^{by} ^{ambulance} ^{to} ^{return} ^{Bethesda}. He also asked for "a mortuary-type ambulance standby..."

Shortly after this is where Clifton ordered that there be a "ramp put at the front of the aircraft on the right-hand side just behind the pilot's cabin in the Galley" because "We are going to take the First ^{lady} off by that route." Not at all what Clifton said, that it was to sneak the corpse out by that ^{means}.

So, while there was confusion about which hospital would be used and how the body would be taken there, ~~as Clifton ignores~~, the last word was that it would go by ambulance to Bethesda.

The last ^{of} ^{words} ^{on} ^{this} ^{transcript} are "The remainder of the tape is traffic between AF1 and Andrews checking the weather." ~~This is not so. There were omissions~~

This tape is, obviously, made up of part ^{of} the original tapes. It ends long, long before the flight ended and it does not include what happened almost two hours before the plane landed and Clifton knew very well, that Burkley kneeled down before Mrs. Kennedy and led her to select Bethesda for the autopsy. ~~The transcript does not include~~ ^{dozens of admissions} ^{to this}

Stating his impossible invention as a question, Clifton leads into his misrepresentation of this ~~transcript~~ transcript of which I also have a copy. ~~He asks,~~ ^{He again states a question what he himself writes as a fact} says, "This question remained: If the body was hidden aboard Air Force One, how did it get to Bethesda,

and where could it have been altered?" There is no factual basis for any of this. (Page 680)
It is Clifton's invented question for the Clifton-invented fairy tale

He proceeds this on the same page with the statement that "the body was removed from the casket and hidden somewhere on" the plane, with "a body bag" that ~~disguised~~ ^{disguised} it as "luggage" and, he conjectures, it could "have been put in the luggage hold, or in the forward galley area." *Luggage more than six feet long and of such irregular shape?*

Not only entirely unseen but how crazy would it have been to "hide" the supposedly stolen body right where ~~the First Lady was to leave the plane~~ ^{and shot into Kennedy party were} "in the forward galley area!"

Under the concⁿfusory and utterly false heading of "The Walter Reed Evidence," of which there is absolutely none at all, Lifton edits the partial ~~and~~ ^{and} incomplete transcript even more to eliminate all I have quoted from it about the body to be taken by ambulance to the Bethesda Naval Hospital by ~~ambulance~~ and not to Walter Reed and not by chopper. (page 681)

Beginning five pages later he returns to the transcript and quotes some of the confusion from it, *leaving it confused and confusing.*

No matter how ~~chopped~~ ^{chopped} up and rearranged, there is not a scintilla of "Walter Reed Evidence" in this subchapter. There isn't even a rational basis for even a suspicion that there is any "Walter Reed evidence."

Nobody ever saw it there, or saw and heard the chopped land there. Lifton's imagined scheme makes no allowance for the time required for his imagined chopper to land. He gives no time estimate for getting the body out of the chopper or how far away the autopsy tables were from his imagined landing place or how long it would ~~take~~ require for it to get onto the autopsy table or by what means it could, or how long his imagined toying with the corpse

would have taken and then how long retracing the whole fictional business would have taken.

And again, all the alleged conspirators were silent and nobody else saw anything.
Had he, it would ~~and~~ have crumbled ~~then~~ because there was not time for that. The plane ~~landed~~ ^{landed} and ~~took~~ ^{took} his ~~invention~~ ^{invention} ~~step by step~~ ^{step by step}.

landed after 6 p.m. It took some time to get the case off. Or, in Lifton's concoction, the corpse could not have been removed until there was nobody looking, or after all had left.

While a chopper flight to upper Georgia Avenue ~~was~~ ^{took} did not ~~take~~ ^{take} long, after the imagined alteration of the corpse and ~~repacking~~ ^{replacing} it in the imagined body bag, it had to get to

Bethesda by ambulance in Lifton's fantasy. Yet the body was there, as Lifton admits (page 576), before 7 p.m.

Yet one of his dubious sources for his convoluted fiction says that the ambulance with

The allegedly kidnapped corpse was brought onto the grounds "fifteen, thirty minutes after the other casket had arrived." (page 574) What he is saying is that the motorcade had an empty casket only and the corpse, inside its alleged and nonexistent body bag, was in a government plain shipping casket and got to Bethesda 7:15 or 7:30

Carried away with himself, or perhaps desperate, Lifton even ~~sa~~ quotes one of his "avy corpsmen who admits having had an early ^{what} morning bull session over the major events at their installation as knowing, which required seeing telescopically and after dark, that this nonexistent mystery ambulance and its stolen and altered corpse

"Came up 14th Street and came in the back gate" of the Bethesda hospital. #

That guy could see ~~five miles at night~~ ^{through all that building and traffic} and then could see what was not there, a Fourteenth Street at Walter Reed Hospital!

Mind you, Lifton was ~~there~~ ^{at Walter Reed} and he reports his timing in driving to Bethesda.

Yet with his bare face hanging out in the book and glowing on TV he reports this utter impossibility as though it were fact, ~~possible~~.

But, what the hell! If he can write a book about the theft of the President corpse with the ^{party of} 40 plus crew of the plane not seeing ^{it} or knowing about it, getting it out of the casket ^{unseen} with the widow and closer JFK associates right at the casket, why can't ~~he~~ he have a Fourteenth Street ^{where} ~~where~~ ^{where} there is no Fourteenth Street?

~~For~~, There isn't, at the hospital or on leaving it to go to Bethesda.

Walter Reed is on a large ^{fenced-in} tract of land that has ~~no~~ ^{no} city thoroughfare going through it. It is between George Avenue, which ~~replaced~~ ^{was} ~~Seventh~~ ^{was} Street much farther south, and Sixteenth Street, the means by which an ambulance going to Bethesda would reach East-West Highway, the road ^{to Bethesda} ~~there~~.

Lifton gives the distance between the two hospitals as five miles and the time it took him to drive it, he does not say under what traffic conditions of the time of day, as 15 ~~minutes~~ ^{was} minutes. Traffic ^{is} ~~is~~ ever so much heavier in 1963 than when I often used East-West Highway, the major thoroughfare east and west at that point. It was heavily overcrowded at and after supper times, much more than earlier in the day, particularly weekends.

And aside from all else that ridicules his childish concoction, by his own ~~account~~, ^{account},

mythical

quoted account of the ^{mythical} stolen corpse getting to Bethesda a half hour after the allegedly empty casket got there in the motorcade, at 6:53 to ~~6:55~~ ^{6:55} p.m., and with his statement that "the autopsy started at 7:17," (page 576) not even allowing for the time to get the substituted casket from the ambulance into the autopsy room and to remove the ~~top~~ toyed with corpse from it and get it on the table and all else required for the autopsy to begin, Lifton actually accounts for the autopsy beginning before the ~~corpse~~ ^{corpse} got there!

The motorcade reached the hospital a little before ~~six~~ ^{seven}, the autopsy began 17 minutes after it, yet the imagined stolen corpse did not get to Bethesda until a half hour after the motorcade did!

~~UP UGH!~~ And it became a best seller!

publishers should offer the Brooklyn bridge!
(# as they were!)

~~This is much to spend any more time on other than what is quintessential to the whole wretched mess, that the mystery ambulance ~~xxxxx~~ with the plain casket hiding the stolen corpse entered Bethesda "through the back gate."~~ (Page 562)

Lifton then explains this "back gate" (page 573) and has a sketch of part of the hospital showing that Wilson Drive, inside the hospital enters from Jones Bridge Road, a ⁺ shortcut to there from ^{westbound} East-West Highway. Lifton does not show or describe any gate and he had no description of the fence at that point.

must be omitted

All of this omitted information is an absolute essential for the rest of the utter and complete dishonesty of his whole outrageous and corrupt fabrication ^{to begin to be} that ~~made him,~~ ^{possible} at he hoped, famous and for a while at least, rather rich.

He does refer to a different fence elsewhere on the hospital ground but he implies without saying so that the same low fence easily jumped over was all around the hospital.

While in his text Lifton uses the word "gate" he shows none on his chart. His chart shows it wasn't. And then what Lifton assumed about the gate, the existence of which he does not mention and he omitted from his chart!
That there was no gate. This was not a question. It is the all Lifton.

and the video cassettes he sold

When ^{he} Lifton was titillating the nation with his many TV appearances ^{audiences} in which he had the uninformed cooing and aahing over his sensational disclosures, my friend and neighbor, Dr. ~~Russell~~ ^{Russell} Madison, laughed and laughed as he recounted Lifton on TV.

Russell was a colonel assigned to the Bethesda Naval Hospital when JFK was killed.

Going to where he then lived he always left by that "back gate."

It was much closer for him.

And for all the time he was assigned there, that was the only night use of that gate was impossible!

Beginning about four o'clock in the afternoon, as soon as the hospital got word that the autopsy would be performed there, anticipating ^{the} very large crowds that materialized, as a crowd-control measure ^a that gate was locked, without any enlisted man there to open it if ordered to do so by big brass!

That ^{was} where Lifton really needed one of those mystery choppers scattered through his supermarket-tabloid sensation about the JFK assassination!

His sneaky ambulance with the snuck-out corpse had to go through a locked gate.

Magical as all the impossibles Lifton invented and strung together are, that kind of power magic he did not contrive, to open the locked gate or to have his extraordinary ambulance just going through it.

So, he just left ^{out} ~~it~~ all, ~~out~~.

His hokuspokus about ambulances, involving one lost track of at the hospital, also referred to as a "decoy", was refuted in the same issue of TIME that carried General McHugh's polite and understated ^{application} ~~statement~~ of the complete impossibility of Lifton's literary invention. ^{It} also carried a letter from Sorrell L. Schwartz, of Potomac, Maryland. (Issue dated 2/16/81) The name is spelled ~~was~~ "Sorrell" in the phone book. Schwartz wrote TIME that "we did not lose track of the ambulance containing the ~~corpse~~ bronze casket after it arrived at the medical center. On that night there ~~was~~ were a large number of spectators around, and our intention was to get the ambulance to the morgue before the crowd gathered. The honor guard, along with a Navy enlisted driver, the other duty officer and me, rode to the morgue on the guard truck, believing that the ambulance was following. When we got there the ambulance ^{was} was not to be seen. Since the Secret Service driver was not familiar with the grounds, we decided he was lost. Retracing our path, we found the ambulance still at the front of the hospital among many onlookers. In our haste we had left without confirming that the ambulance was behind us. On the second try we did it right. At no time was the ambulance out of sight of at least ^{several} several hundred people, from its arrival

at the hospital until the bronze coffin was unloaded at the morgue."

Lifton indexes under his own name his "conversations" with some 65 people. Sorrell Schwartz is not among them. After all, why "converse" with him when there was so readily available the exciting early-morning bullsessioning of the enlisted men who clearly did not know what they were talking about. Why interview the duty officer when the wild tales of the wild bull sessions of the non-commissioned men under him were so much more exciting? attractive in conspiracy theoridom?

Schwartz was the officer in charge of what Lifton was so excited about that was so obviously wrong ^A impossible. Why kill the goose of the golden egg?

Lifton didn't.

With this better understanding now possible of Lifton and his high stand personal and professional standards, his ethics and morality, let us not return to where Lifton began, with his nonexistent "discovery" of the non-existing meaning of the Sibert-O'Neill FBI report, the one Lifton says reports surgery of the head in Walter Reed Hospital, without leaving any surgical edge

Sibert is one of the 65 of Lifton's "conversationalists." Lifton gives no report on what if anything Sibert said about that non-existing surgery. This suggests that Lifton did not ask or he did not like what Sibert said.

Why Lifton, with all those hundreds of omit FBI pages, did not include this report of such great significance to him, the report without which he would have had no book, includes in it. Not even the paragraph from which he quoted, Not even the rest of that sentence, will be clear.

Here is what that paragraph actually says, what had he quoted it would have left Lifton exposed for the wretched egomaniacal commercializer and exploiter of that great tragedy that he is. I add emphasis:

"The President's body was removed from the casket in which it had been transported, and was placed on the autopsy table, at which time the body was wrapped in a sheet and the head area contained an additional wrapping which was saturated with blood. Following the removal of the wrapping it was ascertained that the President's clothing had been removed and it was also apparent that a tracheotomy had been performed, as well as surgery of the head area, namely in the top of the skull... The rest of that paragraph relates to banning all civilians from the autopsy room.

33
Lifton's cock-and-bull commercialization requires that the body be in a body bag, ^{and it would not have looked like "luggage."} otherwise its alleged kidnapers would have left a trail of blood and other body fluids.

But Sibert and O'Neill say there ^{was} ~~were~~ no body bag, that the body was wrapped only in sheets, which is exactly what the nurses who wrapped it testified to before the Warren Commission in testimony with which Lifton was familiar.

He could not have read these emphasized words in the Sibert-O'Neill report without knowing that there was ^{at Bethesda,} no body bag, ^{so} the body bag indispensable to his money-grubbing invention.

^{Lifton's} His fame and fortune also required that the body have been returned to the autopsists from whom it had been withheld for the toying with the evidence Lifton imagined in a common, government-issued transportation coffin. It was not in any cheap GI casket!

This is not what these FBI agents describe. They state without equivocation that the body was in the coffin in which it has been transported, meaning from Dallas. ^{28 feet here}

~~Obviously telling the truth from this report that meant so much to him would also have denied him that fame and that fortune he so listed for. So, Lifton did not trouble his readers, or his publishers, with the truth, there had been and there could not have been any of that hanky-pankey with coffins, the body or anything else.~~

This illustrated why responsible publishers have peer reviews of nonfiction works.

Macmillan had gone with Lifton's reawriting of our history that clearly was a knowingly dishonest and unprincipled job of it. Had there been one, if I had not been asked for it I would have known of it. I heard of none and even when saying there had been an adequate peer review Lifton said no such thing.

28

into the gold of

alchemized

In the same paragraph in which Lifton says he "discovered" the mistake he alchemized into a small fortune, these same FBI agents report what completely disproved ~~was~~ is so absolutely basic to Lifton's creation: the body was not in the government-issue shipping coffin that emerged from the early-morning bull-sessioning- and Lifton knew it!

usp

the body did not reach Bethesda in a shipping bag that is also absolutely indispensable in Lifton's fabrication - and Lifton knew that, too!

usp

It is obvious that if Lifton had reported ^{truthfully} what the Sibert-O'Neill report ^{actually} states that he did not quote - and in the same paragraph from which he did quote- he would have ~~never~~ had no book at all.

no ^{wealth} was ~~in~~ and none of the fame that he still exploits and gets paid for on the lecture circuit.

So Lifton did not trouble his publishers or his readers with what the Sibert-O'Neill report says that proves him to be a fraud, a commercializer, and exploited and a liar.

Thus he did make a small fortune, did achieve ^{of} a cheap and undeserved fame, ^{and} did ~~start~~ make his way onto his continuing payment for treading the lecture circuit.

This incomplete exposure of what for Lifton is his scholarship and his personal and professional standards of ethics and morality - and it is ^{only} partial - reflects why responsible publishers of controversial books said to be of non-fiction use peer reviews to evaluate and report on them.

obviously false

There was no such peer review of Lifton's ~~rewriting~~ ^{rewriting} of our history to become famous and get so much money from it.

May, 1993

In a lengthy/non-response to public criticism of him, on the Compuserve Library network, Lifton devotes ^{three many} 50 single-space pages to personal ~~stac~~ ^{stac} attacks rather than response, which he obviously could not make.

30
31

In the midst of it he says that a peer review by the late Sylvia Meagher, author of the magnificent Accessories after the Fact and of indexes to the published work of the Warren Commission and the House assassins committee, or by me, would be "laughable."

For once Lifton told the truth, albeit with a meaning other than he tried to convey.

Publication after ^{such a} ~~what this~~ ^{as this} commentary on it would have been truly laughable! ^{made his book} ~~and~~ ^{and him,} ~~too!~~ ^{too!}

It was ^{only} thorough-going megalomania and ~~disregard~~ ^{disregard} that made publication of such an atrocity possible.

Lifton and the publishers would have been ~~sloughed~~ ^{sloughed} out of their counting houses.

The nation is horned on the dilemma: which of the ^{my} competing theorizers to believe.

The official "solution" is not that at all. It is ~~a theory of~~ ^{the non-conspiracy} the lone-nut assassin, proven to be impossible by the official evidence that was just ignored or misrepresented.

³⁰ In fact, there are two different official "solutions." The FBI's, which preceded that of the ~~co~~ Commission, while contriving the same end product, does not account for all the known shooting to do it. The FBI, knowing more about what can, ^{be} attributed to shooting, ignored the ~~shot~~ ^{a fourth shot and thus} that missed because that would ~~not ignoring it would~~ have required it to conclude that there had been a conspiracy.

On the other side there are the conspiracy-theory nuts and commercializers who never once proved that there was a conspiracy, ^{= That B} (not at all difficult with any real knowledge of the official evidence. Instead, Lifton-like, they pretend they are Perry ² masons and they just make ^{up} their conspiracies of choice ~~up~~ without regard to the official evidence that is factual, as all of it is not, by ~~any~~ ^{any} means.

Of this motley crew Lifton is the best-known and most successful.

This is to say that he is the ~~pre~~ ^{pre} eminent disinformationist among them, the one of them who did most to deceive and mislead the still-sorrowing people.

Only the abandonment of traditional publishing standards and procedures ^{possible} made Lifton's fame and, if only temporarily, his wealth ^{possible}.

And this is the long-missing autopsy/^{report} on his assassination best-seller: it is a fraud.

DATE 6-27-78 TIME 3:15

I. Identifying Information:

Name James Curtis Jenkins Telephone (601) 373-7568Address Jackson, MississippiType of Contact: Telephone
 Person

II. Summary of Contact:

contacted re: autopsy: (previously interviewed) - Jenkins said he had been present in the morgue for several hours before the President's body was brought in. He was on ~~his~~ his normal duty which included admitting a body into the morgue and the discharge of the body. He normally pulled duty with Paul O'Connor. Jenkins said he recalled that the President's body did not have any clothes on; it may have been wrapped in only a sheet.

Jenkins said he and several others moved the President's body from the coffin to the autopsy table at this time.

III. Recommended Follow-up (if any):

Signature: Mark Flanagan

no message or foreign object was discovered at this time.

Jenkins could not remember who Captain ~~Osborne~~ Osborne was.

OUTSIDE CONTACT REPORT

014380

Date 12/4/78 Time 5:00 p.m.

I. Identifying Information:

Name William Greer Telephone ^{704 452} 4318Address 705 Brunswick DrWaynesville, NC. 28786
Type of Contact: Telephone Person

II. Summary of Contact:

called Greer to ask some questions about the autopsy of JFK - Greer said that when he first arrived at Parkland he thought JFK was only hit in the head. During the autopsy he recalls that a decision was made to perform a complete autopsy. Said that Agent Hill went back & forth between the Presidential suite & the autopsy. Greer said he never left the body - "always with the body" - also said that there were "no alterations at Parkland or in transit" -

III. Recommended Follow-up (if any):

Signature: T. Mark Flanagan Jr. Date 12/4/78

particles. When the body was first observed on the autopsy table, it was thought by the doctors that surgery had possibly been performed in the head area and such was reflected in my notes made at the time. However, this was determined not to be correct following detailed inspection and when the piece of bone found in the limousine was brought to the autopsy room during the latter stages of the autopsy.

After being developed, the X-Rays of the head were being examined in the autopsy room and the X-ray showed many flecks like the Milky Way. Part of the bullet had fragmentized or disintegrated and most of the metal fragments were very tiny.

As for the anterior neck wound which was described as a tracheotomy incision, I don't recall the neck wound being opened up for examination and nothing was mentioned about it being a possible bullet exit wound.

During the autopsy O'Neill and I took notes, recording such in typical agent size notebooks. We were always close to the doctors and as measurements were made by Dr. Humes or other doctors we would write them down. If I didn't understand the measurements, I requested Humes to repeat them.

When interviewed on August 25, 1977 by staff members James Kelly and Donald A. Purdy, Jr. of the Select Committee on Assassinations, I was shown and examined the autopsy descriptive sheet found in the Warren Report which was prepared by Dr. Boswell. The general location of the wounds appear to be accurate. CE 385 and CE 386, which I also examined, looked accurate as well.

On reflection, I believe Humes was the one who measured the location of the back wound and I personally wrote it down. I also wrote down his measurement of the delivered piece of skull bone, but I have no recollection of hearing or writing down measurements relating to the entrance wound in the President's head.

I understand that this affidavit may be introduced and received into evidence by the Select Committee on Assassinations of the United States House of Representatives, and may lead them to make various findings of fact, and the statutes applicable to Congressional investigations, including but not limited to those concerning false statements, obstruction, or misleading, would subject me to criminal penalties for not telling the whole and complete truth in this affidavit which consists of six (6) pages.

James W. Sibert
James W. Sibert

: ss

W Signed and sworn to before me this 24th day of October, 1978.

Kathleen M. Weaver
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires:

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF FLORIDA AT LARGE
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES FEB. 13 1982
BONDED THRU GENERAL INS. UNDERWRITERS

2-3 BULLET ENTERED BACK (HEAD)
 4 EXITS SIDE
 OTHER BULLETS ENTERED COVER
 ONE EXITED 6 4 ON WAY
 4- NOT AMONG MD'S THAT BULLETS FROM SAME
 SOURCE
 4- PART OF FACE + HEAD BLOWN AWAY
 ENTERED TOP NECK → THROAT
 3 IN HI BACK-NECK
 6- NO NORMAL ENTRANCE IN REAR OF HEAD
 EXISTED - BULLET BLASTED AWAY
 AN ENTIRE PORTION
 6-7- MD'S BELIEVES THROAT EXIST
 7- MD'S FIRMLY CONTINUED THE HIGH
 BACK BULLET DID NOT EXIT THROAT

LIPSTON
 399 P. 2

7- DOES NOT REMEMBER ANY CALLS
 Reference copy, JFK Collection: ESCA (RG 233)
 7- DOES NOT RECALL ANY OTHER SEED AGENTS IN ROOM(S) (BERT + O'NEILL)
 KNOWS "FOR A FACT" JFK SHOT 3 TIMES

014469

INVESTIGATION INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

1. Identifying Information:

Name Richard A. Lipsey Date 1/18/78
 Address _____ Place Steinberg's Sporting Goods
 City/State _____ Baton Rouge, La.
 Date of Birth _____ Telephone _____
 Social Security _____ M or S _____
 Spouse _____
 Children _____

2. Physical Description:

Height _____ Color Eyes _____ Hair _____
 Weight _____ Special Characteristics _____
 Ethnic Group _____

✓ 3 BULLETS ENTERED
 SEE P 3 + PAGE 4

3. Personal History:

a. Present Employment: _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____

b. Criminal Record
 1. Arrests _____
 2. Convictions _____

SHOT 3 TIMES

4. Additional Personal Information:

a. Relative(s): Name _____

Reference copy, JFK Collection

Richard A. Lipsey Interview

Page 2

erate and supply any information that he could.

Lipsey stated that he was born on October 7, 1939 in Selma, Alabama. He came to Washington, D.C. when he was selected as an aide to General Wehle. He said that Wehle's office would handle all ceremonial military functions in Washington.

After the assassination, Lipsey said that he and Wehle met the body at Andrews Air Force Base and placed it in a hearse to be transported to Bethesda Naval Hospital. Lipsey mentioned that he and Wehle then flew by helicopter to Bethesda and took JFK into the back of Bethesda. A decoy hearse had been driven to the front. After bringing the body into Bethesda, Lipsey said that Jackie Kennedy and the family entered the front of Bethesda and travelled to the "Presidential suite."

Lipsey next stated that General Wehle ordered him not to leave the body for any reason.

After entering the morgue and the autopsy room, Lipsey could only recall one other person besides the doctors who was present in the autopsy room. This was Lt. Samuel Byrd, head of the Old Guard. Byrd was responsible for

Richard A. Lipsey Interview

Page 4

graphed them.

Lipsey says that he recalls the doctors discussing the third bullet which he believes entered low in the neck and was deflected down into the chest cavity.

To the best of his recollection, Lipsey does not believe that the doctors found any "whole" bullets. He does feel that there was no question among the doctors that the bullets came from the same source.

We next asked Lipsey to recap his discription of the wounds. He described these as follows:

(1) one bullet entered the back of the head and exited resulting in part of the face and head being blown away;

(2) another bullet entered at the top of the neck (rear) which exited in the front portion of the neck; and

(3) another bullet entered at the bottom of the neck (rear) or high in the back which did not