

Ch 1



AGENT OSWALD

Suppose either Lee Harvey Oswald, the man accused of assassinating President John F. Kennedy, or Jack Ruby, history's most public murderer, the man who did kill Oswald, had been FBI informants?

Can it be imagined ~~that~~ ^{and crisis} what kind of problems the government, then, ^{would face} had?

In those days it was not known how many informants the FBI does have. People were unwilling to believe it and the FBI steadfastly denied it, as does every secret-police ^{everywhere} force. But the FBI did - and does - have a vast number of informants broken into two

broad categories: "C", for criminal, and "S", representing what to the FBI is "security" but in reality is political. ^{any one of these in the preceding official view, can be more valuable than 1,000 real agents.}

Well, the government's problem was even greater, for both Oswald and Ruby were FBI informants!

The FBI of course denies it

Thus, when President & Lyndon B. Johnson immediately put J. Edgar Hoover in charge of the official investigation, even though there was no federal jurisdiction, it then not being a federal crime to kill the President, Hoover was put in the position of investigating himself (something he may not have known when the job was given him). This ^{became} ~~was~~ even more true when, a week later, the Warren Commission was appointed and the FBI became its major investigative arm.

2 / But Hoover's position was much improved ^{by the appointment of the Commission} in that week, for he was then no longer ^{and assuming responsibility for} in the position of reaching the final, official conclusions, while he remained ^{able to} ~~position~~ to dominate those conclusions by controlling what the Commission could and did know - *and could not know.*

These things were well known to the Commission, especially to its respected staff. As with all such bodies, the members are largely figure-heads, the staff doing the real work. ~~The~~ Members are always selected because of their national stature, ~~and~~ They are always too busy to ^{and fully comprehend} really ~~ever~~ learn (what is going on. ^{giffins} The Warren Commission, rather than being an exception, was composed of the very busiest of men, men already over-committed to the public service, except for the two with past intelligence connections, Allen W. ^{NIA here}

94 A few of the top-secret executive sessions of the Warren Commission - so ultra secret even its staff was excluded and members were assured ~~if thinks~~ they would never even see the scenographic transcripts - read like the ramblings of elderly gentlemen gathered at a kaffee klatch. They meandered about such things as what their wives had heard, gossiped about federal agencies, sometimes speculated in childish ways about what was outside their understanding.

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 With ~~five of the~~ members appointed by the Democratic President ~~from~~ ^{from} the
 minority Republican Party, in itself exceptional if not entirely unheard of in our
 history, ~~disproportionately~~
 political ~~view~~ and with intelligence and conservative interests so ~~well~~
 represented, the one view not represented was that of the victim-President.
 Neither of the two Democrats, Russell and Boggs, were philosophically sympathetic
 to Kennedy.~~

~~With an overwhelming majority, five of the seven members appointed by the
 Democratic President, ^{were} from the minority Republican Party. This is exceptional, if not
 entirely unprecedented, in our political history. ~~Intelligence~~ and conservative
 interests were disproportionately represented. Neither of the two Democrats, both
 Southerners, Russell and Boggs, was a political disciple of the victim-President.
 In fact, the one perspective lacking in the Commission was ~~that~~ ^{country's majority,} the ~~Kennedy view~~~~

philosophy.

Dulles, who presided over the Central Intelligence Agency during the period of its greatest growth and ~~greatest~~ ^{most spectacular} disasters, of which the Bay of Pigs is merely the one that led to his forced retirement; and the well-known international banker, John J. McCloy, whose delayed investigation in Dallas, ^{already} postponed for six months, was interrupted the first day by ^{his} urgent need to fly to Mexico for a hunting expedition.

3 acceptable
1 As a matter of fact, it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to select an acceptable Commission ^{with} ~~whose~~ members ~~of the~~ ^{from} ~~not~~ on friendlier terms with the government with the government's intelligence community, ^{except} ~~except~~, possibly, for the chairman, then Chief Justice Earl Warren, and Kentucky's Republican Senator, John Sherman Cooper. The late Senator Richard B. Russell of Georgia presided over the three-monkey's legislative supervision of the CIA, a fictional control allegedly exercised but never a reality. ^{of Representatives} House Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford, ^{gang ho! for the CIA} was and remains one of Hoover's most vocal admirers. Until intrusions into his personal life become intolerable for Louisiana Congressman Hale Boggs in the late Spring of 1971, when he was Ford's Democratic counterpart, he, too, was Hoover's staunch supporter. ^{Money} ~~and~~, when Boggs finally made complaint about the FBI, he still felt compelled to praise Hoover, saying of him no more than that Hoover had grown too old in his 47-year control of the FBI, which he had headed since its creation, ~~then~~ appointed to the job by a liberal Attorney General,

24
41 The Harlan Fiske Stone, later to become a Justice of the Supreme Court. ^{Commission inherited its first victim, the actual assassin of his assassin's FBI assassin.}
The Commission met this crisis it inherited on its appointment a week after the ~~it met to submit in use~~ assassination in the traditional, ~~never~~ not invented by modern American bureaucracy; ~~with~~ evasion, semantics, lies and the destruction of evidence.

What it could not get around ^{any other way!} it burned, something never until this moment reported. It took me five years of diligent digging in the suppressed ^{Commission files} evidence of the Warren Commission to get the shocking proof of this, and then it was hidden where one would never think to look for it.

The Commission's Report, 912 pages long and three-pounds heavy, was delayed from the first of June until the end of September, 1964, by the need to get around this complication

in official life -that both the accused assassin and his assassin had been FBI informants. Two months later, ~~having~~ the laboring mouse having brought forth this mountain of words, it ^{seemingly} birthed an enormity of persuasive documentation, 26 more enormous volumes of "evidence", an entire range of verbal mountains, all equal in size to the report itself. *They take these facts on my bookshelves.*

Only an obscured fragment of this, the vital evidence and the embarrassing official secret, is anywhere in these estimated 10,000,000 words that to this day have not satisfied most of ~~the American people or the rest of the world~~. Not until page 325 of the report did the Commission get around to its entirely false representation of the hidden fact that both Ruby and Oswald had been FBI informants. Most of the Report is the irrelevant, background and biographical data on Oswald and Ruby. The final substantive chapter, entitled to betoken something there never was, "Investigation of Possible Conspiracy", again in biography, has a minute subsection of slightly more than two of its 50 pages This is headed, deceptively, "Oswald Was Not an Agent for the U.S. Government." I add emphasis to underscore the deception.

Oswald, certainly, was not an "agent" of either the FBI or the CIA. But, without doubt, on *June 26,* ~~May~~ 1962, outside his home in Fort Worth, Texas, sitting in the car of FBI Agent John W. ~~Frain~~ *Fain*, by Fain's own later admission, ~~he~~ ^{Oswald} did agree to become an FBI informant.

And Ruby, although you will not find it in either the Report ^{or its} ~~of the~~ yard-long, ~~appendage~~ ^{of} 26-volumes ~~of evidence~~, had been a "criminal" informant of the FBI. This is ~~hidden~~ ^{not alluded}, to the degree it can today be learned, in the estimated 300 cubic feet of ~~Warren~~ Commission files now stored in the National Archives. In them, the FBI's representation is that Ruby's services were valueless.

The hidden fact is that, long before his 1962 ^{agreement with} ~~recruitment by~~ the FBI, while still in the Soviet Union, to which he had pretended to defect but never did, Oswald laid claim to serving the government, and, ^{He did this} in writing to ^{John B. Connally} ~~the man~~ ^{about to become} ~~who~~ was then Governor of Texas. ~~fact~~ ^{although} in 1971, ^{Connally} ~~became~~ a Democrat, ~~who~~ ^{who} headed the Treasury Department in the Republican Nixon Administration, ~~but~~ ^{still} Oswald thought ~~he~~ was Secretary of the Navy. *Connally*

In one of their early, private sessions, the transcripts of which were classified "TOP SECRET" and from which all of the staff except the general counsel were excluded, the Commission, frustrated after repeatedly reading in ~~the~~ papers what should have been ~~the~~ ^{the} closest secrets - and the tailored release of which predetermined and delimited what the Commission might do - questioned Nicholas Katzenbach about this. Katzenbach was then Deputy Attorney General, second to Robert Kennedy alone in the Department of Justice. This is the verbatim transcript:

Lil-marked part of 8 attached, ending with dots after from.

If it was courageous of Katzenbach to speak so candidly ~~tax~~ about Hoover and the FBI, it may also account for his short career as Attorney General when he was appointed to that post upon Kennedy's resignation to run for the Senate.

In preconditioning the public to accept an unacceptable "solution" to the assassination of the popular President, government used "leaks" to the press with consummate skill. But for all the fabled ~~science~~ ^{skill} of the FBI, no one leak was ever

traced to its source. Perhaps ^{also} one of the reasons is that the most significant, if not, indeed, ^{Agem, it was investigating itself. The results were not predictable.} the greatest in number, were by the FBI, ~~those who allegedly investigated these leaks~~ ^{an Oswald}

One of the tidbits fed the complaisant and largely unquestioning press is this letter. It was then played as in the Report (R386-7), to infer ^{an Oswald} proclivity toward

violence. ^{and probably fraudulent}
After a dubious "hardships" discharge from the Marine Corps, allegedly to support his ^{supposedly} destitute mother, granted ~~only~~ days before his enlistment expired,

instead of caring for her, Oswald chiselled a few bucks from her and went to the USSR, ^{There and publicly} where he promptly pretended to surrender his citizenship, all the while being careful

not to. The Navy, taking a dim view of what appeared in the papers, changed his honorable discharge. ^{This was of protest and appeal. It is} Oswald's letter, printed in full in the part of his biography that

is in Appendix XIII (R710).

^{It only what is deliberately misinterpreted as a} ~~The inferred threat to violence alone is cited in the~~ ^{quoted} ~~earlier~~ ^{text of the Report} passage, "that he would 'employ all means to right this gross mistake or injustice'." That-and no more.

But, what Oswald actually wrote, is that "The story was blown up into another 'turncoat' sensation..." To this he added a concluding paragraph, entirely ignored by the ^{as by the Commission} press and by the Report. It begins:

10p [" I have and allways(sic) had the full sanction of the U.S. Embassy, Moscow USSR, and hence the U.S. Government."

And it concludes by giving the Embassy as reference:

10p] "For information I would direct you to consult the American Embassy, Chikovski St. # 19/21, Moscow, USSR."

~~There is much more of this. It will interest us later. Here is serves to show that without refutation, Oswald claimed government sanction for his phoney "defection".~~

~~Allegations that he served the FBI were printed and soon forgotten, right after~~

Replace with 4t

This is neither Oswald's only nor his strongest ^{claim} ~~representation~~ that he served intelligence interests in the U.S.S.R. The others, rather than ^{merely} distorted, were entirely suppressed. I select this one precisely because it was made public and was ^{twisted.} distorted. Oswald, without refutation, ^{Sanction} ~~claimed~~ government for his phoney "defection".

~~Allegations that he served the FBI were printed and soon forgotten, right~~

Allegations that he served the FBI were printed right after the assassination. They attracted little attention then and were soon entirely forgotten. ←

W H

the assassination. These stories were ~~officially~~ ignored by the Commission until it dared no longer. Then it moved fast, decisively, imagination and originality mixed with ~~its~~ uninhibited use of raw power.

The Secret Service was first and ~~most~~ ^{more} honest in ~~reporting~~ ^{transmitting} recording reports that Oswald had been an FBI agent. Of all government investigative agencies ~~it is the best~~ ^{used by the commission, the best, if} ~~for the best and most honest record~~ ^{is that of} the Secret Service. It was the only federal agency with legal jurisdiction when the President was assassinated, but it was immediately frozen out of all crucial areas by the omnipotent FBI. If the Secret Service, subject to bureaucratic pressures as it was, with ~~its~~ careers on all levels dependent upon conformity with official policy, did become part of what in an earlier work I described as the "cover-up" of the evidence and the possible solution of the crime, it nonetheless immediately and without deviation presented the Warren Commission with solid proofs that the Commission's predetermined conclusions were untenable. When this happened, the FBI came to the Commission's rescue, and the Secret Service remained silent. The FBI began ~~taking over from and freezing~~ ^{pre-empting and excluding} the Secret Service ~~not~~ less than 24 hours after those shots changed the history of the world at 12:30 p.m. Dallas time, November 22, 1963.

The Commission designed its numbered files "Commission Documents". ^(200 or 201) The one numbered 320 contains a report from Special Agent in Charge (SAIC) Lane Bertram of the Houston office. Its synopsis reads,

"Interview with Houston Post reporter Alonso ^(sic) H. Hudkins III. He states Oswald reported to be on FBI payroll ~~as~~ an informant ~~and~~ and other information".

This "other information" includes unsubstantiated belief that Ruby was part of a conspiracy. The paragraph about Oswald as an FBI informant reads:

"On December 17, Mr. Hudkins advised that he had just returned from a weekend in Dallas, during which time he talked to Allen Sweatt, Chief ~~of~~ Criminal Division, Sheriff's Office, Dallas; Chief Sweatt mentioned that it was his opinion that Lee Harvey Oswald was being paid \$200 ~~a~~ month ~~by~~ by the FBI as an informant in connection with their subversive investigations. He furnished the alleged informant number assigned to Oswald by the FBI as 'S172'."

Sweatt was one of the key figures in the immediately-corrupted investigation. ~~in~~ The assassination ~~just happened~~ was committed a few hundred feet from his office, which

insert on 6 *6a*

Six pages from two unpublished files, four from 320 and two from 349 (Secret Service Control Nos. 705 and 782), illustrate Hudkins' "unreliability" and the "reliability" of the Secret Service and its source. One example is the report that reached Hudkins ~~that~~ "that citizens of the United States had entered into an agreement of plot to assassinate Premier Castro of ~~the~~ Cuba", one inference being that this could have inspired Oswald to assassinate Kennedy.

Today there is nothing new in this. It is beyond question. It ought have been then to any government intelligence agency of any kind, for some were involved, like the CIA, ~~and~~ Others, like the FBI, had the obligation of enforcing ^{such} laws ^{as} like the neutrality laws. A sister agency of the Secret Service, the Customs service, conducted ~~countless~~ ^{countless} raids to frustrate ^{these} such adventures once President Kennedy forbade them as one result of the Cuba Missile Crisis. ~~Quite a~~ ^{the numerous} number of ~~those~~ ^{they gave me pictures of} involved in this and similar plots had no reluctance in describing them to me in detail, ^{described} including their companions, their preparations, ^{identified} those from whom they got assistance, ^{explained} and how they failed. In one case, a ~~Real~~ CIA agent, also a Bay of Pigs prisoner, told me of a plot against Castro that failed only because ^{my} ~~he~~ ⁺ ~~had~~ a las-minute whim ^{Castro farm} and shifted the jeep in which he had ridden ^{leaving} after a stop. ^{when his way stopped} The one he abandoned sustained a ~~missile~~ direct hit by American-supplied bazooka shell. Its occupants were killed.

when his way stopped

Hudkins at first believe his source was his paper's Washington Felton West, representative, who ^{later} said he knew nothing about it. Bertram's December 12 report to "Protective Research" in Washington, ~~which is~~ ^{the} White House security detail, urged that " a member of the Houston Post Washington Bureau by the name of O'Leary not be contacted or in any way be permitted to obtain this information in this report."

Hudkins, learning from West that West claimed not to have been the source, immediately told Bertram of the apparent error and said he'd check his notes to learn the identity of his source. ^{File} (SD 349)

West had been city editor of the Houston paper before becoming its Washington representative. He was called to the White House and interview ^{ed} by the chief of Protective ^{Research} ~~Research~~ and ~~an~~ ^{West} Inspector of the Secret Service. ~~He~~ then identified this O'Leary

as "formerly Science Editor of the Houston Post" but said he "had died in New Zealand while accompanying an Antarctic expedition and that Mr. O'Leary was buried in Dallas some few days before the assassination of President Kennedy." ^{File} (CD 320, Control 705)

This O'Leary is the well-known Jeremiah O'Leary of the Washington Star, who no doubt would have been surprised to learn of his burial in Dallas as a prelude to the "crime of the century", ^{which he covered,} (File 349)

Another of Hudkins' tips is that Lieutenant George Butler, correctly identified as the head of the Dallas Police Juvenile Bureau (although his chief function seems to have been internal security, ^{seeing to it that there was no} the permeating fear of Communist subversion in the Dallas Police!), had said in Hudkins' presence of the President, "I'm glad the son-of-a-bitch is dead, but I wish it had not happened in Dallas." Butler, with exactness ~~and candor~~ beyond question, is described as a "Rightist". ^{and praised,} Considering the extremist groups of the extreme right fringe he addressed, ^{and the fact that he considered the American Civil Liberties Union subversive,} the description is hardly an exaggeration. Nor is it less interesting that it is Butler who reportedly gave the all-clear signal to move Oswald, signifying that the car in which he was ^{to} to have been spirited away was in place when, in fact, it was not. Had it been, it would have been impossible for Ruby to ^{shoot} have shot Oswald, for the one clear spot ^{the one} from which he ^{could} ~~could have~~ have is precisely where the car was supposed to have been.

Butler, when last I heard of him, had quietly been shifted to administration of the jail.

With these reports attributed to Hudkins accurate, not inaccurate, we have a means of comparing his "unreliability" with official "reliability". ^{His} The unofficial ^{framing pan} ~~settle~~ ^{little} seems less black than the official ~~framing pan~~.

was immediately converted into a command post. Among the unique functions served there was the confiscation and, to the degree ^{it could be,} possible, the suppression of as many as possible of the pictures of the assassination. ^A (I published an entire book on this, PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH: Suppressed Kennedy Assassination Pictures. In the ensuing four years there has been no complaint from any official on any level in any government, from the Dallas police and sheriff's offices up to the FBI, ^{me} nor from a single member or member of the staff ^A of the Warren Commission. There has been no complaint because there is no question about the facts -and because this book represents the first thorough resurrection from official oblivion of the suppressed evidence, of which 150 pages, largely ^{relevant} FBI reports and Commission memoranda, are reproduced in facsimile.)

When Bertram's report reached the Warren Commission, File 320 turned out to be ~~man~~ one of its many "circular files."

The FBI knew about this before the Secret Service report got from ^Houston to Washington, and began working on it -and Hudkins.

The Secret Service kept in touch with Hudkins, as he did with it. Dutifully, when he, ~~as all reporters do,~~ got bits and pieces of information from sources of unknown dependability, he passed them on to the Secret Service, ^{He apparently did not trust the FBI.} as he ~~may have to the FBI.~~ I have the Secret Service reports. ^{whether or not} When the government was in a bind on the question of Oswald ^{as} an agent or informant, Hudkins was ^{later} ~~to be~~ defamed as ~~xxxxxxx~~ "not very reliable" because he had ~~not~~ told federal investigators only what he had himself been told, so they could investigate these ^{type!} reports. This was, after all, their function, not his. _{insert G.A.B}

But on the subject of the December 17 information, ~~that~~ "that Lee Harvey Oswald was being paid \$200 a month by the FBI ~~xxxxxx~~ as an informant in connection with their subversive investigations", the Secret Service was more circumspect. It was handled by telephone ~~46~~ 46 days later.

Typically, that is filed in still another of those round files in which it is so easy to lose things, the mere depositing in different files being enough to make retrieval more difficult.

Bertram's January 24, 1964 report to "Chief", ~~that is~~ James J. Rowley, ^{is} Secret Service Control Number 1011, ^{it} is in the Commission's File 372, not 320, ^{n 344.} It is brief.

It reports ~~other~~ ^{other} forthcoming ~~other~~ ^{series} story saying Oswald had been an FBI informant

2 pp.

and has two other short paragraphs. The first ~~paragraph~~ begins, "This will acknowledge receipt of long distance call from Inspector Elliott Thacker on January 23, requesting information ~~obtained~~" in the first report. The last sentence reads, "This was furnished,"

that is, by phone.

The second paragraph begins, "Later, the return call was made to Inspector Thacker advising that additional information had been received," and ~~the~~ ^{the} barest possible reference is made to that ^{phone-in} information, ~~which was conveyed by phone.~~

The reason for this January 23 phone call will soon become apparent. It was part of a crisis, the Commission's first ^{big one} ~~and one of~~ ^{perhaps} its most serious.

A week ~~prior~~ to the day prior to Hudkins' report to Bertram of what he had been told by ~~Dallas~~ ^{Sheriff A Swartz} Chief Criminal Deputy, Joseph C. Goulden, then a reporter for the Philadelphia Inquirer, had a story in its Sunday, December 8 issue. Two of its ^{five} ~~five~~ paragraphs on this subject ~~xxx~~ say:

"The FBI attempt to recruit Oswald as an informant, an informed law enforcement source said, was made in September, just after he had moved to Dallas from New Orleans".

(Actually, ^{when} Oswald left New Orleans in September, ^{when} ~~but from there~~ he went to Mexico, ^{thence} ~~from there~~ he went to Dallas, ^{arriving} in October. His wife and ~~his~~ ^{one} daughter ~~only~~ had moved to Dallas in September.)

"The source said he did not know if the FBI succeeded in hiring Oswald; and the federal agency would not discuss the matter."

An earlier paragraph identifies Oswald's function as "an undercover informant in Castro groups".

But the headline on Goulden's story, consistent with its "lead", is "Ruby Posed as TV Cameraman's Helper to Get ~~x~~ at Oswald". This gave the FBI a perfect opening for the use of ^{one of} its lesser-known ~~skills~~ ^{but} highly-developed skills, obfuscation. So anxious was the FBI to lay ^{to rest} these rumors, that the man it said killed the President was one of its own ^{that} ~~that~~ it waited until the ninth day after appearance of Goulden's story to question ^{him} ~~him~~. And so penetratingly did they plan to interrogate him that they did it -by phone!

This was neither the first nor the last time the FBI used the phone to avoid embarrassing confrontation with uncongenial evidence, especially ~~that~~ about Oswald's official connections. It was done extensively in New Orleans, to avoid direct contact with those who had knowledge of the assassinated assassin's CIA connections.

In still another of those Commission files, this one No. 391, there is the December 16, 1963 report of Philadelphia Special Agent John R. Wineberg, ^{interview with Goulden. It is from} the FBI's Philadelphia File 44-767.

It may help the reader's understanding to know that there was no need for ~~the~~ ^{on a single subject} scattering of the ~~reports~~ ^{difficult} reports through so many Commission files. Many ^{of the more than 1500 members} are greater than book-length, and ^{larger files} all ~~of~~ these contain reports ^{from different sources} of different dates. ^{Some are so large that in binding they require three different volumes.} ~~Some are so large that in binding they require three different volumes.~~ However, the Wineberg reporting is the only thing in ~~the~~ Commission File 391.

Its single paragraph tell the entire story:

Lil-text only, attached. *JS reported - channel sec*

Thus, in its pretended investigation of reports that Oswald had been its man, the FBI, in this report, ^{omits} escapes ^{glancing over it in a clause. But this merger report} mention of it, ~~(However, it also had this~~ ^{was in file,} ~~report~~ to fall back upon, if later asked, ^{a report it could use to support the} opinion that "there is nothing to it." ^{The FBI} ~~It~~ ^{had} could then say it interviewed Goulden, ^{who had} and ~~the agent got~~ nothing of value from him.

But, as with Hudkins, the FBI had to go back to Goulden, ^{again not until} ~~this it did,~~ ^{yet another:} (after the same crisis, ~~not~~ until February 12. Wineberg's report is in ~~still a different~~ Commission file, No. 463. ^{Consistently,} ~~Again,~~ there is nothing else in that file, either. In this case, the FBI Philadelphia Field Office ~~file~~ ^{file} number is also different, 105-9958. The Headquarters file, in Washington, is 105-8255. The scant, two-paragraph report required a paragraph of synopsis, each on separate pages.

This is neither as pointless not as foolish as it seems, for the synopsis, intended to save the time of busy officials, succeeds in conveying ^{three} ~~two~~ deceptions:

Lil-fol lit beginning sec. sentence, HUDKINS in Phila, etc. *(synopsis)*

Now it happens that Hudkins and Goulden were old friends, having both, earlier, covered the Dallas court house when Goulden worked there. They remained friends, and when Hudkins was in Philadelphia, ~~he~~ on ~~the~~ day easily established and entirely unreported, as Wineburg put it, "HUDKINS was at the GOULDEN residence for dinner and a social evening."

15 / That "Up to this time, GOULDEN had no direct, first-hand knowledge of the assassination and was aware of the assassination only from news media in Philadelphia" is so irrelevant to what ~~he~~ ^{Goulden} wrote and was published December 8 it amounts to a deliberate misrepresentation, a conscious effort to deceive those who might read Wineburg's report.

The second, shorter paragraph is worth repeating in full:

Lil-fo1 lit. (p. 2)

One possible ^{and I think intended,} interpretation of the second sentence, ~~the one I believe intended,~~ is to cast doubt on Hudkins' dependability, ^{of} for had he not failed to tell his friend of this big story? And who in the FBI was going to ask the Secret Service about its later ^{Hudkins} report? ^{Had} ~~if~~ the Warren Commission had any sincere interest in getting at the truth, ^{it would not have been always} ~~the~~ ^{these} Hudkins reports were ^{all} in ~~entirely~~ different files - each in a different file - and there are yet others.

The concluding sentence seems pretty clearly designed to convey the notion that, regardless of what he ^{had written,} ~~wrote,~~ "Goulden" ^{direct,} ~~had~~ no first-hand knowledge" and "that anything he (GOULDEN) might have said about the matter would have been based on what he had heard or read in Philadelphia".

17 The FBI was careful to avoid embarrassment to itself or to the Commission. It went out of its way not to provide copies of the Hudkins or Goulden reporting on Oswald as its "subversive" informant. When, after diligent personal search in the Archives, I ~~could~~ ^{no there,} find copies ~~in any~~ of the more than 1,500-numbered files or any of those not-numbered, the extent of which cannot be estimated, I ^{wrote} ~~asked~~ the Archivist that the copies of "these reports, as supplied me, have no copies of the pertinent stories written by these reporters. If they are in the files, I would like copies." For six years I have maintained a deposit account at the National Archives, ^{I pay the cost of} ~~so that~~ all such requests are paid for in advance.

in advance. The xeroxing, in fact, was at a rate ^{three to} four times greater than those prevailing commercially. And no ~~copy~~ of either story was provided.

~~In Dallas, Texas, I asked for an FBI interview with Hudkins which had not been included in selections from still another Commission file on this subject, No. 38542~~

Thus any ^{Commission} Washington official reading this Wineberg report or its summary would ^{readily understand} not have from either the faintest idea that ~~it was all~~ ^{the "investigation" was supposed to be} (about whether Oswald had been an FBI informant).

In this same letter to the Archivist, I asked for a page from still another file, No 385, ^{it} that had not been supplied me. There are five that are relevant, pages ~~104~~ 104-108. No doubt by accident, 106 had been omitted.

That page is another deception that cannot be accidental. It is a summary report dealing with ~~xxxxxx~~ what a second-hand source is alleged to have said so elliptically and indefinitely that the actual source of what is attributed to Hudkins cannot ~~from it~~ be identified. The story is too simple, too well-known to have been balled up by accident.

Hudkins had ^{spoken by phone to} ~~interviewed~~ Mrs. Ruth Paine, with whom the Oswalds lived ^{near} in Dallas, Lee returning to ~~her~~ the Paine home in suburban Irving on weekends. They made an appointment for ^{Hudkins} him to visit her later in the day. During the conversation, Hudkins had mentioned that Marguerite Oswald, Lee's mother, ~~was~~ a practical nurse, had told a ^{woman} "socially prominent" for whom she had worked that "her son was doing important anti-subversive work." These are the words of FBI Dallas Agent Ivan D Lee to whom Mrs. Paine had spoken when she ^(page 104) "telephonically advised that she had just talked with" Hudkins by phone. This was, according to Lee's report, FBI Dallas File DL 100-10461, on December 28. Lee ^{exhausting} did not bother dictating his ~~10~~ 10-line report until December ~~30~~ 31. It was not typed until January 3, 1964, such was the interest of the FBI.

The "socially prominent" woman was located without difficulty (page 107). She is Mrs. Lowell N. Rosenthal. The summary report on this interview, bearing the initials of one of the agents in charge of correlating the Dallas investigation, Robert P. Gemberling, also only 10-lines long, says that the December 29 interview with Mrs. Rosenthal

had "previously been reported". This paraphrase of ~~that~~ what that report says is:

DJWALD
 "In this interview Mrs. ROSENTHAL stated that from conversation with Mrs. MARGUERITE ROSENTHAL that her son who was in Russia was working for the U.S. Government in Russia..." (sic)

There was nothing new in this. Mrs. Oswald had so charged directly to the government before her son's repatriation. She had repeated it on every possible occasion. Time after time when she was later to say it on radio and TV shows, the FBI got tapes of them, clandestinely, and they were there^{after} ~~upon~~ suppressed by the National Archives on direct order of the FBI. Only the existence of an entirely ~~is~~ ^{numbered} inadequate summary of the Commission's file disclosed that what the FBI was suppressing was public-~~what~~ had been aired on radio and TV! This was contrary to the expressed desire of Commission Chairman Warren and then- Attorney General Robert Kennedy, who desired everything possible be made available for research. They ^{had} so directed.

But nobody directs Hoover, who refused to talk to his theoretical boss, the Attorney General, beginning not ~~too~~ long after the Attorney General's brother was assassinated.

On December 29, the day after Hudkins visited Mrs. Baine, the FBI sent Agent Kenneth C. Howe to see her. ~~His~~ His report (page 105), quotes her as having "furnished the following information concerning this contact by Hudkins":

Lil-second paragraph in full. *(p. 2)*

After a third paragraph dealing with what Hudkins had quite correctly attributed to Mrs. Rosenthal, Howe *note*

"Mrs. PAINE stated that HUDKINS' primary purpose of (sic) seeing her was in an effort to get some confirmation, if possible, of the possibility OSWALD was actually working on behalf of the U.S. Government prior to the assassination."

said, she
 This Mrs. Paine could not confirm.

And entirely different version is given by one of the agents most directly involved, the FBI's Dallas "Oswald expert", James P. Hosty, Jr. He and Agent Bardwell D. Odum interviewed Mrs. Paine January 3, 1964. Their report ~~is~~ ^{having about seven lines} (page 108) is short. The first paragraph reads: Lil-first ^(P.S.) graph only. ^Q And this, not the Howe fiction, is the nitty-gritty: did Hosty try to "develop" Oswald "an an informant"?

To this paragraph is appended a single sentence that cannot be true, ^{Lil - bit - last 4 lines} for Mrs. Paine

Based ~~used~~ on these pre-assassination interviews, not all of which are ~~reflected~~ ^{acknowledged} in the Warren Report, if Mrs. Paine had been disposed to make a guess about whether or not Hosty had interviewed Oswald, she could not have avoided the possibility Hosty had, for she, personally, had told Hosty how to find Oswald. *at work.*

What better reason for Hosty to quote her as saying "that she knew that SA HOSTY had not interviewed LEE HARVEY OSWALD"?

Here, in the context of their busy lives and other public commitments, it is possible to make a kind of defense of the members of the Commission as distinguished from their staff. This is not to say they are innocent, nor is it to say that ~~these~~ ^{all with} ~~such men,~~ ~~with such~~ long ~~careers~~ careers in government, were not thoroughly familiar with the workings of any bureaucracy, especially one with motives of self-interest and self-preservation. They should have known better. One, much later, confessed his belief to me that "we were never told all about Oswald and his connections."

In the context of their many other pressing preoccupations, it is possible to suggest that the members, particularly on this aspect of the investigation, were the creatures of their staff, were boxed in, had their decisions pre-determined for them. They were somewhat like ringed and chained bulls who, ~~when they take a vigorous step~~ ^{should dare} ~~when they begin~~ ^{to run,} ~~step~~ ^{freed} on the chain dangling ~~from~~ ^{from a steel} ring affixed to the soft tissue between the nostrils. One step on any part of that chain and the pain in the nose is excruciating. The bull pulls up short, stops, then walks slowly, if at all.

The Commission held a number of what are called "executive sessions". These are not uncommon with Committees of Congress, commission, and similar bodies. It is a polite way of saying secret sessions. Aside from the members of the Commission, the court reporter and General Counsel J. Lee Rankin, ^(they were alone. Rankin, also Republican) ~~who~~ (had been Solicitor General of the United States, the government's lawyer, part of the Department of Justice, where he made and preserved many lasting friendships. Until both realized it was indelicate, his early and suppressed correspondence with J. Edgar Hoover began with the salutation "Dear Edgar".

During one of these, on ^{Monday, February 24, 1964,} Chairman Warren, reflecting the lingering ^{concern over} ~~doubts about~~ whether or not the reports that Oswald had been ~~an~~ "an undercover agent for the FBI", raised the question again. What follows is an unedited, verbatim ~~transcript~~ ^{transcript} reproduction ^{of} ~~of~~ pages 1598 and 1599 of the official, TOP SECRET, transcript: Lil-fol lit through Rankin's first par. of response.

Rankin, who was to become New York City's law officer as its corporation counsel, did not tell the truth. As the reports already cited show beyond any question, Hudkins

not only never "refused to disclose his source", but he made it explicit. Further, federal investigators had traced the information from Sweatt to ^{Assistant D. F.} Bill Alexander.

The sole purpose served by this blatant lie was to persuade the Commissioners that there was no substance to the reports. As by now the reader has seen, it is anything but true that "we have checked out all the sources, and the reports are here, and they all show negative".

If those, especially of the major media and the eastern intellectual community, particularly those "liberals" who blindly say, in effect, that Earl Warren could ^{make} no ^{mistake,} ~~wrong,~~ forgetting that Jesus trusted Judas, ^{had} ~~he~~ instead assessed the available evidence alone, they would have known that certainly someone had done wrong. But by their blind, unthinking, irrational and entirely unsupported assault on those who raised questions about the integrity and motives of ~~these~~ ^{investigation and its} the official conclusions, they may well have made impossible any legitimate defense that may be made of the members of the Commission. This one excerpt ^{might} ~~ought~~ open some closed eyes.

the hundreds

Among these ~~for~~ ^{from} whom the Commission took testimony, neither Hudcins nor Sweatt nor Goulden nor the author of the New York Times story was included. ~~Could there have been a source~~ ^{that Oswald had been an FBI informant.} The original Dallas source of the story was not Sweatt but Bill Alexander, ~~the~~ the sort of wild-west assistant district attorney, a rough-looking and reputedly rough-acting character. ~~Not one of these~~ Therefore, the Commission also elected not to take testimony from Alexander (who had other interesting involvements tending to link him with Oswald, also ignored by the Commission).

How better ~~to~~ pursue the truth without fear or diversion, diligently and persistently, wherever it led; what better way of learning whether or not Oswald ^{*the accused Presidential assassin*} was or was being recruited to be an FBI informant than by refusing to take testimony from a single one of the sources of ^{*published reports that he was?*} public knowledge?

12B147

This is but the beginning of the story, the ~~tiny~~ ^{tiny} particle that can be pieced ^{*a single aspect of*} together from what the Commission saw unfit to publish when it did publish an estimated 10,000,000 words in a total of 27 tomes.

Lyta Space
with Space

had no way of knowing, one way or the other, whether or not Hosty had interviewed Oswald. Nor is it merely a question of "interviewing". There is the question of pressuring. Further deception is served in ^{omits, that he} what Hosty had interviewed both Mrs. Paine and Marina Oswald before their assassination, and, what was carefully hidden, had leaned on Oswald further by making defamatory remarks about his wife in the form of questions to Irving neighbors. *14 sub 12A*

With the passing of a reasonable amount of time, and without public announcement, Hoover disciplined Hosty and reassigned him to the Kansas City office. Whether the disciplining ^{was} ~~is~~ for some unspecified transgression or for failing in his mission can only be conjectured; but if it is the former, everyone in the FBI who could ^{do so} ~~have~~ went out of his way to say the opposite before the Warren Commission.

~~Extra space~~ *12B HUC Extra space*

The effort to make little of varied and needlessly confusing ^{ed} accounts of the numerous reports of Oswald as an FBI and/or CIA informant, so complete that not even copies of the ~~newspaper~~ published newspaper accounts remain, if they ever were, in the Commission's files (and no single report says a single clipping is attached), was not a disappointment to the Commission, ^{from} ~~for~~ ^{None} which ~~none~~ of the foregoing and much more was ^{hidden} secret, ~~at least~~ ^{it is} not from its staff. This is not conjecture.

12B

Republican Leader Gerald Ford is a successful politician. He is not, however, ^{an} diplomat. Paid ~~by the tax payers~~ with public funds to be a member of the Warren Commission and thus privy to its secrets, and with a ghost ^{with} provided by the ever-accomodating ^{taxpayers,} ~~considerate~~ public till, his name appears on two different private "Warren Reports", ~~the first~~ the first appearing in the issue of ~~Life~~ Life immediately after the official Report appeared and the second a book, "Portrait of the Assassin". ^{The book} ~~It~~ was first published by Simon and Schuster in 1965. It was reprinted in paperback by Ballantine Books the next year.

The ghost was John R. Stiles, a long-time friend who had managed Ford's first campaign in 1948. Thus, according to the book's final page, "About the Authors",

it was "natural~~ize~~ ... that Mr. Stiles became Congressman Ford's special assistant throughout the Congressman's ten-month service on the Warren Commission".

Translation from officialese gobbledegook: the ~~Treasur~~ Treasury paid for Ford's ghost. The Commission has its own staff.

What is "natural" is that with so crass a commercialization, ^{as with all} ~~and~~ literary effort that ~~only~~ supports the Report, no charge of "scavenging" has been levelled at the respectable and respected Congressman. That libel has been reserved ^{exclusively} for those who ~~have~~ publicly disputed the official mythology about ^{this} ~~the~~ assassination. As one so defamed, entirely seriously, without fingers crossed or anything like that, I here express my own and I hope what will come to be a national appreciation of

"^{natural}" Ford's commercial instincts ~~and pursuits~~.

Q Fry ^{is} a blabbermouth.

It is for this ^{alone} that we are in his debt.

Q If he said far less than he might and should have, he also said far more for the survival of the official fairy tale.

This is the beginning of his book: Lil-^{pp. 15} to ~~but~~ not including last two lines 16:

This sensation was little noted on publication, has been entirely forgotten except for a few still researching the assassination, and spurred me to more intensive investigations in one of the two most carefully hidden ^{and most important elements} ~~aspects~~ of the assassination. ^{Warden C.}

The first thing I had written on the assassination, almost as soon as the President was buried, is what is called a "lead and summary" for a magazine article that could not be published. The topic sentence read, "Lee Harvey Oswald could not have been persona non grata to the FBI" ^{My agent reported that all major in oz were practically terrified and would print only what was consistent with what government said.}

This modest representation was obvious to one with my background as an investigative reporter, a Senate investigator, and an intelligence analyst. It must have occurred to hundreds, immediately. But the FBI carefully ^{pushed} over all the trail.

Sensational as ^{is} Congressman Ford's blabbing-for-bucks ~~is~~, it is still a considerable understatement. It in no way discloses - does not even suggest - the ^{unbelievable} ~~incredible~~ national scandal, an incredibility like nothing in our history, ^{and} that immediately followed ^{and} then, save for a single bureaucratic oversight, was completely hidden.

That is what follows.

"crisis" is reported

This ~~appeared~~ only in Ford's for-personal-profit "Warren Report", not in the official one. The official one bears no hint of this ~~crisis~~ or the fact behind it. There were these three feet ^{containing} of millions of words of "evidence" the Commission published, ~~but~~ in them no space for this sensation, as there was for none of the small sampling of relevant reports I have just cited.

The Commission did not, on its own, decide to give the mourning nation this large selection of its collection of what, for the most part, is irrelevant. It published these 26 ~~plus~~ volumes of ~~the~~ testimony ~~it took~~ and ^{appendages} of evidence ^{only} under White House pressure, another fact until now not given the public. *14A here*
91 Until ^{pressured,} ~~learned~~ on rather heavily by the White House, it had an entirely different attitude, as disclosed by ~~its~~ ^{this} ~~executive sessions~~ ^{from} ~~the transcripts~~ ^{TOP SECRET -TOP} from which it excluded its staff, access to/which, the chairman assured the members, would be denied even its trusted employees: ^{L11 - 48, to to Briggs "make here"} ~~True to the chairman's promise,~~ all ~~the few copies of the transcripts were labelled "TOP SECRET"~~.

What was not ~~so~~ classified, that for which there was ample space, is page after page of cheesecake pictures of Jack Ruby's ^V had-faced and soft-bodied strippers on the one extreme, their hardness no more related to the assassination than their softness; and on the other, such pseudo-science as the FBI's ^{detailed analyses} ~~scientific study~~ of hairs found on a blanket known to have been Oswald's. These were public hairs, the FBI's science established, after hours of the most ^{complicated} ~~detailed~~ study, and Oswald's public hairs at that. Why it ^{is} ~~was~~ significant that Oswald's public hairs were on Oswald's blanket is an arcane secret of the secret police, but the Commission was impressed. The whole schmeer is in the appended volumes as it is in the Report, complete with enlarged cross-sections (R 587), for all the world as though whose ^P public hairs were on Oswald's blanket should be of ^{interest} ~~concern~~ to anyone besides ^{his} Oswald's wife.

articulated
 Commission ^{its} resistance to publishing much of anything more than a bit of
 carefully-selected propaganda of its choosing rambled on for pages in its TOP

SECRET executive sessions. Here are a few excerpts from pages 5872-5:

Lil - best par. 5872, pp 3, as marked
~~Estausko, then~~ also at beginning marked
 quote beginning "But", then Estausko
 to Dulles on 5-874

And thus we can learn, in examining this most subtle ^{"proof"} evidence on how the President was assassinated and by whom, by study of ^{this/} ~~the~~ full-page ^{drawing} ~~chart~~ titled, "DIAGRAM OF A HAIR", that ^{with help} 8 parts. I ^{1/} imagine that! Each tiny hair, eight parts, no less! They are clearly identified: root, shaft, scales, cuticle, cortex, medula, pigment and cortical ~~case~~ fusi. So, that all of this ^{could} ~~can~~ be clearly understood, the FBI's much larger drawing, even in reduction ^{Commission} for reproduction, presents the cross-section of a ~~hair~~ hair blown up to an inch and a quarter.

Now this, to this Commission, was how to solve the assassination, ^{by} not any genuine inquiry into, for example, whether the sole man it ever considered might have been the assassin had such complications in his life as association of any nature, ~~no~~ matter how remote, with government intelligence, either the CIA, the FBI, of both.

These exaggerated examples serve to highlight what really transpired in those TOP SECRET executive sessions.

~~Here is the exchange on who would see the stenographic transcripts:~~

~~And here is what actually happened when the question of publishing evidence came up:~~

~~puts in~~
All of which, I think, ~~gives~~ ^{puts in} an especially clear focus the tiny part of the suppressed picture of Oswald as a federal informant the profitable prospect of which led Ford to betray the trust of his six colleagues on the Commission.

It is possible to think too harshly ~~from~~ about individual members, like Boggs, from looking at their let-down hair, possible to attribute more guilt to them than ~~it~~ may be justified.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ What I believe the Commissioners never realized is how much they were the creatures of their staff, the lawyers ^{alone,} they thought served them and the FBI, which did almost all its investigating, if that is what the FBI really did for ~~and to~~ the Commission.

Some of the members, from time to time, expressed jaundiced views in their TOP SECRET kaffeeklatches. However, Boggs and Ford never lost their faith in the FBI.

Jointly, in a New Orleans television appearance ^{they made a joint} the year after they issued their Report, not for a moment realizing their self-indictment, ~~for what they then said is not said of in any remote way suggested by their Report.~~ These are the words of the Associated Press account, from the Washington Post of June 7, 1965:

"Both men also expressed the view that if the FBI and the Secret Service had jurisdiction in the investigation of the shooting of President Kennedy, then the killing of Lee Harvey Oswald would not have occurred. The two agencies, they said, would have provided more safeguards for Oswald, the accused assassin."

Aside from a self-indictment for not having said this in their Report, it is an indictment of the Dallas police also not in that Report.

All of the foregoing, I think, puts into an especially clear focus the tiny part of the suppressed picture of Oswald as a federal informant, the potential profitability of which tempted Ford to betray the trust of his six colleagues on the Commission.

new space

With this mixed picture, part in sharp focus, part fuzzy, ~~part~~ a picture of the Commission never before exposed, a picture of Oswald as a government informant and the serious ^{emergency} ~~crisis~~ with which this possibility confronted the entire government when he was accused of being the Presidential assassin, and a glimpse of how ~~the~~ government functioned when ~~confront~~ ^{in this unparalled predicament} with this ~~crisis~~, we begin what to me has been a non-fiction detective story for the more-than-seven years during which I have been trying to ferret out the suppressed evidence. ^Q Was Oswald really connected with any federal agency? Was he connected with more than one? Had he had connections, broken them, and was he being harpessed to resume them at the time of the assassination?

It may or may not be possible to reach a definitive answer. Certainly, if we do it will not be with the help of either the CIA or the FBI. The question is one that in the national interest must be addressed and to the degree possible answered. Before returning to the Commission's secret misconduct on this, acts like nothing in our recorded history ^V a thing so scandalous and culpable it can hardly be imagined. ^V we should and do examine the strange consistency in Oswald, beginning with his boyhood, when he did what makes sense only if he ^{conceived himself} ~~planned being~~ some kind of amateur spy.

^Q It comes from rooting out the ~~suppressed~~ ^{secreted documents from} and extensive personal investigations.

- emergency - quandary
- juncture
- exigency
- straits - dilemma - predicament
- pinch