

Arnold Photo Willi. P. 24 (52)

Thompson P. 225

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In Altgen's photo of the motorcade, if we look past the puzzled Jackie and the President just reacting to his first wound, and across the heads of the uncomprehending, joyous spectators, we see peering out of the Depository's broad entranceway, hard on the right, a face that mightily resembles Lee Harvey Oswald's. Immediately after the Report was issued, people asked if it was Oswald, for if so, Oswald could not be the killer. Thorough investigation, however, established that the man was Billy Nolan Lovelady, an employee of the Depository. Lovelady himself said "yes, sir," when asked if that was he. Proof positive, then. But this too was questioned because when the FBI took Lovelady's picture for comparison purposes in February 1964, it showed him in a distinctive red-and-white striped short-sleeved shirt, quite unlike the dark, long-sleeved shirt shown on him in the doorway. Further, this mysterious look-alike Lovelady had stated that the striped number was the shirt he was wearing November 22, whereas it was Lee Oswald, who when arrested was wearing a shirt very like the one on the man in the doorway. Eventually, this mystery, at least, subsided. It appears that the FBI misunderstood and so misreported Lovelady, who in February had said, sure, he was then wearing the striped shirt, couldn't they see it? The truth was, Lovelady affirmed, he did wear the dark shirt on November 22, just as the photo shows. The incident exemplifies how any given piece of data can be collated with misinformation, often spawned by careless, venal or harried bureaucrats and reporters, to awaken suspicions of startling and undeserved longevity.

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By contrast, no suspicions in the assassination have had a greater or more deserved life-span than those surrounding the next mystery--the magic bullet. The thesis, as formulated by Commission attorneys Arlen Specter and David Belin, was simple. A bullet ^{allegedly} penetrated John Kennedy's neck, transited the muscle-layers, exited at the throat, went on ~~to the~~ ~~jump seat ahead of the President~~ to punch an elliptical hole in John Connally's back, there shattering the Texan's fifth rib, before exiting below the right nipple to tear into the back of the right wrist, exit at the ^{side} palm, and finish the remarkable odyssey by ^{lodging in his} puncturing the left thigh and finally falling out to be discovered on Parkland's stretcher.

J All this without ~~significant~~ mutilation, infact with only moderate flattening and the loss from its base of no more than 2.4 grains of metal. (That is possible--only about 1.5 grains of metal either were removed from Connally's wrist or seen by X-ray to be still embedded in his chest and femur. But Harold Weisberg, especially, maintains the metal missing from the bullet's base was scraped out by the FBI for testing and was thus never in Connally.) ~~The critics howled~~ How could ~~this~~ ^{it} be? More importantly, why must it be? Did not the first FBI and Secret Service assassination reports themselves clearly say that three shots were fired, the first hitting the President in the back, the second striking Governor Connally, and the third slamming into Kennedy's skull? Why must there be a magic bullet at all? The answer again lay inside Zapruder's camera. Quite simply, given the time needed to fire the Mannlicher-Carcano, the film showed that unless one bullet struck both the President and the Gov-

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error, there had to be more than one assassin--there had to have been
 the conspiracy the Commission's other evidence denied. Had to be because
 between Zapruder frame 225 when Kennedy clearly has been hit and frame 237
 when Connally unmistakably ^{reads to} evidences his wound, there isn't time to re-
 load and fire Oswald's carbine. What was more perplexing, there seemed
 to be too much time between the reactions of Connally and Kennedy for a
 single bullet to have penetrated both men. Never mind the bullet's
 physical condition. Here was scientific proof of conspiracy, not to men-
 tion of duplicitous maneuverings by the Commission, such as ignoring the
 FBI and Secret Service, and saying that Connally had suffered a "delayed
 reaction" to the bullet marauding through his body. The contention again
 brought sophisticated optical analysis to bear on Zapruder's movie. The
 latest, conducted by the ubiquitous Itek, indicates that Connally may be
 reacting to his wound as early as frames 223-226, a sixth of a second in
 which a flipping motion begins in the right hand with which he holds his
 Stetson. The other theorists ridicule the suggestion, saying they see
 no sign of distress in Connally until almost a second after Kennedy is
 seen ^{having reached} reaching for his throat. And how can he still be holding his Stetson
 in frame 235 if his wrist is fractured? No firm answer can be given.
 Men in combat often react late to wounds. Deer run through by high-
 powered arrows often look up quizzically, then return to grazing before
 they realize they've been mortally wounded. Yet, Connally himself has
 always vowed he was hit by ^a the second shot because he heard the first ^{before}
 feeling his wounds (men in combat also say you never hear the bullet that

which must be true since sound travel at only 1100 feet per second, half the speed of 6.5 rounds
all bullets go faster than sound

hits you). It is "inconceivable" that he was hit by the same bullet that hit Kennedy. His wife agrees, saying she heard the shot, and she and Connally started to turn toward the ^{wounded} President, and then the Governor was hit. Of course, this also implies two gunmen, for even if a first shot from the Depository missed the car and that was what Connally heard, how then has the President been hit before ^{Connally} unless by another gun? Yet it could be that the Connallys, like other witnesses, were befuddled by the shock of those six seconds, that they too were victims of a sensory overload. In that case, return for a moment to the physical evidence. Could the notorious bullet do all that the Commission asks of it?

Numerous wound ballistics tests have been made with 6.5 mm cartridges and Mannlicher-Carcano to determine if any bullet could do so much and yet end up mostly unutilated. The Commission fired ^{it a thru} them with Oswald's carbine through blocks of skin-covered gelatin, and chunks of animal flesh, which simulated Kennedy's neck. They concluded the projectile lost little velocity or stability ~~(good penetrating power is characteristic of the 4.7-inch slugs)~~.

~~thus accounting for exit holes only slightly larger than the entrances.~~ Testers also fired through a goat's chest cavity, producing back and rib wounds similar to Connally's and slugs ~~but~~ more mutilated than the magic bullet. Another test on a cadaver's wrist yielded a much more mutilated bullet but also a much more damaged wrist, which indicated to the Commission that the Parkland bullet struck Connally's wrist at relatively low velocity. One would expect that from a bullet which had already transited two bodies,

But in no official text was any bullet asked to perform all the duties imposed on the magic bullet. When it was tried for CBC in 1967 it was impossible

just as, the Commission held, the elliptical and ragged entry and exit wounds in Connally argued for a bullet which had begun yawing due to striking Kennedy first.

These results at once were attacked. For example, if the exit wounds in the neck-tests consistently were larger ^{(than the entry holes,} how did that fact square with Dr. Malcolm Perry's insistence that the wound in Kennedy's throat

One in instance of

and other Parkland doctors

looked like a "puncture."

That is, before Dr. Perry enlarged the wound in a futile tracheo-

tomy performed on the dying President at Parkland Hospital. Also, did not the downward angles of Kennedy's throat wound and Connally's back wounds differ somewhat, implying different trajectories for the shots

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~~(surveyors' measurements by both Commission and critics have not yet~~

~~solved this riddle)~~

See above

~~inevitably, more tests were done. CBS conducted some with gelatin blocks, and decided the magic bullet, while unusual, was not impossible.~~

Other people have fired the cartridges through cotton, pine boards, ~~car-~~ melons, ^{was} tapes, almost anything, with mixed results. A slug fired through cotton was mutilated, while one shot through wood emerged unscathed. It appears all this reaffirmed what we've known since the beginning of firearms.

Bullets can do funny things. But this one was crucial, and efforts to fathom its mystery continue. Dr. Milton Halpern, Medical Examiner of the City of New York and probably the most experienced forensic pathologist in the world, says "I cannot accept the premise that this bullet thrashed around in all that bony tissue and lost only 1.4 to 2.4 grains of its original weight." ~~Dr. Cyril Wecht, forensic pathologist and coroner of~~

insert sum p. 31

Critics

Allegheny County, Pa., believes not only that the bullet would have been more deformed but that the trajectory of the shot as ~~traced~~ ^{projected} through Kennedy, given the positions of the two men as adduced from Zapruder's film, makes it impossible for it to have hit Connally, ^{under the arm. Critics suggest} ~~Instead, Wecht~~ says, ~~the bullet which transited the President went over the limousine driver's shoulder and beyond (maybe fragmenting and hitting Mr. Tagua) and another gunman hit Connally an instant later.~~ ^{Some doctors} ~~Other noted pathologists~~ claim it's quite possible the bullet did all that ^{the Report specifies,} and besides, it is impossible to deduce precise trajectories from studying wounds.

Gun buffs have ^{long} been curious ^{too.} ~~the magic bullet?~~ ^{round} Could the dented cartridge have anything to do with ^{Suppose that} ~~Suppose that~~ ^{had been jammed in the chamber} and fired. The dent might cause ^{the slug} ~~it to wobble to Kennedy, penetrate, yaw,~~ lose velocity, and ^{travel on to} ~~rummage around Connally's body.~~ But it's very ^{diff-} ~~diff-~~ ^{impossible} ~~diff-~~ ^{such} ~~result to chamber a dented round.~~ ~~Suppose, then, one of the 1944 cartridges had lost some zip, was in effect "downloaded."~~ That could cause low velocity and strange ballistics. ^{For their part,} ~~Scientific folk wonder if neutron activation tests on Connally's clothes might show if that bullet struck him, leaving the tell-tale residue.~~ Unfortunately ^{Some} ~~skeptics~~ say as part of a deliberate cover-up--Connally's clothes were washed or dry-cleaned before such tests could be made. What about Kennedy's bloody shirt and jacket, two evidentiary items of paramount importance? The government's ^{evidence} ~~reports~~ on them-- ^{partly} extracted through Freedom of Information suit--confirm that spectrography revealed traces of copper around the holes, indicating a copper-jacketed bullet ~~per-~~ ^{per-} ~~ceded~~ them (the Report insists it was the super bullet). Critics of the FBI quickly point out that no tests tie those copper traces to the

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A reasonable analogy is that if you drop someone out of an airplane, he will die when he hits the ground. On the otherhand, we know that some people have survived just such falls. And we consider these events miracles.

Wiseal on p. 29

magic bullet. Nor are there, according to these ~~declassified documents~~, any traces of copper or lead alloys at the front of the shirt collar where according to the Report the bullet exited. Finally, ~~it seems to some~~ ^{some} theorists, ^PBased on recently obtained reports, ^{that} sophisticated neutron-activation tests were done on the magic bullet and the other recovered fragments--such tests would reveal in parts per ^{hundred-billion} million accuracy if the ^{alloy} copper traces matched the magic bullet, ^{but that} ~~the~~ FBI, for whatever reasons, has suppressed or distorted the results to conform with the single-bullet thesis. ~~Lamentably, the evidence for this alleged chicanery is tenuous, and perhaps rooted as much in the tendency of assassination buffs to cry cover-up no matter what the facts, as in any actual wrong-doing by the FBI.~~ ^{do} Even saying that, though, there remain several unanswered questions about the magic bullet--and, as we'll see, about Kennedy's clothes. For now all we can know is that if that bullet did what the Report's theory requires, it was indeed a magical mystical projectile. ~~It can be alleged that the magic bullet was fired into a recession to become~~ ^{to become} ~~So magic that one theory maintains it never was fired through any- thing but cotton, was instead part of a plot calling for the deceptive bullet to be planted at Parkland Hospital the better to incriminate Oswald, the patsy. Didn't the respected journalist Seth Kantor, and a nurse named Mrs. Tice, swear they saw Jack Ruby there just after the shooting? He could have done it, and naturally, he as part of a plot to silence Oswald? would deny it later at his trial.~~ Penn Jones, a Texas editor who's from the outset followed the crime's oddities--especially a skein of mysterious deaths befalling witnesses--was at the hospital, too, and he's said in the chaos there, a lot could have happened. Souvenir-hunters were seeking Connally's clothes, the Secret Service and FBI and White House

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~~staff were charging around, just about anything could have been accomplished in such elimes.~~ Thus, there is debate over whether the bullet really was found on Connally's stretcher, despite its finder--a hospital aide named Darrell Tomlinson--affirming he thought it had to have been Connally's since the stretcher had been near the elevator which went up to surgery where Connally was sent, whereas the dead President's cart presumably was still in Parkland's Trauma Room Number One. ^{Still,} Some people theorize that the bullet fell out of a shallow wound in Kennedy's back, a wound which has been covered-up by the government because its existence would again prove the conspiracy the Report had to dismiss for reasons of domestic tranquility and world peace.

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For those ^{who theorize} ~~convinced~~ of conspiracy, however, easier hypotheses were

at hand. They knew the fatal shot came not from the Depository but from the right-front, from the grassy knoll. First, they say, more than half the witnesses in Dealey Plaza who had an opinion on the direction of the shots said they came from the knoll or stockade fence. Wilma Bonds' photograph showed people reacting as if shots came from there. These included motorcycle policeman, Bobby Hargis who charged the knoll; and Presidential aides like David Powers; and Secret Service men like Forrest Sorrels who was riding in the car ahead of Kennedy, and numerous ordinary citizens, including Mr. and Mrs. William Newman (who threw themselves and their children down to avoid the shots from the fence), and Abraham Zapruder, ^{first said} who ~~thought~~ ^{came over his right, & from} the shots were coming from behind him on the knoll; and Oswald's friend Wesley Frazier who said the shots seemed to come from by the rail-

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road tracks behind the fence. These opinions have been bolstered ever since the assassination by fascinating photos and statements, most of which were debunked by the Commission, whose members in several instances failed to question the witnesses or to investigate in detail the evidence advanced for an assassin on the knoll.

For example, Zapruder frames 313-316 unmistakably show the President's head moving backward and to the left as he suffers his killing wound. Robert Groden's blow-ups and intensifications of these frames have convinced many people, particularly among college audiences who see the film under the auspices of some assassination ^{commercializers, like} ~~careerists~~ called the "Assassination Information Bureau," that unless Newtonian laws of motion have been repealed, ^a ~~the~~ shot had to come from the right-front. Understandably, this evidence is a staple for knoll-assassin believers. They are not persuaded otherwise by Itek's recent conclusion that Kennedy's head (and ~~most~~ of his brain matter) is driven forward at first, at a rate much faster than it then goes rearward. ~~They do not believe that Jackie, who's grasping the President then, pulled him leftwards and backwards, thus accelerating the head's movement.~~ They do not accept the idea that a "jet" effect, a hydrostatic propulsion due to the skull's explosion, ~~threw~~ Kennedy's head rearwards. Rather, they point out that Officer Hargis, who was riding escort to the Presidential car at its left, rear fender, was splattered with blood and brain. That Officer James Cheney, ^a looking at Kennedy from his motorcycle near the right fender, said he saw "the President struck in the face," just as the Newmans and others on the

she did
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north (right) side of Elm street believed. That Constable Seymour Weitzman found part of Kennedy's skull, perhaps the same piece that Jackie had scrambled onto the trunk of the Lincoln to recover, on the south (or left) side of Elm street. That Secret Service agent Clint Hill and eyewitness Charles Brehm saw what they thought was impact debris flying left and rear of the car (it seems to have been recorded, too, on Mr. Nix's film). That Agent Hill and his colleague Roy Kellerman, who was riding in the right-front seat of Kennedy's car, said the fatal shot sounded funny, like a double bang-bang (and Hill initially thought there had been only two shots, the first hitting Kennedy in the back, the second in the head.) No, they think ^a ~~the~~ shot had to come from the right-front, from another kind of gun, perhaps one loaded, as former FBI man and Jim Garrison supporter William Turner suggested, with special exploding bullets (eerily, there is a report that in ^{early} 1962 some members of the CIA asked a research and development man to sketch an exploding round for a 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano).

Other photographs, too conjured men on the grassy knoll. Robert Groden has to his own satisfaction identified two shadows on the Zapruder film as more snipers. We have seen the speculations based on the Nix film. Another photograph, taken by Mary Moorman who stood about fifteen feet from the President's car, seems to show a man with a gun standing behind the stockade fence about 14 feet from its corner. The Moorman photo, taken approximately one-fifth of a second after Kennedy's head exploded, has been studied intensely. Some experts say the figure is a

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shadow, others that it is an assassin!

*Ralph
Newborough*

A few witnesses consistently have offered testimony supporting the idea that an assassin stood where Mary Moorman photographed him. Mr. S.M. Holland, a railroad switchman, was standing on the Triple Underpass when the shots were fired. He thought he saw a puff of smoke rise by the stockade fence fronting the parking lot (other people did, too, and a number reported the smell of gunpowder there--modern weapons, however, emit almost no smoke). Holland hot-footed it to the parking lot, arriving in about two minutes along with other startled and curious people. By the fence, not far from the corner, he saw muddy footprints. It looked to him like one or two men had paced back-and-forth behind a car. Holland thinks maybe Moorman's gunman shot from there, climbed in the trunk of a car, and was spirited away by his accomplice during the confusion (still other witnesses who saw a man in the Depository said he was looking intently at the parking lot just before the shooting started). Holland is positive he heard shots from the knoll, although the configuration of structures around Dealey Plaza makes it more than ordinarily difficult to locate the origin of sounds.

Holland's story, which he told repeatedly to sundry assassination buffs including the Warren Commission, fits nicely if circumstantially with that told by Lee Bowers. Bowers was ensconced in a railroad switching tower a goodly distance from the fence and knoll, but commanding an excellent view of the parking lot behind the fence. The morning of the assassination, Bowers says, he saw a sequence of three cars enter the parking lot, cruise about, and then leave, or at least he saw the first

Reports of a blue & white car near

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two leave. Car number one was a 195...ds, he thought, blue and white with an out-of-state license, a Goldwater sticker, and red mud splashed on it. Next came a 1957 black Ford, with a man in it who seemed to be talking into a microphone. Last came a Chevrolet, also bearing red mud and a Goldwater sticker, entering the lot a few minutes before the shooting. This car moved toward the Depository, and the last Bowers saw it seemed to pause "just above the assassination site." Bowers also said he saw two men, one middle-aged and heavy-set, the other young, wearing a plaid shirt or jacket, standing fifteen feet apart by the fence just before the gunfire began. When that happened, Bowers told Mark Lane, his eye was drawn that way by something peculiar, "a flash of light or smoke or something."

The claims of Holland and Bowers ~~excited~~ other investigators, even if they failed to convince the Commission that something strange might have been afoot. For a time it seemed the tale of Julia Ann Mercer would tie the stories together. Miss Mercer said ^(she was driving) she drove by the Depository the morning of November 22, and was forced to ^(stop because of) halt her car by a green Ford pick-up truck with "Air Conditioning" lettered on it which was parked half up on the Elm Street curb. A heavy-set man slouched over the wheel, while a young man in a plaid shirt took what appeared to be a gun case from the truck-bed and ambled up the grassy slope toward the Triple Underpass. That was strange, she said, since there were police watching all this. Very interesting certainly, though the Warren Commission ~~wasn't~~ curious enough to call Miss Mercer as a witness, perhaps because

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subsequent investigation showed her story was faulty. There was a truck broken down there, and workmen in it, but no-one took anything like a rifle from the truck, at least according to a Dallas policeman who stopped to assist the men.

The Mercer story could not corroborate the impressions of Holland and Bowers (the "heavy man" and the "young man" reappeared again, though--one witness, and only one, said they were the team that slew Officer Tippit). Neither could the recollection of J.C. Price, who/ ^{was on} the roof of the Terminal Annex Building two blocks away at the time of the shooting. Price said he saw a young man holding something run from the fence toward some passenger cars stationed in the yards.

The yards themselves inspired another grassy-knoll speculation, for it was from them after the murder that three famous "tramps" were roused and marched across Dealey Plaza, where they were photographed, ~~and~~ ~~entered the mind-bending history of Kennedy-assassination theories.~~ The tramps were too neatly coiffed to be bums, and they were never booked or questioned about the crime. Thus, some believe, they had to have a role in Kennedy's death. Two major theories have been offered. The first, proffered by an egregious duo named Michael Canfield and Allan Weberman, supposes that two of the three men are Frank Sturgis and E. Howard Hunt. (This means, of course, Sturgis and Hunt cannot be seen in Nix's film on the grassy knoll.) It seems they were in Dallas to assist in killing Kennedy because of the President's "betrayal" of the anti-Castro Cubans during the Bay of Pigs debacle. More evidence lies in the fact that Richard Nixon was in Dallas that morning, too, thereby implying an early

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relationship with the men later hired as President Nixon's Watergate plumbers. The second hypothesis states that the tramps are Americans who trained Cuban exiles, partly under Hunt's direction, and then decided to remove the President who had turned away from liberating Cuba. Both versions bubbled up in the post-Watergate cesspool of disillusionment, and both exhibit the free-association which the most fanatic assassination theorists use to weave huge patterns of conspiracy. For example, one of the tramps is now said to be Jack Youngblood, a minor mercenary who is also now said to be privy to who had Martin Luther King killed, while another tramp supposedly is the suspect portrayed on an FBI sketch released after King was killed--therefore, Kennedy's murder is related one-on-one to King's.

After that, the last accounts of possible other assassins seem plausible, or nearly so. Least likely is the suggestion that conspirators had hollowed out a bunker on the grassy knoll, and then cut down the President from their concealed firing positions. These marksmen, theoretically right-wing Army men, left no traces of their feat if they accomplished it. Similarly, the possibility endorsed by former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison and by Penn Jones that a gunman lurked in a ~~room~~^S sewer and on signal plugged the President is not substantiated by physical evidence. Much more intriguing is the "umbrella man," that odd fellow who in Zapruder's film has his umbrella up in Dallas's clear sunshine. He is the only person so shielding himself. Could that be a signal for shooting to begin? Or does the man have a fiendishly clever gun, something the Penguin might invent, built into his umbrella? Certain it is that after the shooting,

Shooting
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photographs show the umbrella man loitering down Elm Street at the motorcade trailing the dying President, and his umbrella is neatly folded. Who was he? What was he doing? Was he acting in concert with a man one assassination theory calls a "communications man," another figure in a photograph who appears to have a "two-way radio" in his back pocket (and who has been identified as a man now a patient in a mental hospital)? Why has the umbrella man not come forward to answer these questions? If he was a conspirator, the answer is obvious. If not, perhaps he is afraid (intimidated by the killers, some theorists say) or deceased (killed, maybe, they say, like so many other witnesses) or someone who doesn't want to get involved. Whatever the answer, the umbrella man remains a riddle whose solution might ease minds already strained to breaking.

Much less strained is the final story of activity around the Depository--activity which the Report examined perfunctorily and concluded was meaningless. It begins with a statement by James Worrell, who said right after the shooting he saw a man dressed in dark jacket and light pants run out of the Depository's north door, then hurry off south down Houston street. Worrell's claim is laid by conspiracy ^{SOM D} theorists next to that of Richard Randolph Carr, a steel worker ascending a stairway of the then-unfinished courthouse two and a half blocks from the Depository. Carr said he discerned at that distance--remember the Hughes film--a heavy-set man in a tan sport jacket in the window beside the "nest." (Carr later said in Jim Garrison's courtroom that the man was on the fifth floor,

and he'd seen a bullet furrow up the grass, though he'd missed Kennedy's head exploding.) Anyway, on hearing the shots, Carr descended in time to see this man, he thought, walk briskly away from the Depository along Houston to Commerce, walk east on Commerce a block, and get into a 1961 or 1962 gray Rambler station wagon, driven by a "young negro." The car turned north on Record street toward Elm street (a left would then bring it by the Depository). ^{These} Theorists like to add the statements of Worrell and Carr to the testimony before the Commission of Robert Craig, a sheriff's deputy who was ~~on duty~~ in the Plaza when Kennedy was shot. Craig said he saw a white man dressed in light pants and a "light tan shirt" run out of the Depository's Elm Street entrance, down the gentle slope and get into a light-colored Rambler station wagon (easily identifiable by its rooftop luggage rack). The driver of the wagon, according to Craig, was "very dark complected, had real dark short hair, and was wearing a thin white-looking jacket." Craig said he tried to reach the car to question the men, but the crush of people prevented him, and then the wagon took off down Elm, vanishing beneath the Triple Underpass in the wake of the motorcade.

Many people believe these witnesses are describing other assassins, even by the Warren Commission's lights, because they could not be Oswald. He was, the Report says, taking a bus and taxi toward his rooming house, where he would grab a pistol and walk away, only to encounter Officer J.D. Tippit whom he kills, thus bringing down the police upon himself. The heavy-set man could be the one described earlier, behind the fence or in the Depository--could even be the "Saul" who has confessed in a

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recent book that he killed Kennedy for money, with Oswald as a patsy set-up with a silly story that the shots were part of a fake assassination planned to create public affection for the President and so win the 1964 election. The thin young man could be the "second Oswald," out on his appointed rounds again, this time as a killer in the Depository. The driver of the station wagon could be a Cuban, one of the exiles who'd like Kennedy dead in recompense for the Bay of Pigs, or if you prefer, he could have been one of Castro's men avenging the assassination plots the CIA-Mafia connection concocted for the Cuban leader in the early 1960's. Or they could have been part of a Texas right-wing plot engineered by men enraged at JFK's [^]communist [^]coddling. H.L. Hunt's son ^{Nelson}/Bunker^{Hunt} had, after all, partly paid for a scurrilous anti-Kennedy ad which appeared the morning of November 22, and Jack Ruby had driven one of his strippers to Hunt's office the day before, and Mrs. Paine had a light colored station wagon ("Leave her out of this," Oswald allegedly said at police headquarters when confronted with Craig's story), and Craig himself now is dead, under strange circumstances, like more than four-score people who allegedly knew something about Kennedy's death, a tally kept by Penn Jones who thinks some immense sinister power must be at work since the deaths defy actuarial odds (calculated a 100 trillion to one against), and . . . so it goes.

The webs of speculation are spun out to dizzying distances. Some are too brittle to last, as with the incredible dying witnesses. People do die eventually, and those involved, like Jack Ruby's ilk, in gun-running or gambling or dope or night-clubs tend to die younger (all the witnesses to Lincoln's assassination are dead, come to think of it). And nothing

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has linked Oswald positively to any of the above circumstances or possibilities. Yet alternatives to the Report endure. It's true that a huge conspiracy taking in the CIA, the FBI, the Army, multiple Oswalds, Cubans, and organized crime probably would come apart in time, Joe Valachi-style. But two or three men would only need their anger and a gun. Is there any hard evidence of a second gunman?

The ultimate piece of evidence was the dead President's body. The autopsy should provide the answer to how many shots were fired and from where. By a cruel irony, however, the autopsy which was one of the most important in our history ^{seems} was botched from start to finish. First,

applicable law,

Kennedy's body was whisked away from Parkland Hospital in defiance of Texas ~~law~~ stipulating that an autopsy be done immediately on homicide victims. Then at Bethesda Naval Hospital ~~late~~ ^{that night}

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~~on November 22~~, a team of pathologists--only one of them a specialist in

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forensic medicine--conducted the autopsy under conditions of stress, shock and Kennedyite pressure, which ^{order} apparently caused them to omit some ^{essential} valuable procedures (e.g. dissecting the President's wounded neck). The

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result has been a twelve-years controversy over just what John Kennedy's autopsy revealed, much of it stemming from the contradictory reports issued. The FBI's initial autopsy paper, for instance, seemed to support the notion that a bullet fell out of Kennedy's back. That would invalidate the single-bullet theory. Two agents named Sibert and O'Neill observed the autopsy. Their report said of the President's neck wound, "the distance traveled by this missile was a short distance inasmuch as

the end of the opening could be felt by the finger." The agents also said the downward angle was 45 to 60 degrees, a trajectory inconsistent with the 20-degree angle from the Depository's sixth-floor window. Secret Service man Roy Kellerman, also present, said the wound was probed and Colonel Finck, ^{Pierre army wounds expert} ~~the forensic specialist~~, told him there was no outlet. How then could the bullet transit the President? Furthermore, the FBI men said the doctors were puzzled because they could find no bullet in the back wound, and so Finck and another pathologist, Commander Humes, said "it was entirely possible" the bullet had worked its way out and fallen on a stretcher. How did the Report's defenders answer this? By saying that the FBI and Secret Service agents were laymen who might have been mistaken in what they heard and saw. Besides, by morning the autopsy physicians had conferred with the doctors at Parkland and learned of the tracheotomy which had obliterated Kennedy's throat wound. That gave them the exit wound for the bullet, ~~although it ignored the possibility~~ the wound marked a bullet's entrance. As for the ^{bullet's} ~~slug's~~ path, the muscles had closed so that it could not be probed ~~(a contention strongly resisted by pathologists like Dr. Wecht)~~. To those critical of the Commission, the conflicting reports smacked of ex post facto reasoning, the same kind which seemed manifest in Commander Humes's draft report of the autopsy. This document, Harold Weisburg says, shows the careful editing and hedging necessary ~~(and requested by the Commission's staff)~~ to support the single-bullet theory. Surely the doctor knew whether the bullet had gone through Kennedy's neck, and didn't have to write "presumably" about the entrance-

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Know that might be visible

others must see, must not only path

So do we see any commission

exit question, or replace "puncture" with "lacerated." Surely he could not have known that the President "fell forward" when struck in the head, because that was false.

Another puzzling document was the sketch of Kennedy's wounds made by the third physician, Commander Boswell. There the wound is shown not in the neck, about two inches right of the spinal column, but well down on the back (Secret Service agent Glen Bennett, riding in the back-up car, said he saw Kennedy hit "four inches down from the right shoulder"), so low that to exit at the throat, piercing the shirt collar and nicking the tie, the bullet would have to go at a slight upward angle. Given Kennedy's exposure above the rear of the car, if a possible trajectory is traced to this low wound an assassin would have to be at ground level-- a clear impossibility according to witnesses. Is Boswell's sketch mistaken? Yes, as to location, ^{which?} the doctors have said. The sketch was merely

m ead my / 10/11 a rough working paper. The correct measurements are found noted on it, placing the wound 14 centimeters down from the bony point behind the right ear and 14 centimeters from the tip of the right shoulder. There, in the right neck. In any event, the Report's supporters say, we have X-rays and photographs of the body. These tell us better than pieces of paper or scraps of clothing where the holes are.

Surprisingly, these visual records were never seen by the Warren Commission. Although the members discussed asking surviving Kennedys for permission, and although some staff members had to see the evidence to construct the Report, the Commissioners themselves did not wish to

at what point if any is my not used without permission or
credit or attribution to other writers as a substitute for
what I know?

publicize any gory details. This omission, too, has haunted us down to today, particularly in light of the discrepancies in official accounts of the autopsy. In 1968, awash in criticism of the Report, Attorney General Ramsey Clark secured permission for three pathologists and a radiologist to examine the X-rays and photos. They confirmed that the President was shot twice from above and behind, the one bullet most probably going through his neck and out his throat, and the other blowing a large hole in his right-rear skull. A few years later Dr Wecht examined the materials, the first alternate-theorist to do so. He grudgingly accepted that finding, while reiterating that there might be fragments from other bullets in Kennedy, and that the finding did not per se preclude another gunman. Wecht also wanted, during later surveys of the material, to examine Kennedy's brain, which should have been preserved for slicing into microscopic sections through which a pathologist could trace the exact path of all bullets and fragments. So it was we learned the ghastly fact that the President's brain is missing or hidden (rumors abound, one being that Robert Kennedy was given the brain and he destroyed it). Even without that cerebral aid, Dr. James Weston--the newly-elected President of the National Academy of Forensic Sciences--has said he has absolutely no doubt after examining all available autopsy materials that John Kennedy was killed by two shots and only two shots, both coming from above and behind and slightly to the right. One went through the neck. The other entered the skull, distinctly beveling the bone inwards. Put alongside the aforementioned ballistics tests linking such wounds to the Mannlicher-

not adequate

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imposed
+
mistakenly
by

obscene

not possible

struck

deception - read the testimony

Carcano, and the fact that the fibers Kennedy's shirt and jacket bearing copper residue are pushed inwards, the Report's conclusion seems inescapable.

Except there is something still that frets mightily about that jacket and shirt, regardless of the body's wounds. Consider first that, as anyone with a jacket and shirt can determine at home, in order for the holes--about 5½ inches down from the collar-top--to align with the verified wound in the neck, the garments would have to ride up about three inches. Yet photographs of the President at the instant matching the magic-bullet shot show Kennedy's shirt and jacket seemingly unbunched. And if the clothes did ride up that far as the President waved, they almost must have doubled over, which means that a bullet would perforate at least one garment three times. It didn't. Then there is the disconcerting fact that the holes do line up with the wound shown on Commander Boswell's sketch.

Finally, one must note the peculiar holes beside the shirt collar's button. They are sharp-edged and elliptical, not ragged or puncture-like, leading people to guess that they resulted, as the tie's nick admittedly did, at Parkland from cutting away the President's constricting clothes to give him air. Or maybe they came from fragments slamming down from the head-shot. In either case, there would be no magic bullet coming out at the throat, and there would be another gunman--something even Dr. West's unequivocal statement does not eliminate. To many Americans, the shirt and jacket alone would justify a new investigation by an impartial panel.

They are as much physical evidence as the autopsy. The two sets of facts cannot, at least with what we know now, easily co-exist. Are the garments right or the pathologists? (We can ignore the dark suggestions that the

*will
see!
cutting
not
re-creating
in it*

*Silly
today*

doctors were deceived as part of a cover-up and not shown materials of Kennedy's autopsy.) For that matter, ^{many} have seen ~~several~~ other details like, ~~was Oswald on the Depository's sixth floor~~ which a skillful defense attorney ^{could have used to} challenge the government's case against Lee Harvey Oswald. True, ^{More is} the circumstantial evidence ^{interpreting} indicating Oswald ^{was} as the lone killer is strong, but scattered through it, stubborn as fossils, are implications that he was not alone. And beyond the physical evidence lie hints which make Oswald more than the Report would have him, more than the desperate little youth who grabbed for glory out of frustration with his life, his wife, his country's capitalistic mode. Even his boast to the Dallas police, "Everyone will know who I am now," was invented by Roger Craig, whose testimony, offered for whatever reasons, pointed at a conspiracy.

none

Thus, to arrive at the end with any understanding of the Kennedy riddle, we need a brief summary of the chief conspiracy suppositions, if only to judge how believable ~~they~~ might be.

MORE TO COME

The Oswald-Ruby-Tippit Connection: An old story, forged in the belief that Ruby and Tippit knew Oswald and had conspired with him to kill the President, probably for right-wingers in Dallas' law-enforcement and local government circles. Tippit's job was to kill Oswald after Lee incriminated himself in the murder of the President, thereby completing a perfect crime. This accounts, ^{those} the theorists say, for the police car which came to Oswald's rooming house around 1:00 pm after the assassination. The car stopped and its horn honked, said Earlene Roberts, the housekeeper there, but Oswald had left and was walking several blocks away. The car then must have found him, and Tippit called Lee over to the car. Oswald, however, suspected the plot and shot Tippit down, so the cops tried again in the Texas Theater to kill him. There was a suspicious click like a gun's during the struggle to subdue him. When that failed, the plotters decided to have Ruby kill Oswald. Jack was well-known both as a minor criminal and a genial host to the police force ("you all know me, I'm Jack Ruby," he cried after killing Oswald) and he may have been assured that he'd be sprung one way or another. That promise accounts for Ruby's silence about the plot for the three years after the killing, for his insistence that he killed Oswald out of pity for Jackie Kennedy, that he became the avenging angel totally on his own. Or Ruby himself was scared of retaliation. Didn't he tell Earl Warren, "Gentlemen, my life is in danger here?"

Evidence for this theory is ~~scanty to~~ non-existent. Unsubstantiated tales have placed Tippit and Oswald in a diner near Oswald's rooming house (also the neighborhood Jack Ruby lived in), and Tippit and Ruby, and maybe Oswald, huddling at Ruby's Carousel Club. This last is feasible. Ruby was a police buff, forever hanging around cops and police headquarters, especially

with LHO

during the madness attending Oswald's a . But Jack probably liked cops because he had a long rap sheet and wanted as many law-enforcement friends as possible (interestingly, he did say one cop told him the night of November 22 that Oswald should be cut in ribbons). But nothing solid associates Ruby with Tippit or Oswald with either, despite ~~some~~ lingering questions in the killing of Officer Tippit. These assume importance, because if Oswald killed Tippit the chain of physical evidence linking him to the assassination of John Kennedy becomes well-nigh unbreakable. For instance, was Aquilla Clemmons correct in saying she saw two men, one heavy-set, the other Oswald-like, approach Tippit, and then the young one shoot the cop? The Warren Commission didn't try to find out, no doubt because Mrs. Clemmons was of uncertain mental stability and because nine other witnesses put Oswald at the scene or fleeing it (and his gun did kill Tippit). Was there something funny in the way Oswald was discovered in the movie theater? Did a mysterious stranger point him out, in the dark, to the cops and then vanish, as Robert Sam Anson says? No. Johnny Brewer, a shoe-store manager, who was already tense from news of the assassination and the sirens screaming toward the Tippit slaying scene, became suspicious of Oswald's furtive behavior on the street and trailed him to the theater. He and the cashier decided to call the cops. When the police came, the house lights were put up and Johnny Brewer pointed out Oswald in the back row. Did the cops try to kill Oswald there? *It's uncertain.* The click may have come from Oswald's gun, which contained a discharged cartridge case, left either from the Tippit shooting (he discarded four others at the scene) or from target practicing. The hammer might have fallen on that. Or the noise could have

*False
non
signature*

*False
put on
commission*

False

False

man self bullet was checked

been imagined, or the hammer could have i struck in the struggle, or it could have been a cop's gun. No-one checked those service revolvers. In any event, Oswald was not killed by the police, but by Jack Ruby. How did Ruby accomplish that? Although it's claimed that one of Ruby's many police friends--he was said to know half the force--tipped him off when Oswald was going to be moved from police headquarters to the county jail, it's unlikely. The precise moment of transfer kept changing due to epicemic confusion up to the fateful time itself. It seems Ruby just took the notion at about 11:20 Sunday, November 24, and sauntered in at the moment the guard stepped away to direct a car away from the ramp up which Oswald's vehicle would come. Then, was Oswald's look as Ruby lurched toward him one of recognition and fear? Who can know? Certainly perhaps of fear, but no-one has proved Oswald knew Ruby.

The closest to "proof" we have is that Oswald alone killed Tippit, but again, a witness named T.F. Bowley said he called in the shooting on Tippit's radio at 1:10--too early, a theory goes, for Oswald to have gotten to the spot from his rooming house, so it had to be Mrs. Clemmons' ephemeral hit-men. In sum, the confusion is typical of the Kennedy muddle. *There is no firm evidence that Tippit, Ruby and Oswald were conspirators, either alone or at the behest of a Minute man-style bunch of vigilantes. With his dying words, Jack Ruby said he did it all by himself, and though skeptics maintain he was dying only because somebody infected him with cancer, Jack probably had the last correct words on the matter.*

The Clay Shaw-Jim Garrison Carnival: Nothing had ever aroused the demi-monde of assassination buffs like Jim Garrison's announcement in March, 1967, that he had solved the Kennedy murder case. The assassination had resulted, and

He did not - Men say this

he would prove it in a courtroom, from a piracy headed by one Clay L. Shaw, ^{manager} ~~a director~~ of New Orleans' International Trade Mart, a respected citizen of liberal views, a homosexual, ^{Garrison said} and the man who had met with Lee Harvey Oswald and one David Ferrie to plan the murder of John Kennedy. Presto! Assassination theorists descended on New Orleans for the trial in early 1969, like college kids for Mardi Gras. Mark Lane was the star, but others came, too-- Popkin, Weisberg, ^{I was not there} Jones Harris, Penn Jones, even a man who believed the world was run by a conspiracy of intellectuals called the Illuminati. Garrison opened his files to them, and everybody swapped information. This time they would see the truth. ^{not 1969}

What they finally saw was the Dien Bien Phu of official assassination inquiries. Here was a big man, the Jolly Green Giant the press called Garrison, with a staff of investigators, with the power of subpoena, with ^{little} money and man- ^{none know lesson at 11/1/69} power and a cause, all the things the theorists had said they needed, who was about to fall from high seriousness to low farce, taking a ^{mutual} ~~pass~~ of legitimate and illegitimate ^{facts and} speculations with him.

Garrison's case seemed simple. Shaw, Oswald and Ferrie had met in New Orleans, planned the murder and Oswald had executed it, but been set up as the scapegoat by his fellow conspirators. Garrison's assistants who would try the conspiracy case, would also try the Warren Commission's Report as much as possible. The Report was, ^{not true!} Garrison said, "probably the greatest fraud ever perpetrated in the history of mankind," and the perpetration of that fraud no doubt was due to "The one who has profited most from the assassination--your friendly President, Lyndon Johnson." With such impartial elan did the prose-

? Not relevant?

cution proceed. The trouble was, their witnesses, or most of them, seemed either crazy or dishonest. There was Charles Spiesel, a New York accountant, who said that in May, 1963, he attended a party and heard Shaw, his old war buddy Ferrie, and other men discuss how to kill Kennedy (high-powered rifle with telescopic sight) and how Ferrie, an expert pilot, could fly the killer to safety. Spiesel's credibility was strained, though, when he admitted he had been harassed and hypnotized over the past 16 years by 50 or 60 people, against whom he'd filed a \$16 million law suit. Then there was Vernon Bundy a junkie and burglar, who said he'd seen Shaw and Oswald ^{near} ~~on~~ Lake Ponchartrain ~~beach~~ in June 1963 while he was there shooting up. Oswald had dropped some of his pro-Cuba leaflets, Bundy said, which all seemed fine had not cross-examination revealed that Bundy was testifying to get a break on his own sentence, and had told fellow inmates he was undecided quite how to fabricate his story. There was Dean Andrews, a fat lawyer who told both the Warren Commission and Garrison that Oswald while in New Orleans had visited his office about five times, and that after the assassination a man named "Clay Bertrand" had called him about representing Oswald in Dallas--all in all an enticing memory until Andrews admitted he was a pudgy perjurer, had made it all up to become part of something big.

this part confirmed WR

not on the above

There was star witness Perry Raymond Russo, who said he'd seen "Clem ^{was Bertrand (not Clem)} Bertrand" (Shaw's alias, Garrison said) three times: in 1962 at a JFK speech; in 1963 at Ferrie's apartment, along with the pilot's bearded ^{visitor} ~~room-mate~~ "Leon Oswald" where the conversation centered on "three-sided triangulation" for the assassination, of "diversionary" shots, of the need for a patsy, and of an escape to Mexico; and during 1964 in a car with David Ferrie. This testi-

mony exhilarated those who thought Garrison had it all, until it came out that Russo's recollections had emerged only after several sessions with sodium pentothal and hypnosis, a fact the defense belabored while establishing that the "conspiracy meeting," was just a bull session, that Russo never heard "Oswald" or "Bertrand" agree to kill Kennedy, and that he really couldn't positively identify Shaw as a man he'd seen with Ferrie until the defense "turned him on" (negatively) by asking if he believed in God.

(There was much good info. - should witness) had was destroyed or lost or submerged or forgotten

With such witnesses, the ~~few genuine~~ ^{credible evidence} Garrison ~~was~~ ^{had} ~~couldn't shine much.~~ ^{was destroyed or lost or submerged or forgotten}

Some folks from Clinton, Louisiana, testified that ~~one cold day~~ ^{1 cool} in late August or early September 1963, they'd seen Oswald, Ferrie, and Shaw in their town. Oswald even got a haircut, and asked about work at a mental hospital near there.

The "Clinton folk" may have been mistaken about the weather--the Meteorological Service said it had been 90 degrees, and uncertain about Shaw until Garrison's men brought them to town to see the man, but they clung to their story. Unfortunately for the Jolly Green Giant, that didn't prove conspiracy. Nor did other testimony that Shaw and Ferrie were seen together at an airport, or that David Ferrie had come by Oswald's former New Orleans apartment shortly after

- not true I was there

the assassination. Garrison's prosecutors did their best to discredit the Report, bringing in Wesley Frazier, Marina Oswald, Abraham Zapruder, and the helpful Roger Craig, but nothing availed--not even gruesome repetitions of the Zapruder film designed, it appears, to make the jurors want to convict somebody of this heinous crime. But they acquitted Clay Shaw and while Jim Garrison lived on to become an ex-District Attorney (currently being trotted around the country like the Cardiff Giant ^{he was never re-elected} to assassination lectures), the cause of finding conspiracies suffered a monumental setback during the ~~Shaw-Garrison battle~~ ^{tragedy}

didn't happen

prejud. Clay Robinson

2

even if I agree this is unlikely. He may be sick but he is an authentic intellectual on these subjects & is not promoting a hate book

~~New Orleans~~. A shame, many felt, because the worthwhile leads surfaced, like a possible connection of the CIA with the assassination business. Garrison was convinced "the Company" knew something about JFK, and he accused it with vigor, hoping to ignite interest and figuring that since the spooks wouldn't defend themselves publicly a congressional inquiry might result. But the Shaw trial stopped that, and it wasn't until 1975, when we learned Clay Shaw, and perhaps David Ferrie, was a part-time contract employee of the CIA, that Garrison's accusations made sense. Coupled with Ferrie's affection for big Mafia figures, and with the CIA-Mob alliance to assassinate Castro, we then had the makings of another plot.

attention from known earlier

not so

The CIA-Mafia-Big Labor Conglomerate: This one is hard to follow, and should be taken with the warning that even if a hundred coins tossed in the air fall to make a pattern, it doesn't mean the pattern is planned. It also doesn't mean a pattern isn't there. Start with David Ferrie. In addition to being a pilot, Ferrie was a homosexual (he and Shaw did know some of the same people in that world), a narcotics addict, a hypnotist (could he program ^{25222110,} some wondered), and gun enthusiast, and said to be involved in training anti-Castro commandos for the CIA (maybe Howard Hunt's bunch). An active little man afflicted with a disease causing his hair to fall out, Ferrie also worked ^{6/78} sometimes for a "private investigation" firm which handled the business of Carlos "The Little Man" Marcello, the godfather of Mafia operations throughout the Southwest ("a ^{not in this sense} respectable businessman," Garrison said). It was David Ferrie who flew Marcello home to New Orleans from Guatemala City after Robert Kennedy in his campaign (others called it a vendetta) against organized crime had

dot extra agency & for a lawyer who represented

part time for a loud

Something missing but Ferrie himself later used common oral planes. I know of no basis for saying he flew Marcello but he did do the investigation that won the case for Marcello, conviction above, & was in federal court on it when JFK was killed, need a better alibi? He was in the witness room with an FBI agent

Marcello strong-armed on an airplane and ported under dubious authority.

Understandably, Marcello detested Robert Kennedy. He also, as a Don, had reason to hate Jack Kennedy, who not only concurred with his brother's attacks on upstanding citizens like himself and Jimmy Hoffa, but also had blown the Bay of Pigs, losing the brotherhood's Havana casinos and whores and numbers and dope forever to the puritanical socialist Castro. A cool \$100 million a year in gambling alone. Marcello had been heard at a Mafioso meeting musing over getting a nut to kill Jack Kennedy, thus ridding himself of both Irishmen at one stroke. Hoffa, too, had said in 1962, he'd like to take Bobby Kennedy out, and when Jack Kennedy was killed, Hoffa rejoiced. Such similar sentiments from the two were not surprising. They had mutual interests and with others had some nice Mob-Labor arrangements, like plundering Teamster pension funds to buy such items as posh resorts, dope from Southeast Asia (a booming business unless Kennedy really intended, as was rumored, to cool off Vietnam), and juries who were hostile to Hoffa.

Not surprisingly, Ferrie was a ribid anti-Castro man. So, too, seemed to be the otherwise leftist Lee Harvey Oswald for a spell during his stay in New Orleans from late April, 1963, until late September, 1963. In August, he'd offered his services as a trained warrior to some prominent Cuban exiles. Could Ferrie have met Oswald around then as Garrison claimed? One informant, who later retracted his statement, said Ferrie not only knew Oswald but had trained him on a sniper's rifle and had visited him in Dallas. Other rumors had the teen-aged Oswald a cadet in Ferrie's Civil Air Patrol squadron. But there was no hard evidence for any of that. Ferrie couldn't help. He was

No connection in fact w/ Hoffa Marcello

didn't happen

How does this but a relate

*who said it
know?
This is over
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of no initials
use of Team
stars, records
& he offered
dope in
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*later
insane
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him in
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w/o license*

This also is false

one - crazy Russo

to this what Jim/Play by say or are there unquoted sources work down to me & clearly neither informed nor rational?

just before

found dead, reportedly of natural causes, days after Garrison named him as a conspirator. The most that can be said is that Ferrie might well have heard of Oswald. Lee was on television and radio during August, 1963, this time as a sane and articulate spokesman for Castro. The publicity resulted from Oswald's leafletting in behalf of his Fair Play for Cuba Committee in front of Clay Shaw's International Trade Mart. Another coincidence, certainly, just as Lee Oswald's ideological flip-flop may only have reflected a psychopathic craving for attention, but that didn't invalidate the questions. Was he Marcello's nut, or Ferrie-Shaw's patsy? Did anything weld all this in New Orleans, this center of various Cuban connections, to the events in Dallas?

false

- from arrest?

come from sleeping with perverts too long

Except to be ignorant

none

silly

Jack Ruby does, say some theorists. He was not just the little-league, strip-joint, always-a-hustle buffoon who tried everything from managing a 12-year-old black dancer named Sugar Daddy to peddling weight-reducing devices. Not just the man who loved dogs and couldn't be trusted with a secret, not just the sentimental slob who could cry over a peeler's problems yet liked beating drunks and carrying wads of dough and a pistol, no, he was also involved with big labor and through them, with Organized Crime, and through that, with killing John Kennedy. The line begins in Chicago where since adolescence Jacob Rubenstein (our Jack Ruby) associated with very rough trade, notably as Secretary of the Scrap Iron and Junk Handlers Union. Ruby was questioned but released after the Union's founder turned up shot to death. The Union fell to Paul Dorfman, an ally of Jimmy Hoffa during the 1950's in Hoffa's fight to succeed David Beck as Teamster's President after Robert Kennedy and the McClellan Committee drove Beck from office. (Bobby once ruefully remarked he had made Hoffa

Ruby was never more than a punk, never had any real \$\$. The money he had was fun-around\$. He has used bought checks for a long period, not a checking account. This is an enormous violation of any rule he could have had

all he was.) Ruby next turned up in Dallas running night clubs. Some police there thought he was a utility man for the Chicago Mob, acting to bribe police, co-ordinate some gambling operations, and facilitate narcotics traffic between Mexico and points north. The FBI in Dallas thought enough of Ruby in 1959 to ask him to inform on what they assumed were his small-time activities. But if his activities were as the theorists say, they surely would have been known to Marcello, whose turf Texas was.

All right, had not Jack Ruby in 1959 spent ten days in a Cuban hotel-casino with

NO

some of Marcello's business associates (the renowned Lansky brothers), and specifically as the guest of Lewis J. McWillie, a Dallas gentleman known as a gambler and murderer? Weren't those the good old pre-Castro days? Didn't Ruby also see McWillie, now violently anti-Castro, later in Las Vegas, where lots

after conclusion of -
to use phone

of Teamster and Mob business is conducted? Now throw in if you wish the presence in Dallas on November 22, in the Dal-Tex building from which many think

shots were fired, of one Eugene Hale Brading, and the organized crime angle becomes more acute. That's because Brading, visiting Big D ^{Justin} on parole in California, dropped by the offices of H.L. Hunt the same afternoon of November 21

? ?
How did you get that out of the bottom to TS

as did Ruby, and like Ruby, this Mr. Brading had long tendrils back to mob activities. Could he have collaborated with Ruby and Oswald in an assassination?

Despite the quantum leaps of logic to assume the Mafia, labor, and Hunt-style right-wing businessmen could stay in bed together long enough to conceive and bear this plot, the possibility is there. Voila! The skein of circumstances

is stretched. Marcello/Hoffa to Ferrie/Shaw to Ruby/Oswald. And all doubtless aided by the CIA, ^{whole} the theory goes. and was it true is it worth printing?

That comes about through the unholy alliance of Mafia and CIA which with-

There was no CIA in WWII & what a couple Mafia did then was patriotic, hardly an "unholy alliance"

out question began during World War II to secure Sicily for the allies. in
 Apparently the arrangement worked so well it was continued until the early
 1960's the CIA called on Cosa Nostra chieftan Sam "Momo" Giancana and his
 underling Johnny Roselli for help in doing away with the nettlesome Fidel Castro.
 Then ensued the now famous assassination schemes, and the laughable attempts
 to wreak chemical havoc on Castro's beard (David Ferrie might not have laughed).
 Fascinating, and beneath those facts lie others which don't yet fit in the
 puzzle. To wit! Sam Giancana's murder a few days before he was to tell what
 he knew about CIA assassination plots. The scandal of Judith Campbell Exner's
 affair with the assassinated President in view of the detail that she was
 Johnny Roselli's girlfriend, making people wonder if Kennedy knew about plots
 against Castro, and did he approve, and if he was killed in retaliation. The
 CIA's silence on speculations about its possible role, active or passive, in
 Kennedy's death, which some theorists take as a sign of guilt, others as a
 signal that the mob has enough on the CIA's nefarious carryings-on to blackmail
 the agency. The suppression of CIA and FBI files on Jack Ruby until 2039,
 which makes one ask why Ruby, if he knew anything, didn't speak up during the
 three years he lived after Kennedy's death, why he remained silent about all
 these possibilities. He didn't even mention who Lee Harvey Oswald might really
 have been.

But it was all told

Denial But silence is practise
 more mm-
 mm-
 no such
 The ma-
 could it be
 because there
 was nothing
 he could say

The Agent Oswald Question: No theory has received greater play than that Oswald was somebody's secret agent. Russian. Castro-Cuban. Anti-Castro Cuban. CIA. FBI. It is the central thesis. ^{of what?} It is fed by numerous curious occurrences, and no amount of caviling can make it go away. Rather, we can just go down the list

This does not seem to be presented as nut stuff

no changes

and create whatever conclusions we want. support the Russian-agent idea, theorists note that: Lee defected to Russia with minor radar secrets, and was an avowed Marxist both before and after; Marina Oswald's uncle was an important Soviet intelligence man; Lee spent most of his Russian stay in Minsk working in a radio factory with Cubans; Lee was in the hospital for 12 days in early March, 1961, during which time he might have been conditioned to kill Kennedy or had radio components (yes!) installed in him, becoming a transistorized Manchurian Candidate; the Oswalds had little trouble leaving Russia, a great rarity for defectors and their wives; the Oswalds spent much time among Russians in Dallas, any one of who might have been a deep-cover Soviet agent; that Yuri Nosenko's defection seemed designed to convince the U.S. that Russia had nothing to do with the assassination (the Soviet leaders went to a lot of trouble to establish that Oswald was not a KGB man). Arguing against any of that, of course, is the sheer insanity of ^AKruschev ordering ^AKennedy killed. If discovered, that maneuver could leave the world a smoking hulk, or at least Minsk.

To support the Castro-agent theory, there is almost no evidence, physical or otherwise, except Oswald's New Orleans huckstering in favor of Havana, and the supposition that Castro ordered the assassination because he was angry about the Bay of Pigs and those Mafiosa running around his Island trying to kill him. Lyndon Johnson, not long before his death, opined Castro might have been involved. But killing Kennedy, had it leaked, would have sparked an invasion making D-Day look like a yachting exercise. In fact, if anybody wanted to overthrow Castro, they should have tried to pin the assassination on him. Why didn't anti-Castro people do just that? Which brings us to the next hypothesis.

There is some evidence that Cuban exiles and their American allies in the CIA-run commando schools schemed to do away with Kennedy. But it's fragile

How does this fit with ~~Castro~~ Odis?

?

so maybe she, too, was an agent!
No Russians?

and he preferred JFK

which is not this years earlier.

they did

stuff. A woman named Silvia Odio, the daughter of Cubans imprisoned by Castro, told the Warren Commission staff that on September 25, 1963, three men visited her in Dallas. They came from New Orleans. Two were either Cuban or Mexican, and the other was the Omnipresent "Leon Oswald." One of the men suggested "Oswald" could help in the underground activities against Castro, and Mrs. Odio--whose testimony was corroborated by her sister--said the next day one of the men called her to say "Oswald" was a former Marine, an expert rifleman, and possessed of the opinion that "President Kennedy should have been killed after the Bay of Pigs." This was hearsay, but the rest of Mrs. Odio's story merited attention since Mrs. Odio unhesitatingly identified photographs of Oswald as the man who visited her. But that couldn't be. The Warren Commission had satisfied itself that their Oswald on September 25 was on a bus from New Orleans to Mexico, in quest of the visa he wanted to Cuba. The FBI was told to investigate Odio's story in more depth. *Not until September, when it was all over*

Late in September, 1964--the Report was already written--the FBI reported they had found a Loran Eugene Hall (equals "Oswald" if you're hard of hearing) who claimed he had visited Mrs. Odio that day with two other men, neither of them Oswald. Unfortunately, the other two men denied it and in time it was revealed not only that Hall retracted his story, but that Hall was a well-known anti-Castro American (reportedly associated with Frank Sturgis) who told Jim Garrison that he'd been at a meeting during which the assassination was discussed by CIA contract employees. The mind reels. And the riddle remains until today. ?

So, too, do the other anti-Castro trails. There is Robert McKeown, an admitted gun-runner from Texas, who says Jack Ruby once visited him to talk

No credit to © CBS, only source whether or not true

61

about providing arms for Cuban-exile communists. Not only that, Lee Harvey Oswald himself once visited McKeown with another man to dicker about four high-powered rifles. Sadly for conspiracy buffs, people familiar with McKeown's personality say he often lies. Consider, then, Nancy Perrin Rich, wife of a former gun-runner, who said she was with Jack Ruby and an Army colonel at meetings held to arrange arms shipments to Cuba. Mrs. Rich, though, was angry with Ruby at the time for slapping her around when she worked at Ruby's Carousel Club.

What about Oswald as a CIA agent? Many theorists believe the CIA is everywhere in the Kennedy story, for that matter everywhere, period. Mae Brussell, an otherwise lovable lady who publishes the Conspiracy Newsletter, just knows the CIA did John Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy, and all the foreign leaders, ^{besides} setting up fronts like the S.L.A. and I.R.A., and all the while recruiting agents as far-flung as I.F. Stone and Nicholas von Hoffman. Obviously, Ms. Brussell and her sprouts Paul Krassner and Dick Gregory are extremists. More sober analysts see CIA tracks only in specific places. They assume that if the Russians, as Yuri Nosenko said, thought Oswald was a CIA agent, then maybe he was. What happened, some suggest, is that the CIA contacted Oswald and told him while in the Marines to become a Marxist. Then defect, marry into Soviet intelligence, find out what you can, and come on back. A perfect mission for an amateur spy. But no, say other theorists. What really happened is that the CIA arranged an early hardship discharge for Oswald (the Marines say it was routine). Then a switch was made. The real Oswald was put on ice while a CIA phony-Oswald took his place as a defector (incidentally, if the Russians did implant something in this dude, what a surprise for him it must have been).

After nearly three years in Russia the C^o phony-Oswald came back and the real Oswald took his place. The entire line of reasoning for all this is too tortuous to recount here, but some salient notions bear mentioning (we will ignore Margurite Oswald's ^{claim} that her son was an agent who had died in his country's service and so should, like Kennedy, be buried at Arlington). For instance, the visa stamps in the passport Oswald carried when he defected show him getting from England to Finland at times when there is no commercial airline flight. So, it's said, he had to go by CIA "black plane." Concerning passports, it must also be noted that in New Orleans Oswald applied for a passport one day and got it the next. Strange, eh? But then twenty-four other people who applied that same time also got their passports. *overnight?* What about the fact that Oswald's height and eye color vary widely at different times as recorded on Marine Corps records, passport applications, FBI files, and police autopsy records. This surely is evidence of multiple Oswalds, maybe of a plot by elements of the CIA to set up the real Oswald as a decoy. Likewise, theorists point out, the official Dallas police photo of Oswald shows a man quite different in facial structure from the chubby-cheeked youth pictured in Minsk. Further, one photo of Marina and Lee in Russia shows him very little taller than his five-foot three-inch wife, although that Lee Oswald's passport has him five-eleven and the Lee Oswald measured in the Dallas morgue was five-foot-nine. Such contradictions are not inexplicable. Clerks make errors, people do fib about their size, photo angles can be deceptive, and a face's fatness or thinness can change, as death-camp photos attest (the ear shape does not alter though, and the ears of the Dallas-Oswald, the Marines-Oswald, and the Russian-Oswald all match). Even so, it's remarkable all these

things should congregate around the assassination of an American President.

It's odd, too, that this Lee Harvey Oswald should in September, 1963, decide to go to Mexico, there to seek, according to the Report, a visa for Cuba and permission to re-enter Russia. The Warren Commission's evidence indicated Oswald's domestic life now was so bad, and his commitment to Marxism now so strong, that he had decided/ (Marina said Oswald had considered hijacking an airliner to Cuba, but she demurred). Oswald stayed in Mexico, the report says, for a week (his *tourist* cards show that) seeking the visa, but being rebuffed by both countries despite his sympathy for them as evidenced in Minsk and New Orleans.) (Nosenko said the KGB ordered the Soviet Embassy in Mexico to refuse re-entrance to this perplexing man.) Oswald then, frustrated and angry, returned to Dallas, to his menial jobs and deteriorating marriage, and soon he killed the President. ^{he had next better job in USSR} ^{So} Where is Oswald's connection with the CIA in this? Well, skipping over the fact that Howard Hunt was in Mexico just then, we go to two things.

The evidence does not say it

Str and man

not

I don't think it was this way

First, when the FBI found out about Oswald's Mexican sojourn, they asked the CIA if they might have a picture of Oswald visiting the Cuban or Soviet Embassies. They asked because the CIA had surreptitious cameras recording most visits. A picture came that showed a burly man, about thirty-five, who looked nothing like Oswald. The CIA-theorists pounced. The man had to be (a) another Oswald (b) the mysterious assassin named Saul (c) Oswald's CIA contact or "baby sitter." The CIA vehemently denies this, saying they sent a picture of an unidentified man who might have been Lee Harvey Oswald, but they didn't know. The FBI screwed up by saying this was a picture of Oswald

no

not FBI

sent up by the CIA, who in fact had no picture of Oswald. Theorists immediately asked, is it possible that the CIA had no substantial dossier on Oswald, a known defector and Communist sympathizer? That they didn't know what he looked like? Wasn't this burly man, then, somebody who said he was Lee Harvey Oswald, and hence, might he not have been a co-conspirator? Good question. ?

The second item is the story of "D". "D" was a Latin agent who declared he saw Lee Harvey Oswald in Mexico City accept \$6,500 to kill the President. "D" said Oswald received the money in the Cuban consulate from a tall, slender black man with dyed red hair (theorists at once recalled witnesses who said they saw such a man in the Depository), and then exclaimed he sure was man enough to do the job. A titillating story, but after prolonged investigation and questioning, "D" admitted he'd made the whole thing up. His story vanished into the maw of other rumors about Mexico, about Oswald flying there secretly in September for his assassination instructions, about Chinese Communists plotting there with Cubans to kill Kennedy, about E. Howard Hunt co-ordinating the assassination from Mexico. ?

Finally, we are left with the possibility that Oswald worked for the CIA, but with no absolute proof. William Colby, recently deposed as CIA Director, said Oswald certainly did not work for them, and that the Agency had only rudimentary information on the man. The FBI was responsible for minor defectors, Colby said.

Was Oswald with the FBI? Certainly he was in contact with them. Oswald's notebook contained the name, phone number, and license number for FBI agent James Hosty. The Bureau says that is because Hosty had the duty of interviewing

Cont. cited by WSSR

Marina and Lee to see if they were hard-core Communists, something J. Edgar Hoover wasn't fond of. It's also true that Oswald delivered a threatening note to Hosty just before the assassination, which Hosty or somebody ordered destroyed.

The FBI ^{alleges} that the note referred only to Oswald's anger about the harassment of Marina. ^{Does that mean} (The FBI covered-up its existence until it came out in 1975 only because it made them seem lax. They were, of course.

one detective only

Everybody wonders if the note didn't threaten the President. Even the suspect Dallas police reported that Hosty, within two hours after the killing, said he knew Oswald was capable of committing the crime. If so, why wasn't Oswald locked up? Especially if, as former FBI clerk Mr. William Walter alleges,

there was a special teletype sent November 17 from the FBI's Washington headquarters to the offices in Mobile, New Orleans and Dallas warning that an attempt might be made to assassinate the President on November 22, by a "militant revolutionary group." The FBI says they have no record of such a message, though they admit they received information from the Miami police department about a wire-tapped conversation involving a plot by white racists to kill the President with a rifle sometime soon. Why with these warnings didn't the FBI corral Oswald? The most cynical critics say because somebody in the FBI wouldn't have minded seeing Kennedy and his pushy brother eliminated. Bobby was ^{on} ~~extraordinarily~~ Hoover with his organized-crime crusade (the Bureau had not disturbed that sleeping dog much), and Jack, Hoover knew from wire-taps on Giancana, was slavering over women in a most un-Presidential way, leaving

the Chief Executive open to blackmail which might endanger ^{the nation.} (Enter Oswald,) whom the FBI had over a barrel.

Play by
Play this or
another enemy
arms not

Alas, we have no proof. The teletype Mr. Walter swears exists has never been found. It could have been suppressed like Oswald's threat to Hosty, but Mr. Walter was questioned by reporters at least twenty times about the message's existence and given a lie-detector test. He failed it. Another influential story, generated by a reporter named Lonnie Hudkins, proclaimed Oswald was an FBI informant. As proof Hudkins even offered Oswald's "pay number": S-172. What's not widely known is that Hugh Aynsworth, another reporter and long-time student of the Kennedy killing, simply made up that number because Hudkins was continually bugging him for inside stuff on the case. Of such stuff are assassination-nightmares made.

*No
factual*

In sum, while there are several leads that should be thoroughly re-investigated, there is nothing that now proves Lee Harvey Oswald was anybody's agent other than his own. For those who have stayed with this tangled tale this far, that may be anticlimactic. Of course, a climax might come if we could learn what the CIA, for example, really knew or knows about Lee Harvey Oswald. The Agency's former employees like Victor Marchetti, author of The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence, are sure William Colby did not tell the whole truth in saying that until Oswald visited Mexico the Agency had almost nothing on him.

Two of the seven Warren Commission members--Allen Dulles and John McCloy--
~~were, respectively, a former Director of the CIA and a founder of its World War II predecessor, the OSS.~~ And like the FBI, the CIA was checking up on itself. It could be climactic, too, if the FBI who hurt their *believability* by destroying pertinent documents, and who we now know had their own "dirty tricks" division to harass the likes of Martin Luther King--would open all their files on the Oswalds and their acquaintances. It would help, too,

Mil itary govt State Dept

*down
was*

if the FBI's investigation for the Warren Commission--the only investigation--were supplemented by another conducted by investigators with no sins to cover-up, no case to prove, no political masters to please, no ideology to protect.

Only then will these serious speculations and suspicions be either confirmed or confounded. We may even then be free of the more idiotic notions which distract us from the plausible alternatives to the Warren Commission's Report.

Free of George O'Toole's contention that "psychological stress evaluations" of six words of Oswald's show he's not guilty. After all, O'Toole is a former CIA agent, too, and who believes them? Certainly not polygraph experts who say if their machine, which measures six galvanic responses, can't be trusted, how can analysis of a tape-recorded voice? Besides which, Oswald himself turned down a polygraph test while asserting his innocence.

Free of Fletcher Prouty's belief in a gigantic plot in which the CIA, FBI, Teamsters, Mafia, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, Army Intelligence, and the Warren Commission itself are "all pawns" of a cabal "able to influence the travel plans of the President, the Vice President and a Presidential candidate (Nixon) and all members of the Kennedy cabinet . . . powerful enough to have orders issued to the Army, and able to mount a massive campaign to control the media during and after the assassination . . . able to have Jack Ruby kill Oswald and to transfer jurisdiction of the murder from Texas and then to effectively control the outcome of the Warren Commission review." Mr. Prouty is a retired military Colonel, and once served as liqson between the Pentagon and the CIA, but he's clean. He was in New Zealand when Kennedy was killed. Unless the cabal . . .

*non-
signature*

Free of Hugh C. McDonald and his "Saw" the Assassin, that unnamed, unavailable, unverifiable killer who may well have sprung from McDonald's head along with his belief that the Russians are all the time giving us the flu by firing small germ-infested rockets into the jet stream.

Free of all the nut-stuff, of all the paranoia, of all the fantasizing about the malevolent forces which control our destiny. We control our destiny, or should.

We can find out if Oswald truly was a pitiable young man whose closet was stuffed full of big ideas--"Hands off Cuba!," "The Road to Socialism," "The Coming American Revolution"--but whose small life hemmed him in, defeated him until, to justify himself, he took history by the horns and went to work with his rifle and killed our President. Or we can learn if he truly was an agent of our own institutions, or of some foreign antagonist, or of a small group of ourselves, of Americans who succumbed to the black, unreasoning hatred and violence which John Kennedy knew was the greatest danger to free men.

We need to know, and we can. The Texas statute of limitations for conspiracy has expired for any conspirators still resident there. Someone who knows about a plot to kill Kennedy could now come forward without fear of prosecution. We have the physical evidence. We have the other important leads. The necessary legal and investigative staff could quickly be assembled.

To these ends, we believe a new Commission should be convened--an impartial, representative panel of Americans, dedicated only to discovering the facts and destroying the fictions about the murder of our 35th President. Admittedly, knowledge is finite, and truth is not synonymous with data. We know human life operates only within probabilities. Yet the Warren Report is not

Pointing to who did? Tell me the piece.

a dem? →

- what?

Are you taking the position you want FORD to appoint another Commission? When he was on this one? Who besides the ghosts of Dulles & Hoover? Belin to be dissected?

probable enough. We need more, and to that end suggest a new investigative commission composed of:

Who can by here identify them?

Many will disagree with these nominees. Let us have others then. Many will say we already know enough. But how can we when there remain so many legitimate questions? How can we when in surveying the time since John Kennedy's death we see it strewn with war, riots, the assassinations of King and another Kennedy, a Vice President cashiered, a corrupt President driven from office, another installed by appointment, and we think perhaps all these events are related, that something infected us in Dealey Plaza, and has since putrified and poisoned our vital processes. Perhaps finding out for good who killed John Fitzgerald Kennedy we may heat our own hearts and minds so grievously afflicted then, and ever since. Surely we cannot want less than that.

Is this truly the
actual question & do you
really believe there any
one else the winner when the
book was designed to avoid all such
inconceivable, to make the best possible case
against Oswald & no more. Who not a nut
has heard of a school due to who really did the killing

28 + pick up on 29
37 - extreme 38 more so

42 - basic misdirection
of what happened at the

autopsy - ~~was~~

in comment & mis-
pretations
out of letter - ~~Drum~~ - ~~press~~

Take positions when you
should not do so when
you should - ~~Drum~~ - ~~press~~

lack of identification - by
name - makes strong

widely out in use, as the
play is in effect - is it
48 - Oswald Party - ~~is it~~
worth as much as a P.

- Beginning 31 - ~~had~~
bad handling of mat stuff

not clear to average reader
That it is mostly & hence
difficult to ~~do~~
noise middle 36