

7-8/77

Assassination Update

On June 30, 1977, RICHARD E. SPRAGUE, longtime assassination researcher (not Richard A. Sprague, former Chief Counsel), told AIB he had become the 1st outside paid consultant to the HSCA. Sprague had been doing consulting work with the HSCA since last fall; now he will be paid on a per diem basis for his work. The HSCA (i.e., Dep. Chief Counsel Tannenbaum) is relying on Sprague for help in examining the photographic evidence. Robert Groden is also expected to become a paid consultant in this area. We are pleased that the HSCA recognizes the importance of seeking assistance from independent citizen experts, and we hope that a fruitful working relationship with the critical community will develop. With this in mind, the AIB has submitted a list of responsible researchers and critics to the new Chief Counsel...

Rep. John B. Anderson (R-Ill.) resigned from the HSCA in April because of other committee assignments—he had just been named the ranking Republican on the ad hoc Select Committee on Energy. HAROLD S. SAWYER (R-5th Dist., Mich.—Gerald Ford's old Grand Rapids Dist.), age 57, was named to fill the Anderson vacancy. Sawyer is the only Freshman on the 12-member HSCA and will serve on the JFK Subcm. Sawyer is the former prosecutor from Kent County, Mich. In March, during the Sprague-Gonzalez controversy, Sawyer voted against the House bill to reconstitute the investigation. He told a reporter in April that he had "serious misgivings" about a Congressional probe. He is concerned that the investigation could turn into a "witchhunt" by "publicity seeking Congressmen", and that the national media attention could attract "kooks" with unfounded accusations...

The late comedian, FREDDIE PRINZE, played an instrumental role in locating a long-sought JFK witness. Prinze, a committed assassination follower, who showed the Zapruder Film to friends wherever he went, had been in regular communication with a well-known researcher for some time. In early '76 Prinze called from Miami and the researcher alerted him that if he was interested in lending a helping hand, he might try to locate a witness sought after for questioning by the Senate Intelligence Com. The witness, identified by Jack Anderson as "Mr. X" and more recently in New Times as

"Carlos", had proved elusive to Senate investigators. But Prinze, with the aid of a Miami phonebook, was able to find the man and passed the information on to the researcher...

WILLEM OLTMANS, the Dutch journalist who had been very close with George deMohrenschildt, called a press conference in D.C. for June 21st, during which he was supposed to have announced his discovery of the "Deep Throat" of the JFK case, who could reveal the murderers of JFK. As it turned out, Oltmans never showed up, and has been missing and out of contact since that time. Sources close to Oltmans consider this kind of behavior atypical, and some expressed concern. (Oltmans had also disappeared for 10 days in March; this coincided exactly with the disappearance of deMohrenschildt just before his reappearance and suicide.) Other observers, however, believe that Oltmans' public antics around the JFK case significantly detracted from the HSCA's work by calling attention to sensational and unreliable allegations which, even if they originated from deMohrenschildt himself, cannot be taken seriously. Oltmans' latest ploy (the press conference which never happened) was, in effect, a slap at the HSCA, because he claimed his information was so profound that he could relate it only to Pres. Carter directly. The contradictions in the stories told by Oltmans to various researchers over the years raise serious questions about his own motivations...

The continuing saga of SIRHAN SIRHAN's search for his true identity inched forward during the past month. On June 2nd, attorney Godfrey Isaacs announced that Sirhan wants to go back to the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel where JFK was shot, to try and remember if he was a "manchurian candidate" programmed to commit the killing. Sirhan maintained during his trial that he went into a trance before the killing and did not "come to" until afterwards. Sirhan also told L.A. County officials interested in reopening the case that he has studied the second gun theory and he "hopes it is correct." Sirhan's memory gaps raise serious and frightening questions that have never been dealt with satisfactorily by previous official RFK probes. Perhaps the CIA's LSD experiments were just the tip of the mind control iceberg...

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