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Heated Comments from the Publisher

Gallery Challenges CBS Television, Time Magazine, and The New York Times

on the Whitewash of the Assassination of John F. Kennedy

It is often said that, in any nation, "the people get the kind of government they deserve."

Rather than face the hard, uncomfortable facts of life in an unpleasant situation, a careless and lazy people will often choose to accept soft, placating reassurances from those to whom they have turned over the burdens of leadership.

Sugar-coated candy may be easier to swallow than medicine, but it doesn't cure an illness.

Which brings us to the heart of a problem that you must decide whether to face up to or run away from.

In November 1963, when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, we were, for the most part, still a nation of "believers." It was before Watergate . . . before the revelations of illegal CIA and FBI activities . . . and, for most of us, it was unthinkable that our government could ever participate in any form of cover-up in connection with a serious crime.

In that mood of blind and unswerving faith, most of us accepted without question the findings of the Warren Commission. During the more than twelve years since its report, however, thousands of Americans did continue to ask questions. Through painstaking, detailed research, they compiled a list of facts which, when put together, added up to a strong case against the Commission's "lone-assassin" and "single-bullet" theories.

At the very least, there now exists enough evidence to destroy the idea that Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin beyond a reasonable doubt. Those last four words, beyond a reasonable doubt, are at the core of the issue before the American public.

There is now enough of a doubt to have convinced more than sixty U.S. Congressmen to sign a petition calling for the reopening of the assassination hearings. An article in the October issue of Gallery brought thousands of petitions from our readers calling for a rehearing. And it is likely that millions of Americans feel the same way.

Whichever theory you personally believe, is it not a case important enough to deserve a full legal investigation?

Unfortunately, too few Americans are aware of how the Warren Commission actually operated: the seven members actually met in full session only several times; that the Commission members were shown only twenty-six photos of the incident, even though more than five hundred were avail-

able (the FBI selected the photos to be shown); that almost none of the Commission members ever actually read all of the testimony, and that the Commission's official conclusions were not held unanimously by all its members.

Why is it, then, that such highly respected "establishment" news media as Time Magazine, CBS-TV, and The New York Times have consistently taken a stand against reopening the hearings?

I, for one, cannot understand their out-and-out refusal to provide the American people with an open and thoroughly conducted hearing designed to raise the questions that most assuredly remain unanswered. This "negative" media coverage threatens to destroy any chance of new hearings by ridiculing them, and strongly smacks of another kind of cover-up.

If you, as an individual American, turn this page after reading the following article and let the situation continue to exist without taking action on your own behalf as a citizen, then you deserve to lose your right to know. And you will have proven once again the old saying with which I opened this page.

My own letters to my Congressman and Senators were sent long ago, insisting on a reopening of the hearings. Did you send your letter? Do you even know who your Congressional representatives are? Think about it. Read the following article. Then do something about it.—Steve Saunders

THE GUNS OF DALLAS: UPDATE

by L. Fletcher Prouty

The assassins of President John F. Kennedy and the men who hired them are still at large, while most of the news media in this country try to convince us that the Kennedy assassination is a closed case. But the crime of murder is not protected by statutes of limitation, and this murder cannot be legally re-

solved without the action of a properly constituted court in the state where the killing took place. The Warren Commission's designation of Lee Harvey Oswald as the "lone assassin" was just that—a designation—and no more. Oswald is not the legal killer of the President until a proper court in Texas

so decides, and so long as the news media of this country keep telling us that the case is settled, we are not getting the business of the courts done.

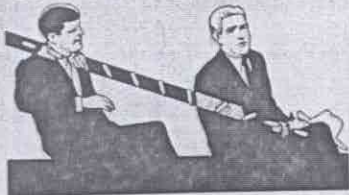
This is a challenge to the news media, and specifically to Time, The New York Times, and CBS, to properly support and clarify their most recent

cover-up fantasies, or face the facts of the case.

The Warren Commission, and news media cover-up scenario can be seen to break down over one contrived drawing (see Fig. 1). This drawing appeared in the November 24, 1975 issue of *Time*. Similar drawings were used by Dan Rather in the CBS television inquiry, "The American Assassins," and by *The Times*. The crude drawing originated with the Warren Commission.

As you know, the entire Warren Commission case rests on the single-bullet theory. A bullet fired by Oswald, the Commission said, hit JFK in the back of the neck, exited his throat, hit Governor John Connally of Texas in the back, broke five inches of his right rib

COURSE OF TUMBLING BULLET



PATHS OF TWO BULLETS THAT STRUCK JOHN KENNEDY

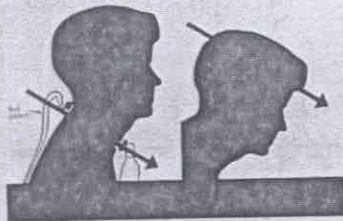


Figure 1: Illustrations in support of the "single-bullet" theory that appeared in *Time*, November 24, 1975. Note depiction of "bunched up" suit coat.

bone, exited his chest, broke two bones in his right wrist and continued on to pierce his left thigh, a fragment of the bullet lodging in the thigh bone where it remains to this day. And we are asked to believe that this bullet was not found in JFK or Connally, but was discovered forty-five minutes later in the Parkland Hospital by the senior engineer there, Darrell Tomlinson, when he heard it rattle and fall as he "kicked a stretcher into place" against a wall. That is the inviolate, mystical, magical, single-bullet theory upon which hangs the whole Warren Commission fable as seconded most recently by *Time*, *The Times*, and CBS. Even the most credulous would be tempted to call the theory preposterous, and when you see a picture of the "pristine" bullet (Fig. 2), you know it's a lie.



Figure 2: The "miracle" bullet, shown here, plays a key role in the "single-bullet" theory. How could this bullet that, according to the Warren Commission and its supporters in the news media, struck JFK in the neck and then entering John Connally broke bones in his chest and arm have kept its "pristine" form, not mushrooming or breaking up as ballistics experts claim it should have.



Figure 3: From the location in JFK's suit coat of the bullet hole, shown here five to six inches below the coat's collar, it was necessary for supporters of the "single-bullet" theory to assert that Kennedy's coat was "bunched up" so that, according to them, the bullet entered Kennedy's neck, not his back.

Look at the *Time* drawing carefully. Note that the path of the first, or "miracle" bullet, the one that pierced Kennedy's tie, is sharply slanted downwards. This is because their story says

that the assassin was on the sixth floor shooting steeply downwards. Now let's work on this point by point.

The frontal throat wound—point of exit, they say—is at a known point. This is indisputable. Furthermore, the knot of the President's tie was created by the same bullet. Therefore, this put the burden on the news media to make it appear that the "entry" wound in the back of the neck was high enough to line up with the line of trajectory from the sixth floor (Pictures show JFK seated upright in no unusual posture). So they placed that wound where the drawn arrow entered the back of the neck (see *Time* drawing). But they had a problem.

The suit coat the President was wearing is well preserved. It has a bullet hole about five and one-half inches below the collar line (see Fig. 3). The Warren Commission and the news media were well aware of this, so they created a contrived picture to show, as *Time* said, the coat "bunched up." Note the *Time* drawing again. *Time* said, "The hole in Kennedy's suit jacket also had seemed too low . . . the experts believe that his raised right arm bunched up the top of the jacket." They wanted us to believe that the "bunched up" jacket was the reason a bullet could have pierced it five and one-half inches down and yet enter JFK's neck. Here they got caught in their lie.

The news media have shown us the suit coat and the drawing, but what about the President's shirt? Any hole in the coat must be accompanied by a similar hole in the shirt. The shirt is also well preserved, and it shows a bullet hole that corresponds to the hole in the jacket, if the jacket is neatly down and "unbunched" (see Fig. 4).

Time and CBS made use of the infamous Zapruder film, taken by by-standing, amateur photographer Abraham Zapruder, to show that JFK's right arm was raised, waving to on-lookers just as he was hit. They would have us believe that that is all the proof there is. But a frame of the Zapruder film showing JFK seconds before he was shot shows him sitting in a relaxed position. His hand is slightly raised, but his arm is not (see Fig. 5). The President was seated in a relaxed manner in his car, and in some pictures you can even see a slight bit of white shirt collar above the coat, and the coat is definitely not "bunched up."

Furthermore, it is utterly preposterous to believe that the shirt, tucked in with shirt-tails and held in place by a tie, could have "bunched up" as they want us to believe. The shirt was in place. The coat was in place.

Take a look at the drawing again (we must contend with drawings because the relevant autopsy photos have not

been released). The President was sitting erect and looking a little to his right. The bullet that hit him slammed into his back right where the coat and shirt show it, and, incidentally, where the doctors at Parkland Hospital said it hit and where the doctor who performed the autopsy at Bethesda Naval Hospital said it hit.

Weigh each of the above points carefully. Those simple facts demolish the contrived Warren Commission single-bullet theory and the Lee Harvey Oswald "lone assassin" theory all at once. Let's see why.

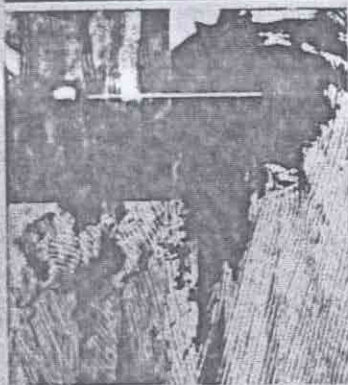


Figure 4: JFK's shirt showing close-up of bullet's entrance hole. Even if JFK's suit coat were bunched up (the pictorial evidence shows it was not), the shirt which was tucked in and held down with a tie could not have been bunched up also, proving that the *Time* illustration (Fig. 1) is false.

The Secret Service, on November 28, 1963 just six days after JFK's murder, filed its official report and said that three bullets, only, were fired. They said the first hit JFK, the second hit Connally and the third hit JFK. On December 9, 1963 the FBI turned in its report and said three bullets, only, were fired and that two hit JFK and one hit Connally. But later it was shown that one bullet had missed entirely, hitting the curb. So on September 27, 1964 the Warren Commission filed its report and said that three bullets, only, were fired and that one hit JFK and Connally, one hit JFK and killed him, and one missed.

The whole case is built on that fabric. Now you see why the "bunched up" coat is so important. If a bullet did in fact hit Kennedy near his shoulder blade, then you can't get that bullet to turn sharply up and go through the neck and exit precisely at the right place in the throat to hit the necktie and continue on the path of the contrived "miracle" bullet. That damn "miracle" bullet would be hard to believe even if

there was a hole in the right place in the coat and shirt, but with the hole five and a half inches out of line, it is just way out. And there goes the "single bullet" theory.

Let's see where this leaves the Warren Commission report. If the first bullet hit JFK's back, then it couldn't have gone on to seriously injure Connally. That would have to be bullet number one. They have had to admit that one bullet missed and struck the curb. So that is two bullets. Then the fatal bullet, the one shown on Zapruder frame number 313 (see Fig. 6), killed the President by blowing the top of his head off. So that is number three. But then, alas, what bullet did so much damage to Connally? Some "experts" conjure up that a fragment from the lethal bullet that hit JFK's head may have smashed into Connally's wrist and thigh. Could be. But what about the bullet that went through the Governor?

One of the strange things about the Warren Commission report is that they have the testimony of John Connally and of his wife and they both agree that the second bullet hit Connally. He says he heard the first one and turned to his right to look at the President. The films support this. Then, because he was on a little jump seat, he couldn't turn all the way and he began to turn back, to his left. At that moment he was slammed in the back and badly wounded. His wife confirms that she, too, turned to look at the President. She saw his face contorted and then she heard the bullet slam into her husband's back. This fits all the real evidence, but the wizards of the Warren Commission staff totally ignored the Connally's testimony and created the fantasy of the "single bullet."

Frame of Zapruder Film

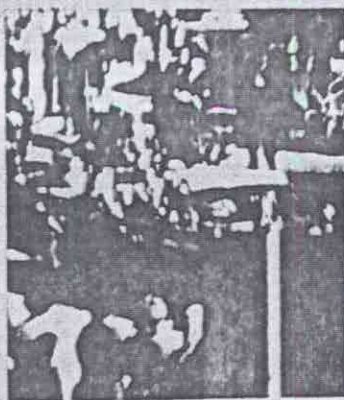


Figure 5: Seconds before he was shot, JFK was acknowledging onlookers. Note, however, the relaxed level of his right hand and elbow. His left arm appears to be at his side.

Now this is rather strange. Why create such an untenable problem for themselves? They had no alternative save a finding of conspiracy. They were stuck with Oswald and his sixth-floor lair. And they were stuck with the reality that one man could not have fired more than three shots in the few seconds during which Kennedy was a visible target from that location.

The JFK murder was perhaps the most photographed crime ever. We know of at least five hundred photographs taken before, during, and after the shooting—all within the space of one hour. There were at least seventy-five photographers on the scene, thirty of whom were professionals from newspapers, television, and photographic agencies. But the Commission saw only twenty-six of these pictures and the FBI limited its examination to some fifty of the five hundred. The Commission principals interviewed only four of the professional photographers and saw only about a dozen of

Zapruder Frame Number 313

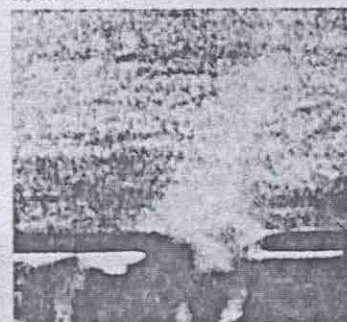


Figure 6: The fatal bullet strikes JFK.

their several hundred pictures. That's not exactly an intensive effort.

Let's look at one of the pictures they did see. Even before Oswald was killed by Jack Ruby, someone had come up with the picture that appeared on the cover of *Life* magazine. This picture, which appeared again in the November 24, 1975 *Time*, purports to show Lee Harvey Oswald holding his 6.5-mm. Italian Mannlicher-Carcano rifle (see Figs. 7 and 8). Again, let's look carefully at how the media play games with us.

First of all *Time* severely cropped the picture. If you have all of the picture, you can see the mismatch of the shadows, and, as Sylvia Meagher demonstrated years ago, you can measure Oswald's height and the length of the gun and find that they do not match. Before he died, Oswald saw that mismatched picture and said that it was his head but not his body. Note the doctored picture and the crude line at the chin. Another media goof.

When CBS was putting on its November, 1975 program, "The American Assassins," it advertised with a large composite showing pictures of many of the JFK murder prin-

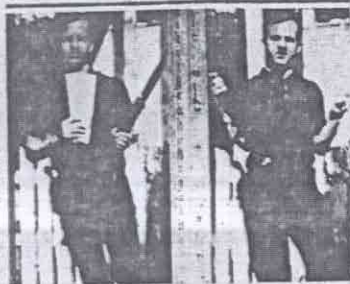


Figure 7: Picture of man purported to be Oswald standing with rifle, left, appeared on cover of *Life*, February 21, 1964 and in *Time*, November 24, 1975. Both photos were found in Oswald's garage the day after the assassination. Photo analysis shows that although in the picture, right, the man's head is tilted, the shape and position of the shadow beneath his nose in both pictures is identical, supporting claims that the photos were altered.



Figure 8: Enlargements of photo that appeared on the cover of *Life* are shown here. Broken line indicates where a picture of Oswald's head was glued onto the photo of another man's body.



Figure 9: Lee Harvey Oswald in custody in Dallas the day of JFK's assassination. CBS used a cropped version of this photo in an ad for their "The American Assassins" inquiry into the death of JFK. Note structure of Oswald's chin and compare with Figures 8 and 9. UPI

cipals. In the upper left corner was a picture of Oswald. (Fig. 9 is the picture of Oswald CBS used for its ad.) Note that he has the characteristic narrow chin with a slight cleft. Now look back at the *Life* and *Time* mismatch picture, the one with the gun. Look at that chin. See it is broad and with no cleft. That is not Oswald.

By now we see a pattern. It is hard to believe that the news media after all these years and with all of their experts can't see these things themselves. What does this make them? Are they just presenting the material casually? In other words, are they ignorant? Or do they know what they are doing and they are being used or controlled? Or are they part of the cover-up?

Let's look further into the story fabrication. In 1967, when CBS did a major four-part documentary series on this same theme, they hired a company, Edgerton, Germeshausen and Grier, to make an analysis of the Zapruder film. Their analysis indicated that the shots were fired at frames numbered 186, 223, and 313. It should be noted that the real value of the Zapruder film is that it served not only as a continuous recorder of the shooting of the President, but also as a clock. The FBI tested Zapruder's camera and found that it ran at precisely 18.3 frames per second. Although they did not say it during their broadcast, these tests confronted CBS with a serious problem relative to the three-shots theory.

Tests had shown that only a rare expert could operate the bolt action of Oswald's gun at less than 2.5 seconds and even then accuracy was very low. If you figure out the indicated frame times, you find that the time between shot one and shot two was about 2.03 seconds and then to shot three it was 4.93 seconds. No one had ever fired that gun that fast. CBS remained silent on that, but ran some additional and unusually contrived tests.

They had E.G. & G. test a crate of cameras similar to the one Zapruder used. They found that other cameras timed the three shots in 6.90 seconds, 7.30 seconds, 6.70 seconds, 8.35 seconds, and 6.16 seconds. The idea they were trying to sell was that it was not the shooting time that went wrong, it was the camera variation. In their haste to back up a lie, they ignored the fact that the only camera that mattered was the camera Zapruder used, and the FBI had already tested that camera for the Warren Commission and found that it ran at 18.3 frames a second.

In their November, 1975 presentation CBS employed a photo-analysis firm called Itek, which asserted that the movement of Kennedy's head upon the impact of the fatal shot was consistent with the shot's having been fired

from the rear. There has been much comment about alleged CIA connections of Itek officials, and as a matter of further interest, we wonder if CBS originally contracted with E.G. & G. because they knew that the company was practically an offspring of the CIA and had proved itself useful in a number of highly classified and specialized CIA projects as far back as the mid-Fifties?

CBS spent most of the second hour of its presentation talking about Lee Harvey Oswald, but did not offer any information linking Oswald to the act of killing President Kennedy that could have stood the test of a trial by jury. CBS neglected this most important question altogether. The news media simply buy the Warren Commission report as is and start off with Oswald as the killer.

This is the great weakness of all this obfuscation. In 1967 CBS broadcast a tape of what was purported to be a police radio broadcast made in Dallas before Oswald was even known to have been involved. Here it is: "Attention all squads. Attention all squads. The suspect in the shooting at Elm and Houston [the assassination] is reported to be an unknown white man, approximately thirty, slender build, is possibly armed with what is thought to be a thirty-caliber rifle. No further description at this time, or information. 12:45 KTB."

That is all the information that went out. Then one hour and twenty minutes later, fifteen Dallas policemen including a police captain who had never made an arrest in his career before because he was the chief of personnel, one FBI man, and a cameraman made the arrest of an "unknown white man" in a theater miles from the scene. They say they did not know who he was. They found two names in his pocket, Oswald and A. Hidell, the alias Oswald used to obtain his mail-order rifle. They booked him on suspicion of killing a policeman (J.D. Tippit), and from there he was tied to the assassination. He was killed by Jack Ruby and then the Warren Commission was left to "designate" him the assassin.

If the murder of John F. Kennedy is ever going to be solved, it will require legal proceedings in a proper court in Texas. Before the law, the murderer remains to this day, unknown. A court would find in short order either that Oswald was not the murderer or that he was some sort of accomplice. This would create a vacuum in the legal process that could only affirm the statement we began with: The assassins of President John F. Kennedy and the men who hired them are still at large The real conspiracy lives on.

