

S.F. CHRONICLE - 1/10/92

Sequel to 'J.F.K.' May Be Under Way

BEFORE WARNER Brothers had a first look at the box office reports on Oliver Stone's "J.F.K.," the film director had secretly gone to work on a mighty sequel to it. Working title for the new scenario was "A.L."

That title, for security reasons, was only whispered among his co-workers and never put on paper. The other night, however, in a sudden burst of energy that often flows from conspiratorial zeal, Stone revealed to a bartender at the old Beverly Hills Hotel that "A.L." was only an abbreviation. The correct working title was in fact Project Abraham Lincoln.

"Some studio executives were shocked," Stone said, "when 'J.F.K.' ran to 3 hours and 20 minutes on the screen. I have news for Warner. My next one will be double that."

That wasn't necessarily an exaggeration. Stone feels deeply, if often selectively, about American presidents. If he is only twice as emotional about Lincoln as he was about Kennedy, "A.L." will run to 6 hours, 40 minutes.

Director Stone can easily reach that length without half trying. He has lots of raw material to work on. While Lee Harvey Oswald killed Jack Kennedy single-handedly, in the assassination of Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth had four co-conspirators. They were later hanged.

The killing of Kennedy, as Stone tells it, was not that simple. He raises the possible culpability of our officials, including Lyndon Johnson, national institutions and national attitudes. All along with Oswald, might have been involved.

At no personal expenditure, almost three-fourths of the respondents in a Time/CNN Poll said they were not being told the truth about the Kennedy assassination. When it comes to buying tickets, however, "J.F.K." is already falling badly. It trails "The Last Boy Scout" and "Father of the Bride."

It looks as if "A.L." may never get on film.

'Single-Bullet' Theory on JFK

Dogs Sen. Specter's Campaign

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Associated Press

Philadelphia
A quarter of a century after the Warren Commission report on President Kennedy's assassination, the "single bullet" theory continues to hound Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter, who was a commission counsel in 1964.

The movie "JFK" renewed the controversy for millions — including Specter's opponent in the Republican primary, State Representative Stephen F. Freind, who yesterday challenged the two-term senator to press for the release of withheld documents.

The Oliver Stone film ridicules the Warren Commission conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone to kill Kennedy and suggests an extensive conspiracy.

The single-bullet theory — that one virtually undamaged bullet passed through Kennedy's neck and caused former Texas Governor John Connally's wounds — is crucial to the commission's conclusion that one gun was used and

that there was no conspiracy.

Specter was one of the chief interrogators on the commission staff and a proponent of the single-bullet theory.

Specter wrote an op-ed piece for Sunday's Philadelphia Inquirer critiquing the "absurd film" that "mangles the facts" and defending the theory.

Freind took aim at documents sealed for 75 years by the commission at the end of "JFK." He called on Specter to introduce legislation to release them.

Specter had said Wednesday that he would ask the House Select Committee on Presidential Assassinations to open up all House reports.

"The reports on my participation have all been made public," Specter said. "I would just invite those with questions to start off by reading the report as well as by reading the critics."

'JFK' Spurs Sales of Books On Conspiracies

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New York Times

New York
Just when it looked like the American book-reading public was set to ignore the hoopla about John F. Kennedy's assassination that was set off by the Oliver Stone movie "JFK," three books about assassination conspiracy theories have jumped onto the New York Times best-seller list.

"On the Trail of the Assassin" (Warner), by Jim Garrison, the New Orleans prosecutor who tried to prove that Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone and who is depicted in Stone's movie, moves into the No. 1 spot for trade paperback nonfiction on Sunday, January 19, after spending four weeks on the list.

No. 11 on the same list will be "High Treason" (Berkley), by Robert J. Gooden and Harrison Edward Livingstone.

And on the hardcover nonfiction list, "Plausible Denials" (Thunders Mouth Press) by Mark Lane will debut at No. 7.

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