

This transcript has not yet been checked against videotape and cannot, for that reason, be guaranteed as to accuracy of speakers and spelling. (LW)

LARRY KING LIVE Transcript #972
Air Date: November 22, 1993

The Kennedy Assassination: Thirty Years Later

ANNOUNCER: Welcome to Larry King Live. Tonight: A computer says Oswald acted alone — Thirty years after the shots in Dealey Plaza, a new high-tech analysis points away from a conspiracy. Hear the latest chapter in the debate that will not end. Then, memories of the slain president from his personal photographer; and biographer Richard Reeves offers a new take on the Kennedy years. Now, here's Larry King.

LARRY KING: Good evening from Washington.

Thirty years ago, America mourned the death of a president — a criminal act that many say is still an unsolved mystery. Polls show a vast majority of Americans — maybe 90 percent — believe that John F. Kennedy was killed by unknown conspirators. But a new high-tech computer study backs up the Warren Commission — unpopular though that may be.

We welcome Kal Korff, president of Total Research of Palo Alto, California. His computers have analyzed 16 years' worth of assassination books and have ruled that Oswald acted alone. Joining us tonight from Dallas is an assassination investigator of long standing with a very different point of view — Gaeton Fonzi. In his new book, *The Last Investigation* — there you see its cover — from Thunders Mouth Press [sp?], Mr. Fonzi claims to reveal the only verifiable link between Oswald and the CIA.

Kal, what started you doing a 16-year computer analysis of this?

KAL KORFF, JFK Researcher: Well, it actually started in high school, Larry. I had asked my teacher, "Who shot President Kennedy?" I was trying to do an extra-credit report. And no one could give me an answer. So, we looked into the issue, came up with a report that was some 218 pages, and then we ended up doing a computer analysis at NASA of a photograph taken during the assassination.

KING: "We" being—?

Mr. KORFF: A friend of mine and I at the time. We were freshmen in high school — coincidentally, going to John F. Kennedy High School, just a coincidence. So, we did this analysis, and the computer comes back and tells us there is a person standing on the grassy knoll, most likely holding a rifle. A person wasn't supposed to be there. So, the *San Jose Mercury* ran the article in 1978, and then I was hauled out of school the following Monday. I got a phone call from what was then the House Assassinations Committee, demanding that I send in the photo. I did that, and didn't hear anything back from them.

Then, about three or four months went by— made a

bunch of phone calls. They sent the photo back; said, "It's not a gunman. It's a scratch on the photo." I then countered with the argument that, "That's not possible. And then, later on, the committee concludes there was a conspiracy and that there was a guy on the knoll.

KING: And you feel that— You agree with them?

Mr. KORFF: No, I don't, because what bothered me is the committee said that there was no gunman in the photo, but yet they concluded there was a gunman on the knoll. And since the photo was taken within one-fifth of a second of the fatal head shot, if a gunman had been there he had to be in the photo.

KING: So, can you briefly tell us what you did over these years?

Mr. KORFF: Yes, what we did is, that started me looking into the case. I took every book ever published that sold any significant quantity in this country — there were 60 books that have been bestsellers to this day — put them in the computer; scanned the Warren Commission report, the House committee documents; expanded the search into data on J. Edgar Hoover, anti-Castro groups such as Alpha 66; put it all in the computer; did the photographs, the films, the forensic material. We analyzed it all and, 16 years later, coincidentally, we are done with our study. And our conclusion is that there's no conspiracy.

KING: Who financed this?

Mr. KORFF: I did.

KING: Just—?

Mr. KORFF: Just myself.

KING: Your company does—?

Mr. KORFF: My company is a research company which is dedicated to humanitarian causes. We have identified a bunch of issues which we feel are problems in this society one of which is this belief in the wrong thing — that there was a conspiracy.

KING: Your conclusion, then, backs up the Posner [sp] book?

Mr. KORFF: I would say it's probably the other way around, because our study's a lot more comprehensive than Posner's.

KING: You've come to the same conclusion?

Mr. KORFF: Yes, but so did the Warren report.

KING: OK. Now, Gaeton Fonzi — former investigator for the House Select Committee, author of *The Last Investigation* — what's wrong with Kal's concepts based on computer analysis?

GAETON FONZI, Author, "The Last Investigation": Well, if investigations could be done while sitting in an office, I think we'd find them a lot easier to do and get them over with a lot quicker. I believe, unfortunately, that you have to go out and hit the streets and talk to people and get your results that way. I think—

KING: Yes, but, I mean, you use ballistics, you use fingerprints. That's all technical. That's in the office. That's not going out.

Mr. FONZI: That's true, but—

KING: Computers are a big part — DNA research now.

Mr. FONZI: What happened with the House Select Committee on Assassinations was its heavy reliance on scientific