

Assassination conspiracy conference set at UCLA

Ed. Note: This article was compiled by Don Freed, Jim Cookson and Jeff Cohen, of the Campaign for Democratic Freedoms.

The ruling circle's split over the JFK assassination is reaching Watergate proportions. Frank Mankiewicz and other, former high-ranking Kennedy aides are being briefed on the assassinations of both John and Robert. In Texas, former Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry has called for a new investigation, as has Dallas D.A. Henry Wade, Texas Congressperson Gonzalez, former Senator Yarborough and even the U.S. Attorney in Dallas, Kenneth Meighell. And the *Dallas Morning News* has run a story on organized crime's link to the murder.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, the newly formed Campaign for Democratic Freedoms has planned a conference that moves from scrutiny of the assassinations to the war conspiracy to the local level: LAPD's dreaded Criminal Conspiracy Section (CCS). By the end of the UCLA conference, participants will have organized themselves into community groups. These ongoing units will combine to prepare class actions and a general political-legal attack on Los Angeles' Blue Machine, which is even now racing to secrete sensitive dossiers.

New evidence will be presented at UCLA concerning the far-reaching conspiracies of the LAPD's Criminal Conspiracy Section:

- Involvement in the murder of both Jonathan and George Jackson, James Carr and attempts on the life of Huey Newton.

- Involvement in the formation or coverup of terrorism in California — together with at least three other state and federal agencies.

- Penetration of the entire Southern California criminal justice system by agents of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Howard Hughes organiza-

tion.

- Suppression of evidence in the assassination of RFK and the presence of L.A. police, under CIA control, in the coverup.

- LAPD (CCS) cooperation with and protection of neo-Fascist terrorist attacks on Los Angeles popular groups such as the Socialist Workers Party and the Rosenberg Committee.

- Blackmail dossiers on the highest ranking elected officials in L.A., including Mayor Tom Bradley, their families and staffs.

- Possession of blackmail files on both reporters and management of local media, including the *L.A. Times*.

The following is a partial review of the events which the UCLA conference will examine.

"I'm just a patsy. I didn't kill anyone."

— Lee Harvey Oswald
Something happened. America lost a weekend in November 1963. And the public execution of the lone accused shifted the burden of fact-

finding from a jury of peers to a Presidential commission and the national media. A reluctant Chief Justice was persuaded to head the investigation to squelch rumors of international conspiracy and "save America from atomic war." Attorney Mark Lane, counsel for the accused's mother, was barred from cross-examining

witnesses. There was no time. This verdict had a deadline — the 1964 elections.

"[It was important to] show the world that America is not a banana republic, where a government can be changed by conspiracy."

— Warren Commissioner John J. McCloy
the Report explained the events of the lost weekend in

Dallas through the unfortunate acts of two lone nuts. Oswald had no ties to U.S. intelligence. Ruby had none to the underworld. Dallas grinned.

Commission exhibit 399, an unmarked bullet, inflicted seven wounds in the president and Governor Connally and shattered two bones. America's best marksmen could not duplicate Oswald's accomplishment. The autopsy doctor burned his notes. Europe chuckled. The Third World cackled.

"I never believed that Oswald acted alone."

— Lyndon Johnson

But the dereliction of the national media was unprecedented. The *New York Times* hailed the Warren Report as the "final truth" after "the most painstaking, exhaustive investigation." The dissenting investigators who pored over

the 26 volumes of evidence were labeled "scavengers." For two years, no major media outlet would air one word of doubt. The Report was above debate in the corporate media.

The loudest silence came from the progressive press which had just begun to speak out against the Red purges and racial discrimination of the fif-

ties. Not since the Rosenberg frameup had progressives been so slow in reacting to official deception. Relieved that the commission had not found a "pro-Castro defector," progressive journals were happy to forget about the whole affair. Hadn't the unimpeachable Earl Warren headed the commission?

* THIS QUOTE IS NOT WITH DOCUMENTED HOHO!

"The Watergate investigation has been as thorough and complete as the Warren Commission investigation of President Kennedy's assassination," ex-attorney general Richard Kleindienst Watergate revealed government espionage plans which included kidnapping, beatings, break-ins, bugging, forgery, blackmail and, very possibly, murder. It also exposed that the highest levels of government could coordinate a massive cover-up of a criminal conspiracy. Shortly after John Dean's memo called on the IRS to "screw our enemies," D.A. Mitchell, Mardian and a team of IRS bugplanters. Even the corporate press, which had grown accustomed to reporting government (please turn to page 28)

ed. The wave of criticism sparked the Times, Life and CBS to begin independent reviews of the evidence. But each investigation was aborted when the trail led toward conspiracy. The polls showed that 65 per cent of the American public did not believe the Warren Report. "The significance of the Dealey Plaza assassination in '63 was that the warrens sector of the government seized power from the President." — Jim Garrison

All eyes shifted to New Orleans where businessman Clay Shaw was indicted for murder-conspiracy. NBC produced a "special" one-hour attack on D.A. Jim Garrison. Two NBC newsmen were indicted by a grand jury for bribery of prosecution witnesses. The "investigative" team included Gordon Novel, a

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man who admitted he was a CIA employee after evading a Garrison arrest warrant in 1973. Novel conspired with Charles Colson to fire a demagnetizing ray gun at the White House to erase the tapes. CBS produced a four-part program in defense of the Commission but the producer quit mission but the producer quit a review of the evidence became a personal attack on Garrison and the critics. "I now fully realize that only the powers of the Presidency will reveal the secrets of my brother's death." — Robert Kennedy, June 3, 1968

While the Battle of New Orleans raged, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy were executed in rapid-fire succession, as the 1968 election was also determined by bullets instead of ballots. Within a day of the King murder, without a suspect in custody, Attorney General Clark led the national media in another chorus of "no conspiracy."

After New Orleans, the issue of who killed JFK was eclipsed by the antiwar and black liberation movements. But the Watergate break-in and the shooting of George Wallace caused a return of the repress-

book on U.S. atrocities in Vietnam, *Conversations with Americans*, was suppressed when CIA agents contacted the publisher. But by 1975, the federal judge in the Wounded Knee trial would call Lane "America's finest investigator." Other books and articles followed to question the Reports "final truth" and put the case before the American people.

silence. Mark Lane's defense brief was finally heard. After scores of rejections and intelligence interventions in an 18-month hunt for a publisher, *Rush to Judgment* was brought out in England, thanks to Lord Bertrand Russell and Britain's leading historian, Hugh Trevor-Roper. The book became a worldwide best-seller.

A full-fledged character assassination against Lane was begun. FBI files on Lane's 1964 activities were stashed along with the suppressed assassination evidence in the national archives until the year 2039. His

While the media snoozed, working people carried home the tabloid press in grocery bags and found articles on the JFK murder wedged between pieces on UFOs and Liz and Dick's latest breakup. The government/media repression was bound to result in fantasy: "JFK Still Alive in Dallas Hospital." And the crackpot imagination of the JFK research-sleuths was reinforced.

"The individualism of American assassins is what Europeans, and some Americans too, find hard to grasp. In other parts of the world, political assassination is usually the result of an elaborate plot. The object is to bring about a shift of power. No such plan appears to guide the American assassin." — Time Magazine 5/29/72

After two years of virtual



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PRESIDENTIAL PANEL. Members of the commission that investigated the assassination sit for a formal portrait. From left: Rep. Gerald Ford (Rep.)

of Michigan; Rep. Hale Boggs (Dem.) of Louisiana; Sen. Richard Russell (Dem.) of Georgia; Chairman Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United

States; Sen. John Sherman Cooper (Rep.) of Kentucky; John J. McCloy, and Allen Dulles. J. Lee Rankin, at right, is chief counsel to the commission.

CONSPIRACY

(continued from page 9)

releases as "final truth," was shaken by Watergate. CBS newsman Dan Rather, one of the commission's most ardent supporters, had risen quickly from a local Dallas reporter to anchor-man Cronkite's stand-in. Rather is the only Zapruder film viewer known to have described the President's head as driven forward by the fatal

shot. A nationwide TV audience heard Rather's description. They were not shown the film.

After 10 years of orthodoxy, Rather's CBS commentary, "Rethinking the Unthinkable," called for reopening the John Kennedy and other assassinations on the chance that Watergaters might be linked to the murders.

****The Watergate bugging is only one of a number of highly illegal conspiracies engaged in by one or more of the defen-**

dants... These as yet undisclosed crimes can be proved."

— E. Howard Hunt
And there are links: three FBI documents in the Warren Commission files explore a meeting between Watergate's Frank Sturgis and Lee Oswald in Miami within two months of the Dallas murder. A conservative French paper, *L'Aurore*, reported that a mercenary, Jose Luis Romero, has identified Watergaters Bernard Barker

and Sturgis as the two CIA men who approached him in Paris, soon after the Bay of Pigs fiasco, about a JFK murder plot.

"I'd like to splinter the CIA in a thousand pieces and scatter it to the winds."

— John F. Kennedy
Victor Marchetti, the ex-CIA officer who authored the first American book subjected to prepublication censorship, has revealed that Clay Shaw was, in fact, a CIA contact and that Director Richard Helms expressed an intent to help Shaw and his defense team during the trial. There was help: a federal judge barred Garrison from prosecuting Shaw for perjury; the Attorney General ordered FBI agents not to testify; and a "company" agent looted the D.A.'s files.

Garrison, whose office was victimized by a domestic CIA operation, has stated his readiness to join with Marchetti in exposing Helms & Company before Frank Church's Senate committee.

Phillip Agee, CIA station chief-turned-revolutionary, surfaced in London where he has published a book that is banned in the U.S.A. Among other things, Agee disclosed that it is not uncommon for CIA personnel to be ordered to eliminate other "company" employees who are deemed dangerous or expendable.

Next: The media finally acts.

**** A VERY PROVACATIVE QUOTE BUT NOT AS REGARDS DALLAS.**



The familiar photograph of Oswald holding the murder weapon (a *Life* cover in 1964) may be a fake. An enlargement (middle) reveals a much stronger chin than the pointed cleft one in Oswald's police mug shot (far left). Experts believe a photo of Oswald's head might have been placed on top of a photograph of another man just above the chin line.

The Conspiracy in America Conference will begin with a Political Film Festival at Ackerman Union Ballroom, UCLA, May 15, 4-11 p.m. Registration for the Conference may be obtained at the Film Festival.

The main focus of the Conference will be on assassinations, intelligence,

and community and labor repression, from the Rosenbergs to the Rockefellers. Friday through Sunday will include more films, notable speakers and groups as well as panels and workshops for active audience participation.

Among the notables will be Tom Hayden, Mark Lane, Jane

Fonda, George O'Toole, Charles R. Garry, Robbie Meeropol, Len Weinglass and Louis E. Tackwood.

Among the participating groups will be ACLU, The 5th Estate, Commission for Human Rights, UE, Black Panther Party and the National Lawyers Guild.

- Please send me further information
- Enclosed is my check for \$6.00 for one registration
- \$7.50 at door
- \$4.50 students and unemployed

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Organization _____

Checks payable to: Campaign for Democratic Freedoms, P.O. Box 9662, Marina Del Rey, Calif. 90291. Or call (213) 821-9596.