

Point (Stevens Point, Wis.) 10-24-75

# Investigating the Investigation

## The Warren Commission examined in Stevens Point

by Robert Borski

Speaking before a large crowd in the Berg Gym Monday evening, assassination critic James Lesar predicted an overturning of the Warren Commission's findings as well as a new investigation by the Senate of JFK's death.

Lesar, chief attorney for both James Earl Ray, the alleged killer of Martin Luther King, and Harold Weisburg, the acknowledged dean of assassination critics, spoke for over an hour on the shortcomings of the Warren Commission's methodology, then went on to detail his work with the Freedom of Information Act in obtaining important transcripts of the Commission's executive meetings.

**A lot of attention has been built up by people who want to know WHO killed JFK... but 12 years after, it's going to be very difficult...**

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, Lesar acknowledged a recent statement by Senator Swecher of Pennsylvania about the imminent collapse of the Warren Commission's findings.

"I think that speech very clearly foreshadows a call by Senator Swecher's subcommittee for a reinvestigation of the assassination," he asserted. Ad-

ding, "There are, however, certain guidelines, certain criteria, we ought to develop with respect to any new investigation."

Lesar then went on to talk about the two approaches taken by the press and the other media outlets over the past several years.

"One tendency," he said, "the tendency which is the most notable in the press, is to sensationalize the case and direct attention to certain theories."

Decrying this approach, Lesar cited the folly and expense of investigating a large number of theories instead of concentrating on the facts.

"That's what the other tendency involves," he said. "Working with

the facts, as a very few responsible critics, like Harold Weisburg, Sylvia Meagher, and Howard Roffman, have done.

"Contrary to speculating about who might have shot Kennedy, their efforts have concerned whether or not the Warren Commission was accurate in its facts, and whether or not the facts which are known to be true indicate in any

way there was a conspiracy involved or if Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin."

Choosing the correct approach, Lesar argued, would determine the respectability of the Senate's investigation.

He then elaborated on the reasons he thought would legitimize a re-investigation by the Senate into Kennedy's death.

If the facts, as they were presented in the Warren Commission's final report, were false or distorted, or if the FBI--the agency primarily responsible for investigating the President's murder--failed to do their jobs properly or withheld evidence, then clearly a new investigation was called for, Lesar stated.

"But there's also one more ground. If the Senate were to find, for whatever reasons, the Warren Commission itself did not try to find the facts, but instigated a whitewash, that too would be a sound reason."

Lesar was especially concerned with this last category, explaining, how, in representing Harold Weisburg in a Freedom of Information suit, he had managed to secure the executive transcript of an emergency meeting held by the Warren Commission on January 22, 1964.

(Regardless of content, all of the Warren Commission's executive

sessions were routinely classified top secret).

What occasioned the emergency meeting of the Commission was a report from Texas concerning Oswald's possible connections with the CIA and the FBI; as Lesar read from the transcript, it soon became apparent that the Commission members were extremely afraid that the report would place their findings (which were based extensively on the FBI's groundwork) in jeopardy, as well as possibly arouse the ire of J. Edgar Hoover if they proceeded to investigate it.

They therefore decided to suppress the report from the public record. There is also some discussion about how the FBI, contrary to their usual policy of non-evaluation, had encouraged the Commission to accept its report concluding Oswald was the lone assassin and there was no conspiracy involved with Kennedy's death.

Lesar's conclusions: "Here you have all the reasons you'd ever need for a new investigation."

But in the event that a new investigation by the Senate is undertaken, Lesar expressed his concern about what could be accomplished.

"A lot of attention and a lot of excitement has been built up across the country by people who want to

investigate the assassination of President Kennedy.

know who killed JFK," he reflected. "And of course that's an important question. But twelve years after the murder it's going to be very difficult, if not impossible to determine who shot the President. Too much time has gone by."

"In addition," he went on to say. "It may not be the most important

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thing we can accomplish. The claims of the critics and the implications of the transcript from which I just read show that the Warren Commission was deceived by government agencies, that government agencies didn't fulfill their obligation to report all the facts.

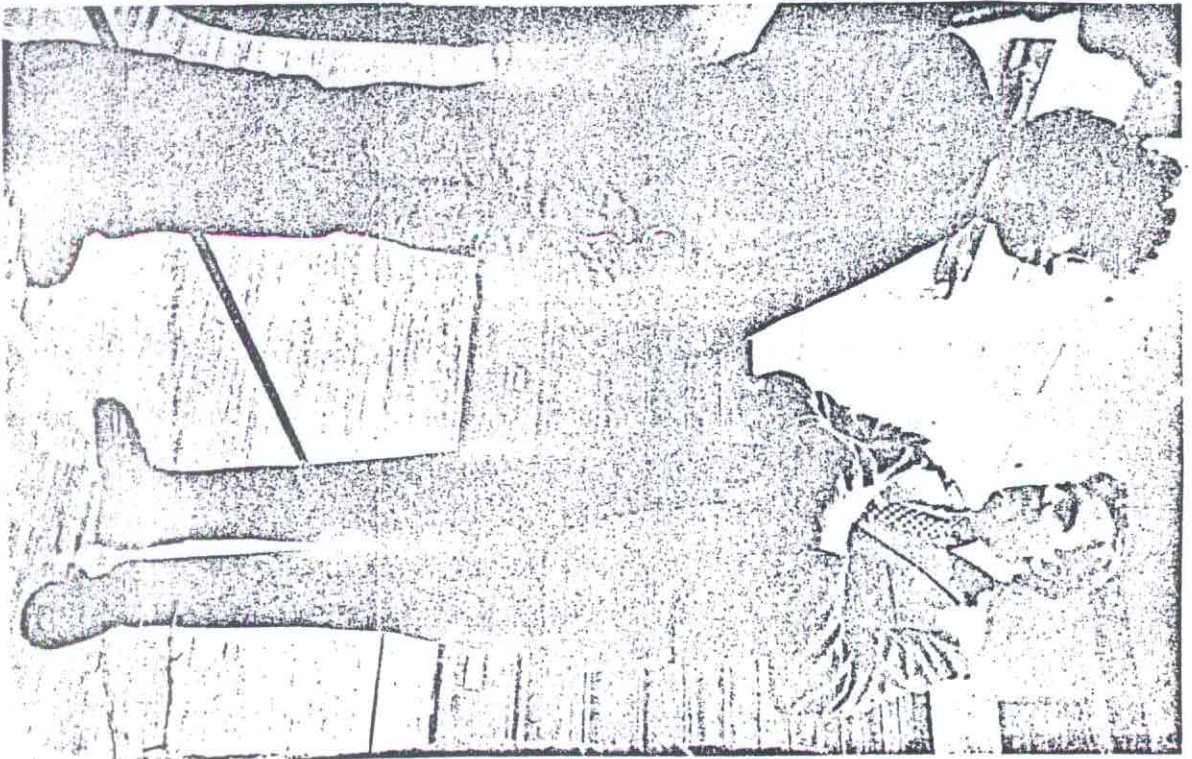
"You don't have to be a genius to see the implications," he asserted.

"If government agencies can impede and thwart a presidentially directed inquiry into the truth about the assassination of a major political figure in the United States, it can be done in any case where these same agencies are relied upon

to find the facts."

Lesar then went on to chronicle his legal struggle to obtain spectrographic data on the assassination, and concluded his speech on an optimistic note, hoping the Senate reinvestigation of the JFK assassination would not only cover the Warren Commission's failures, but also those of the courts, the FBI, the CIA, and every other government agency involved with the still-unsolved murder of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

photo by Ron Thums



*Dr. Wrone makes a point*

## a post-lecture audience quizzes the critics

by Karroll Bohmak

To get campus reaction to the recent revival of interest in the JFK assassination, students were asked the question "Do you think the investigation into the assassination of John F. Kennedy should be reopened?" The interviews were done on Saturday, Oct. 18, a day before the arrival of Attorney James Lesar. Surprisingly, almost all the students interviewed felt that the information revealed by the Warren Commission wasn't complete or wasn't accurate. A couple of students expressed some reservation about another investigation though:

Richard Newgord, a UWSP graduate said that he would approve of a re-investigation "if the expense wasn't too much." Newgord said that he feels there's more important things to worry about.

Jane Adams, a senior, stated, "Well in a way I think it (the investigation) should be reopened...but then you look...and it was in the past. It's over and done with and I don't see what difference it would make."

On the other hand, most students interviewed were convinced that a re-investigation was necessary. One student, Tim Illison, a sophomore, appeared to take an extreme position when he stated, "I

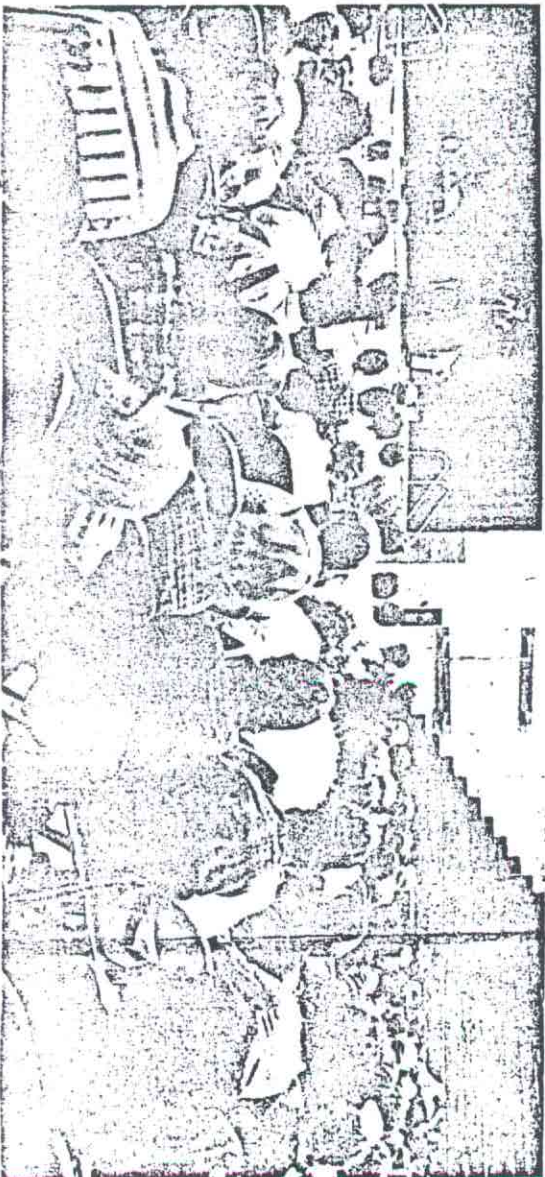


photo by Ron Thurns

think he was killed by the government." Others, such as Kathy Flemming, a senior, seemed more moderate. When asked if the investigation should be reopened Flemming replied, "Yeah I do until it's cleared up to everyone's satisfaction...there's so much controversy over it all."

Peter Grimm, a senior, pointed specifically to a cover-up of facts in

the Warren Report. Grimm said he felt a re-investigation should take place but he added, "I'd have to agree with David Wrome that there's not going to be too much concrete evidence that would be uncovered, you know, it's not going to help too much."

Interestingly enough, it's been written that this Warren Commission was set up, among other

reasons, to improve the United States' image in the eyes of foreign countries. Jon Palsson, a student from Iceland, appeared to throw some doubt on the success of that objective when he said, "We feel that there was something more... I have a feeling there is something more about it...something strange."



In the ten years since John Kennedy's death not one important clue or fact has been added to that mountainous store so painstakingly and, on the whole, carefully inquired into by the Warren Commission. *Not one fact...* Theories have been propounded without number. Claim after claim has been advanced — conflicts of evidence, telltale clues overlooked or misinterpreted, and misfeasance and malfeasance by the Warren Commission. But in all this pawing over the evidence — not one new fact has been turned up.

Harrison E. Salisbury  
Introduction, *You Are the Jury*  
by David Belin, 1973

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## JFK Assassination Reading

the UWSP assassination library is located in documents, 5th floor LRC



**WHITEWASH**, a series by Harold Weisberg

**PRESUMED GUILTY** by Howard Roffman

**ACCESSARIES AFTER THE FACT** by Sylvia Meagher

**THE BASTARD BULLET** by Raymond Marcus

**SIX SECONDS IN DALLAS** by Josiah Thompson

for more info contact George Leopold Ph. 346-2778



Bad times have come to our country, and one is moved to look backward and ask where we went wrong. There can be no single answer to that question; there are too many different currents in the flow of human history. But the assassination of President Kennedy marks the point at which we took leave of the truth. Unless we find and fix this thing, we will never put ourselves right. We must reopen the case.

George O'Toole  
*The Assassination Tapes*,  
1975

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*Jim Lesar documents his case*

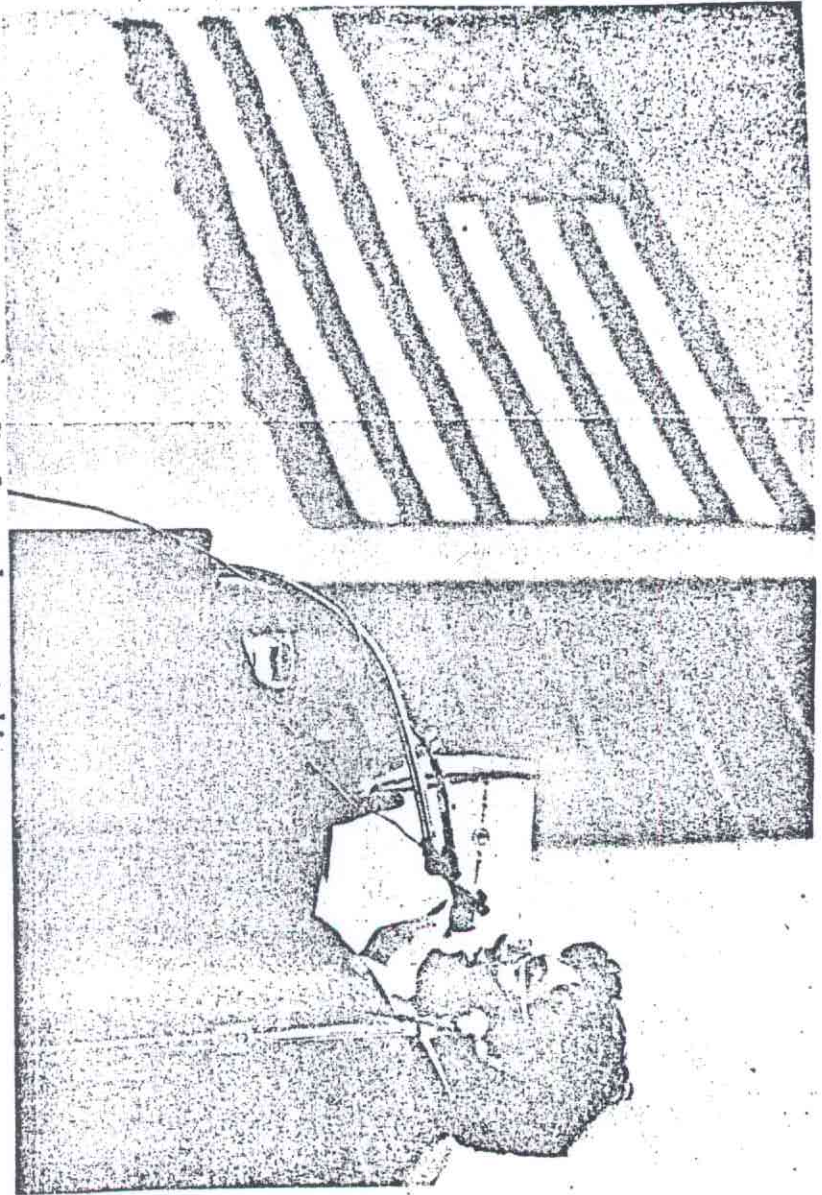


photo by Ron Thums