

Mind-boggling claim in blockbuster new book:



LBJ: Massive cover-up

LBJ killed KENNEDY!



Lust for power drove Vice President to

Lyndon Johnson killed John F. Kennedy — the ambition-crazed Vice President masterminded the assassination, then launched a massive cover-up to conceal his role in the cold-blooded murder!

order hit that shook the world

That's the shocking charge leveled in a blockbuster new book by trial attorney Craig I. Zirbel, "The Texas Connection," which will appear in The ENQUIRER beginning next week.

In an exclusive interview, Zirbel — who spent 11 years researching the assassination — told The ENQUIRER, "LBJ got away with murder. He ordered and organized the killing that made him President of the United States. "He was as guilty as if he'd pulled the trigger and fired the bullets himself!"

Zirbel, who's written a best-selling legal guide used by doctors around the country, presented this evidence:

● Before the shooting, Johnson confided to his long-time mistress that Kennedy would be killed in Dallas.

● Johnson was head of the team that planned the President's route — which took him past the Texas School Book Depository, where gunman Lee Harvey Oswald was hiding.

● LBJ desperately tried to get his pal, Texas Gov. John Connally, out of the Kennedy limo — and put in his place a political enemy who'd be directly in the line of fire.

● After Jack Ruby killed Oswald, he smuggled a letter out of prison in which he named Johnson as the brains behind the assassination.

"Johnson had an insatiable desire to become President and a belief that destiny demanded it," declared Zirbel.

"But as the 1964 election approached, Kennedy

DAY THE WORLD STOOD

STILL: Frantic Jackie and her mortally wounded husband in the limo after the Nov. 22, 1963, horror.

ENQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

had told his secretary that Johnson would not be his running mate. Johnson knew that Kennedy's death was the only way he could become President."

So LBJ and his powerful Texas friends conspired to hire an assassin or assassins and murder the President, charged Zirbel.

"He persuaded the President to make a trip to Texas. Other people were involved in the planning, but LBJ had to review and approve all their decisions."

One of Kennedy's assistants tried to change the motorcade route because the slow turn past the book depository made the President an easier target. But the

'He was as guilty as if he'd pulled the trigger and fired the bullets himself'

Texas refused, said Zirbel. "And Madeleine Brown, Johnson's mistress for more than 20 years, has admitted that he told her prior to November 22 that Kennedy was going to be killed in Dallas." Even more damning, a

month before the assassination, Kennedy was advised not to make the trip, but Johnson was one of the people who convinced him to go, said Zirbel.

"And on the eve of the assassination, Johnson and Kennedy had a violent argument overheard by others, over the seating in the limos. Johnson wanted his political enemy, Sen. Ralph Yarborough, to ride with Kennedy — instead of Connally.

"I believe that Connally, as one of the organizers of the trip, had been duped by Johnson without knowing his real plan. Now Johnson was trying to get his friend out of Kennedy's car because he might be hit."

But Kennedy won the argument. The next day, Connally — riding with the President — was wounded.

After his arrest, Jack Ruby — who shot Oswald to death as millions watched on



TARGETED FOR DEATH: JFK and Jackie (left) acknowledge the Dallas crowd . . . moments before an assassin's bullets ripped through him. In front of Kennedy is Texas Gov. John Connally.

TV — branded Johnson as the mastermind behind the plot.

Zirbel explained, "In a letter smuggled out of jail to a family member, Ruby wrote, 'They alone planned the killing. By they I mean Johnson and the others. You may learn quite a bit about Johnson and how he has fooled everyone.'"

Zirbel blasts the Warren Commission — which was handpicked by Johnson — for not questioning Johnson about the murder.

"Lyndon Baines Johnson should have been considered the No. 1 suspect in the world," he said.

"Based on my investigation, LBJ was clearly the man behind the assassination of John Kennedy."

— DAVID WRIGHT

STARTS NEXT WEEK — DON'T MISS IT!



The first in a series of exclusive installments from "The Texas Connection" reveals how Johnson destroyed the evidence and engineered a cover-up.