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# news

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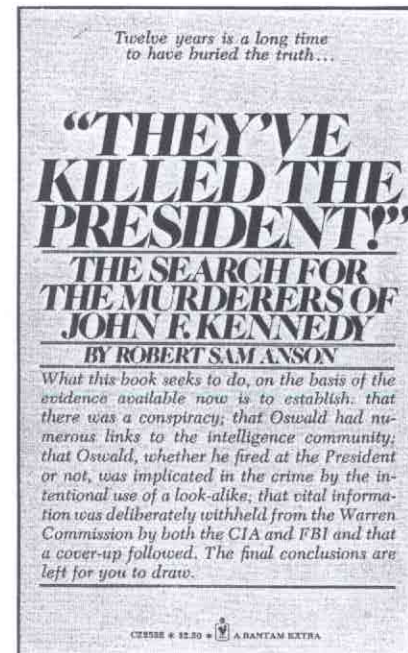
---Robert Sam Anson in  
"THEY'VE KILLED THE PRESIDENT!"

NEW JFK ASSASSINATION BOOK,  
BASED ON RECENTLY DISCLOSED EVIDENCE,  
DUE FROM BANTAM BOOKS IN NOVEMBER

(New York City)--The ever-growing controversy surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has now resulted in a timely new book--"THEY'VE KILLED THE PRESIDENT!": THE SEARCH FOR THE MURDERERS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY by Robert Sam Anson (448pp., plus 16pp. photos, plus appendix; \$2.50, paperback.) to be published for the first time by Bantam Books on November 17, 1975 as Bantam's 56th Extra.

It is the first book to be published incorporating all the new evidence in the assassination which has surfaced as recently as September, 1975. More than 1,800 citations appear in the book

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as well as a 16-page insert of black-and-white and four-color documentary photographs. A first printing of 250,000 is planned, backed by newspaper and network radio advertising and author publicity.

"THEY'VE KILLED THE PRESIDENT!" takes its title from the words spoken by Dallas dress manufacturer Abraham Zapruder as he watched, through his home movie camera's eye, the murder of John F. Kennedy. His 22-second film has become the most important new piece of evidence in the assassination debate since a clear, reframed, bootlegged copy of it surfaced early in 1975.

The book is a narrative of the developments of the last 12 years since the assassination, which, based on all the available evidence gathered, puts forth a plausible theory as to what really happened in Dealey Plaza and afterward, how it happened and why.

Anson bases his book on research into CIA files and interviews with sources closely connected with the assassination and its investigation. For example, the chapter on the CIA and organized crime is based on interviews with 50 people, including two former Attorney Generals, CIA and other agency employees and people who were within the Kennedy administration. Citations appear throughout.

Robert Sam Anson, who is 30 years old, went to work for Time as a correspondent in 1967--one of the youngest journalists ever to hold that position at the magazine. In



Robert Sam Anson  
(Photo credit: Jeanie Black)

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his four years there he reported from Chicago, New York, Los Angeles and Indochina, where, in 1970 while on assignment in Cambodia, he was taken prisoner of war by North Vietnamese troops and Cambodian guerrillas. His subsequent first-person account of his capture was the longest personal narrative ever to appear in Time.

Anson is currently Executive Producer for Special Events for public television station WNET in New York, and the national political correspondent for New Times magazine. He has had two articles on the JFK assassination published in New Times, and has also written other articles for Harper's, the Atlantic, the Columbia Journalism Review and Ms. magazine. His first book was McGovern: A Biography.

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"THEY'VE KILLED THE PRESIDENT!": THE SEARCH FOR THE MURDERERS  
OF JOHN F. KENNEDY by Robert Sam Anson  
(CZ2525. \$2.50. Extra. 448pp. plus 16pp. photos. plus appendix.)  
A Bantam Extra. Pub. Date: November 17, 1975

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## BACKGROUND ON

"THEY'VE KILLED THE PRESIDENT!":

THE SEARCH FOR THE MURDERERS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY

A BANTAM ORIGINAL

PUBLISHED AS BANTAM'S 56th EXTRA ON NOVEMBER 17, 1975

### I. The Beginning Murmurs of Controversy

The Warren Commission's Report on the assassination of President Kennedy, issued in September, 1964, was officially intended to close the case by answering the questions about what happened that fateful day in Dallas 10 months before. Its investigation was said to be the most thorough and exhaustive in American history, including more than 25,000 interviews and 27 volumes of conclusions, testimony and exhibits.

But its findings--that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin, that his second shot, the "magic bullet," passed through President Kennedy's neck, wounding then Governor John Connally, and that Kennedy was killed by a third, single bullet through the rear--cast wide doubts among critics, and, rather than closing the case, raised even more questions.

Within a few years of its issue, more than 40 books were published disputing the findings of the Report and bringing the controversy into the public eye.

By early 1967 both Life and the Saturday Evening Post had run cover stories blasting many of the Warren Report's conclusions--each asking on its cover, "Did Oswald Act Alone?".

The American people did not think so. In 1967 Gallup and Harris polls revealed that approximately two-thirds of the nation did not believe the assassination was the work of only one individual.

### II. What Is Happening Today

Since that time, Watergate and the investigations into the workings of the CIA have changed the political climate in this country.

Today, only 18 percent of the American people agree with the findings of the Warren Commission\*--that the murder of JFK was the work of one lone assassin.

Previously withheld evidence and CIA files have been brought into the open, arousing new questions about the assassination.

And in early 1975, the most important piece of evidence surfaced--

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\* according to a poll conducted by Cambridge Survey Research, posing the simple question: "Who do you think killed President Kennedy?". Response: Lone, deranged assassin (the Warren Commission finding), 18%; Foreign Conspiracy, 5%; Some sort of conspiracy, 33%; Not sure, needs to be investigated, 18%; Don't know, no opinion, 13%; CIA conspiracy, 13%.

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the Abraham Zapruder film--and millions of Americans saw, with their own eyes, the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

### III. The Zapruder Film

Abraham Zapruder was a Dallas dress manufacturer who, on November 22, 1963, took his new Bell & Howell 8mm movie camera to Dealey Plaza to film the President's motorcade as it passed.

As one of history's most ghastly and politically significant events happened before his eyes, Zapruder kept his finger pressed down on the shutter release and filmed the entire event. He sold the film to Life magazine for a total of \$150,000.

At some point following the assassination, a New York optics technician named Robert Groden obtained a secret copy of the Zapruder film. He worked for almost nine years on the bootlegged film, magnifying it frame by frame.

It has since become the single most important piece of evidence in the "Who Killed Kennedy?" controversy. According to Groden (in Rolling Stone, April 24, 1975), it provides "absolute, incontestable proof of cross fire and conspiracy."

### IV. Attention the Film Has Gained

Groden first showed the clear, reframed film on January 31, 1975, at the Assassination Information Bureau conference in Boston, which attracted about 1,000 people.

Then on March 6, 1975, the film received a larger audience when it was shown on ABC-TV's late night show, "Good Night America" with Geraldo Rivera. More than 4,000,000 viewers tuned in.

ABC received over 1,000 letters in response to the show. "We very rarely get any response to late night entertainment so this was quite a large number," according to a spokesperson in the ABC Audience Relations department.

The mail was all favorable, complimenting ABC, thanking the network for showing the film and encouraging further investigation of the issue.

The film ran again on ABC three weeks later when Geraldo Rivera devoted his entire 90-minute show to a comprehensive review of the findings of the Warren Commission. The second showing drew over 5,000,000 viewers.

The film was also shown on "Black Journal" and NBC's "Tomorrow."

### V. The Press Responds

Cover stories and feature stories examining the new evidence and calling for a reinvestigation, appeared in major magazines, including:

Newsweek (April 28, 1975): "Dallas: New Questions and Answers"

Rolling Stone (April 24, 1975): "The JFK Assassination: Why Congress Should Reopen the Investigation" and "A New Look at the Zapruder Film"

U.S. News and World Report (June 2, 1975): "Assassination-- Behind Moves to Reopen JFK Case"

New Times (April, 1975): "The Greatest Cover-Up of All"

--plus Time, Penthouse and Argosy.

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#### VI. What Was Happening at Bantam Books

About this time, in Spring, 1975, Bantam received 15 proposals within a six-week period for JFK assassination books--both updated versions of previously-published hardcover books and unpublished manuscripts.

One of these was from Robert Sam Anson, former correspondent for Time magazine and currently Executive Producer for Special Events at public television station WNET in New York and the national political correspondent for New Times magazine.

After seeing the Zapruder film on TV, Anson began researching the questions surrounding the assassination and wrote an 11-page article about it, "The Greatest Cover-Up of All," which appeared in New Times in April, 1975.

Bantam accepted his proposal for a book on the assassination, which, because of the timeliness of the subject, was to be delivered within two months, on August 15.

No stranger to deadlines, Anson handed in the finished manuscript on August 14.

According to Bantam, "We had expected a solid, provocative treatment of the assassination, but when Robert Sam Anson's finished manuscript came into the house in August, we realized that he had given us much more: people who were completely uninterested in reading about the Kennedy case were unable to put the book down. Others who had read extensively on the controversy agreed that Anson's book was the first to present a complicated mystery in a thoroughly readable manner, that his theory of what really happened in Dallas was chillingly plausible."

#### VII. What the Book Discloses

"THEY'VE KILLED THE PRESIDENT!", according to the author, "is not intended as a point-by-point refutation of the Warren Commission, nor as a response to every unanswered question..."

"What this book seeks to do, on the basis of the available evidence, is to establish a few core facts--

- . that there was a conspiracy;
- . that Oswald had numerous links to the intelligence community;
- . that Oswald, whether he fired at the President or not, was implicated in the crime by the intentional use of a look-alike, a common practice in intelligence work;
- . that vital information about Oswald's and Ruby's backgrounds was deliberately withheld from the Warren Commission by the CIA and the FBI

--and, working from those facts, to present a reasonable explanation for the events in Dealey Plaza and the cover-up that followed."

#### VIII. The Controversy Continues to Build

The momentum of interest continues on the subject of reopening the investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

The Saturday Evening Post's cover story for September, 1975, reads, "J.F. Kennedy Assassination: Still an Unsolved Murder Mystery."

The cover of the September 1, 1975, Village Voice headlines,

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"Dear President Ford: I Know Who Killed JFK."

Another article by Robert Sam Anson on the assassination, "On the Trail of the Multiple Oswalds," appears in the September 19th issue of New Times.

The October 7, 1975, issue of the National Enquirer features an article on the JFK autopsy records, "Warren Report on JFK Assassination Is Wrong."

A CBS news special on the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy is scheduled for presentation in two one-hour parts on November 18 and 19 at 10:00 p.m. Two more specials on the assassination of Martin Luther King and the attempted assassination of George Wallace will follow.

A California petition drive for a new investigation has already collected over 1,000,000 signatures.

Senator Richard Schweiker (Pennsylvania) is leading Congressional efforts to have the Kennedy assassination case reopened. In the legislature, Congressman Henry Gonzales (Texas) has filed a bill calling for the reopening of the case; 45 Congressmen are co-sponsoring the resolution.

Says Anson, "The crime is like an onion; one layer is peeled away only to reveal another and yet another. It is altogether possible that the full truth of the Kennedy assassination will never be known--a modern version of the legend of Judge Crater.

"It need not be. There is at this moment a body of facts and scientific evidence, much of it newly-disclosed, which when analyzed by reasonable men presents overwhelming evidence of conspiracy...

"Late, but hopefully not too late, the assassination has been recognized for what it is: a crime against the American people. A crime which demands solution."

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