

## Sara Jane and Squeaky to the Rescue

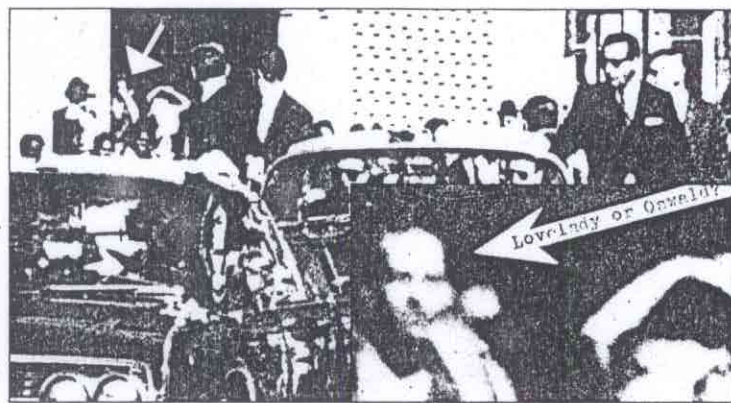
by Assassination Information Bureau

What's the difference between lone assassins and conspiracies? After the events of this past September, you'd have to say the difference is that lone assassins *miss*. The two attempts on President Ford's life by Squeaky and Sara Jane have sparked an intense discussion of all facets of political assassination. It is not necessary to talk about Violence and the American Way of Life, Women in Crime, The Need for Gun Control, or any of the other perennial topics that reappear whenever a prominent American becomes the object of target practice. Just for the moment, let's consider these two incidents as political events, from which some people benefited and some did not.

In the past year, the subject of assassination has spoiled a lot of expensive lunches for the intelligence establishment. The revelations about CIA murder plots and the renewed inquiries into the John Kennedy assassination have served as the cutting edge of the public's awakening to the incredible abuses committed for reasons of "national security." Even the staunchest Congressional defenders of unlimited Federal spying will admit that *murder* is wrong. Despite the glacial pace of the investigating committees, enough was being uncovered to threaten the power of persons unaccustomed to being threatened, or even questioned. Suddenly, up popped Squeaky and Sara Jane. In the ensuing confusion, the question of political assassination was thrown into a different frame of reference.

In the breastbeating over what a sick land we live in, several opinion makers have gone so far as to suggest that these two assassination attempts prove the need for *more* surveillance of the American people by the thirty-three (count 'em, 33) federal police and intelligence agencies. Their reasoning is that the appearance of these two odd women proves that a substantial percentage of the public are dangerous nuts who must be watched at all times. Only by extreme diligence on the part of our spies and secret policemen can we keep the President alive.

Quite a neat turnaround. The advocates of clandestineness have seized upon the very issue most damaging to them and attempted to turn it into a strength. We've all had enough of state funerals in the past few years—who could quarrel with an honest effort to save the President's life? Even if it did involve a little wiretapping or a break-in every



*This photo was taken by AP photographer James Altgens approximately 2.5 seconds into the assassination. The man in the doorway to the Book Depository bears a close resemblance to Lee Harvey Oswald, who was seen on the 1st floor some 15 minutes before the shooting began. The Warren Commission maintained that it was another Book Depository employee, Billy Lovelady. Lovelady said he was wearing a striped shirt but a film taken by the Dallas Cinema Association, as the cars roll down Elm St., shows Lovelady wearing a plaid shirt and standing at the other end of the entrance.*

once in a while. Without unduly speculating, we may say the President was certainly fortunate his would-be killers were so inept, and that the appearance of these two women was certainly convenient for the men who work to protect the government and its secrets from the citizenry.

If only Sara Jane Moore hadn't worked for them, that is. Her checkered career as an FBI informant gives the public another fascinating glimpse into the sleazy world of domestic intelligence. Even Harrison Salisbury, who wrote the foreword to the Warren Report, was moved to comment on the parallels between Ms. Moore and the shadowy world of the informer/provocateurs in pre-revolutionary Russia. Here is Ms. Moore, questioned by one agency (the Secret Service) as a potential threat to the life of the President, while being used by another agency (the FBI) in an effort to trap illegal dealers in firearms. The FBI was actually encouraging her to gain access to deadly weapons. This certainly seems a peculiar way to protect the President. Was Sara Jane vouched for by her FBI contact?

The primary concern of those 33 agencies and their 170,000 employees is and always will be the preservation and expansion of their power within the government. The claim that this power must be expanded to protect the lives of our elected officials would be laughable if it wasn't so dangerous.

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The initial impact of the court ruling in Los Angeles on ballistics evidence in the Robert Kennedy assassination seemingly was to close the door on the 2nd gun theory. Their report was submitted to the judge and when it was read in open court, the first line—that there was no substantive evidence to support the existence of a second gun—was all that was needed to send reporters bolting out the door to the nearest phone. For those who stayed in the courtroom, however, and heard more, the report of the ballistics experts raised more questions than it answered.

Although there was no hard evidence to support the presence of a second gun, it could not be ruled out. In fact, the report notes that the tests performed do *not* prove that Sirhan's gun was responsible for the actual shooting of RFK; the panel was unanimous in saying that you *cannot* match the bullets from Sirhan's gun with *any* bullets from the victims.

The uncertainty and inconclusiveness of the test results stresses the need for more tests. Other examinations, such as a check of the rifling angles and a neutron activation analysis of the bullets, were not conducted and should be performed to reach more conclusive determinations. Unfortunately, confusion has been perpetrated in a large part by the media, who in this case failed to adequately explore the substance of the experts' report.