

# HOCUS-POCUS & HELTER-SKELTER

by Assassination Information Bureau

Julia Ann Mercer was driving through Dealey Plaza on the morning of Nov. 22, 1963, when she noticed a green pick-up truck parked with its two right wheels on the curb, blocking traffic. Three policemen in the area seemed to be ignoring the incident, but Mercer got a good look at the driver of the vehicle as he glared at her. She also observed another man take a long, slender, brown package from the back of the truck and walk up the lawn toward the now infamous grassy knoll.

The next morning, while being questioned by the FBI, Mercer picked out four photographs of men who looked like the driver of the truck. According to her, the name written on the back of one of the photos was none other than Jack Ruby.

On November 24, Julia Ann Mercer was one of the millions watching television when Lee Harvey Oswald was shot by Jack Ruby. Upon viewing the heavy-set gun-wielder, her reaction was, "That was the man I saw in the truck!"

When the FBI and Dallas Sheriff's Dept. further attempted to investigate Mercer's story, a veil of manufactured evidence, cover-up, and forgery was thrown over it.

Her affidavit, taken by the Sheriff's Dept., is reprinted in the Warren Commission Exhibits under the heading "Decker Exhibit No. 5323" and is signed with her name. Unfortunately, Mercer says it is not her signature. Handwriting samples bear this out. The statement also has the signature of a female Notary Public on it. But Mercer says, "This is also untrue. On no occasion during any of my questioning was a woman ever present."

This forged affidavit has Mercer saying that the truck had "Air Conditioning" painted on the side. This led authorities on a wild goose chase trying to track down all air conditioning firms in the area. Another FBI statement says that Mercer could not identify Ruby as the driver, but could identify the other man if she saw him again. All of this, she says, is exactly the opposite of what she told them.

Obviously it is important to find out who these two mysterious men in the truck were and whether Ruby was involved. We can see why Sen. Russell Schweicker and others in Congress are now calling for a new investigation. Statements were changed and more importantly, forgery was committed in the name of justice. Needless to say, Julia

Ann Mercer never testified before the Warren Commission.

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Authorities in Los Angeles tell us that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan fired eight bullets at Robert F. Kennedy, the maximum possible from his .22 caliber Iver and Johnson pistol. But evidence continues to mount that more were fired, meaning there was another gun in the pantry that night.

An Associated Press wirephoto, taken the day after the shooting, showed two policemen pointing at what the caption described as a bullet lodged in a pantry door. The L.A.P.D. denied this. In late 1975, the two police officers were finally identified as Robert Rozzi and Charles Wright.

Vincent Bugliosi, author of *Helter-*

arrived, Wright informed him that he had been instructed by Police Sergeant Phil Sartuchi and Deputy City Attorney Larry Nagen not to give any statement. Both Wright and Rizzo were served with subpoenas requiring them to appear in court the next morning. But the judge wouldn't let them testify, declaring it out of the scope of the limited investigation then in progress.

Angelo Di Piero, *maitre d'* at the hotel, revealed to Bugliosi what seems to be the existence of still one more bullet. He said in his statement:

*I observed a small-caliber bullet lodged about a quarter of an inch into the wood on the center divider of the two swinging doors.*

L.A.P.D. criminologist Dewayne Wolfer told Coroner Thomas Noguchi that



Where did the wood fragments on Sirhan's bullets come from?

*Skelter* and co-counsel along with Allard Lowenstein for Paul Schrade, one of the wounded bystanders attempting to reopen the RFK probe, obtained a statement from Rozzi in which he stated:

*... someone discovered what appeared to be a bullet a foot and a half or so from the floor in a doorjamb on the door behind the stage. I also personally observed what I believed to be a bullet in the place just mentioned. What I observed was a hole in the doorjamb, and what appeared to be the base of a small-caliber bullet was lodged inside the hole. ...*

A telephone conversation with Officer Wright confirmed Rizzo's story. An appointment was made to put this into written form. However, when Bugliosi

there were two bullet holes in the divider. The official story is that they were caused by food carts.

Two bullets were found the night of the assassination on the front seat of Sirhan's car, the authorities tell us. But they both contained traces of wood. The implications seem obvious enough. Could these be the doorjamb or pantry bullets? If not, then why do they have wood on them?

Vincent Bugliosi is now running for district attorney in Los Angeles. He has described the L.A.P.D.'s actions in the case as "unbelievable and inexcusable." If elected he says he will immediately begin a new investigation into the Robert Kennedy assassination. He believes that if a conspiracy is discovered, it will "make Watergate look like a one-roach marijuana bust." ■

# JFK CASE: THE PLOT THICKENS

by Assassination Information Bureau

On November 9, 1963, Miami police informant William Somerset secretly recorded an incredible conversation he had with a man who described the John Kennedy murder two weeks before it happened:

"Well, how in the hell do you figure would be the best way to get him?"

"From an office building with a high-powered rifle. . . ."

"You think he knows he is a marked man?"

"Sure he does."

"They are really going to kill him?"

"Oh yeah, it is in the working. Brown himself, Brown is just as likely to get him as anybody. . . ."

The subject is Joseph Adams Milteer, active member of the ultra-right National States Rights Party. He goes on to say, "They wouldn't leave any step unturned here, no way. They will pick somebody within hours afterwards, if anything like that would happen, just to throw the public off."

Thirteen days later, John Kennedy was gunned down in Dallas. The man arrested and charged with the murder, Lee Oswald, insisted upon his innocence until he himself was bumped off.

The remarkable conversation between Somerset and Milteer had been promptly reported to the FBI. Their files state that on November 10, the Bureau received information that "J.A. Milteer made a statement that plans were in the making to kill President J.F. KENNEDY at some future date; that MILTEER suggested one JACK BROWN of Chattanooga, Tennessee, as the man who could do the job, and that he (MILTEER) would be willing to help. MILTEER reportedly said that . . . the job could be done from an office . . . using a high-powered rifle." The report adds that the Secret Service was made aware of this scenario.

Was there any action or investigation prompted by this explicit threat? None. John Kennedy was allowed to die in Dallas. The Secret Service checked its files of threats against the President *only for the Dallas-Fort Worth area*. The Secret Service must have assumed, therefore, that no self-respecting assassin would travel from beyond Dallas to do the job.

The grim plot thickens.

Somerset has stated that on the morning of the assassination itself, Milteer called him to say he was in Dallas and, referring to the President, said, "I don't think you will ever see your boy in Miami again." John Kennedy had just spoken in Miami.



Somerset met with Milteer the following day, November 23, in Jacksonville, Fla. The FBI report of this meeting says Milteer "was very jubilant over the death of President KENNEDY. . . . MILTEER stated, 'Everything ran true to form. I guess you thought I was kidding you when I said he would be killed from a window with a high-powered rifle.' When questioned as to whether he was guessing when he originally made the threat regarding President Kennedy, MILTEER is quoted as saying, 'I don't do any guessing. . . .'"

On the morning of November 24, 1963 in Columbia, S.C., Milteer advised (quoting from a recently declassified FBI document) "that they did not have to worry about LEE HARVEY OSWALD because he 'doesn't know anything' and that the 'right wing' is in the clear. MILTEER further related that 'the patriots have outsmarted the communists and had infiltrated the communist group in order that they (communists) could carry out the plan without the right wingers becoming involved.'"

The FBI, in its relentless pursuit of the truth, finally decided it should have a chat with, but not arrest, J.A. Milteer. On November 27, he denied to Hoover's G-Men that he had ever talked of threats upon the President's life. Although Milteer's words were recorded on a tape that was in the possession of the Miami police, his blanket denial was good enough for the FBI. They dropped the whole matter.

Milteer's denials were not good enough for the Miami police. They'd responded quite seriously to his initial reports, canceling the Presidential motorcade in that city scheduled for November 19, 1963.) After watching their valuable evidence ignored or suppressed, the Miami

police finally played their tape publicly for journalists and newsmen on February 2, 1967. Needless to say, Milteer's story fared as poorly in the hands of the national media as it did with the government.

That the Milteer tape had not one iota of effect on events before, during and after November 22, 1963 is extraordinary. That there were other Presidential threats involving the National States Rights Party that were equally ignored or suppressed invites disbelief.

A report dated November 15, 1963 from the San Antonio Secret Service has the FBI talking to a member of the Ku Klux Klan. The Klansman said, "A militant group of the National States Rights Party plans to assassinate the President. . . ." Again, the inference is that the Secret Service did not consider any threats coming from outside the Dallas area to be a real danger to the President.

And if that is not enough, there is always the FBI report dated December 4, 1963 from Atlanta. This document summarizes a conversation held in the spring of 1963 between Dr. Stanley L. Drennan, "active in the NSRP" in California, and Captain Robert K. Brown, mercenary *par excellence* and currently publisher of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine. According to this report, Drennan said, "What the organization needed was a group of young men to get rid of Kennedy, the Cabinet, all members of *Americans for Democratic Action*, and maybe 10,000 other people. BROWN stated that he considered the remark as being 'crackpot'; however, as DRENNAN continued the conversation, he gained the impression that DRENNAN may have been propositioning him on this matter."

This lead, like J.A. Milteer, vanished into the maw of the Warren Commission without a mention. ■

# THIS WATERGATE SWINGS BOTH WAYS

by Assassination Information Bureau

We have discovered an indirect but important link between some of the Watergate burglars and an individual who came to the attention of the Warren Commission because of his association with Jack Ruby in some schemes related to Cuba. The central figure in this story is Robert Ray McKeown, who at the time in question lived in Houston, Texas.

McKeown told the FBI in January, 1964 that a man named Rubinstein (Ruby's original name) had telephoned him in January, 1959, about a week after Castro took power in Cuba. The caller was attempting to gain the release of three people being held under arrest by the new Cuban government. "Rubinstein" offered McKeown \$15,000 for his assistance, and he remarked that the money would be paid by unnamed persons in Las Vegas. "Rubinstein" never called back about this request, but a few weeks later a man whom McKeown identified as Ruby showed up in Houston to talk to McKeown in person. This time, for \$25,000, he wanted McKeown to write a letter of introduction to Fidel Castro (for Ruby). Again, according to McKeown, there was no follow-up and no action was taken.

Ruby had certainly come to the right man for the jobs he needed done. McKeown was a personal friend of Fidel Castro. When Castro visited the U.S. in April, 1959, during the period when U.S.-Cuban relations were still quite friendly, the Cuban leader stopped off in Houston to pay his respects to McKeown. Castro was quoted as saying that McKeown would always be welcome in Cuba and, if he wished, could have a government job or a valuable concession.

What had McKeown done to deserve such treatment by Castro? For years, McKeown had been a supplier of illegal weapons and equipment to Castro's guerilla army in the mountains fighting to overthrow Batista. There were many Americans who fought on Castro's side (for example, Frank Sturgis and Jack Youngblood, under suspicion in the Martin Luther King case) and they had various motives. McKeown's true interests may still not be known, but it is clear that his political allegiance was not to Castro but to Dr. Carlos Prío Socarras, a former Cuban President living in exile in Florida since 1952, who, it has often been alleged, has secretly been one of Castro's biggest financial backers.

The most interesting document about McKeown is Warren Commission



*This photo, one of a series taken by news photographer Jim Murray after the assassination in Dallas, shows an unidentified man picking something off the infield grass of Dealey Plaza near the spot where Kennedy was shot. Deputy Sheriff Buddy Walthers and a Dallas policeman look on. In a July 22, 1964 memorandum, Warren Commission lawyer Norman Redlick suggested that Walthers be asked "exactly what he saw on the day of the assassination with reference to the bullet he claims splattered on the edge of the curb on Main St." Both the FBI and Dallas police deny that a bullet was found anywhere on the scene of the shooting, and Walthers later backed away from the story. The incident remains a source of speculation that evidence of bullets inconsistent with Oswald's rifle was covered up.*

Exhibit 3066. This is an FBI report on a 1958 arms smuggling case in which McKeown was convicted and sentenced to six months in prison and fined \$500. The FBI says that this arrest was the culmination of an investigation of the activities of Dr. Prío and his associates which had been going on since 1952. The FBI report goes on to list the names of those individuals who were charged with McKeown, including Prío himself as well as McKeown's wife.

When we looked at the identities of these individuals we find links with Watergate burglar Bernard Barker.

One of McKeown's co-defendants was "Abelardo Pujol Barrera, aka Joe Sanco, Jose Saucó, Jose Alonzo, age 42, male, resident of Miami, Florida, citizen of Cuba." This man is identical with Alonso Pujol, vice-president of Cuba during Prío's regime, who reportedly now lives in Caracas, Venezuela. According to

Horace Sutton ("The Curious Intrigues of Cuban Miami," *Saturday Review*, Sept. 11, 1973), two of Alonso Pujol's sons are linked to Barker. One son, Guillermo Alonso Pujol y Bermudez is a business associate of Barker. The other son, Jorge Alonso Pujol y Bermudez, was a Bay of Pigs veteran, ransomed from Castro's prisons by his father for a reported \$100,000, the first and only prisoner to be released before December, 1962. Jorge Alonso was arrested in Miami in 1970 in a narcotics sweep but was later released on probation. His attorney was Miquel Suarez, a prominent lawyer active in Florida Republican politics, who was head of Sen. Gurney's election committee in 1970.

Suarez has long been known to Watergate researchers as a close associate of Barker's. He represented the real estate company Barker ran in 1972; he has been Barker's business partner for a number of years. He was president of the Ameritas Corp., in whose name reservations for the Watergate burglars were made at the Watergate Hotel. When Suarez first heard about the break-in and the use of Ameritas letterheads by the burglars he claimed the letterhead was stolen.

The initial link in this chain—Robert McKeown—is of particular current interest because of his statements on last fall's CBS assassination special. In a very suspicious account, McKeown related to Dan Rather how he had been approached by two men seeking to purchase guns and identified one as Lee Harvey Oswald.

There are several reasons to be wary of this tale. Not only did McKeown wait 12 years before recounting this incident—suggesting some self-serving motive—but McKeown refers to the man who identified himself as Oswald as "this little guy, the small blond-headed fellow" (emphasis added). CBS only added further confusion and misinformation to the issue in even suggesting that there was some truth to this blatantly false account.

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Signet has just published *Government by Gunplay*, edited by AIB member Harvey Yazijian, a survey of basic arguments for conspiracy in the JFK, MLK, RFK and Wallace shootings, plus vital background articles on Watergate and organized crime. Contributors include AIB member Carl Oglesby, Phillip Agee, Fletcher Prouty, Peter Dale Scott, and Allard Lowenstein. "Sexy!" T. Capote; "Marvelous reading. . . ." B. Buckley; "I didn't know that!" G. Ford; "Now you tell me. . . ." Everett Dirksen. ■



## SIRHAN, BREMER AND "BABUSHKA"

by Assassination Information Bureau

Despite the reluctance of the national media to come to grips with domestic assassinations, at least one professional association has been exploring this issue: the National Academy of Forensic Sciences.

Forensic pathology is a vast and precise science that uses ballistics, pathology, criminalistics and other exotic technologies to determine how a life was ended. It is an unambiguous science. It doesn't politick or editorialize.

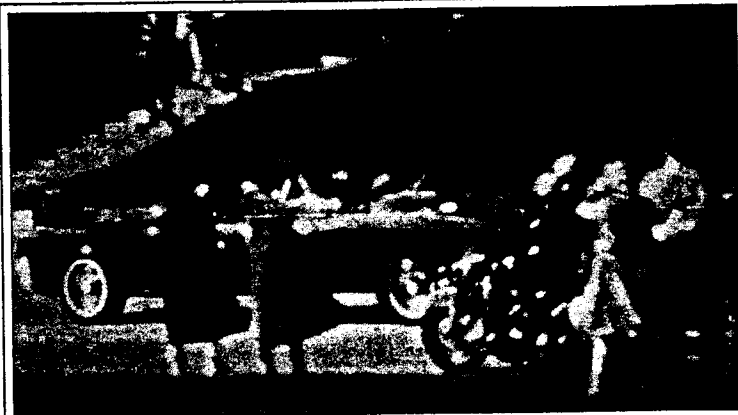
The Academy has looked into the maelstrom surrounding the death of Senator Robert Kennedy. Its executive committee recently found substantial reason to question whether the fatal bullets were fired from Sirhan Sirhan's gun, and publicly urged a new investigation into the case.

The Academy reviewed and agreed with the findings of noted criminologist William Harper, which revealed that the slug pulled from Kennedy's body and the one that wounded spectator William Weisel could not have been fired from the same gun. They also scrutinized the 62-page autopsy report prepared by Los Angeles medical examiner Thomas Noguchi. His report, which the executive committee called one of the most thorough ever prepared, shows incontrovertibly that all the bullets which struck Kennedy were fired from behind him from a distance of no more than a few inches. Sirhan, according to all eyewitness accounts, was *in front* of the Senator with the muzzle of his revolver no closer than a foot and a half from Kennedy. For all but the California Attorney General's Office and the Los Angeles Police Department, these points fatally flaw the lone assassin theory.

The Academy's desire to clarify once and for all the circumstances of RFK's death sets a welcome and valuable precedent. As clandestineness increasingly comes to dominate political life, the relevant academic and professional communities will be called out. The forensic scientists are to be commended for their ability to understand that knowledge of the truth demands action. We can only ask how long such influential organizations as the American Medical Association, the American Bar Association and the National Lawyer's Guild can remain silent.

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Do "New Left" and "Old Right" conspiracy theorists have the same conspiracies in mind? In what ways are the



Researcher Richard Sprague calls her grassy knoll and wall would show up the "babushka lady," and she joins in the background. She was located by Umbrella Man, the Tramps, and others Sprague after years of effort. She had in that mysterious cast appearing in photos from Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963. Attention was first focused on her because she is seemingly aiming a camera at the Presidential limousine at the time of the shooting. Her film would seem to be important because the government acknowledged its existence.

two points of view alike?

John Birch Society publicist Tim Heinan was an undercover operative for the Milwaukee Police Department in the late 1960s. He infiltrated SDS and came to know a straggler named Arthur Bremer. The Wallace shooting launched Heinan into his current study of political assassinations, and for the past few years he has toured the country lecturing on conspiracies for the JBS speakers bureau.

Bremer's more militant associates in Milwaukee SDS may have been police and federal infiltrators, Heinan now observes with hindsight, perhaps part of the FBI's famous COINTELPRO against the antiwar and civil rights movement launched in May 1968. Bremer was not the proverbial "lancer" he was depicted as, insists Heinan, but was probably acting on behalf of a conspiracy that wanted to bestow on Richard Nixon in 1972 a victory margin large enough to obliterate normal political opposition.

The JBS has for a long time espoused conspiracy interpretations of Dallas. The cover story that Oswald was a Castro agent (bait which the Warren Commission eagerly bit) was awkward for the Birchers because they believed that JFK and Castro were already in league with the International Communist Conspiracy. Heinan sees Oswald in terms

of the known facts: a poor marksman incapable of the crossfire, a background of intelligence work in Russia, then using his Russian credentials to attach himself to the leftist Fair Play for Cuba Committee—possibly a wholly unwitting patsy of the JFK assassination cabal.

We think now is the time to begin exploratory dialog between all those who can agree that the outer play of U.S. politics is mostly dumbshow and farce. We do not say that we could form, for example, a united front with an organization like the JBS on this question of the cover-up of political assassinations. But should we rule out such a thing in advance? The fact is that there have always been rightwing libertarians and leftwing libertarians and they tend to think the same thing for different reasons; namely, that the gravest threat to society today is posed by the superstate itself, and that this threat is particularly clear in the instances of Dallas and Watergate.

The left will tend to think the CIA and the Mafia and a few rich Texans had Kennedy killed. The right will tend to look either toward Castro or Rockefeller. But we could all agree that we will never know until we all know, and maybe begin to get together around the one thing we all know for a fact right now—which is that the state has permitted none of us to know the truth.