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Editor, Jerusalem Post
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ISRAEL

in telling your readers that those of us who are critical of the official solutions of the assassination of President Kennedy (the FBI and Secret Service solutions disagree with that of the Warren Report), you repeat the drivel of AP and Reuters, label us all as "conspiracy theorists," and mislead and misinform your readers.

I am the author of the first of these books and of five others and there is not a word of theory in any of them. The official solutions, however, are only theories. The crime itself was never investigated officially. Instead, all official investigators strove to give the untenable lone-assassin theory what credibility they could.

Conspiracy is a matter of fact, not of theory. If the crime was beyond the capability of one man, then it absolutely was a conspiracy. Nobody in the world has been able to duplicate the shooting attributed to Lee Harvey Oswald, and the best marksmen were used by the government. (Oswald was evaluated by the Marine Corps as "a rather poor shot.")

Selecting an atypical passage from Mark Lane's book, which was dated by the time it appeared, grossly misrepresents the substantial critical literature and the means by which it brought misrepresented and suppressed fact to light. In addition to what the Warren Commission disclosed, I, for example, filed numerous lawsuits under the Freedom of Information Act, obtaining about a third of a million such pages of mostly withheld official records.

There was the outpouring of ^{anniversary} nostalgia you report by the major TV networks and the print press; there was much cheap exploitation, of which the selection from the silly James Reston, Jr., book you quote is a minor example; and there was widespread repetition of the official mythology. But there also was a substantial, factual and already honored documentary I hope Israeli audiences can see.

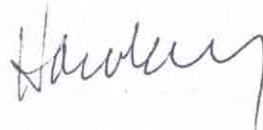
Gerard (Chip) Selby, a graduate student at the University of Maryland, produced this documentary entitled "Reasonable Doubt" as his master's thesis. He does no theorizing. He examines and destroys the official mythology of the "single bullet theory," the Commission's means of evading the proof that no one shooter could have committed this terrible crime.

"Reasonable Doubt" won the prestigious ^{GOLDEN} "Eagle" award in the history division of the national documentary competition by the Council on International Non-Theatrical Events. It was shown on Arts & Entertainment TV cable from coast to coast, getting exceptionally good ratings. I do hope Israeli TV viewers can see it so they can judge for themselves who the theorizers are and whether or not there was a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy.

As I think Israelis may understand better than Americans, whatever the intention of the assassins of a head of state, that crime has the effect of a coup d'etat.

The world, so much worse off for this terrible crime, deserves better information about it than it gets.

Harold Weisberg



3

P.S. If you think I exaggerate in any way, particularly in saying that the crime itself was never investigated, your correspondent is welcome to come here and can have free and unsupervised access to this great volume of official records. From the lowest level, FBI agents in Dallas, to the highest, the acting attorney general, beginning the instant of the crime, these records once suppressed reflect official intention not to investigate the crime. I keep a selection of these at hand for those interested in seeing them. We are about an hour from Washington.

H.W.

Twenty-five years after Dallas: The

EXTRA! THE JERUSALEM POST EXTRA!

KENNEDY ASSASSINATED; SUSPECT HELD; JOHNSON TAKES OATH AS PRESIDENT

THREE RIFLE SHOTS FIRED The 36th President



The last picture of President Kennedy shows him as he was being carried to the hospital in Dallas on Friday, Nov. 22, 1963. He was assassinated. Mrs. Kennedy is at his side and Mrs. Johnson is at the head of the stretcher. The body of the president was taken to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., for autopsy.

Suspected Killer is Ex-Marine, One-Time Defector to Russia

DALLAS — Harvey Lee Oswald, 24, ex-Marine who spent three years in Russia as a defector, was formally charged Saturday morning with the murder of President Kennedy, the Dallas County District Attorney said.

DALLAS, Texas. — A hidden gunman assassinated President Kennedy with a high-powered rifle on Friday. Three shots reverberated. Blood sprang from the back seat of his car.

His wife turned his head and tried to get to him. She was shot in the back. Mrs. Johnson was shot in the back. Mrs. Johnson was shot in the back. Mrs. Johnson was shot in the back.

Within the hour, police had arrested a 24-year-old man following the killing of a Dallas policeman. He identified the man as the slayer of one policeman, but he added that it had not been established that the man killed the President.

He is Harvey Lee Oswald, an American who four years ago said he was applying for Russian citizenship. He has a Russian wife. Oswald denied that he had any enemies.

The assassination occurred just as the President was making the Oath of Office. The Oath was taken at the Texas School Depository. Oswald was shot in the back of the head. He was shot in the back of the head. He was shot in the back of the head.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The body of John F. Kennedy lay in state Saturday in the Texas School Depository. The body of the president was taken to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., for autopsy.

Through the day, his family, his close friends and many other people gathered at the Depository. The body of the president was taken to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., for autopsy.

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Tuesday, November 22, 1988 The Jerusalem Post

legacy of John Kennedy lives on



The mystery has still not been solved

THE PUBLIC has had difficulty accepting the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald, unaided, assassinated Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas. Oswald himself was slain two days after the assassination by Jack Ruby. Conspiracy finds a believing audience.

Conspiracy theorists dismiss the Warren Commission's finding, yet by and large they base their own theories on the very same 26-volume Warren Report. Mark Lane may be the best-known critic of the commission. In his book *Rush to Judgment*, Lane tries to undermine the testimony of Harold Norman, who was an order-filler at the Texas School Book Depository, as was Oswald. The commission concluded that Oswald fired three shots at the president's motorcade from the sixth floor of the Depository. Norman was one floor down watching the motorcade with two co-workers.

"Although the three men withdrew from their position at the windows into the quiet of the deserted fifth floor, they were unable to detect any sound of movement above," Lane writes. "Yet Norman claimed that while he was still at the window he was able to hear the action of a rifle bolt and the sound of empty shells hitting the floor above."

A favourite sniper's nest among conspiracy theorists is the "grassy knoll" area. The motorcade was approaching it when Kennedy was shot. If there were another rifleman there as well as Oswald to the rear in the Depository, the plot must thicken.

Over the years various theories have claimed that Oswald and Ruby

were homosexual lovers and plotters, or that Oswald was a tool of the KGB or that Ruby was a hit man for a conspiracy.

A NEW BOOK suggests that when Oswald shot the presidential motorcade his target may not have been President Kennedy at all but rather Texas Governor John Connally. Excerpts from *The Great Expectations of John Connally*, by James Reston, Jr., to be published next year, were printed in *Time* magazine on Sunday.

Connally, who rode in the limousine with Kennedy, was wounded in the rifle attack.

Reston recounts Oswald's stay in the Soviet Union, where his actions prompted the U.S. Marine corps to downgrade his discharge from honourable to undesirable. Crushed, Oswald petitioned Connally to influence the Marines. He believed that Connally was Secretary of the Navy but the Texan had left the post six weeks earlier and his office sent Oswald a perfunctory reply.

Reston wrote: "To Oswald, Connally was the U.S. Government, and its unfair action fortified his bitterness."

Reviewing testimony given to the Warren Commission probing the assassination, Reston found some witnesses who had said that Oswald had a clear grudge against Connally but no obvious signs of enmity towards Kennedy.

Reston also includes a witness's account of a conversation between a man believed to be Oswald and Jack Ruby, who later killed Oswald. The subject was killing Connally. (AP, Reuter)

'We've had no one like him since'

Steve Holland

A QUARTER CENTURY after his death, Americans still cannot heal the psychological wound left by the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

For millions, those few seconds between life and death in Dallas remain vivid memories, and the 25th anniversary of the assassination brings a return of the agony, reflections on what might have been, and a lingering fascination with conspiracy theories.

"America needs heroes as all countries need heroes. John Kennedy pursued a standard of excellence that Americans believe this country should pursue," said Ted Sorenson, who wrote many of Kennedy's speeches. "We haven't had anyone like him since."

Most Americans are reliving November 22, 1963, the day of his assassination, on television — appropriately, since Kennedy's was the first televised presidency.

An array of programmes has marked the anniversary. The most painful was CBS television's two-hour digest of its 56 hours of live coverage: the shocking news bulletin that broke into a soap opera with a report that shots had been fired, the news that he was dead, the arrest and later killing of Lee Harvey Oswald, and finally Kennedy's flag-draped coffin rolling to its final resting place aboard a horse-drawn caisson.

Though the 1,000-day Kennedy rule has been dubbed "Camelot" to represent a legendary period of national good feeling and pride, it was a time rife with troubles that had the young president staring down the gun barrel.

"I don't think he would have paid any attention to this Camelot sentimentality, because his years were tough years," said his secretary of state, Dean Rusk. He had his feet on the ground. "The world came to the brink of nuclear war with the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, but Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev was forced to back down. The previous year, Kennedy badly bungled the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. Tackling the divisive issue of equal rights for



blacks, he forced reluctant southern states to accept integration, but he was slow to do so.

HE CHALLENGED Americans to "ask not what your country can do for you..." and inspired the landing of a man on the moon (which eventually took place in 1969) as well as the creation of the Peace Corps. With Communists on the move in Vietnam, he began the U.S. military presence there. Some historians think if he had survived to serve a second term, he would never have got bogged down there as did his successors Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon.

"John F. Kennedy was very conscious of the fact that he was the first president to be born in the 20th century," Rusk said in a telephone interview.

"He thought of himself as representing a new generation on the scene so he tended to take a fresh look at the policies since World War Two and was willing to take fresh initiatives.

"He was an incandescent man. He tended to set people around him on fire, although in moments of crisis he had ice water in his veins," Rusk said.

Some experts postulate that Kennedy's death led to a sense of national decline by many of that generation, a bitterness intensified by the prolonged involvement in Vietnam.

Frederick Goodwin, a psychiatrist and scientific director of the National Institute of Mental Health, said this "unravelling of our shared sense of national well-being" began with the assassination and ultimately led to higher crime, increased depression, experimentation with drugs and a doubling in the divorce rate.

"My generation has not healed fully from that deep wound, inflicted during our youth, by the wrenching loss of John Kennedy," he wrote in an article for *The Washington Post*.

"Whatever the ultimate historical judgment of Kennedy as a president, he was a man who generated such emotion that most Americans over the age of 30 — as well as many non-Americans — can remember in minute detail what they were doing when the country's youngest president was slain at the age of 46. I have taken people to his grave from all over the world, from Japan, Latin America, the Soviet Union, and what amazes me is that they all tell us what they were doing and what was happening around them when Kennedy was assassinated," said Kelly Chidress, historian at Arlington cemetery, where four million people a year pause at the Kennedy grave.

Among the images of those traumatic days in November that people cannot forget, Jacqueline Kennedy's anguish stands out. Her blood-spattered clothes and her beautiful face contorted with shock and grief in the open car in which John Kennedy was shot dead next to her, the fortitude with which she stood, frozen in pain, in the plane next to Lyndon Johnson as he was sworn in as president, and her demour at the state funeral as she watched her husband buried — these moments refuse to fade from the collective consciousness of America and the world.

(Rover)