

People and the PURSUIT of Truth

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Editorial

THE PURSUIT OF TRUTH – WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW AND CAN'T FIND OUT

Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor

The researchers into political assassinations in the United States must deal with wide ranges of truth:

Case 1: John Jones took a photograph of X happening. He shows you the photograph, and you look at it. Did X actually happen?

Case 2: John Jones says that he saw X happen. Did X actually happen?

Case 3: John Jones says that Samuel Smith says that he saw X happen. Did X actually happen?

Not a single one of the events X can be repeated. They are a part of history (or belief or imagination), not science. They are not like the events X studied in exper-

imental science which regularly can be repeated, as for example: "Put half a teaspoon of salt in a glass of water. Stir it thoroughly. The salt will disappear."

Yet the events X of history can be studied in sets and correlated. They can be fitted together into reasonable reconstructions of what probably really happened; or they can be assembled together into romantic scenarios of what might have happened.

Commission Exhibit CE 399. This is a bullet, photographed in the Warren Report. It supposedly (1) shot President John F. Kennedy and Governor John B. Connally Jr. of Texas, (2) defied the laws of physical trajectories by traveling a path twisting in three dimensions, and (3) defied the laws of mass by leaving metal debris in Connally, and (4) was almost undeformed. It is often called the Warren Commission Magic Bullet.

Hugh McDonald's assassin "Saul" claims to have fired the Magic Bullet. Did McDonald do his homework?

(please turn to page 8)

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This magazine is devoted to:

- facts, information, truth, and unanswered questions that are important to people, widely suppressed, and not adequately covered in the usual American press; and also to
- solutions to great problems that are functioning well in some countries or places, yet are almost never talked about in the usual American press.

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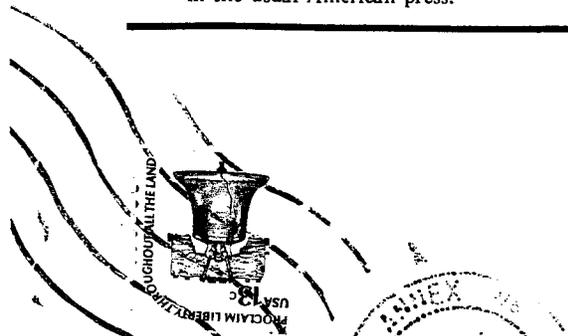
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

To:

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From:



The House Congressional Investigation Into The Assassinations: Some Background

by Michael J. Satchell, (Staff Writer), Interviewer
The Washington Star
Washington, D.C.
and
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Based on an article in "The Washington Star," October 22, 1976

Outline

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No Trial: Shocking
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Why? — A Job Now Successful
The End of Speculation? - Perhaps

Are You Connected with the CIA? — No!

Question: The Committee to Investigate Assassinations has long been suspected by some people of being somehow connected with the CIA and you yourself being labeled possibly a CIA agent or CIA plant. Are you in fact a CIA agent of some sort?

Fensterwald: No, I'm a full-time lawyer. Neither I nor my partner have ever been affiliated with the CIA or worked for the CIA either with or without pay in any way, shape or form. I have no idea where the rumor started. I don't know anyone that knows anything about my history that has ever made such an accusation. On the converse side, going back to the early '60s when I worked for the Senate as counsel for one of their committees, I did an investigation on the CIA and since then I have represented a number of clients in cases against the CIA to the extent that if there's any evidence at all, it all points in the other direction.

Thousands of Documents Still Locked Away

Q: Is it possible that the CIA or the FBI has evidence locked away somewhere that could shed new light on the investigations into the JFK assassination or perhaps Martin Luther King's assassination?

A: It's always possible, and there is considerable evidence which is under lock and key in the National Archives today which will remain classified until the year 2039 unless it is declassified by the various government agencies, primarily the FBI and the CIA. In addition to that, there are literally thousands of documents that the CIA did not give to the Warren Commission and did not go to the National Archives which have never been made public. A number of freedom of information suits have resulted in declassification of a part of this material, yet we know from the index they give us that they have a mass of material which has never been made public.

The Releasing of Vital Evidence

Q: Apart from material that might prove distasteful or hurtful to the Kennedy family, the JFK autopsy photographs for example, is there other evidence or do you feel there's other material under lock and key that could shed significant light on the assassinations?

A: Well, certainly from reviewing the index of the withheld material which they have been forced to supply to various district courts, you get the impression that much very vital information is being withheld. Again, I say, without knowing what that information is, it's hard to say where it's going to point.

Q: Can you hazard a guess as to what they might have?

A: No, I can't. I can only tell you so far as the CIA is concerned a large part of the withheld testimony involves a trip Lee Harvey Oswald made to Mexico just immediately prior to the assassination. No one in the public knows what this trip was all about. But we do know that the CIA has been particularly sensitive with respect to that. We do know that there were CIA cameras taking pictures of people going in and out of the Cuban and Soviet embassies and they took a number of pictures of a man they

labeled Lee Harvey Oswald. From looking at him, he is obviously not Lee Harvey Oswald, but the CIA will not identify him.

Q: Would it not better serve the American public to just simply release this information and get to the bottom of the matter once and for all?

A: The Committee to Investigate Assassinations has urged through the years that all of the information with respect to the John Kennedy assassination be made public. The official solution is that Lee Harvey Oswald was a lone nut killer and that there were no other people involved and there were no international ramifications. And therefore, taking that story as gospel makes it difficult for a lawyer to see why they should cover anything. However, there is this intense desire on the part of government to keep it secret, and I think in any lawsuit where you have this sort of mania for locking the evidence up you create the suspicion that there's more there. And I don't think anybody at this time outside the government knows what happened to John Kennedy. I think the congressional committees in time will find out.

Reopening the Questions? — Yes!

Q: It has been 13 years since the Kennedy assassination. Why reopen his grave?

A: It's not really a question of reopening his grave. I know the subject is frequently talked about in terms similar to that. I think that the integrity of our whole political process is probably at stake because whether the Warren Commission was right or wrong, I think that the American people — and the polls bear this out — have a great doubt as to whether Oswald was properly investigated. They have a doubt as to whether Oswald was a lone nut killer. And until their doubts can be satisfied, I think the integrity of the system and the credibility of the government is very much weakened.

Watergate

plus the Revelations of the CIA Seeking to Kill Fidel Castro

Q: Why has it taken 13 years for Congress to become officially involved in this?

A: Well, it's a number of reasons. One, I think the membership of the Warren Commission itself contained so many outstanding people that it is difficult to believe that for whatever reason they would not seriously try to give the public a full answer. There's a great reluctance to disbelieve people like Justice Warren and Sen. Russell. Secondly, I think until Watergate people tended to disbelieve that their government could be involved in anything of this nature. But even more recently the revelations, the accounts of the CIA to kill Fidel Castro have gotten rid of the last reluctance there is.

Warren Commission Complicity? — Probably Not

Q: Is it conceivable that the Warren Commission — in the interests of national security — participated in or agreed to some sort of cover-up?

A: As a lawyer I tend to believe they made the best conclusion they could from the evidence at hand. We know of so much key evidence that was either withheld or destroyed that you get a general feeling that they had only a relatively small part of the really important material. For example, Lee Harvey Oswald wrote a threatening note to an FBI agent shortly before the assassination. In a matter of an hour or two before Jack Ruby shot

Oswald, the FBI agent flushed it down the toilet. Now this was never reported to the Warren Commission. There are certain people who can link Oswald and Ruby, and this material was never passed to the commission. So I think it's a very harsh judgment to say that this very distinguished bunch of Americans — including the chief justice of the United States — purposely did not reach the proper conclusion.

Investigate for Two Years? — Reasonable

Q: How long will it take the House to investigate this affair and come to some sort of a conclusion. Will it be years away, do you feel?

A: No, I don't think it will be that far away. The House of Representatives had two basic roads they could have taken: their staff members, people who were thoroughly familiar with the subject but equally opinionated; or they could start with people who were good lawyers and good investigators and start with a clean mind and simply go down the same road that others have been going down for 12 years. They chose the latter. That will take somewhat more time, but with the caliber of people that have been chosen I can't see that it's going to take a matter of years. I think it will take a number of months longer than it would going the other way.

The National Concern:

Why were Kennedy and King Killed? and How? and Who?

Q: Eunice Shriver, who of course lost two brothers to assassins, has said that she would prefer the whole thing be dropped, that the investigations into JFK and Robert Kennedy's deaths shouldn't be opened. How do you respond when a family member expresses this kind of a sentiment?

A: Well, I think all of us feel a basic sympathy not only for Mrs. Shriver but also for Mrs. Rose Kennedy and for the remaining brother, Sen. Kennedy. But it's my own feeling that the question of what happened to the Kennedy brothers, if something more than meets the eye did occur, is really a matter of national concern and transcends their own very understandable interest in it. I think that the investigation certainly into President Kennedy's death can be done in such a way as to cause minimum grief to the family. And I think there's a very good chance that this will happen because I think the members of the House of Representatives and the members of the Church Committee in the Senate are very well aware of the problem, and I can't see any reason why it cannot be done without terribly distasteful evidence being trotted out in public. I just don't think that's necessary.

James Earl Ray: a Plea of Guilty, and No Trial: Shocking

Q: You were the attorney for James Earl Ray. Do you feel that there is evidence that could clear him or alternatively to prove that he was not the lone assassin?

A: It is my own personal belief that there was a conspiracy. I think that the question would be resolved if James Earl Ray were given a trial. I think most of us in the United States, most of the public certainly, and almost all of Washington that I know were simply amazed when a guilty plea was extracted from him and he went off to serve a 99-year term without a trial. It came as a great shock to most people and I think most people were rather disappointed in a crime of this magnitude a man would not in fact stay for a jury trial. I spent six years
(please turn to page 7)

Appraising the Book "Appointment in Dallas"

by Hugh C. McDonald — Part 2

Peter R. Hymans, Member
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El Sobrante, Calif.

(Continued from "People and the PURSUIT of Truth" for November 1976, page 8)

"Appointment in Dallas," by Hugh C. McDonald (as told to Geoffrey Bocca) is a book which leaves readers with a dead president, an astute but naive sleuth, three photographs said to be taken in Mexico of an unknown person (the man McDonald calls "Saul"), and a captivating narrative filled with hearsay, opinions, and many contradictions of known facts. The contradictions are apparent to anyone who has read "Six Seconds in Dallas" by Josiah Thompson, "Accessories After the Fact," by Sylvia Meagher, "Inquest: The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth," by Edward Jay Epstein, and other careful studies of the Warren Commission report and of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Hugh C. McDonald is in no way a "kook," or a person who verges on lunacy or madness. For example, he shows unusual common sense when he refers to the Federal government's coverup (p. 61): "...why cover up? It didn't make sense.

"After he was forced to rule out the CIA, the FBI and the Warren Commission, McDonald had seriously considered going directly to the President with his information. It could be done. McDonald had enough clout to get an interview.

"What stopped him was a very sobering possibility — which did make sense. According to Herman Kimsey, it was Saul's strong impression that the assassination had been arranged by a private group. If that were so -- then there was one glaringly obvious reason. These men, whoever they were, preferred Lyndon Baines Johnson as President of the United States to John F. Kennedy. Taking it one step further, McDonald wondered that if these people removed Kennedy because they couldn't do business with him, did they believe they could do business with Johnson? If that were true, then approaching the President could be very dangerous indeed — if not fatal.

"At this stage of the game, McDonald refused even to speculate about who the omnipotent 'they' might be."

The book, however, is basically a distraction; and it leads away from some of the facts that will eventually place the truth about the assassination of John F. Kennedy in full light. Hardly anything in the book would stand up as evidence in a court of law, and a great many details are in conflict with the physical and photographic evidence of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963 in Dallas, Texas.

The story line by Hugh C. McDonald (as told to Geoffrey Bocca) is that Hugh C. McDonald, at great expense, traveled to many foreign places in search of a hired gunman who was interviewed and who claimed to have killed President John F. Kennedy.

McDonald may well be an astute investigator and interrogator, but his actual words are almost incredibly naive. Referring to a story supposedly told by "Saul," a footnote reads: "McDonald says, 'This kind of vagueness is enormously convincing to a professional interrogator. If he (Saul) had been more precise, I would have suspected he were embroidering, or doing some Monday-morning quarter-backing.'" (p. 141)

Later there is a footnote (in testimony to a story about a fight in a hotel room): "I believe even now this incident was Saul's greatest source of anxiety. The scene is so irrelevant, so stupid, and leaves such loose ends that it could not be invented. Anyone who was creating a story out of imagination would never insert an incident of this kind. It is irrelevant, nonsensical, and totally out of context with the entire central theme of Saul's story. It is one of the proofs of Saul's story ..." (p. 163). In other words, one of the proofs of Saul's story is that it is irrelevant and nonsensical!

According to McDonald, "Saul" related the following: "... this man [Oswald] had no knowledge of the assassination plot but would believe that he was in the pay of the CIA. He was firing shots only to demonstrate to the President how vulnerable he was when he was not using his protective equipment, or paying no attention to the instructions of the Secret Service. The friend [Oswald] would actually be firing cover for me. That is to say, I would wait for his shots, fire immediately under them, and provided I fired quickly enough, no one would really hear my shots." (p. 157)

McDonald says nothing of a rifle silencer being used; so that it is very difficult to understand why one rifle would not create the same amount of noise and attention as another.

Later, referring to ammunition, McDonald quoting "Saul" related the following: "Saul went on. 'I would be firing a bullet that disintegrates on contact, so there would really be no sign of a second weapon.'" (p. 158)

A "disintegrating bullet" merely fragments on impact with a hard surface like bone. The small particles would likely be unidentifiable with respect to pinpointing the particular weapon that fired the bullet. However, even the tiniest fragment would reveal the usage of a second weapon through spectrographic or neutron activation analysis.

Later there is an attempt to describe the "one bullet and seven holes" wounding of both the President and Governor Connally: President back wound, President throat wound, Connally back wound, Con-

nally chest exit wound, Connally wrist entry, Connally wrist exit, Connally thigh entry. McDonald relates "Saul's impression:" "It [the one bullet] apparently did not strike a bone and drove on to hit Governor John Connally. I learned later that it struck the governor's ribs, disintegrating and did severe damage to the lung cavity. Fragments of it, exiting, struck the wrist and penetrated the thigh." (p. 176)

Now, the same "disintegrating bullet" that was not going to leave a trace of a second gun, sends fragments in two separate directions (the governor's left thigh and his right wrist) through a single 5 centimeter hole. No mention is made of further fragments in Connally's chest, other than pieces of the damaged rib.

McDonald quoting "Saul" used many words in casting Oswald as a person that was barely capable of walking a straight line. In actuality, Oswald had to be rather bright. This is evidenced by some of the reading materials found in his residence, the fact that he had learned Russian, gone to Russia and returned to the United States, all requiring ability to think clearly.

McDonald quoting "Saul" relates: "Whether or not Lee Harvey Oswald was convinced that his shots — aimed to miss — had "killed" the president, he panicked. His state of mind can barely be dreamed of ..." (p. 188) He goes on to state that immediately Oswald went to his room, got his pistol and proceeded to the Texas Theater. But words such as "dizzily," "paralyzed shock," "shreds of rationality," "uncontrollable emotion," and "crazed mind" were used by McD/"Saul" to describe Oswald. Yet there has been no evidence to show that Oswald ever acted other than with logical reserve through-out the period of the assassination, his imprisonment, and up to his shooting by Jack Ruby on Nov. 24, 1963.

Contrary to McDonald quoting "Saul", suppose Oswald had been on the 6th floor of the Texas School Book Depository. Oswald had to have hidden the rifle, run down stairs as fast as possible, and been in the lunch room in time to meet Roy Truly, the building manager of the depository, and officer Marriion Baker, the policeman who confronted Oswald with gun drawn. According to both Truly and Baker in later interviews, Oswald exhibited no fear or emotion, other than possibly being a bit startled to have a pistol pointed at him. Oswald then is known to have bought a coke and walked from the second floor to the first floor.

A final remarkable assertion by McDonald quoting "Saul" is the way in which he treats the timing of the shots that hit the victims.

"I [Saul] am pretty sure that between my first shot and my second shot, the time spread was so minute that they could easily have sounded like one shot." (p.177)

"Saul" is supposed to have fired only two shots; the first hitting both the President and the Governor, and the second exploding the President's head. Then both woundings should have appeared as though they "Could easily have been from one shot." However, with the Zapruder film as a chronograph, we know and the Warren Commission knew that the time span was approximately 5.6 seconds (Zapruder frames 210 through 313). This differential in time is totally inexcusable in any document that purports to deal with facts.

"Appointment in Dallas" is not factual material. It is so full of gaps and contradictions that both the author's motives and credibility become dubious.

\$10,000 is offered by Mr. Rick Bennett of Hagoth Corporation in the November 1976 issue of "People and the Pursuit of Truth" to any person or group that can prove McDonald a fraud or McDonald's account a fraud.

A voice-stress analysis machine deals with stress in an individual's voice. Supposedly, if the individual believes what he is saying, the machine will show little or no stress; therefore "truth." Conversely, if an individual does not believe what he is saying, it is expected that there will be much stress; therefore "lies." But voice stress-analysis machines should have a large amount of testing. McDonald could sincerely believe what he is saying, pass the low stress test, and appear to be truthful. But belief and facts are very different.

It would be desirable that McDonald explain the far too many discrepancies that exist in his story. □

Some Pictures of Dallas Events and Computer Enhancement

1. From: Ronald J. Barr
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As a subscriber to "People and the PURSUIT of Truth," I have become hardened and skeptical about certain recent books and articles regarding the assassination of J.F.K.

The December 1976 issue of Esquire Magazine has published 3 remarkable pictures. These pictures are supposedly computer enhanced using the same process as NASA uses to enhance pictures transmitted from Mars.

The first photograph reveals John Connally holding a revolver to his own wrist during the assassination. The second, the assassination of Oswald, reveals a completely different expression on the face of the escorting policeman. The third, the swearing in of L.B.J. on airforce 1, reveals a complete set of different characters surrounding the new President and Jackie Kennedy.

I am skeptical because I find the first photo mindboggling in its impact, and secondly, all the originals have been purposely made fuzzy (I have copies of these pictures in my own archives).

I would be most interested in hearing your comments and analysis of the Esquire Magazine article.

2. From: Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor

Since I have been in the computer field since 1939, and have studied computers for 37 years, I should like to say that "computer-enhanced" in the case of some computer programs for enhancement is reasonable, and "computer-enhanced" in the case of other computer programs is a new way to tell a lie.

(please turn to page 8)

Jack Ruby and the Las Vegas Connection

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It is abundantly clear to those who have studied the JFK assassination that Jack Ruby, the killer of Lee Harvey Oswald, was much more than the deranged, patriotic night-club owner that the Warren Commission made him out to be. Although the Warren Report acknowledged that as a youth "Ruby was unquestionably familiar, if not friendly, with some Chicago criminals" (p. 790), the Report ultimately concludes that "the Commission believes that the evidence does not establish a significant link between Ruby and organized crime." (p. 801)

Yet there exists considerable evidence that Commission members were aware of Ruby's Syndicate connections and deliberately avoided probing areas that would illuminate Ruby's mob ties. /1/ These revelations would have severely undermined the theory that Ruby had acted alone. The Commission was not alone in its concern over Ruby's associates. Both the Dallas police and the FBI similarly risked great embarrassment if the story of Ruby's crime connections were made known.

The Scott Papers

Peter Dale Scott, a professor at the Univ. of California at Berkeley, has done valuable research into Ruby's Syndicate connections. Scott has discussed some of the fruits of his labor in his unpublished manuscript "The Dallas Conspiracy" and most recently in a 50-page paper on CIA-Mafia connections and the Schweiker-Hart Report. (This recent paper can be obtained through the AIB office for \$3.00. For more information, contact AIB, 63 Inman St., Cambridge, MA 02139). Much of what follows is drawn from Scott's work.

Ruby in Las Vegas?

Members of the AIB, myself included, recently made a journey westward to give some lectures and conduct several interviews in connection with on-going research projects. One of the cities we visited was Las Vegas, Nevada. While in the nation's capitol, we attempted to learn more about connections that Jack Ruby had had in Las Vegas, and the allegations that Ruby had visited Las Vegas on several occasions in the fall of 1963. (Some of these rumors were contained in Commission documents—CE 1586). From well-informed sources, we learned that there is good reason to believe that Ruby did visit Las Vegas in the months prior to the assassination. But we were also told an incident that well illustrates the vast perimeters of the "grey alliance" — the collusion between the mob, law enforcement officials and politicians that allows Syndicate operations to proceed unimpeded.

The FBI Wiretaps

In early 1964, the FBI was apparently intent on seeing what it could learn of Ruby's Las Vegas connections and so a series of wiretaps were placed on the phones of numerous casinos and hotels in Las Vegas. The transcripts and/or summaries of these wiretaps were sent to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover. When Bobby Kennedy (still Attorney General) learned of these wiretaps, he asked to be provided with copies of the transcripts. Soon Lyndon Johnson got into the act. When he learned that Bobby had received the transcripts, LBJ demanded that copies be made available to him. It so happened that Johnson was in fairly regular communication at that time with Ed Levinson, the owner of the Fremont Hotel in Las Vegas. The Fremont was a location for some of the FBI's wiretaps. Johnson, it would appear, was able to keep Levinson informed of the progress and results of the wiretaps.

Ed Levinson and Lyndon Johnson

Ed Levinson was a front for Meyer Lansky, the "annointed head" of the National Crime Syndicate. Levinson was originally from Newport, Kentucky, where the Cleveland Syndicate had developed a regional gambling center in the early 1940's. /3/ Levinson handled the Flamingo in Newport for Bugsy Siegel and Lansky before moving to Las Vegas where he fronted for Lansky at several casinos, including the Sands and the Fremont. /4/ Levinson had become close to Johnson through his business relationship with Bobby Baker, Johnson's former secretary in his days as Senate Majority leader. It was in fact Baker's business dealings with Levinson and another Lansky lieutenant, Benny Sigelbaum, in the Serv-U vending company that originally caught the attention of Senate investigators /5/ and threatened to cause great embarrassment to Lyndon Johnson.

J. Edgar Hoover and Clint Murchison, Jr.

Johnson was not the only one concerned about the Bobby Baker investigation. J. Edgar Hoover was similarly threatened by potential revelations of Baker's patronage. Hoover was a frequent guest at the Del-Charro Hotel in La Jolla, Calif., where his tab (\$100-a-day suites) was regularly picked up by the Hotel's owner and Hoover's close friend, Texas oilman, Clint Murchison. /6/ During the Kennedy years, when Murchison was paying Hoover's bills, Murchison himself was under FBI investigation in connection with the Bobby Baker case. /7/ Jack Anderson and other sources have reported that Hoover's visits frequently coincided with occasions where known gamblers and racketeers, some with direct links to the Syndicate, were registered there. /8/ In fact, Lansky lieutenant and Baker business associate, Ed Levinson is said to have been one of the frequent visitors at the yearly gatherings at Del-Charro. Thus, it seems a small wonder that Hoover and Johnson had an interest in limiting not only the Baker investigation but also the probe of Ruby's crime connections. /9/

(please turn to page 7)

NOTICE from Berkeley Enterprises

Because of the new "ball game" constituting the Congressional Committee on the assassinations, we do not believe that the project of "The Assassination Papers — Volume 1" now makes sense.

Accordingly, any money sent in for this project will be credited against a renewal for "Pursuit" — unless the purchaser requests otherwise.

Footnotes

- /1/ Peter Dale Scott provides one such example:
 "When Ruby's roommate, George Senator, was questioned about more than fifty names in the notebook of a Ruby employee, one entry -- Pete Whate- Atty- Un Life Bldg Rl 1-1295 (19 H 73) -- was for some reason passed over (14 H 295, cf. 14 H 34). The Warren Commission, which purported to be looking for links between Oswald and Ruby, should have been interested in this one -- the appearance in a Ruby notebook of what had already been learned to be the address, phone number, and office mate of William McKenzie, Marina Oswald's attorney (17 H 768). If they had checked more closely, they would have noted that one of White's partners (Ivan Irwin, Sr.) came from the family law firm identified to the FBI by a Mafia representative (Paul R. Jones) as the conduit for pay-offs by organized crime to Dallas law enforcement officials. (22 H 298)."
- /2/ The Dallas police sought to minimize their known contacts with Ruby. Police Chief Curry tried to make the Warren Commission believe that only 25 to 50 of the 1,175 men on the force knew Ruby. Even the Warren Report calls this figure "conservative" (p. 224). It is known that of the 75 policemen present when Ruby shot Oswald, 40 of them knew Ruby. This percentage is supported by other statements, some to the effect that Ruby was acquainted with 75 to 80 % of the police force. (CE 1467). There exists some evidence that Ruby was in fact a liason between the Dallas police and organized crime. (CE 1761, CE 1763).
- /3/ Hank Messick, "Lansky" (Berkeley Medallion, 1971), p. 131.
- /4/ Ibid, p. 196.
- /5/ Peter Dale Scott, "The Dallas Conspiracy," Chapter IV, p. 9, "New York Times," 6/17/64
- /6/ Scott, Chapter VI, p. 9, Jack Anderson, 12/31/70
- /7/ Scott, Chapter VI, p. 5, Victor Lasky, "Kennedy Justice" (NY, Atheneum, 1971, p. 30)
- /8/ Scott, Chapter VI, p. 6
- /9/ Harry Hall, former Dallas gambler turned informant, said he turned over 40% of his gambling profits to Ruby who "was supposed to have influence with the police, so that he would have no worry about any gambling arrest" (23 H 263). Hall also said that he and Ruby knew a "Texas millionaire named Bill Byers who came from Tyre, Texas and who was friendly with 2 other Texas millionaires, Murchison and Andraddy." Ruby had wanted Hall to help rob "Byers" of his bankroll and Hall heard later that "Byers was robbed while at the Del-Charro Hotel, La Jolla, Calif. This hotel is owned by Mr. Murchison." (23 H 263). This "Billy Byers" from "Tyre" would appear to be Texas oil millionaire Billie Byers from Tyler, Texas who "... like Murchison and Bedford Wynne was a political sugar-daddy for the Texas Oil Lobby." From Peter Dale Scott, "The Dallas Conspiracy," Chapter VI, pp. 2-3. □

trying to achieve this. I must confess I was unsuccessful, but it is very possible that this investigation of the House of Representatives would achieve in a lot shorter period than six years what we were unable to do in the courts.

Q: The FBI is now known to have hounded Martin Luther King and there has been speculation that the FBI may have some way been involved in his death. Do you subscribe to this possibility?

A: I have seen no evidence to that effect and I have seen in both the John F. Kennedy case and the Martin Luther King case that one has to be careful to distinguish between the crime and the investigation. I think in the Martin Luther King case that the FBI because of its animosity for Dr. King may not have made what we would consider their best effort to investigate it. But we have made a long jump from that possibility to the possibility that the FBI had anything to do with killing. It seems to me that these are questions that gave the congressional committee the powers that they have. I don't really know that speculating gets anywhere.

**Committee to Investigate Assassinations:
 Why? — A Job Now Successful**

Q: Your Committee to Investigate Assassinations, what do you think it has been able to accomplish? Why was it formed?

A: It was formed for two basic reasons. One was to get the critics of the Warren Commission to coordinate their efforts. The basic aims of the group were to gather information to keep the subject of John Kennedy's assassination alive until we could convince the Congress to reopen their own investigation. Fortunately, I think we've been very successful. The subject has been kept alive. As the climate in the country changed, the climate in Congress changed; we were able, with the help of a lot of other people, to persuade them to go in with a full-fledged investigation. We intend to turn over all of our investigation to them and to give any other assistance.

The End of Speculation? — Perhaps

Q: There's been an eternal fascination with John F. Kennedy's murder. Do you think when or if the House investigation reaches its conclusion that will lay to rest finally the speculation?

A: I believe that if this House committee continues to get the support in the next Congress that they have in the last months of this Congress, that they will investigate this killing thoroughly. I think they will cull out the leads, I think they will look at all the evidence, and if after that length of time and that length of investigating, they conclude that the Warren Commission was correct, I certainly think that 99.9 percent of the people will be satisfied. I must say that in all honesty, I know of a few people who are never going to be satisfied; at least you can never satisfy all of them because they each have a particular theory. And these theories are internally inconsistent if nothing else. But I think that as a practical matter that if a congressional committee, and if not this one, maybe the Senate committee or maybe both of them, will attack the job they are supposed to do, I think that most of the doubts, if not all of them, will be laid to rest. □

The 1976 Presidential Elections: Aftermath

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The Carter Era

On Nov. 2 Jimmy Carter was elected the 39th President of the U.S. in the closest race since John Kennedy faced Richard Nixon in 1960. Carter's election came as a surprise to those assassination researchers who believe the power-control group or the "Invisible Government" will not allow anyone to occupy the White House who does not agree to cover up the various assassination cases and other forms of clandestine in America. The essential question is: Will Carter finally take a definitive stand on these issues, and will he support the Congress in its new probe?

The Power Control Group vs. Carter

There is still reason to believe that the power control group may eliminate Carter or Mondale or both in a very covert fashion in order to preserve the continuity of the cover-ups. They may not want to risk having both the Congress and the White House under the control of Democratic liberals (or people with an ambiguous ideology), or even because "there are few people President Ford dislikes as much as he does Jimmy Carter." /1/

The Rockefeller-Backed Trilateral Commission

On the other hand, there is also the possibility that the White House may be essentially powerless to stop the cover-ups since there are so many people in government who can manipulate the office of the Presidency. It has been pointed out that some of Carter's top advisors in the crucial area of foreign policy are somewhat to the right of Henry Kissinger; these men include Zbigniew Brzezinski and Paul Nitze, two philosophical kingpins of the Rockefeller-backed Trilateral Commission. /2/ From the Kennedy-Johnson era, Carter has worked with George Ball and Walt Rostow, two "think tank" personalities who strongly favor interventionist policies, and who have been linked by at least one researcher to the CIA's "New Team." /3/

A Hypothesis

Regardless of where Carter may actually stand, it is difficult to completely reject the original hypothesis that the power-control group will not allow anyone to occupy the White House who will not adhere to the cover-up strategy. It would be foolish for us to breathe a sigh of relief solely because the Nixon-Ford-Rockefeller Administration is gone, for we may now be faced with its Democratic correlate. It is well known that Carter has been briefed by CIA director George Bush on "national security" matters (that perennial slogan). Has Carter already been groomed by the CIA for his new position? Although the media has tried to emphasize Ford's "nice guy" qualities, it is obvious that

a lack of trust in Ford was a key issue in Ford's defeat; the power control group may have foreseen that trust would be a major concern in this election and searched for and promoted someone who could regain the confidence of the people while continuing to agree to clandestine, illegal policies, especially outside the United States.

Let's hope that this hypothesis is false. Let's hope that Carter will be a force for good. However we must watch and wait with far more critical eyes than before.

Footnotes

- /1/ "The New Look," in "Newsweek," Nov. 15, 1976, p. 26
- /2/ Robert Scheer, "Jimmy, We Hardly Know Y'All" in "Playboy," Nov. 1976
- /3/ Samuel Thurston, "The Central Intelligence Agency and the New York Times" in "Computers and Automation", July 1971 □

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The "Assassin's Window". This is the sixth floor easternmost window of the Texas School Book Depository. "Saul" supposedly aimed his rifle at Lee Harvey Oswald in the sixth floor easternmost window of the Texas School Book Depository, but did not shoot.

Yet the photographs of that window taken 5.7 seconds before the shooting and 3 seconds after the shooting show the window only 1/4 open and in both cases nobody there. (See a listing of over 500 photographs related to the assassination, and two pictures, No. 8 and No. 121, in "Computers and Automation," May 1970, pages 52 and 42, respectively.) Did McDonald do his homework?

Perhaps a researcher needs a coefficient of reliability: .98 for very reliable, .50 for half his statements true and half his statements false, and .02 for very unreliable. Yet a researcher can at all times be fully convinced that he is telling "the truth," even when he is substituting one city for another, one hotel for another, one informant for another, etc., because of the rules of the "intelligence community," or shall we say the "intelligence priesthood"? □

Barr - Continued from page 5

If the computer program for enhancement is not specified, then it must be assumed that different portions of the pictures were specially treated to produce an image of a revolver, different facial expressions, and different persons. In the absence of the specification of the computer program, the pictures in "Esquire" magazine must be considered falsifications in the interest of sensationalism. □