

People and the PURSUIT of Truth

Vol. 3, No. 4

August, 1977

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"CLANDESTINE AMERICA" – NEW PUBLICATION OF THE ASSASSINATION INFORMATION BUREAU

by Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor

The first issue, July-August 1977, of the Washington Newsletter of the Assassination Information Bureau, entitled "Clandestine America", has been published. It is interesting and important, but very detailed.

The office of the AIB has been permanently moved from Cambridge, Mass., to: 1322 18th St. NW # 21, Washington, DC 20036. The phone number is (202) 857-0017.

An article, "New Chief Counsel", describes briefly G. Robert Blakey, new chief counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

"Ray's Escape" deals with James Earl Ray's short-lived escape from prison on June 10, 1977 in Tennessee. Ray was sentenced as the assassin of Martin Luther King, Jr., but claims he is innocent.

An article, "Secret War of CBS", describes and comments on events in 1961, 1962 and 1963 as reported in a "recent" (the date of it should have been given) two-hour documentary on CBS. According to the AIB there was considerable deception in the broadcast, but also some new facts and information.

An article, "Loran Hall", describes the interaction of a witness and the House Select Committee, which resulted in yielding no information to the committee.

A column, "Assassination Update", mentions recent news or recently acquired information about: Repr. John B. Anderson, a new member of the HSCA; Willem Oltmans, Dutch journalist; Sirhan Sirhan, convicted assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, for whom there is extensive physical evidence that he could not possibly have fired the killing shot; Federal Judge Sam Perry, who dismissed a suit in Chicago against the Chicago police for killing Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, Black Panther leaders in 1969; Perry thus seeks to perpetuate an FBI conspiracy against the Panthers; and some other persons.

Students of political assassinations in the United States will need this publication very much. The AIB has asked for a stamped, self-addressed envelope in order to send out the next issue.

One thing distresses me greatly about the Newsletter: there are no names of authors attached to articles, and no names of editors on any masthead; and this I believe is a great failure in responsible reporting. Let us hope that the next and all later issues will show who takes the responsibility for saying what is said.

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People and the PURSUIT of Truth is published monthly 12 issues a year by Berkeley Enterprises, Inc., 815 Washington St., Newtonville, Mass. 02160. Printed in U.S.A.

Subscription rates: U.S.A., \$9.50 for one year, \$18.00 for two years – except for students (send evidence): \$6.00 for one year, \$11.00 for two years. Canada, add \$1.00 per year; elsewhere add \$3.00 per year.

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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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THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND THE NEW YORK TIMES

"Something stinks about this whole affair. . . . The stench is there and clings to each one of us."

Samuel F. Thurston
Newton, Mass.

*pen-name for Richard E. Sprague
Hartsdale, NY 10530*

This article was referred to in the July 1977 issue of PURSUIT. We decided to reprint it because of its continuing interest.

On December 1, 1970, "The New York Times" published a review by John Leonard of two books. The two books were:

AMERICAN GROTESQUE: An Account of the Clay-Shaw-Jim-Garrison-Affair in the City of New Orleans, by James Kirkwood, 669 pages, Simon and Schuster, \$11.95

A HERITAGE OF STONE, by Jim Garrison, 253 pages, Putnam, \$6.95

In the early edition of "The New York Times" the title of the review was:

Books of the Times:
WHO KILLED JOHN KENNEDY?

In the later edition the title of the review was:

Books of the Times:
THE SHAW-GARRISON AFFAIR

In the early edition, the last 43 lines of the review read as follows ("he" in the first line below refers to Jim Garrison):

... And he insists that the Warren Commission, the executive branch of the government, some members of the Dallas Police Department, the pathologists at Bethesda who performed the second Kennedy autopsy, and many, many others must have known they were lying to the American public.

Mysteries Persist

Frankly, I prefer to believe that the Warren Commission did a poor job, rather than a dishonest one. I like to think that Mr. Garrison invents monsters to explain incompetence. But until somebody explains why two autopsies came to two different conclusions about the President's wounds, why the limousine was washed out and rebuilt without investigation, why certain witnesses near the "grassy knoll" were never asked to testify before the Commission, why we were all so eager to buy Oswald's brilliant marksmanship in split seconds, why no one inquired into Jack Ruby's relations with a staggering variety of strange people, why a "loner" like Oswald always had friends and could always get a passport — who can blame the Garrison guerrillas for fantasizing?

Something stinks about this whole affair. "A Heritage of Stone" rehashes the smelliness; the recipe is as unappetizing as our doubts about the official version of what happened. (Would then-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy have endured his brother's murder in silence? Was John Kennedy quite so liberated from cold war cliches as Mr. Garrison maintains?) But the stench is there, and clings to each of us. Why were Kennedy's neck organs not examined at Bethesda for evidence of a frontal shot? Why was his body whisked away to Washington before the legally required Texas inquest? Why?

In the later edition, these 43 lines are replaced by the following 13 lines:

... And he insists that the Warren Commission, the executive branch of the government, some members of the Dallas Police Department, the pathologists at Bethesda who performed the second Kennedy autopsy, and many many others must have known they were lying to the American public.

Frankly I prefer to believe that the Warren Commission did a poor job rather than a dishonest one. I like to think that Mr. Garrison invents monsters to explain incompetence.

And that is the end of the review. Even the subtitle "Mysteries Persist" has vanished.

Of course, this left a hole in the later edition, and a hole needs to be filled. And the hole was filled, by a section of editorial matter entitled "New Books", which mentions one new fiction book and nine general books.

The evidence of these changes is shown in the accompanying photographic exhibits.

What happened to John Leonard?

In January 1971, John Leonard became editor of "The New York Times Book Review", having previously been one of the paper's daily reviewers. If he had had any qualms about accepting the surgical change that was made in his review, completely altering its character, presumably he felt it was reasonable to accept the change.

Why should a severe alteration in a review like this take place in "The New York Times"?

The question can be answered. There is some information which sheds light on news handling by "The New York Times" in regard to the softpedaling of questions about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. (There are many examples besides the present one.)

One important part of this information may be found in "The Congressional Record", April 30, 1969, in remarks entitled "Otto Otepka: Victim of the New Team by Honorable John R. Rarick of Louisiana, House of Representatives, published in the "Extension of Remarks" page E3527. These remarks follow:

(Beginning of Excerpt)

Mr. Rarick: Mr. Speaker, a long-suppressed report on the misuse of the CIA to establish an underground government within our Government has been exposed today in the Government Employees Exchange.

Reportedly the plan of the "new team" in controlling the CIA operation was to "reform" the U.S. domestic and foreign relations through the use of an "elite" who looked to the "spirit of the future" instead of the status quo.

Apparently anyone not on the "new team" who uncovered its sinister plans or interfered — knowingly or unknowingly — was considered a threat and a target for compromise or elimination.

The casualty list from the intermeddlers of the "new team" includes President Diem and his brother of South Vietnam, President Johnson, and Otto F. Otepka.

So that our colleagues may have the opportunity to study this unprecedented exposure in power and to ponder the question, "Who is running our country?" I include the Government Employees Exchange article of April 30 and two articles from the April 16 issue:

(From the Government Employees Exchange, Washington, D.C., April 30, 1969)

CIA's Vietnam Hit L.B.J., Otepka

A highly secret and unknown American involvement in Yemen was the prelude to major actions by the Central Intelligence Agency's "New Team" in its November, 1963, offensive against President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam, against Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, and against Otto F. Otepka, the State Department's former top Security Evaluator, a former Ambassador with close ties to CIA Director Richard Helms, revealed to this newspaper on April 25.

As readers know, the CIA "New Team" was set up by former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy following the Bay of Pigs "Fiasco" by the CIA "Old Team." Mr. Kennedy recruited into the "New Team" many officials not only from the CIA (such as Richard Helms) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (such as Cartha "Deke" DeLoach) but also from the Internal Revenue Service and the National Security Agency. These agencies and their top members were "knowledgeable" in the exploitation of "wire taps" and secret informers, the former Ambassador said.

Allied with the "paragovernment" (see April 16 issue) of the "New Team" were secret "cooperating and liaison" groups in the large foundations, banks and newspapers, the source added. In that issue, readers will recall, this newspaper reported that the "coordinating role" at The New York Times was in the custody of Harding Bancroft, its Executive Vice President.

New Team Ready

By August, 1963, the "New Team" was "ready" for action on a wide variety of fronts. These included international affairs, especially the Vietnam War; domestic affairs, especially preparation for the 1964 Presidential election; and the "final infiltration" by "New Team enthusiasts" of the State Department, Agency for International Development, the United States Information Agency and the Pentagon, the source said.

The basic purpose of the "New Team" was to "reform" United States domestic and foreign relations through the use of an "elite of committed, humanistic pragmatists" who looked at the "spirit of the future" instead of the status quo and the "dead letter of formal and literal law," the source continued.

"New Team" Targets

In the international field the main target for "reform" action was Ngo Dinh Nhu, the brother of President Diem, of South Vietnam. He had, the source said, the same relationship to President Diem that Robert Kennedy had to President Kennedy.

President Diem had insisted in his dealings with the "New Team" that the war in Vietnam had to be "run by the Vietnamese." Even though he used CIA resources, he would not allow the CIA to become a "paragovernment" in Vietnam. The Diem and Nhu alliance in Vietnam thus stood in the way of "americanizing" the war there and using the war's opportunity to transform South Vietnam along the lines of the "New Team" program, the source said.

Robert William Komer

While relations between President Diem and the "New Team" were disintegrating, a final thrust for "americanizing" the Vietnam War was supplied by Robert William Komer, a career CIA intelligence officer who, from 1947 through 1960, had won the confidence of such top CIA officials as William Langer, Sherman Kent, Robert Amory and William Bundy.

In February, 1961, Mr. Komer was "transformed" from an "Intelligence" into an "Operations Officer" when he joined the National Security Council Staff at the request of McGeorge Bundy, the brother of William Bundy.

Following the "Bay of Pigs," the United States engaged in a series of "guerrilla wars" throughout the world, including Vietnam, Laos, Thailand. Most of them have secret CIA operations, especially of the "counter-insurgency" type.

"Mr. Komer's War"

The most secret, however, of these CIA wars was "Mr. Komer's war" in Yemen which was a testing ground for the CIA in the use of "paramilitary and paradiplomatic techniques," the former Ambassador revealed.

Books of The Times

Who Killed John F. Kennedy?

By JOHN LEONARD

AMERICAN GROTESQUE. *An Account of the Clay-Shaw-Jim Garrison Affair in the City of New Orleans.* By James Kirkwood. 669 pages. Simon & Schuster. \$11.95.

A HERITAGE OF STONE. By Jim Garrison. 253 pages. Putnam. \$6.95.

Bad vibrations.

New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison arrested New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw, charging that Mr. Shaw conspired to assassinate President John F. Kennedy. Mr. Shaw was acquitted by a jury. Mr. Garrison then had Mr. Shaw re-arrested on two charges of perjury. Mr. Shaw is suing Mr. Garrison, and a host of others. The judge at Mr. Shaw's trial has since been arrested in a motel room where stag movies and loose women are alleged to have exhibited themselves. The principal witness against Mr. Shaw has since been arrested for burglary. Mr. Garrison has since been accused of molesting a 13-year-old boy at the New Orleans Athletic Club, which is interesting because Mr. Shaw allegedly had links with the New Orleans homosexual underground.

No, this is not a fiction by Gore Vidal. It is a serialized novel on the front pages of our daily newspapers. Maybe that explains why novelist James Kirkwood—"Good Times/Bad Times"—got obsessed with the subject. Mr. Kirkwood met Mr. Shaw, and believed his story, and so wrote a sympathetic article before the trial (published by Esquire) and an indignant article after the trial (rejected by Playboy) and this tome—stone of a book (troubling the reviewer): Did Clay Shaw know David Ferrie and Lee Harvey Oswald? Is Jim Garrison paranoid about the Federal government? One wishes the whole business were a fevered invention.

'Perjury' Atop 'Conspiracy'

It isn't. Mr. Kirkwood argues in "American Grotesque" that Jim Garrison used Clay Shaw to try the Warren Commission report; that Garrison scraped the bottom of the barrel for variously sick and variously intimidated witnesses to smear Shaw; that Garrison's guerrillas sought a jury of sub-par intelligence to bemuse with bloody fantasies; that, having empaneled such a jury, they were so upset by the acquittal that they added the insult of "perjury" charges to the injury of "conspiracy" accusations. Unfortunately, Mr. Kirkwood is so conscientious in his reportage that one wonders why so many people claimed to have seen Mr. Shaw with Oswald and Ferrie. Were they all mistaken or lying?

To be sure, conspiracy wasn't proved, and the state embarrassed itself with surreal incompetence. But "conspiracy" is no longer the charge against Shaw; perjury is. We have only Mr. Kirkwood's emotional word on innocence to go by. Such a word

isn't conclusive, not even in a book reviewer's court. Mr. Kirkwood's loyalty to a friend is admirable; his taped interviews with all the principals in the first Shaw trial are fascinating; his attention to trivia is in the best parajournalistic tradition—the little boy who cried Tom Wolfe. But legitimate questions about John Kennedy's assassination aren't answered according to the buddy system.

Which brings us to Jim Garrison's "A Heritage of Stone." The District Attorney of Orleans Parish argues that Kennedy's assassination can only be explained by a "model" that pins the murder on the Central Intelligence Agency. The C.I.A. could have engineered Dallas in behalf of the military - intelligence - industrial complex that feared the President's disposition toward a detente with the Russians. Mr. Garrison nowhere in his book mentions Clay Shaw, or the botch his office made of Shaw's prosecution; he is, however, heavy on all the other characters who have become familiar to us, via late-night talk shows on television. And he insists that the Warren Commission, the executive branch of the government, some members of the Dallas Police Department, the pathologists at Bethesda who performed the second Kennedy autopsy and many, many others must have known they were lying to the American public.

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By Thomas B. Reagan

Author of Blood Money

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PUTNAM

SMASH HIT!



Exhibit 1 – John Leonard's review in the early edition of *The New York Times*, December 1, 1970, showing part of the surrounding page.

Books of The Times

12/1/70

The Shaw-Garrison Affair

By JOHN LEONARD

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New Books

FICTION
Symbolism—A Documentary Novel, by Neer Simha Grossman. (Black Publishing Co., \$7.95). A Polish Jewish town is invaded by the Nazis and liquidated.

GENERAL
The Book of Curious Definitions, edited by Eugene E. Boush. (Doubleday, \$10.95).
Famous Sayings, the Banishment and Other Aspects of Modern Man.

story by Alfred Cohen (Dutton & Noble, \$7.50).
On the Willows: The Rebbe of Jewish Music, by Avraham Svirin. (Black Publishing Co., \$7.95).

The Dragon King: Ludwig II of Bavaria, by Wilfred Blunt, with a chapter on Ludwig and the Alps by Dr. Michael Pezzat. (Griffin Books, Viking, \$14.95).
An illustrated biography.
The Fourteenth: Colorado's Great Mountains, by Perry Sherburne and Philip Schuchman. (Signet Books, Swallow Press, Chicago, \$1.94).
The Life, Music and History of the Dooz, by Ferdinand Macy (Dutton & Noble, \$3.95). Illustrated presentation.

The Nineteenth Century: The Con- tributions of Progress, edited by Asa Briggs. (McGraw-Hill, \$27.50 until May 31, then \$30). A history with 663 illustrations, 211 in color.

There Are Two Lives: Poems by Children of Japan, edited by Richard Lewis, translated by Harumi Kikawa. (Simon & Schuster, \$1.95).
The Romantic Tradition in Ger- many: An Anthology, with critical essays and commentary by Ronald Taylor. (Dutton & Noble, \$7. paperback, \$4.50).

Advertisement for 'The Case for Extinction' featuring an illustration of a bird and text describing the book's content.

Advertisement for 'The Inside-Out Heist' by Thomas B. Resgan, featuring a circular logo and promotional text.

Advertisement for 'Smash Hits' featuring a large illustration of a person and text promoting art and books.

Small advertisement or notice with a grid-like structure and text.

Advertisement for 'THE 70S CRASH and How to Survive It' with large stylized text.

Large advertisement for 'One Generation After' featuring the title in large letters and a paragraph of text.

Exhibit 2 — John Leonard's review in the later editions of The New York Times, December 1, 1970, showing part of the surrounding page (enlarged from microfilm) and the review itself (reproduced from a clipping).

Why Was Santos Trafficante Called Before the House Assassination Committee? - Part 2

Jim Kostman, Univ. of California, Berkeley, CA 94720

Many Americans provided material assistance to Castro before the revolution and maintained cordial relationships with the new regime for a time afterwards. This fact, however, is not widely recognized. Perhaps this is in part because many of them (Frank Sturgis is a self-admitted case) were serving at the time as informants for various U.S. intelligence agencies. When the Castro regime overtly turned to the left, all of these people left Cuba, and became zealots in the anti-Castro cause.

What about Trafficante? Lansky never returned to Havana after New Year's Eve, 1959, but some of Trafficante's enterprises continued to operate. McWillie was in Cuba until 1961, when the last of the casinos were closed by Castro. It has been suggested that Trafficante's contacts within the Cuban Government continued until 1963 and later. (Crile, "Washington Post", 5/16/76). This contention is based largely on the following: that Trafficante's attorney, and Jose Aleman's cousin, Rafael Garcia Bango, lives in Cuba today, where his brother is the long-time Minister of Sport; and that during the mid-1960's Castro, according to Federal narcotics agents, was rigging the Cuban lottery as a device to pay off his agents in Florida. The Castro agents were allegedly placing bets with Trafficante's numbers operators, and Trafficante's payoffs were pegged to the Cuban lottery drawings. The Cuban agents were communicating to Castro information about which numbers were getting the heaviest play.

It has been alternatively suggested that if Trafficante maintained contacts in Cuba after the revolution, it may not have been for Castro's sake. Rather, the contacts may have been "with the remaining French-Corsican Mafia casino operators in Havana, whose political allegiance was too complex to be easily characterized." (Peter Dale Scott, "Crime and Cover-Up", Westworks). Several Corsicans who continued their involvement in Cuban gambling after the revolution were named in 1964 testimony to the Senate Permanent Investigations Committee as being involved in narcotics traffic.

This is interesting in the light of the indictment on July 3, 1959 of Norman Rothman for unlawfully pledging \$8.5 million in bonds stolen in a Canadian bank robbery. The FBI called it "the biggest burglary in the world". ("New York Times", 7/4/59). Two of Rothman's co-defendants were Samuel Mannarino and Giuseppe Cotroni. Mannarino was a part-owner of the Havana Sans Souci Hotel with his brother Gabriel and Trafficante. (Rothman worked there in the early 1950's and was involved with both Mannarino brothers and Vito Genovese's son Michael in running arms to Castro in 1958). Cotroni, reportedly the head of the Mafia in Montreal, was identified in Senate narcotics hearings as "head of the largest and most notorious narcotics syndicate on the North American continent." Cotroni was a supplier of major Mafia traffickers in the United States, with direct French-Corsican sources of supply.

Five days after the Rothman indictment, on July 8, 1959, the Cuban cabinet ordered the deportation from Cuba of three Americans, one of whom was Trafficante. ("New York Times", 7/9/59). One of the others was "Lawrence Hall", who had served in Castro's army and was later a member of the No Name Key group of CIA agents and anti-Castro guerillas in 1962-63 (about which Trafficante was asked by the Assassinations Committee).

It has been proposed that if Trafficante was involved in the Kennedy assassination, then a possible explanation is that he was working for Castro.

Yet this interpretation involves a complete misreading of the available evidence of Castro's perception of Kennedy at that time. (Jean Daniel, "New Republic", Dec. 1963; Arthur Schlesinger, "A Thousand Days"). Moreover, Trafficante's remark to Aleman, that Kennedy would be killed because of the Hoffa matter, indicates that Trafficante had other motives for wanting Kennedy off his back. Carlos Marcello also (Ed Reid, "The Grim Reapers") expressed a threat to Kennedy in late 1962 at a secret meeting (where he mentioned the possibility of using a "lone nut" as a patsy) in order to stop Robert Kennedy's drive against organized crime. □

Thurston - Continued from page 7

The reference to these "waivers" in the past by Mr. Rusk when he was currently issuing a different kind of "waivers" for Federal employees including one for Mr. Bancroft, sealed the fate of Mr. Otepka with the "New Team," the former Ambassador said.

The "paragovernment" of the New Team decided he had to be removed "no matter what the means", the former Ambassador concluded.

(End of Excerpt)

Can the above information quoted by Representative John Rarick be verified?

It is obvious that such information cannot at this time be verified. A person would be out of his mind if he would expect an organization like the Central Intelligence Agency to answer truthfully questions about this subject brought to it.

But it is astonishing how much light Representative John Rarick's extension of remarks sheds as a hypothesis.

It explains why the Bay of Pigs Operation was the last CIA operation to be fully held up to the light by "The New York Times."

It explains why "The New York Times" regularly goes out of its way to softpedal important questions about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy as in John Leonard's review: the CIA has its man at The Times.

It explains why Robert F. Kennedy as Attorney General never took any kind of action to reveal the plot which slew his brother: RFK was involved in other parts of the same operation.

It explains why the office of Senator Edward Kennedy invariably replies that the Senator has "full confidence in the findings of official law enforcement agencies." Senator Kennedy undoubtedly knows much more than he would like to know. In fact it is quite possible he is being blackmailed by the CIA, as for example by the Chappaquiddick operation, a most successful cloak and dagger caper.

And it supports the assertion of a coup d'etat in the United States, put forward in Jim Garrison's book, "Heritage of Stone"; see the review of Garrison's book that appeared in "Computers and Automation" for March, 1971, on page 45, and read Garrison's book if you have not yet read it. □