

People and the PURSUIT of Truth

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Recent Developments

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Congress has reconvened in Washington, and it appears that there is a good chance that one of the two resolutions before the House Rules Committee calling for an investigation into the death of President John F. Kennedy will soon come up for a vote. Over 90 representatives have sponsored the resolution of Congressman Thomas F. Downing (Virginia), and over 50, the resolution of Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez (Texas).

The Rules Committee Chairman, Congressman Ray J. Madden (Illinois), seems favorably disposed, but continued letter-writing and lobbying will probably be needed to push it through the committee. There has been no indication as to when a vote might be taken.

Meanwhile in the Senate, a sub-committee of the Select Committee investigating the intelligence community made up of Senators Schweiker (Pennsylvania) and Hart (Colorado) continues its examination of some of the circumstances surrounding JFK's death. Approximately three dozen witnesses have given testimony in closed sessions, and staff aides declined to divulge any names, but said they hoped to include some of their findings in the committee's final report.

The Church committee is due to expire on March 1, but some members, particularly Schweiker and Hart, are hoping for a two-month extension. According to Senator Church's office the chances are 50/50 — the main obstacle being Senator Church who has made it clear that when the committee's mandate is finished, he will declare himself a presidential candidate. The longer the committee's life, the slimmer his chances grow. If granted an extension, the Schweiker-Hart sub-committee would like to hold public hearings. They cautioned though that some names may have to be protected for reasons of "personal safety".

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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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From: Berkeley Enterprises, Inc.
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The Fifteen Main Sources of News and Opinion in the United States — and Their Control by the Intelligence Community and the White House: "Mind Managing", 1976

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Introduction

For those American citizens who steadfastly refuse to believe that all of the American establishment news media could be controlled by the CIA and its friends in the White House, the current continuing support of the Warren Commission's lone assassin conclusion by virtually all of the major news media organizations in November, 1975, twelve years after the event; must be very puzzling indeed. Since 78% of the public believe that there was a conspiracy in the case, there must perforce be a series of questions in the minds of the most intelligent of the 78% about the media's position on the subject. /1/ This article is intended to enlighten those readers fortunate enough to subscribe to "People and the Pursuit of Truth", and to once again remind them of the control exercised by the intelligence community and the White House over the 15 organizations from whom the public gets the vast majority of its news and opinions. /2/

15 Media Organizations Influence the Thinking of Most American Citizens

June-July, 1973, Article: "Computers and Automation" published a two-part article in June and July of 1973, entitled, "The American News Media and the Assassination of President Kennedy". /3/ This article demonstrated clearly that 15 organizations are all that the CIA and White House would have to control to influence the thinking of most American citizens concerning current events and American history. The article showed how all 15 of these organizations reached decisions between 1964 and 1969 to totally support the findings of the Warren Commission. It showed that even though internal teams in several of the organizations did research on the JFK assassination that convinced the team members there had been a conspiracy, the top managements of all these organizations made a policy decision to support the Commission editorially and in writing or broadcasting news stories about the assassination.

The research teams became disgusted and discouraged with top management. Some resigned, some were fired. Some were transferred to other departments. Files were locked up. Reports and programs showing conspiracy were either destroyed or altered or buried. Editorial pages of the newspapers, special long stories from the press services, and special programs on television and radio were arranged by the managements of all 15 organizations using a coterie of CIA lackeys and prostituted reporters and writers; all supporting the Warren Commission and denigrating the researchers or the investigators, especially Jim Garrison. /3/

The World's Greatest Democracy?

How, one may ask, could all of this happen in the world's greatest democracy? What has become of the principles of the founding fathers, Horace Greely, Will Rogers and others, in which the "free" press is supposedly our best protection against criminality and misused power in the three branches of government. One also asks, didn't things change with Watergate? What about the New York Times and the Pentagon Papers, the Washington Post, Bernstein and Woodward and Watergate, NBC's white paper on Vietnam, Sy Hersh and the CIA stories in the New York Times, etc.

The answer is, no change on that most important of all subjects in America, the domestic assassination conspiracies and more importantly, their cover-ups. The actions taking place in November-December, 1975 prove that the media are still influenced and controlled by the same forces that controlled them in 1968 and 1969. Some of the names of the players are different, Ford for Nixon, Colby for Helms, Kelley for J. Edgar Hoover. But the forces are the same. The chairmen of the boards and presidents of NBC, CBS, ABC, Time, Inc., Newsweek-Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, UPI, AP, and the rest, are still very much under the control and influence of the White House and the Secret Team. Some of the influence is by infiltration, as Fletcher Prouty has so aptly demonstrated. /4/ The Secret Team members are to be found everywhere at or near the top. Other influence comes from the Ford administration through direct or indirect pressure. FCC, IRS, Department of Commerce, military and other government agencies having some control over the media or the personal lives of the top managers. (It must be remembered that Gerald Ford was and is one of the cover-up conspirators in the JFK case.)

What is the Evidence?

What is the evidence for this? One measures the influence by results. In an era when all who have really examined the basic evidence know there were conspiracies in the JFK and RFK assassinations, we still find the 15 organizations concluding there were lone, demented gunmen in the two cases.

CBS: For example, CBS broadcast a two-part special on November 25 and 26, once again reaffirming their faith that Oswald did it alone. Watching the shows, a viewer could swear he was experiencing *deja vu*. Rightly so, because except for the substitution of Dan Rather as chief narrator in place of Walter Cronkite, the cast was the same as in the 1967 four-part series. Leslie Midgely was the producer, Bernie Birnbaum, the associate producer, Jane Bartels, his girl Friday. Except for a short reference to the

1967 programs, Eric Sevareid and Eddie Barker were missing. So was Bob Richter, another 1967 associate producer who had discovered the truth about the conspiracy and the way CBS handled it before. Richter now manages his own film-making company, Richter-McBride, in New York. His opinion about the 1967 CBS four-part special, as expressed in an interview with Jerry Policoff published in "New Times" magazine in October, 1975 /5/, barred him from becoming a consultant to Midgely on the November 25-26 programs. There are many news media people who do know the truth and are willing to express it. Richter is one of them.

Hard Evidence Never Mentioned

Time: Time, Inc. blasted away in their November 17, 1975 issue, totally supporting the lone assassin myth as they have ever since 1964. /6/ Since "Life" is no longer around, Time management used "Time" and "People" magazines this time around to further the causes of the White House and the CIA in the cover-up of the cover-ups of the cover-up. In the case of "People" magazine, the November 3, 1975 issue /7/, hand-picked a group of "researchers" whom they could subtly portray through innuendo and over-emphasizing certain personal characteristics, as obvious nuts, who believe in and further the so-called conspiracy theories being bandied about. One of the favorite tricks of the media throughout the 12 long years, has been to always couple the words "conspiracy" and "theory" together; never once mentioning any of the hard evidence of conspiracy in any of the four major cases. The "Time" policy and article, according to Jerry Policoff, was commanded from the very top, above the level of Hedley Donovan. /8/

The fine hand of David Belin can easily be seen in the "Time" article. All of the old 1964 defenses against a conspiracy argument are trotted out once again, as though they are brand new. It is unlikely that anyone in America under the age of 30 will buy any of the pap in the "Time" article. Buy then, we have all come to realize how little power people under the age of 30 really have in the U.S. "Time", CBS, and others are aiming their material at the older citizens and the power groups in America.

The Forces of Good vs. the Forces of Evil: A Life and Death Struggle

David Belin: Belin also shows up recently in several places. He constructed a new CIA-White House base on behalf of his superiors, by personally writing most of Chapter 19 of the Rockefeller Report on the CIA and the FBI. That material is now being used by Belin and others to try and shore up the Warren Commission defenses.

The reader may ask, "Why then did Belin appear on "Face the Nation" on November 23, 1975 and get himself on the front page of the New York Times on the same day, proposing the reopening of the JFK case?" /9/ The answer lies in Belin's own explanation. He wants America to see that a new investigation will confirm the findings of the Warren Commission, thereby strengthening America's faith in its government. It's enough to make you sick. Just how did Belin manage to get on "Face the Nation" and on page one of the New York Times? To answer that, you must analyze the life and death struggle that is now going on between the forces of evil who want to continue the cover-ups, and the forces of good who want to expose the truth. Senators Richard Schweiker and Gary Hart, the Church Committee's subcommittee looking into the JFK assassination are

not the push-overs that Mark Lane, Harold Weisberg and others once were. There are also Henry B. Gonzalez, Thomas Downing and their new resolutions in the House, not to mention Don Edward's sub-committee, Bella Abzug's sub-committee and several others to contend with.

The evil forces need to muster the strongest counterattack possible at this stage. For them it truly is a matter of life and death. So they have rounded up David Belin, Joseph Ball, Wesley Liebeler, John J. McCloy, Dr. John Lattimer, the old Ramsey Clark panel of doctors who went secretly into the Archives in 1968 (Clark must be very embarrassed about that one, by now), plus some of the coterie of writers who were in their camp in the 1960's.

"I've Seen No New Evidence"

Any doubts about Belin's being recruited for his present task by Ford and the White House disappeared with Gerald Ford's press conference on Wednesday, November 26, 1975. A reporter asked Ford whether he would support reopening the JFK investigation. /9A/ He said, "I, of course, served on the Warren Commission. And I know a good deal about the hearings and the committee report, obviously. There are some new developments — not evidence — but new developments that, according to one of our best staff members (David Belin), who's kept up to date on it more than I, that he thinks just to lay those charges (of conspiracy) aside that a new investigation ought to be undertaken. He, at the same time, said that no new evidence has come up. If those particular developments could be fully investigated without reopening the whole matter that took us 10 months to conclude, I think some responsible group or organization ought to do so. But not to reopen all of the other aspects because I think they were thoroughly covered by the Warren Commission."

Thus Ford, in one of his own inimitable style paragraphs, tried to give the impression that he was following the lead of David Belin, rather than the other way around, in the continuing cover-up efforts. Earl Warren was always saying, "I've seen no new evidence." Ford, Belin and the rest are forced to echo this refrain, as though all of the things that have been learned since 1964 about the real assassins of John Kennedy and their planners and backers, are false rumors or stories and theories created out of whole cloth by the researchers, and now by Congress. /10/

Pure Coincidence?

The New York Times: One CIA-White House lackey is James Phelan, formerly a freelance writer for the old "Saturday Evening Post". Phelan was brought out of mothballs to do a pro-Warren Commission piece in the New York Times Sunday magazine section. /11/ By pure coincidence, it happened to appear on the same day that Belin's arranged interview was found on page one. The Times is one of the worst, if not the worst, news media organization, on the evil side of the battle.

An article in the July 1971 issue of "Computers and Automation" /12/ shows that the CIA control of the Times has for years been directed through Harding Bancroft, the Secret Team member there. He controlled and still controls all stories and editorial positions on domestic assassinations. He undoubtedly arranged for both stories to appear on the same day.

CBS: Cover-Up Broadcasting System

CBS Control: The CBS situation is a little less clear. The Belin appearance on the CBS show, "Face the Nation", was no doubt timed to nearly coincide with the first two parts of the new CBS whitewash series. The third and fourth parts have been announced but not scheduled, to cover the RFK, King and Wallace cases. The new name for CBS is Cover-Up Broadcasting System. The men at the top made the decisions in 1967 and 1975 to support the Warren Commission and Leslie Midgeley carried them out. In 1967 the entire program format was changed by top management from pro-conspiracy to pro-Warren Commission in the last ten days before the first show went on the air. /13/ In 1975, there was never any doubt about the conclusions. Midgeley and Co. started out with the lone assassin thesis and, as the Warren Commission did, merely sought witnesses, experts and explanations that would back it up, while totally ignoring everything else.

The CIA's man at CBS who controls this policy is not known. However, personal experiences and contacts within the organization by the author, lead to the conclusion that it is someone below the level of William C. Paley and above the level of Midgeley. That only leaves Richard Salant and one or two other possibilities. Midgeley himself is not intelligent enough to be the Secret Team member. Salant is known to have had intelligence connections through the decades since World War II. He will do as Secret Team member prime suspect until someone else comes along.

Too Perfect Timing

CBS and the New York Times are sometimes orchestrated together by the evil forces. One example is the preview by the Times on November 24 of the CBS shows that were scheduled to appear on November 25 and 26. /14/ This article by John J. O'Connor is a sort of reverse psychology strategy by the top managements of both organizations, used to reinforce each other's pro-Warren Commission policies. To quote O'Connor, "In bringing some facts to bear on the feverish speculation, CBS News is less sensational but more telling." This is a reference to those sensationalists, David Susskind and Geraldo Rivera on Channel 5 in New York, and ABC, who the Times believes are providing no facts, only fiction in disputing the lone assassin conclusion.

Just how did O'Connor and the New York Times get a look at the CBS shows at least two days in advance, when other publications and reviewers had to wait and watch it with all of us. There goes the orchestration again. The timing is just too perfect. "Read the Times piece and don't watch the shows because the conclusions are already presented." Or, "watch the shows and reaffirm your faith in the Times, CBS, Walter Cronkite and Dan Rather. In the process, as Belin suggests, reaffirm your faith in your government and the Warren Commission, the Rockefeller Commission, Ford, Belin, and you might throw in Henry Kissinger while you're at it."

Newsweek Editorial Position: Schweiker, Hart and Gonzalez Misled by Kooks

Washington Post-Newsweek: The Washington Post-Newsweek situation is a little more obscure. It is difficult to believe that Catherine Graham, owner of both publications, is a Secret Team member. The Newsweek story on the JFK assassination, published in the issue of April 28, 1975 /15/, was not as blatantly pro-Warren Commission as the Time article.

Yet, it left the impression with the readers of Newsweek that editorial position would regard the researchers as kooks who have misled or talked Senator Schweiker and Representatives Gonzalez and Downing into the wrong attitudes. "Oswald did fire the shots," is the Newsweek message. Individuals at Newsweek, like Evert Clark, do not really believe this, so where does the pressure come from; Mrs. Graham herself, or Benjamin Bradlee at the Post, or someone else near the top of Newsweek? Certainly at the Post, with reporters like Bernstein and Woodward, and Haynes Johnson who has now moved into management, it seems strange that they would support the Warren Commission. Yet, the Post editorially has done just that ever since 1964. As truth-seeking as they seem to be on nearly all other issues of the day, the Post remains adamant in its continuing contention that lone madmen assassinated our three domestic leaders and attempted to assassinate Wallace.

Eliminate Areas of Doubt

Researcher Jim Blickenstaff, disturbed by the Newsweek article in April, wrote to the editors. Madelein Edmundson replied for them. "It was certainly not our aim to discredit those who doubt the conclusions of the Warren Commission or to express opposition to a reopening of the investigation of John F. Kennedy's assassination."

Yet, Newsweek did just exactly that, and, in effect, took the same editorial position they had taken in May, 1967, when the CIA lackey, Hugh Aynesworth, was doing their dirty work. (Aynesworth is now doing the CIA's dirty work, supporting the Warren Commission, for the Dallas Times Herald.) The new position in favor of reopening the investigation is the one taken by Belin. It is expressed best by Harrison Salisbury, the man at the New York Times who really knew better. In Newsweek Salisbury is quoted as saying, about his New York Times investigation, "A new investigation is needed to answer questions of major importance. We will go over all the areas of doubt and hope to eliminate them."

UPI: Accessory After the Fact in JFK Conspiracy Cover-Up

UPI: AP and UPI have not recently repeated their 1967-68 performances in which they sent out on their news service wires the longest stories ever broadcast in that manner. They were so long, they were divided into installments. The stories backed up the Warren Commission and attacked the researchers, and especially Garrison. UPI, of course, became in effect an accessory after the fact in the JFK conspiracy cover-up effort, by suppressing the original color 8mm films by Marie Muchmore and Orville Nix. They went even further by employing Itek Corp. to prove there was no one on the grassy knoll using the Nix film.

In July, 1975, a UPI alumnus, Maurice Schonfeld, published an article /16/, which less vehemently, but nevertheless subtly, contended once again that one of the riflemen on the knoll who can be seen in the original Nix color film, was either an illusion or if he was there, did not have a rifle.

UPI is still keeping the original Nix film locked up tight. No one is permitted access to it. The Church committee and Schweiker sub-committee may some day subpoena the film, but at the moment it is unavailable.

"Expert" Opinions

Itek: Itek, on the other hand, is still at work, helping out their friendly employers, the U.S. government and the CIA. They popped up on the CBS program in November, 1975, analyzing the Zapruder film and the Hughes film and giving "expert" opinions that all the shots came from Oswald's alleged sixth floor window. One favor Rees Schonfeld did for researchers, perhaps unwittingly, in his Columbia Journalism article, was state that two officials of Itek, Howard Sprague (no relation to author) and Franklin T. Lindsay were and always have been CIA Secret Team members. So when Ford, Belin and Salant or whoever at CBS needed help, all they had to do was call upon good old Itek and Howard Sprague. (Frank Lindsay has since departed.)

AP: Faithful to White House and CIA

AP: Associated Press has been completely silent editorially, since 1968-69. They have faithfully broadcast all of the White House-CIA cover or planted stories, without comment.

Keeping the Lid On

Los Angeles Times: The Los Angeles Times, controlled by Norman Chandler, who in turn is strongly influenced by the Ford administration, the CIA, and Evelle Younger, the attorney general of California, has produced a complete cover-up effort in the Robert Kennedy assassination conspiracy. Younger, of course, was D.A. in Los Angeles County when RFK was killed. He and Ed Davis, L.A. Police Chief, teamed up with Joseph Busch, assistant D.A., to cover up the conspiracy evidence. The Times, for a short, unguarded period, allowed reporter Dave Smith to publish the truth about the assassination. This stopped in 1974, after Al Lowenstein stirred up a lot of new interest in the case among Vincent Bugliosi, Baxter Ward, Thomas Bradley, and finally Governor Pat Brown.

Younger used his influence over Chandler to shut off the flow of information through the L.A. Times. Chandler, who was a big contributor to Nixon, undoubtedly was strong-armed by both Nixon and Ford to support the position of the Los Angeles police and the D.A.'s office. Ronald Reagan and his immediate deputy at the time of the major cover-up effort in 1972-74 also helped sway Chandler and others in California to keep the lid on.

Zapruder Film Shown on Two Occasions

ABC: American Broadcasting Corp. may be the first of the three networks to break away from the CIA-White House control. In the spring of 1975, after Robert Groden, Dick Gregory, Ralph Schoenman and Jerry Policoff decided to release and publicize a clear, color, enlarged, stop-action copy of the Zapruder film, the ABC show, "Good Night, America" with Geraldo Rivera as host, showed the film on two occasions. Rivera may have made this move against the wishes of top ABC management. Rumor had it during the summer months that he was in hot water with high level people. All doubts about ABC's position disappeared when they broadcast an assassination special during the week of November 17, 1975, supporting the lone assassin myth.

"Conspiracy Fever"

Commentary: One surprising newcomer to the cover-up conspiracy group is "Commentary". A normally liberal, open-minded, non-government magazine, Commentary broke their pattern in the October, 1975

issue. /17/ They published an article by a Mr. Cohen from Brandeis University which severely attacks the researchers as paranoid conspiratorialists who imagine all of the four assassination conspiracies, plus many more. This too is a favorite strategy of the Belin, Ford, CIA cover-up group. The word is that a peculiar "conspiracy fever" has hit the young people of America. They see conspiracies everywhere. My Lai, Pueblo, Songmy, Vietnam, Pentagon Papers, Watergate, Post Office, CIA and FBI surveillance, IRS spies, COINTEL, J. Edgar Hoover's conspiracy against Martin Luther King, the conspiracies against the Black Panthers, the murders of Malcolm X and Fred Hampton, the CIA conspiracies to assassinate all of those foreign leaders; and on and on.

Now with Cohen, all of those things are true, but when the researchers begin to claim conspiracies in the assassinations of the Kennedys and King and the attempt on Wallace, and conspiracies to cover up the four conspiracies; then we have a rampant disease taking over the land. This article has been republished in several other places in November, 1975, as part of the orchestrated campaign by the CIA-White House. Cohen and others like him on the psychiatric kick, analyzing the researchers, should be thrown into the snake pit along with those other CIA lackeys like Renu Hartogs, who psychoanalyzed Lee Harvey Oswald after he died to see why he killed John Kennedy.

A Straight News Story

U.S. News and World Report: U.S. News may be one of the few media publications to change positions. They have not expressed an editorial stance as yet, but on September 15, 1975, they ran a story titled, "Behind the Move to Reopen the JFK Case". It was a straight news story about Senator Richard Schweiker's efforts and a list of uncovered evidence raising new questions. The article closes with, "Numerous Americans who long have doubted the Warren Commission conclusions will be watching what the Senate does with his (Schweiker's) idea." That is as close as any of the 15 organizations have come to saying they believe the Warren Commission was wrong.

A Breath of Fresh Air

Saturday Evening Post: Like a breath of fresh air from the heartland of America in Indianapolis, Indiana, the revived Saturday Evening Post (Bobbs-Merrill subsidiary) has taken an editorial stance. The Post not only published several strong articles on the assassinations but also called for reopening all of the cases, called for the support of the Gonzalez-Downing resolutions, and offered a sizable reward for information leading to conviction of the murderers of John F. Kennedy. /18/ Thus the Post joined the ranks of the National Enquirer, National Tattler, National Insider, Playboy, Penthouse, Gallery, Genesis and other publications of this type, plus nearly all the underground newspapers in calling for new investigations.

CIA Operatives are Serving as Journalists For News Organizations Abroad

Variety: Surprisingly, Variety, on November 12, 1975, published an article on the House and Senate Intelligence Committees' suspicions about relationships between the CIA and broadcasting organizations. /19/ Variety says the committees are probing the CIA's influence on the media organizations, particularly management connections. "A central issue in the investigations is reports of financial dealings with the CIA and media firms with extensive overseas staffs."

William Colby admitted that CIA operatives are currently serving as journalists for news organizations abroad, and that "detailmen" are assigned abroad to news organizations, often without the knowledge of management. Ronald Dellums, California Representative, asked Colby in an open session of a House hearing if the CIA had ever asked a network to kill a news story. Colby would not answer specifics in open session, so the panel went immediately behind closed doors to grill him for several hours.

Conclusions

It is to be hoped that all committees in the House and Senate will investigate the Secret Team members in the 15 media organizations and their influence and control over editorial policies on domestic assassination conspiracies. It is also to be hoped that the committees will investigate the role of our current president, Gerald Ford, and his working relationship to various CIA people in the original cover-up of the John F. Kennedy assassination conspiracy. Certainly, David Belin's relationship to the CIA and to President Ford in the present media cover-up campaign need to be investigated.

Fletcher Prouty claims in his November, 1975 article in Gallery magazine titled "The Fourth Force" /20/ that Belin is a CIA operative. Prouty says, "The Rockefeller Commission did not look into this (the Fourth Force-CIA) because it had been penetrated on behalf of the CIA by David Belin, its chief counsel and former counsel of the Warren Commission. In fact, Belin still reports to the CIA." If this is indeed true, it explains every move Belin has made since 1964 and also explains his mysterious way of appearing and reappearing on the front pages and editorial pages of various major newspapers, and on choice television shows, and on the Rockefeller Commission.

If the Congress leaves untouched this most important problem, perhaps more serious than any of the other problems raised by the assassination conspiracies and their cover-ups, the United States may, in fact, be headed for the real 1984.

Notes and References

1. Statistic from a Cambridge Research poll taken in October, 1975.
2. The 15 organizations are: CBS, NBC, ABC (television and radio), AP, UPI, Business Week-McGraw Hill, Washington Post-Newsweek and their news service, U.S. News and World Report, New York Times and its news service, Metromedia Network, Time Inc., Westinghouse Radio News Network, Capital City Broadcasting Radio Network, Public Broadcasting TV Network, and North American Newspaper Alliance.
3. Sprague, Richard E., "The American News Media and the Assassination of President Kennedy", "Computers and Automation", June-July, 1973.
4. Prouty, L. Fletcher, "The Secret Team", Prentice Hall, 1974.
5. Policoff, Jerry, "The Media and the Murder of John Kennedy", "New Times", October 1975.
6. "Who Killed JFK? Just One Assassin", "Time" magazine, November 24, 1975.
7. "Up Front — Did One Man With One Gun Kill John F. Kennedy? Eight Skeptics Who Say No", "People", November 3, 1975.
8. Author's discussion with Jerry Policoff, November 29, 1975.
9. "Warren Panel Aide Calls for 2nd Inquiry Into Kennedy Killing", "New York Times", November 23, 1975, p. 1.

- 9A. Transcript of Gerald Ford, Press Conference, "New York Times", November 27, 1975.
10. For a summary of the evidence and a scenario about what it shows, the reader is referred to two articles in "People and the Pursuit of Truth"; "The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: the Involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency in the Plans and the Cover-Up", May, 1975, and "Who Killed JFK?", October, 1975. Both by the author.
11. Phelan, James R., "The Assassination", "New York Times Magazine Section", November 23, 1975.
12. Thurston, Samuel F. (Pseudonym for Richard E. Sprague), "The Central Intelligence Agency and The New York Times", "Computers and Automation", July, 1971.
13. Based on a discussion among the author, Dan Rather, and Robert Richter at CBS in Washington, D.C., approximately ten days before the first Cronkite-CBS section of the 1967 four-part series on the JFK assassination.
14. O'Conner, John J., "TV: CBS News is Presenting Two Hour-Long Programs on the Assassination of President Kennedy", "New York Times", November 24, 1975.
15. "Dallas: New Questions and Answers", "Newsweek", April 28, 1975.
16. Schonfeld, Maurice W., "The Shadow of a Gunman", "Columbia Journalism Review", July-August, 1975.
17. "Conspiracy Fever," Jacob Cohen, "Commentary," October 1975.
18. "Saturday Evening Post", September, October, November and December, 1975 issues.
19. "D.C. Digs Deep Into TV News Ties With CIA", "Variety", November 12, 1975.
20. Prouty, L. Fletcher, "The Fourth Force", "Gal- lery", November, 1975.

Drinan — Continued from page 8

direction, engaged in a pattern of deception, law-breaking, and abuse of power. Because neither the CIA nor the Justice Department has done anything to vindicate the rights of the American people in this respect, the Congress, with regret and reluctance, must initiate impeachment proceedings against Richard M. Helms.

"The Assassination Papers, Vol. 1" — Notice

In the September 1975 issue of "People and the PURSUIT of Truth," we said: Many of our subscribers have asked that a selection of important articles published 1970-1975 in "Computers and Automation" and "Computers and People" dealing with political assassination be assembled into a book and reprinted together. We asked for votes on the proposition. More than 70 votes were received. Almost all of them said, "yes," emphatically. A great many of the voters pledged to buy two copies in advance of publication, at \$4.75 a copy.

So, we have decided that we shall publish such a book, including some new material of substantial value.

Please send us your order now with a check.

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My name and address are attached.

Impeachment of Richard M. Helms as Ambassador to Iran:

Statement Accompanying Introduction of a Congressional Resolution —

Part 2

Congressman Robert F. Drinan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

(Continued from "People and the PURSUIT of Truth" for January 1976, page 4.)

Is Ambassador Helms Subject to Impeachment for Offenses Committed During His Tenure at the CIA

The essential thrust of impeachment is not punishment, but removal from public office. Impeachment also brings under the Constitution the "disqualification to hold and enjoy any office under the United States."

Neither the Constitution itself nor the logic of impeachment requires that the demonstration of unfitness occur during tenure in the same office from which removal is sought. In the case of the impeachment in 1912 of Judge Robert W. Archbald, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted 13 articles of impeachment, 6 of which referred to abuses committed by Archbald in a prior judicial position on a lower court. The Senate voted to convict Archbald, sustaining at least one of the charges dealing in part with offenses in his prior office. It may be, as will be noted later, that in addition to offenses committed by Mr. Helms while serving as Director of the CIA, he may also have committed an offense of an impeachable character in possible perjury during the hearings on his confirmation as Ambassador to Iran.

Although there is no direct precedent for the impeachment of an ambassador, Mr. Helms is clearly subject to impeachment as a civil officer within the meaning of the Constitution. I have received a written confirmation of that interpretation from the American Law Division of the Library of Congress.

Offenses of Mr. Helms That Could be Impeachable.

In the following material I do not in any way state or imply that Mr. Richard Helms is guilty of any of the offenses suggested. It is contended merely that Mr. Helms has the duty of explaining his conduct and his statements and that, in the absence of any believable explanation, the House of Representatives has the right and duty to investigate the conduct of Mr. Helms during the years when he was the director of the CIA to determine whether impeachable offenses have been committed.

I will set forth very briefly some of the salient facts about first, operation CHAOS; second, Mr. Helms' involvement in the politics of Chile; and third, Mr. Helms' conduct in response to White House Watergate requests.

Operation Chaos

The Rockefeller Commission Report on CIA activities within the United States makes clear the horrifying details of an operation initiated by Mr.

Helms in August 1967 designed to collect information on foreign contacts with American dissidents. This is an operation which in some 5 years collected documents which include the names of more than 300,000 persons and organizations.

This unit, entitled "Operation CHAOS," prepared 3,000 memorandums for dissemination to the FBI, did extensive surveillance on the peace movements and furnished 26 reports to the Kerner Commission, some of which related almost exclusively to domestic dissident activities.

From even 20 pages on Operation CHAOS in the Rockefeller Report on the CIA it seems clear that Richard Helms was induced into this activity by Presidential pressure. On November 15, 1967, for example, Helms delivered personally to President Johnson the CIA study on the U.S. peace movement requested by the President. Although the studies of the CIA showed that there was virtually no evidence of foreign involvement and no evidence of any foreign financial support for the peace activities within the United States, Mr. Helms continued to do surveillance on those who protested the war.

On February 18, 1969, Mr. Helms confessed in a note to Henry Kissinger, then assistant to President Nixon, the illegalities of the CIA of which he was the director. His memo to Dr. Kissinger noted that the CIA-prepared document "Restless Youth" included a section on American students. Mr. Helms said bluntly:

This is an area not within the charter of this agency, so I need not emphasize how extremely sensitive this makes the paper.

Improper and Beyond Powers

The excessive secrecy surrounding Operation CHAOS and its isolation within the CIA demonstrate once again that Director Helms knew that it was improper and beyond the scope of the authorized powers of the CIA.

The Rockefeller Report notes the growing opposition of CIA employees and officials toward Operation CHAOS. Although the Rockefeller Report soft-pedals the internal dissension over Operation CHAOS, it quotes an internal memo of Director Helms on December 5, 1972 in which he insisted that Operation CHAOS "cannot be stopped simply because some members of the organization do not like this activity."

Operation CHAOS which ultimately had a staff of 52, was directly under the supervision of Mr. Helms. There is no way in which he can claim that his subordinates operated this unit without his knowledge and

consent. The abuses of power and the countless violations of privacy of American citizens might well be impeachable offenses imputable to Mr. Richard Helms. An impeachment inquiry is the only available method by which Mr. Helms can be made accountable for a long series of intrusions into the lives of American citizens.

Opening First Class Mail of Americans

Equally damaging to the privacy of American citizens was the CIA program to open first class mail. Mr. Helms might well have known from the very beginning about these programs which ran from 1953 to 1973. They were possibly the largest and most clearly illegal programs conducted by the CIA. Certainly this mail-tampering operation was under the direct control and supervision of Mr. Helms during the seven years he served as Director of the agency. In addition, it appears that Richard Helms deliberately deceived postal authorities into thinking that the operation was limited to the copying of information off envelopes.

Mr. Helms' Involvement in Chile

About the only evidence that has emerged in the recent past indicating that the CIA might make its employees accountable to the law was the revelation in July 1975 that the CIA last year informed the Justice Department that Richard Helms might have committed perjury in testimony before a Senate Committee. In the testimony at issue Mr. Helms told the Senate Committee that the CIA had played a limited role in undermining the Allende government in Chile.

A conversation occurred during the confirmation proceedings of Mr. Helms in the U.S. Senate on February 7, 1973. The dialog was as follows:

Senator Symington. Did you try in the Central Intelligence Agency to overthrow the government of Chile?

Mr. Helms. No, Sir.

Senator Symington. Did you have any money passed to the opponents of Allende?

Mr. Helms. No, Sir.

Senator Symington. So the stories you were involved in that war are wrong?

Mr. Helms. Yes, Sir. I said to Senator Fulbright many months ago that if the agency had really gotten in behind the other candidates and spent a lot of money and so forth the election might have come out differently.

\$ 8 Million to Subvert Allende's Government

Mr. Helms undoubtedly knew about the covert \$8 million campaign conducted by the CIA to bring about Dr. Allende's downfall.

The foregoing conversation might or might not be perjury. Reading the entire transcript of the three days of hearings on the ambassadorship of Mr. Helms, it is difficult, however, to conclude that one is reading "the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

A report in the New York Times of July 27, 1965, claims that Richard Helms, while Director of the CIA, prepared a memorandum in the fall of 1970 informing Henry Kissinger and Attorney General John

Mitchell that the agency had supplied machineguns and tear gas grenades to men plotting to overthrow the Chilean Government.

If the Department of Justice ever did in fact bring perjury or other proceedings against Richard Helms, the officials of the CIA would undoubtedly claim that reasons of national security preclude their giving to the Government for its prosecution or to Mr. Helms for his defense a good deal of evidence which would be indispensable for a trial. That particular excuse is not likely to have much effect or force in an impeachment inquiry, as a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decision made clear in a case involving Richard Nixon.

Mr. Helms and the Post-Watergate White House

On February 1, 1975, the hearings on the alleged involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency in the Watergate and Ellsberg matters were declassified and published. These hearings conducted before the Special Subcommittee on Intelligence of the House Committee on Armed Services demonstrate that Richard Helms in the first 6 weeks after the Watergate break-in on June 17, 1972, apparently ordered a high official of the Agency to withhold Watergate information and to deny the Justice Department access to a key witness. I am not stating categorically that the 1,131 pages of those hearings demonstrate that Mr. Helms committed impeachable offenses.

But the evidence that is available here and elsewhere clearly suggests that Mr. Helms was all too ready to subvert the purpose of the CIA for the objectives sought by personnel of the White House.

Other Potential Offenses

During the years in which Mr. Helms was the Chief Executive Officer of the CIA, that agency has been accused of conducting break-ins and wiretaps in the United States without a warrant, using local police credentials to gather information on anti-war groups, supplying surveillance to local police, using local police to conduct a break-in, contributing \$38,635.58 to the White House in 1970 to defray the cost of replying to people who wrote to President Nixon following the Cambodian invasion, and administering powerful drugs to unsuspecting individuals. I make no conclusion here as to the truth of these accusations or the extent to which Mr. Helms should be held accountable for these activities, but clearly Mr. Helms should be given the opportunity to vindicate himself if that is possible. It seems more and more clear to me that an impeachment inquiry is the only way that the American people can obtain the full truth and judge whether Richard Helms is fit to serve in a position of high public trust.

The Right of the American People to Know

The American people have a right to know about those deeds of Mr. Helms in the years 1966 to 1973 which may have violated the fundamental principles by which Americans live together as a people. Mr. Helms also has the right to a forum where he can vindicate himself against all of the accusations which day after day continue to increase and multiply. An impeachment inquiry is the only instrumentality which the American Government has to bring out the truth of this dark era in American history.

The American people have a right to know whether Richard Helms is a worthy representative of the people of this country in Iran. The American people have the right to know whether the CIA, under his

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