The Timely Publication of Important Information

Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor

"People and the Pursuit of Truth" has to be timely and it has to publish important information as soon as the information is received. These are essential requirements. How does an editor accomplish this in the tight space of just eight pages per month? Answer: he can't.

The solution we have used on this occasion is to publish both the July and August issues of "Pursuit" at the same time, in July 1975. When Richard Sprague's article "The Coverup of the Coverups: The Protectors of the Assassins" came in, it was clear we had to publish it as fast as possible.

When a man is in danger of being shot at or disposed of by clandestine operations, you don't wait a month to tell him — you try to tell him as fast as you can and hope he hears you and will listen to you. And when an honest investigator is in danger of confusing his enemies with his friends — as a result of clandestine operations and activities in violation of law — again you try to tell him as fast as you can and hope he is listening.

Truth must sometimes be pursued rapidly, discreetly, and without delay — so that your opponents and enemies may not run circles around you. And persons who have been devising and maintaining coverups for more than a dozen years are professional experts at the art of deceiving.

The country which has been deceived on a vast scale is the United States. The Watergate crimes are only a tip of the iceberg. Former President Richard M. Nixon, resigning under fire in the face of impeachment, was pardoned in one month's time by his friend, crony, colleague, associate of a dozen years, and successor in office, President Gerald R. Ford.
A conference on "Conspiracy in America" took place May 16 to May 18, 1975, at the Univ. of California at Los Angeles. The conference progressed from scrutiny of assassinations to the "war conspiracy" and on to issues of repression by the Los Angeles Police Department.

Donald Freed, author, welcomed participants to the conference on behalf of the sponsoring group, the Campaign for Democratic Freedoms. In his opening remarks, Freed leveled strong charges at the "New Centurions" of the Los Angeles Police Department, the "Blue Machine":

1. The L.A.P.D. suppressed evidence in the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy under direction of the Central Intelligence Agency;
2. The L.A. police intelligence unit had prior knowledge that black revolutionaries Jonathan and George Jackson would be killed;
3. The L.A.P.D. retains dossiers for purposes of blackmail, on reporters and management of local newsmedia, including the "L.A. Times"; and on elected officials, including Mayor Tom Bradley.

In his keynote speech on Friday night, Mark Lane ridiculed the Warren Report and its favorite phrase: "The Commission has found no evidence that ..." The audience roared with laughter when Lane exposed one of the Commission's "no evidence" claims by producing a "Chicago Tribune" front-page story linking Jack Ruby and the Syndicate to the murder of a union official in 1939.

George O'Toole, author of the book "The Assassination Tapes", Professor Peter Dale Scott, and Paul Hoch, researcher, joined Mark Lane in expounding the case for conspiracy in the Dallas assassination of President Kennedy. The showing of the Zapruder film was accompanied by the narration of CBS newsman Dan Rather and his extraordinary, contrary to fact, description of Kennedy's reaction to the fatal shot: "...he's driven forward with great force. No doubt about that."

A workshop on Saturday morning, "How to Get Your Dossier", explored citizens' rights to government files under the amended Freedom of Information Act.

Lake Headly, the official investigator for the families of the Symbionese Liberation Army, presented never-before-seen TV footage of the fire fight that left six SLA "soldiers" charred to death. Headly's presentation and film exposed that the L.A. police report was a coverup:

1. The tear gas barrage began only after two trained police dogs failed to detect Patty Hearst's presence.
2. There were no "repeated bull-horn demands" despite assertions to the contrary by the L.A.P.D.

(3) The police knew of the telephone in the SLA house, but did not attempt to utilize phone communication to negotiate a peaceful surrender.

Headly suggested that the L.A.P.D. "overkill" was an attempt to bury forever the relationship of Donald (Cinque) DeFreeze of the SLA and L.A.P.D. intelligence officers.

Saturday afternoon was highlighted by the speeches of two prominent victims of FBI clandestine operations. Anti-war Professor Morris Starsky told how he lost his teaching job as a result of a concerted FBI sabotage campaign, which included "poison pen letters". The FBI sent forged letters from "anonymous alumni" to the Arizona State University administration alleging that the professor had a propensity toward violence and sexual deviation.

David G. Du Bois of the Black Panther Party discussed the nationwide conspiracy behind the murder of 26 Party members. The Party's weekly newspaper, which Du Bois edits, has become a forum for articles on assassinations, the CIA, and other conspiratorial agencies.

On Saturday night, Robbie Meeropol, cold war orphan, marveled at the conference's linkage of 20 years of official violence and coverup: "From the Rosenbergs to Rockefeller".

Tom Hayden, candidate for the U.S. Senate, seconded Meeropol's observation that the American people's consciousness has been raised over the years. As proof, Hayden recalled an unrecorded incident from his school days at the University of Michigan. Hayden was snafued by administrators when he attempted to arrange a speech on the "liberal" campus for Mark Lane, the pariah of 1964. Today, Mark Lane speaks to crowds of 5,000 in Monroe, Louisiana, and Taft, California.

Jane Fonda, actress, a panelist on "The War Conspiracy", described her million dollar suit against Nixon, FBI, IRS, CIA, et al., for violation of her civil rights. Fonda's attorneys have secured a series of memos exchanged by FBI agents that reveal an FBI concern with predicting the exact delivery date of Fonda's baby. How is this information relevant to national security — how does it justify a wiretap, tax audit, and mail cover?

Peter Dale Scott, author of "The War Conspiracy", joined in exposing the Mayaguez incident as a military provocation analogous to the Gulf of Tonkin hoax.

The highlight of Saturday night was a presentation of flowers to the Union of Vietnamese Students in celebration of peace. The students had faced deportation as a result of past demonstrations against U.S. involvement in Vietnam. The students, who received a standing ovation from the crowd,

(Continued on page 8 of August issue)
“In the past we have suffered the economic boycott, and internal and external subversion; today we suffer a conspiracy of silence, to keep the facts and pernicious effects of the policies of intervention from being known.”

Outline

A Conspiracy of Silence
The Establishment of Fascist Regimes
President Allende Speaking in the United Nations, 1972
The Trail of North American Aggression
Actions in 1970
Actions in 1971

CIA Actions in 1971 (continued)
- Vice President of ITT, William C. Merriam, writes to Peterson, reiterating proposals intended to suffocate the Chilean economy through the rejection of international loans and suspension of the importation of copper and other goods. This was meant to create sufficient chaos to stimulate the intervention of the armed forces. He proposes that the CIA collaborate in this process.
- Secretary of State Rogers meets with representatives of Anaconda, Ford Motor Company, First National City Bank, Ralston Purina Company, and ITT. In the meeting it is proposed to embargo spare parts and materials for Chile, and to cut off all forms of North American aid.
- The United States changes its Ambassador in Chile. The position is filled by Nathaniel P. Davis, who began his career as an official of the OSS, Office of Strategic Services, precursor of the CIA. He was formerly assigned to Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, and Bulgaria, and he was also in Chile as head of the Peace Corps in 1963. Previous to his new appointment in Chile, he had been Ambassador in Guatemala, the post he assumed immediately after the abduction and execution of his predecessor, John Gordon Mein.

Actions in 1972

1972: On March 21st, US journalist Jack Anderson revealed the plans of ITT and the CIA against the Popular Unity government. He makes public a secret cable from Ambassador Nathaniel Davis to the State Department which suggested that in preparation for a military coup, it is first necessary to “create a discontent so profound that a military intervention would be warmly received.”
- The US Corporations operating in Chile resort to economic sabotage. Ford Motor suspends its activities and closes its plant. General Motors does likewise shortly thereafter. Ralston Purina is brought under state control when it becomes clear that it is deliberately reducing production, is not paying its customs taxes, and is violating the law of international exchange. Kennecot and Anaconda obtain the embargo of Chilean products in the US and freeze the accounts of the various Chilean governmental agencies in New York, some of which include those of the State Copper Corporation and the Production Development Agency (CORFO).
- It becomes increasingly difficult for Chile to obtain parts and replacements for US produced machinery. The result is that 21% of the taxis and 31% of the public transportation becomes immobile.
- Kennecot brings suit in France to block the payment for copper sales to the government of Chile. Private US banks cut Chile’s access to credit from two hundred million to thirty-five million. They suspended all credits to suppliers.
- Wolf Research and Development, a “privately” owned US corporation, proposes to Chile a series of research programs involving remote sensors placed in NASA satellites as part of the ERTS and Skylab programs. The application of this technology for supposed research consists of terrain information photographs, espionage flights, and air detection of mineral deposits.
- Euno Hobbins, ex-editor of Life Magazine, handed over four hundred thousand dollars to Álvaro Puga of "El Mercurio" newspaper. The money was obtained by the CIA from the 40 Committee to finance propaganda against the Popular Unity government.
- In October, General Cesar Ruiz Danyau, Commander in Chief of the Air Force, travels to the US, invited by his counterpart, General John Ryan. From this trip, the Chilean Air Force obtained a five million dollar credit. In contrast, the Popular Unity government, in three years, only received three million dollars in credits from the US.
- In 1972, no more than 15% to 20% of Chilean imports came from the US, compared with about 40% in preceding years.
- In the financial arena, the percentage of short term credits which Chile received from the US was reduced from 78% to 6.6%.
- On October 11th of this year the first owner's strike is declared, preceded by a commercial shut-down and followed by the truck owner's lockout. These seditionary activities were intended to paralyze the economy of the entire country for several weeks. This action just happened to coincide with the European embargo of Chilean copper, as a result of Kennecott's owners' shutdown, inundating the black market with dollars.
- December 1972: Jorge Guerrero, Secretary of the National Command for Gremial Defense, which directed the owners' shutdown, is invited to Washington by AIFLD.

Actions in 1973

1973: Alexander Zanders, ex-agent of the CIA, was able to escape to the US and inform the Chilean authorities of the preparation of a military coup against the Popular Unity government. It was the so-called Centaur Plan. Zanders accompanied his denunciations with conclusive evidence including intelligence reports and taped materials.
- At the request of the CIA, and in order to finance the activities of the National Party and the Christian Democrats, the US government provided two hundred thousand and three hundred thousand dollars respectively.
- President Allende's Naval Attache, Commander Arturo Araya Peeters is assassinated in the early morning of July 27, 1973, by members of the ultra-rightist group, "Fatherland and Liberty", organized by the CIA, two years before.
- On that same date, a new truck owners' strike starts that will include merchants and professionals. Simultaneously, a huge wave of terrorist actions spreads over the nation. A high tension tower is blown up when the President is addressing the country on TV and radio. Patria y Libertad (Fatherland and Liberty), backed by the CIA, did not conceal its responsibility in this affair. The Chilean Naval Intelligence Service contributed to the effort with logistic advice.
- Michael Townley, a North American citizen and member of the Peace Corps in Chile during President Frei's government, returns to Chile as a CIA agent to collaborate with "Fatherland and Liberty". He was in charge of a five-man brigade to carry out a dangerous sabotage operation in the city of Concepcion at a power plant. Although they failed in their objective, they killed the nightwatchman of the plant, Tomas Henriquez. Townley managed to escape to Argentina, and from there flew to the US.
- Pablo Rodriguez, head of "Fatherland and Liberty", visited the US and made contacts with Bernard Barker, Frank Sturgis, and counterrevolutionary Cubans Virgilio Gonzalez and Eugenio Martinez, who had participated in the espionage and robbery of documents from the Chilean Embassy in Washington, a year earlier.
- On May 15th, the Union of Professional Employees from the El Teniente copper mine, started a strike. The mine had been expropriated from Renecott. This strike is directed by Guillermo Medina, who is directly advised by the AIFLD as well as by "Fatherland and Liberty" leaders such as Manuel Fuentes Weddling, presently press attache to General Gustavo Leigh, one of the Military Junta.
- On June 29th, a tentative coup is defeated. It is led by the Armored Regiment No. 2 and by civilians from "Fatherland and Liberty". Pablo Rodriguez and other leaders of this Fascist group, sought refuge in the Embassy of Ecuador and left the country. It is thought that the June 29th attempted coup was so poorly mounted because of a failure of communication between the CIA, directly linked with "Fatherland and Liberty", and the DIA, the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency, which was working with the Chilean military traitors.
- In August 1973, the CIA is authorized to invest one million additional dollars in Chile. It is held that this allocation was cancelled when the coup took place. The truth is that the sum was spent - as has been publicly acknowledged: two hundred fifty thousand dollars of it went for a radio station, thousands of dollars were used to finance public relations trips of Junta officials, shortly after the coup. The rest is not yet accounted for.
- The US Ambassador to Chile, Nathaniel Davis, travels to the US to meet with the special group of the National Security Council dealing with Chile. He comes back to Santiago just before the coup.
- In September 1973, ships from the US Navy arrive in Chilean waters to participate in the joint maneuvers called "Operation Unidas".
- At the same time thirty-two US observation and battle planes land in Mendoza, Argentina; fifteen of the planes leave forty-eight hours after the coup. Simultaneously, one hundred fifty North Americans described as "specialists in Air Acrobatics" arrive in Chile.
- On September 9th Richard Nixon is informed about plans for the military coup in Chile.

The Murder of President Allende

- September 11th, the military coup takes place. The popular government is overthrown: President Allende is murdered, and the fascist dictatorship is installed.
- The fact that the US warships of the "Unidas" maneuvers were standing by ready to help in case they were needed, was disclosed.
- Another fact is revealed and denounced, that on the day of the coup the WB-575 plane, plate number 631-2396, was operated in Chile by Majors V. Duenas and T. Schull from the US Air Force. This plane was a flying electronic control station, serving to coordinate the communications of the coup.
- The German magazine Neue Berliner Illustrierte of December 25, 1973 states that they have a confidential US Army document, taken from a vault at Fort Gulick, Panama, outlining a plan to destroy the Popular Unity Government. The US plan revealed in Germany has characteristics very similar to the events of September 11th.
- Chile's National Department of Investigations (DINA) comes into existence, under the Defense ministry, with the collaboration of the CIA, the DIA, and the help of the Brazilians, and German experts such as Walter Rauff, former leader of the Gestapo (the man responsible for developing Hitler's mobile gas extermination units).

The Declarations of President Gerald Ford

What you have heard is a very short resume of open North American intervention in Chile's internal affairs up to 1973. What has occurred since the coup is more widely known. No events in recent times have so wounded international sensitivity as the barbarism taking place in my country. These events have been unanimously repudiated in every corner of the world. No government is so completely discredited and morally isolated as the military Junta of Chile.

In 1974 the putchists' thirst for blood has extended even beyond the frontiers, to Buenos Aires, Argentina, to carry out the cowardly assassination of General Carlos Prats and his wife.

The gangster methods, adopted through the CIA, now boomerang on their own practitioners. The death of...
General Oscar Bonilla, presumed successor to dictator Pinochet (he was killed in a helicopter "accident"), carries the trademark of the methods used by Hitler to eliminate his possible competitors.

As grotesque and repugnant as the role played by the fascist junta, the role of foreign intervention has, in some ways, been the catalyst for the downfall of the Popular Unity government in Chile. In September of last year, when President Ford recognized and confessed the North American intervention in Chile, he argued that it was done to help save the communications media of the opposition parties. For his part, as is well known, Henry Kissinger told the US Senate that "the activities of the CIA had as their object, the prevention of the establishment of a one party government by a minority President."

The question arises: where is the concern of Mr. Ford and of Mr. Kissinger now when all political parties have been suppressed, all public liberties abolished, the national congress closed down, and the country has been converted into a showcase of the fascist dictatorship. Nevertheless, we observe that the only industrialized country whose government helps that tyranny - politically, financially, and militarily, is the United States.

From what has transpired one can only conclude that the true objective of the US interventionist policy has been to install a fascist model government that would insure what the transnational companies call "the special peace" and "climate favorable to foreign investment." The "peace of the cemetery" created by the military Junta is exactly the "social peace" sought after by those same transnational corporations.

The General Intervention Policy of the U.S.

It is clear that the intervention practiced in Chile is only one single case in a general policy of intervention and collusion between the US government and the interests of North American investment abroad, especially those of the multinational companies, ITT, Kenneecott, Anaconda, etc. This pig-headed, police-like conduct carries the explicit objective of installing fascist regimes in under-developed countries and not only violates recognized norms governing relations between the States institutionalized in the charter of the United Nations, but moreover, clearly contradicts those ideals for which the peoples of the United States have fought ever since their independence.

This conflict between the real interests of the North American empire and the only foreign intervention explains the deception of the US government. In the effort to justify this duplicity to the citizens of the United States, the leaders of the government find themselves in increasingly clear and difficult contradictions. How can the US government possibly convince its people that the barbarism and terror in Chile is compatible with the ideals and interests of the great majority of North American citizens? Are the interests of the US people served in any way by the brutal destruction of the Popular Unity government in Chile, a democratically elected constitutional government whose margin of votes had even increased in the last elections prior to the coup of 1973?

How can the North American government try to convince its people that the association between the CIA and ITT, a corporation that collaborated with the Nazis during the Second World War, even as US soldiers were dying on European fronts in the fight against fascism, can contribute to the strengthening of democracy either in Chile or the United States?

When will President Gerald Ford put an end to support of the fascist military Junta, offering financial credits and military aid beyond anything ever dreamed of by our government of Popular Unity?

How can the people of the United States convince their government that, to fulfill Abraham Lincoln's ideals, the government must avoid helping those sinister forces seeking to establish fascism on a worldwide scale, including the United States?

The Grounds for Deceiving the People of the United States

Over a long period of time the deception has been based on the idea that what is good for the great private interests in the US is also good for the people. The economic and political reality today, in this nation, fully demonstrates that such an idea is absolutely false. The reaction of the US people to the revelations of CIA activity both abroad and within the United States, shows us that there is a reserve of moral power that can prevent abdication of those ideals of liberty which have been fought for by generations of citizens. It appears that the North American people are beginning to understand that it is impossible to help fascism abroad without becoming exposed to those same forces inside the United States.

In order to legitimize the shameless violation of mutual respect between nations - whether they be powerful or not - President Ford has thrown the charter of the United Nations in the Wastebasket and tries to raise the law of the jungle to the plane of international relations. The peoples of Latin America, of Vietnam, of Laos, of Cambodia have been the victims of practices in the bloody tradition of Nazi fascism. Today the United States has the sad privilege of breathing new life into those traditions.

At least imperialism has begun to pay a price for unleashing its aggression against the Popular Unity government presided over by Salvador Allende: the price is the awakening and strengthening of the consciousness of the peoples and of many governments about the direct threat of fascism as a new pattern of domination in our epoch. With that, we have witnessed the extensive and profound growth of a movement of solidarity with the Chilean people. This movement represents an answer to a terrible outrage against the human rights and dignity of a small nation, and expresses furthermore, the recognition that we are dealing with a situation that endangers all of humanity.

The Chilean drama not only encompasses the contradictions of Chilean and Latin American society, but those of the Third World in general. In the case of Chile we have the liquidation, although momentary, of a nation which has carried forward a process of emancipation. This points out to us that it is the nations of the Third World, the unaligned nations, which are and which will continue to be the principal targets of imperialist aggression.
"A Draft Brief for Reopening the Investigation into the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: We have framed the arguments in brief form to overcome the threshold barrier to consideration of the issues posed by the great volume of conflicting writings and evidence."

Outline
Prefatory Notes
The Warren Commission Findings
I. The Implausibility of the Single Bullet Theory
   Calls into Question the Essential Findings of the Warren Commission
Parts 2 and 3 (July and August 1975)
I. The Implausibility of the Single Bullet Theory ... (continued)
II. Double Head Shots
III. Did Oswald Do All the Shooting?
IV. The Autopsy of President Kennedy Raises Doubts as to the Warren Commission Findings
V. The Warren Commission Inadequately Investigated the Movements and Actions of Jack Ruby
Summary of Argument
Conclusion

I. The Implausibility of the Single Bullet Theory ... (continued)

If it is accepted (as the Warren Commission did) that the bullet which entered Kennedy's back, exited from his throat and then entered Connally's back, the angles of the trajectories need to be examined. Cyril Wecht has done so and concludes:

"It should also be pointed out that the indicated pathways of these wounds are in considerable disagreement with the calculated trajectories from the postulated firing position of the assassin. The supposed assassin's site looked down on the car at an angle which varied from 22 to 20 degrees in the vertical plane and from 12 to about 8 degrees (right to left) in the horizontal plane, during the time interval over which these wounds might have been inflicted. The slope of the street, about 3 degrees, might perhaps be deducted from the vertical angle if we assume that the men's seating posture was determined by the slope of the car rather than their own sense of balance. (The Warren Commission made this correction although it is open to some question.) However, the vertical angle through the President's back/neck wound measures only about 11½ degrees, while that through the Governor's chest is larger, namely about 20 degrees. While these angular measurements are subject to error of a few degrees either way, the discrepancies seem too large to explain away in this fashion."

The original autopsy fact sheet places the President's neck wound in his back at a position below the neck wound in the front. Though said later to have been an incorrectly low, rough estimation of the wound, it does line up with the holes in the President's coat and shirt. The response that the President's coat and shirt were "bunched up" in the back, thus accounting for the low clothing holes in light of a high wound, as conclusively disproven by a glance at Willis slide #5.

5. The character of the wound in the front of the President's neck establishes that a pristine bullet did not exit there as postulated by the single bullet theory.

The bullet wound in the President's throat, described later as viewed prior to the tracheotomy incision, was "very small ... 3 to 5 mm." Dr. Cyril Wecht has said that he finds a wound of that size "... very, very hard to buy as an exit wound for a bullet which would have entered the back."

An experiment done for the Warren Commission by Dr. Alfred G. Olivier of the Army's Edgewood Arsenal was done to simulate the wound through the President's neck. Three 6.5 millimeter bullets were fired through 14 centimeters of goat meat held between goat skins and shirt and jacket cloth. The bullet entry wounds are the same size as the wound in the President's back, but the smallest exit hole was 10 mm., compared to the 5-5 mm. throat wound in President Kennedy.

6. The neutron activation analysis done on the bullet fragments found in Connally's wrist could not identify them with the bullet said to have wounded the President.

J. Edgar Hoover's letter of July 8, 1964 to the Warren Commission reports the results of the neutron activation analysis — that the metal fragments from Connally's wrist could not be identified as having come from the bullet which wounded the President. The extensive studying of the (as yet unreleased) raw data could determine whether these test results prove the single bullet theory incorrect.

See Set B of Footnotes.

II. Double Head Shots

A. There is strong evidence to indicate that the President's head was hit by two shots in rapid succession, one from the front and the other from the rear.

1. The motion of the President's head tends to indicate that there were two shots.

Between frames 312-313 of the Zapruder film the President's head is seen to move forward at a rate
Harvey Oswald was an expert rifleman, and that the head moves violently backward and to the left until it bounces off the back seat at frame 321. Its speed backwards is 100.3 feet/second. This all occurs in 1/18 of a second.

This motion is extremely rapid and analysis of the film shows that it was not caused by acceleration of the car, as none of the occupants were thrown off balance at that time. Secret Service agent Clint Hill testified that he was thrown off balance by the acceleration of the car, yet he did not reach the car until frame 368 which is 3 seconds after the head shots.

The motion cannot be explained as a neuromuscular reaction. The startled response takes place over an interval of 40-200 milliseconds. The time required for the head to move forward is 63 milliseconds. The change in direction of Kennedy's head observed in the film occurs in 50 milliseconds, much too fast for a neuromuscular reaction.

Similarly, with a neuromuscular reaction we would expect the head to keep accelerating, however, in this case the velocity remained constant. Also, since the motor strip (pre-central gyrus) was blown out by the entering bullet, the likelihood of any muscular reaction is considerably diminished.1/

The Warren Commission chose to completely disregard this backward head motion.

2. The location of brain matter after the shots supports the double shot theory.

Governor and Mrs. Connally were covered with brain matter which would support a shot from the rear. However, a large amount of brain debris splattered on the left rear of the presidential car and also on the uniforms and windshields of the two motorcyclists who were riding 6 to 8 feet to the left rear of the President's car. One officer testified that the splattering was with such force that he at first thought that he had been struck.

A piece of skull bone was found in the street by an observer approximately 25 feet from where the President was shot. It was identified by Dr. A. B. Cairns, chief pathologist at Methodist Hospital as being from the occipital (rear) region of the skull. A bullet fired from the rear would have great difficulty causing this effect, but one fired from the front could easily explain it.2/

3. Doctors at Parkland Hospital described the President’s head wounds in a manner consistent with the double shot theory.

In addition to the massive wound to the right temple, the Parkland doctors described a large wound in the occipital region with brain matter protruding from it. This tends to corroborate the belief that one of the head shots came from the front.

The Bethesda doctors give the picture of a shot entering the rear of the President’s head and causing the massive damage to the temple region.3/

See Set C of Footnotes.

III. Did Oswald Do All the Shooting?

A. It is a widely accepted misconception that Lee Harvey Oswald was an expert rifleman, and that the shots from the Depository window were "easy."

Oswald’s Marine Corps shooting scores indicate that he was not an expert rifleman. His last shooting score was taken in May of 1959 when Oswald scored 191 points. This performance barely qualified him for "marksman", the lowest title given out by the Marine Corps. Lt. Col. A. C. Folson testified before the commission that Oswald's ability as evidenced by his score was that of a "rather poor shot."/1/

Complicating Oswald's rather mediocre shooting skill was the alleged assassination weapon itself, the Italian Manlicher-Caracano. The Caracano was a very cheap rifle, retailing for only $12.70. It had a reputation for being a "humanitarian" weapon, a poor choice for any assassin.2/ The maladjusted scope on the rifle sent bullets flying high and off to the right.3/ Its difficult bolt made rapid firing very difficult. In addition, Oswald's Caracano had an eccentric trigger and a disintegrating firing pin.4/

(please turn to next page)

Allende — Continued from page 6

The Fight Against United States Aggression in Chile

Through you we address the people of the United States. We wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts to unmask the aggression being waged against the Chilean people. We would like to express, in a very special way, our recognition of the efforts of those fine North Americans who have demonstrated their convictions in effective and moral solidarity with the victims of the tyranny.

We applaud the initiatives of those distinguished political leaders who reject the announced visit to Chile by Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger. His visit not only signifies support to the Junta, but also serves to legitimize a regime which violates all human rights.

In a responsible manner we would also like to offer the warning that when fascism is flushed from our country, the Chilean people will disown and reject absolutely whatever accords, whatever pacts, whatever treaties agreed to by the military Junta, with whatever State or international organism.

Finally, it is our duty to appeal to the conscience of the North American people to prevent the continued support of your government for the most bloody regime that has been known in the history of Latin America: the dictatorship of Agusto Pinochet.

The North American people cannot continue as accomplices in a policy contrary to their own best interests. Consequently, the demand must resound for the suspension of all military aid to the Junta, suspension of all the credits, suspension of any renegotiation of the external debt, and for the defense of Human Rights in Chile. For this reason we applaud the action of the US Congress towards terminating US military aid to the military Junta until Human Rights are restored.

Confronting this tangible danger of fascism, the so-called silent majority must convert itself to an active, thundering majority for democracy.

Pablo Neruda wrote the following lines:

"Let the rail-splitter awake.
You are vast and beautiful North America,
Your origin is humble like a washerwoman's
Beside your rivers, white,
Shaped in the unknown.
It is your peace of honeycomb that is most sweet.
It is your peace that we love, not your mask.
Your warrior's face is not handsome."

The fight against fascism in Chile is a fight against the dangers of fascism all over the world.

That is why we can say, with all certainty and conviction: Venceremos — We shall overcome.
Allen et al. — Continued from page 7

Some of the Commission's difficulties regarding Oswald's rifle capability and his weapon's effectiveness might have been allevied had it been determined that Oswald had been practicing with the Manlicher-Caracano shortly before the assassination. The Commission was unable to document a single instance of Oswald practicing with his Manlicher-Caracano despite an extensive effort to do so./5/

But even given an excellent rifle and a superb marksman, Oswald's alleged feat of shooting is remarkable. He fired three shots from a bolt action rifle (which he had to load and unload twice) in a short span of 4.6-5.6 seconds. He was shooting at a target moving down an incline, from 60 feet up and 100 to 265 feet away. He had only .8 seconds to aim for his first shot and yet he managed to land two accurate hits, the last one causing the President's fatal head wound.

The Commission endeavored to determine if Oswald was capable of such a performance. The Commission's rifle tests were so different from the actual conditions Oswald encountered, that any of their conclusions are open to serious question. The Commission's rifleman was shooting at stationary targets instead of moving ones; they were firing from 30 feet up instead of Oswald's 60; they took as much time as they wanted for the first shot while the assassin had less than one second to aim for his; and even more remarkable they corrected the defective sight of Oswald's Caracano by mounting the rifle with metal shims. Furthermore the Commission employed "master" riflemen for the test, experts in firearms some four classes above Oswald's shooting ability.

Even under these more favorable circumstances, the Commission's test only served to prove how difficult Oswald's alleged feat really was. Only one of the three "master" riflemen, (with the stationary targets, corrected sight, reduced distance and added firing time for the first shot) managed to duplicate Oswald's ability.

B. The psychological stress evaluation indicates that Oswald was telling the truth when he said that he did not kill the President.

The Psychological Stress Evaluator (P.S.E.) was developed in the early 1970's as an auxiliary component to the polygraph which is designed to determine the authenticity of a suspect's testimony. It was later discovered by its inventors, Alan D. Bell, Jr. and Charles R. McQueston (former lieutenant colonel in army intelligence), that the P.S.E. evaluated authenticity accurately enough to be used independently of the polygraph./9/ Other polygraph experts have come to the same conclusion and the P.S.E. is now growing to be a respectable device in criminological circles./10/

In 1972 George O'Toole processed tape recordings of Lee Harvey Oswald's statements to reporters through the P.S.E. His results were interesting: the P.S.E. indicated that Oswald was telling the truth when he said that he had not killed the President./11/ Mr. O'Toole's results brought criticism from experts who learned of his project; however, after processing the tapes themselves, the experts had to agree with his conclusions./12/ For example, L. H. "Rusty" Hitchcock, a former army intelligence agent and one of the most experienced polygraph examiners in the country, sent a supportive letter to Mr. O'Toole after analyzing the appropriate material./13/

See Set D of Footnotes.

IV. The Autopsy of President Kennedy Raises Doubt as to the Warren Commission Findings

The autopsy of President Kennedy at Bethesda Naval Hospital was very incomplete and vague in its findings.

1. The autopsy team was mostly military and had had limited forensic experience at the time. No civilian forensic pathologist was present.

2. The positions of the wounds were determined by faulty measuring methods.

3. The wound to the anterior neck was not recognized and dissected because of the tracheotomy that had been performed in Dallas. This wound was only discovered the following day during a conversation with the Dallas physician who attended Kennedy at Parkland.

4. The back wound was not dissected or tracked under military orders.

5. Coronal sections through the fixed brain were not made, although this is a routine procedure in cases of gunshot wounds of the head in order to track the pathway of a bullet or bullet fragment.

6. As a result, the autopsy was unable to provide detailed analysis of the wounds to help investigators in locating the assassin's positions./1/

7. See also autopsy analysis of trajectories in Single Bullet Theory — Argument I, page 1.

V. The Warren Commission Inadequately Investigated the Movements and Actions of Jack Ruby

The Commission waited six months before interviewing the assassin of Oswald, indicating a predilection to accept the lone assassin theory before all the facts were in. Had the Commission been interested in thoroughly investigating the possibility of a conspiracy, its first witness would have been Jack Ruby, a man with troubling connections with the underworld and long time crony of many members of the Dallas Police force.

Testimony by several reliable witnesses bring the Commission's timetable of Ruby's movements into serious question. The Commission claims that Jack Ruby was not in Parkland Hospital shortly after the assassination, in the face of unequivocal testimony by disinterested and respectable witnesses. Seth Kantor, a member of the White House press corps reported in the Scripps-Howard Alliance newspaper on Monday, Nov. 25, that he had met Jack Ruby at Parkland Hospital about an hour after the assassination. As Kantor testified before the Warren Commission, "I was indubitably sure at the time and have continued to be so that the man who stopped me and with whom I talked was Jack Ruby. I feel strongly about it, because I had known Jack Ruby and he did call me by my first name. ..."/1/

See Set E of Footnotes.

For the Commission to accept Kantor's credible testimony, they would have to admit they were unsure of Ruby's movements during a critical period following the assassination. Instead they chose to accept the testimony of a convicted murderer over that of a respected member of the White House corps.

(Concluded on page 7 of August issue)