

Mr. Joe Cabot
Metatronix
P.O.Box 1865
Olympia, WA 98507-1865

8/5/88

Dear Mr. Cabot,

Please excuse the haste with which I respond to your letter here today.

You ask about Marita Lorenz and her story, which should be plural, because there were a number that are not entirely consistent with each other. I don't believe a material word she said, particularly not about the alleged trip to Dallas. Ditto for Frank Sturgis.

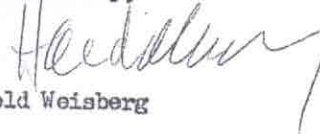
The Nation goofed. There was an entirely different George Bush and he was not in a position to be the George Bush now v.p. There may well have been a third one, also not the v.p.

I'm glad to get your summary of what Roettinger said but I don't believe anyone could possibly confirm what she said "about Dallas."

I have no trouble believing that the suit against Webberman was dropped for reasons of cost because there was no prospect of collecting from Webberman as he lost.

It is not easy to find a less trustworthy source than Spotlight.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

JOE CABOT

METATRONIX
P.O. BOX 1865
OLYMPIA, WA 98507-1865

Harold Weisberg
Route 12
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Some months back, I had a fascinating conversation with former CIA officer Phil Roettinger (see enclosure). I was excited by what seemed to be confirmation of Marina Lorenz' claims regarding the Kennedy assassination, and E. Howard Hunt's alleged involvement (again, see enclosure).

At the time, I was not aware that Lorenz had testified to this before the House Assassinations Committee, and that this testimony had been used ~~by~~ A.J. Weberman in his defense when Hunt sued him for libel. The spot light's claims that this was new information would seem to be highly exaggerated.

I would also like to mention, I was highly wrong about the remark about George

Bush. At the time, I thought he was just commenting on Bush's role in Iran-contras, and how it was covered over, but it wasn't entirely certain. The publication of the Nation article raises new questions in my mind.

I'm writing to you for two reasons: To ask

- ① Are you familiar with Marita Lorenz's claims, and do you believe them to be true? (Blaney and Billings seem to dismiss her testimony only because her claim seems outrageous, and because these four unsavory men denied it.)
- ② Have you any independent research to confirm George Bush's early CIA activity, and possible involvement in the Kennedy assassination or its coverup?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Joe Cabot

On Monday, May 9th, 1988, Philip Roettinger, retired Marine Corps Colonel and ex-CIA official, who was instrumental in the 1954 overthrow of the Guatemalan Government, spoke at the Olympia Timberland Library. Roettinger is also involved in ARDIS (Association for Responsible Dissent), an organization of retired CIA officials who are dedicated to letting the American people know what has been and is being done in their names. Before Mr. Roettinger spoke, I took the opportunity to speak with him. Immediately afterwards, I wrote down the conversation, which follows:

Joe: Are you with ARDIS? (I didn't know at the time that he was).

Phil: Yes, I am, as a matter of fact, I'm president, actually. They had a meeting that I wasn't at, and they elected me president, the rascals...

Joe: Do you find Marita Lorenz to be generally reliable?

Phil: Oh, yes. She's wild, but, yes, she's what she says she is. I met her at our organizing meeting. I didn't know who she was - she came up to me and started talking. I was thinking "who are you?"

Joe: I read an article in the Spotlight...

Phil: Oh, yes. I haven't read it yet, but I've heard about it.

Joe: Did she really say all these things about Hunt and Sturgis and Oswald in Dallas?

Phil: Yes, and we've confirmed it. It's all true.

Joe: Then maybe some of this stuff will actually come out.

Phil: Yeah, yeah! (Excited). We're going to get this stuff out. Especially about Bush. Not until after he's been nominated, of course!

Joe: Wow!

Phil: Glad to have you here. (Pats shoulder).

Hunt's Background: Covert

EXCLUSIVE TO THE SPOTLIGHT
By P. Samuel Foner

If E. Howard Hunt decides to "disappear" rather than pay Liberty Lobby's court costs (see related

story), he could prove difficult to find. Fluent in Spanish and intimately familiar with Mexico from his days as a CIA spymaster, Hunt could have "gone to ground" in his old

area of operations. Hunt originally won a judgment of \$650,000 against Liberty Lobby, a finding that was reversed on appeal. In the second trial, the populist institution headquartered in Washington was found not guilty of libeling Hunt and the Watergater was ordered to pay some of Liberty Lobby's legal fees.

He wanted hundreds of thousands from Liberty Lobby, but his court-ordered costs are only about 3 percent of that amount. Yet Hunt is seemingly determined not to pay.

He is an admitted perjurer, a convicted burglar and a veteran spy involved in many covert operations throughout his years with "the Company" (i.e., the CIA) and later as an aide to President Richard Nixon.

It was while digging into his background in preparation for the second trial that Liberty Lobby and The SPOTLIGHT developed the never-before-told story on the John F. Kennedy assassination which was published in book form titled: "JFK: The Mystery Unraveled."

STAR WITNESS
A key witness for the defense (The SPOTLIGHT and Liberty Lobby) was Marita Lorenz. Her sworn deposition was presented at the second trial and was

a major factor in the decision for this newspaper and its publisher.

Miss Lorenz placed Hunt in Dallas on the day before JFK was assassinated. That sworn statement cast doubt on all of Hunt's testimony and was, according to the lobby's attorneys, a key point for the defense.

During questioning, it was established that Hunt, Frank Sturgis, Miss Lorenz and Lee Harvey Oswald were all part of the CIA's "Operation 40," a plan to overthrow Cuban dictator Fidel Castro.

E. Howard Hunt is an admitted perjurer, a convicted burglar and a veteran spy.



Marita Lorenz is pictured with Frank Sturgis in the mid-1970s.

which culminated in the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion.

Miss Lorenz made the following points:

- During and before 1963, she worked on behalf of the CIA in the Miami area.

- She worked with a man named Frank Sturgis.

- Frank Sturgis was also known as "Frank Florini" and "Hamilton."

- At the time, Sturgis was also employed by the CIA.

- A man known as "Eduardo" made payments to Sturgis during that time.

"JFK: The Mystery Unraveled" is available from Liberty Lobby, 308 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003 at the following rates: one copy, \$6.95; four copies, \$11; 10 copies, \$34; 11 or more, \$3.50 each.

Suit Against Book Dropped Mysteriously

EXCLUSIVE TO THE SPOTLIGHT
By P. Samuel Foner

One of the most unusual developments during the court action between Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt and Liberty Lobby was Hunt's dropping a libel suit against a book called "Coup d'Etat in America." The book is subtitled "The CIA and the Assassination of John F. Kennedy."

The SPOTLIGHT's 1978 story—which precipitated Hunt's original suit against the Washington-based populist institution—did not accuse Hunt of being involved in the JFK assassination. It said that the CIA planned to "stick" Hunt with that accusation. (See related story.)

The book, on the other hand, came right out and said Hunt was involved. In 1982, while the Hunt decision was being appealed (between the first and second trials involving Liberty Lobby), Hunt dropped a six-year, \$2.5 million libel action against Third Press, Joseph Okpaku Publishing Co. Inc., a New York corporation, Joseph Okpaku, Michael Canfield, Alan J. Weberman and Maria Garcia Feliciano.

Canfield and Weberman are the authors.

ALLEGED 'MASTERMINDS' NAMED

"Coup d'Etat" alleges Hunt and fellow Watergater Frank Sturgis masterminded the JFK assassination after setting up Lee Harvey Oswald to take the rap.

The suit was dropped against the book's authors and publisher after years of expensive litigation, just as jury selection was set to begin in federal court in Miami, Florida, where Hunt lives.

The dropping of the suit against the book meant that Weberman and Canfield could move ahead with plans to publish an updated version of the work. They told reporters in New York that they also plan to do a movie on the book.

Contacted in New York at the time, a spokesman for Third Press told The SPOTLIGHT that requests for the book had gone up at about the time the case was to go to court.

In "Coup d'Etat," the authors reproduce pictures of two men dressed as hoboes who allegedly look like Hunt and Sturgis. The pictures were taken immediately after the assassination.

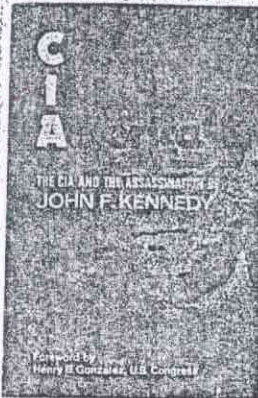
A woman in the background of one of the photos is identified as Hunt's then-wife, who later was killed in a mysterious plane crash.

IMPORTANT DEPOSITIONS

Weberman hired attorney Bruce Stahl and got depositions from ex-CIA director Richard Helms, and former counterintelligence chief the late James Jesus Angleton.



HENRY GONZALEZ
... Scheduled as a witness.



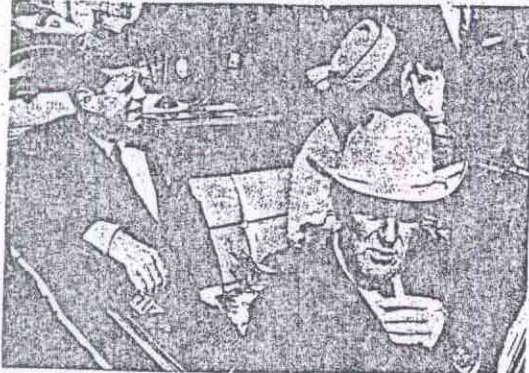
"Coup d'Etat" accused E. Howard Hunt of murder.

The defense also lined up witnesses like Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Texas), who headed a congressional investigation into the assassination and wrote a foreword for "Coup," and reporters from "Time" magazine and the "60 Minutes" TV program.

Stahl, according to the Washington "Post," said he was disappointed the suit was dropped because, "An open trial in federal court, with witnesses under subpoena, would have been the best way of finding out what really happened that day in Dallas."

Ellis Rubin, Hunt's attorney, said the suit was dropped for financial reasons.

Activities in Latin America



President John F. Kennedy (left) rides with his wife Jacqueline and Texas Gov. John Connally in a Dallas motorcade on November 22, 1963.

• "Eduardo" was really E. Howard Hunt. (Hunt's alias is sometimes rendered "Edwardo.") It is the same man.

• Just prior to the assassination of JFK, Miss Lorenz made a trip by car from Miami to Dallas on CIA business. There was a two-car convoy, and the purpose of the trip was to carry weapons.

• Two of the people going from Miami to Dallas with Miss Lorenz were Sturgis and Oswald.

• Two of the people who came to the motel room where Miss Lorenz and Sturgis were staying were Hunt and Jack Ruby; Hunt came to make a cash payment to Sturgis.

WHO THEY ARE
Who is Miss Lorenz? Her credentials are impressive. She has served as an intelligence agent for both the CIA and the FBI, being rated by both organizations as a "top operative." In her youth she

was a mistress of Fidel Castro.

In answer to a question on Operation 40, she said: "Hunt funded the operation; Sturgis trained me."

The testimony was also the first time anyone placed on the public record the fact that Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby and top CIA covert operatives (including E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis) were together in Dallas just prior to Kennedy's murder.

Who is Hunt, really?
His adult life is laced with lies—sometimes called "fiction," sometimes called "propaganda," sometimes called "disinformation" and sometimes called "perjury." Perjury is a felony and Hunt went to prison for lying (under oath) about his role in Watergate.

From about 1949 until 1970, Hunt was an active CIA agent. During that time, others have testified under oath, he was a key figure in Operation 40, the

CIA-run assassination project directed principally (but not exclusively) at Fidel Castro. Marita Lorenz, a girlfriend of Castro and later a CIA operative, said, under oath: "I was trained to kill."

Two of the people involved in that training were Frank Sturgis (ne Fiorini, another Watergate burglar) and E. Howard Hunt.

Journalist Alan Stang once said: "E. Howard Hunt" is probably the only American over 30 who doesn't remember where he was and what he was doing on November 22, 1963 [the day JFK was shot].

Interestingly, one of Hunt's agents when he (Hunt) was a station chief in Mexico in the 1950s was none other than talk show host William F. Buckley Jr.

SPOTLIGHT readers will recall that this newspaper and its publisher have also been involved in litigation with Buckley. Whether or not he influenced his friend and former compatriot Hunt to pursue a libel case against the populist institution is a matter of speculation.

When asked why he had dropped his case against the authors and publisher of a book called "Coup d'Etat in America" (see related story), Hunt said that he had "already won" \$650,000 from Liberty Lobby. But that statement came during the appeal of Liberty Lobby—an appeal that was eventually upheld, leading to the second trial, won by the populist institution.

In a radio interview, Victor Marchetti, author of the original SPOTLIGHT story on Hunt, had this (in part) to say about the Watergate:

"Hunt to this day has great difficulty in establishing an alibi as to where he was that day [the day JFK was shot]."

"Another thing is that Hunt has testified before several committees on the Kennedy assassination; we don't know what has been said because this information has been kept secret and is still secret.



LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Shot to death by Jack Ruby

"However, the committee always end up writing a kind of wishy-washy explanation for Hunt, saying, 'Well, he could have been at work; he could have been on sick leave; he could have been on annual leave, or something like that—something to that effect.'"

Hunt interprets this as a clean bill of health. I find it very dubious. And another thing that came out at the trial that I find interesting is that maybe the CIA is getting ready to let something out of the bag, and that was that Hunt got no help whatsoever from the CIA during this trial.

"He was just left out there by himself, which makes me think that the CIA knows that he was involved in something, but something they don't want to bring out, but they could tolerate it, it came out and so [his attitude was], 'It's your fanny, buddy, not ours.'" •

Intelligence Operatives and JFK

EXCLUSIVE TO THE SPOTLIGHT

By Michael Collins Piper

The web of intrigue surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy seems to involve everybody, including George DeMohrenschildt. DeMohrenschildt is a shadowy and mysterious one-time intelligence operative with close ties to Pantepec Oil, the international petroleum company owned by the family of William F. Buckley Jr. The latter is the controversial owner and editor of "National Review," an Establishment journal of opinion.

DeMohrenschildt died of a gunshot wound on March 29, 1977, just hours after learning that an investigator for the House Special Committee on Assassinations wanted to interview him to determine what he knew about the assassination of President Kennedy. DeMohrenschildt's wound was described as being "self-inflicted."

DeMohrenschildt, once a close asso-

ciate of Kennedy's accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, was one of at least 29 people connected, in one way or another, to the events surrounding the Kennedy assassination, to die under

George DeMohrenschildt had a letter explaining how he might obtain references from Nelson Rockefeller.

mysterious circumstances. (See related stories.)

The son of a Russian nobleman and oil company executive, DeMohrenschildt, who fled Russia after the Bolshevik Revolution, entered into a checkered career which took him around the world.

During World War II he was accused of being a German spy, and in 1957 he was alleged to have been spying in Yugoslavia. DeMohrenschildt himself admit-

ted to having served in French intelligence during World War II, and in 1941 he was deported from Mexico for engaging in espionage.

When he was stopped in his tracks for his espionage activities DeMohrenschildt had on his person a particularly interesting document: a letter explaining how he might obtain references from none other than Nelson A. Rockefeller, the scion of the Rockefeller oil and banking empire and later vice president of the United States.

(Although it has never been conclusively proven, there is evidence to suggest that by this time DeMohrenschildt was already an operative for the Office of Strategic Service [OSS], the forerunner of the modern-day CIA.)

INNER CIRCLES

It was following World War II that DeMohrenschildt's international adventures led him into the inner circles of the Buckley family oil empire. In 1945 DeMohrenschildt worked directly under Warren Smith, then the president of the

Pantepec Oil Co., the Buckley family's Mexican oil company, established in 1915.

(For the full story of the Buckley family and their speculation in the inter-

DeMohrenschildt and Hunt popped up in Cuba in 1956.

national oil industry, see The SPOTLIGHT, Oct. 28, 1987.)

DeMohrenschildt and Smith eventually went into business on their own, forming the Cuban-Venezuelan Oil Trust Co. Pantepec, while having initiated its oil exploration in Mexico, by 1924 had shifted its focus to Venezuela. And by 1938 the Buckyleys had already entered into a lucrative contract with the Rockefellers' Standard Oil Co. of Venezuela, the result of which brought millions in profits to the two Establishment

(See SPIES, Page 16)

One of the really big stories left out of this volume is A.J. Weberman's original "Wake Up America," featuring pictures of Watergaters Hunt and Sturgis disguised as bums being led away from the grassy knoll in Dallas minutes after Kennedy bought it.

A.J. has published his own book, of course, *Coup d'Etat in America*. Like any story that has gone through so many evolutions, we've decided to print this, the most conclusive version. But for the record, the first version of this story appeared in Y.T. in March of '74.

It is impossible to understand the particular animus of the Ford administration, the Secret Service instigation of the May '75 seizure of the Yippie Warchest, etc., without knowing that Yippies were selling a new Y.T., headlined "New Bum Pix Prove Hunt, Sturgis at Dallas," outside the White House as Ford was being sworn in to replace Nixon. Ford had served on the Warren Commission, not only authoring the original cover-up, but a book popularizing the Commission's conclusions.

JFK'S KILLERS APPREHENDED

Twelve More Arrests of Long-time Conspirators Imminent

by Dana Beal

Three rightwing Cubans named in the October, 1977 YIPster Times as principals in a CIA-inspired "Murder, Inc." responsible for dozens of assassinations, including JFK in Nov. '63, are now in custody in connection with another case mentioned in the story: the car-bombing murder of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and his assistant, Ronnie Moffitt.

Ignacio and Guellermo Novo are currently being held at the Manhattan Federal House of Detention, indicted for the Letelier hit on the testimony of Michael Vernon Townley, an American "soldier of fortune" who coordinated the whole thing between the American conspirators and the Chilean Junta.



Oswald

That brings to 3 the members of the squad that killed JFK who are now in custody. The Novos are New Jersey-area lieutenants of Orlando Bosch, currently imprisoned in Venezuela for bombing a Cubana Airlines jet in Oct. '76, killing 73.

About a dozen more arrests are termed "imminent" by sources close to Carter's Justice Dept., which has evidently chosen to prosecute only the most recent crimes of the conspirators—jailing them one by one—instead of the harder-to-prove, politically-explosive killings of Kennedy and King.

But it is unlikely that investigators of the House Assassinations Committee, with their mandate to expose the Greatest Hits of the '60's, will be as timid as the Administration, which moved only after rightwing Cubans detonated bombs near the White House to intimidate Carter against relations with Castro.

Sources close to the House investigation promise that scheduled televised hearings will blow the lid off the conspirators' far-reaching links into the CIA, FBI, organized crime and the highest corporate level.

Sources closest to it confirm that the House investigation has been "turned around" by steady accretion of evidence, such as testimony by Marita Lorentz naming E. Howard Hunt, Frank Sturgis, Orlando Bosch, Lee Harvey Oswald, the Novo Brothers, Gerry Patrick Hemming and Pedro Diaz Lanz as the squad who killed JFK.

Marita Lorentz, as Fidel's ex-mistress and then a key operative in Frank Sturgis' plots to ice Castro, was in a position to know.

Recently declassified Secret Service documents corroborate her testimony, indicating Bosch was under 24-hour surveillance when Kennedy came to Miami on Nov. 18 '63 and that Bosch was involved in an incident in Chicago where an informant for the Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms Bureau was told just before the assassination—"Our new backers are Jewish gangsters—as soon as we assassinate Kennedy we invade Cuba."

Protected today from extradition to Cuba

or the U.S. by powerful connections in Venezuela's secret police, Bosch's jail has become in effect a fortress, from which he has kept up his offensive.

Bosch masterminded the Letelier hit to heal a rift that had developed between the fascist junta of Chile and the Cuban exile community of the U.S. This rift started when Bosch convinced the junta that he needed a false passport to go to Costa Rica to terminate one of Letelier's relatives. Actually Bosch was planning to snuff Henry Kissinger, who was to visit Costa Rica shortly after Bosch arrived. But Frank Sturgis, who had worked on the Kennedy hit alongside Bosch, informed on Bosch, and the CIA had him arrested.

Bosch and the Novos were head of a group called Cuban Power. Interestingly enough, the Miami Organized Crime Bureau



Ignacio Novo

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'63 Bush-C.I.A. Link Reported

WASHINGTON, July 10 (AP) — Vice President George Bush may have worked for the Central Intelligence Agency in 1963, more than a decade before becoming its Director, according to a magazine article that cites a recently discovered Federal Bureau of Investigation memorandum.

Mr. Bush denied the report through a spokesman.

The Nation magazine, in its current issue, quotes a memo of Nov. 29, 1963, from J. Edgar Hoover, the bureau's Director at the time, to the State Department about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In the memo, according to the magazine, Mr. Hoover stated that the bureau had briefed "Mr. George Bush of the Central Intelligence Agency" on the reaction of Cuban exiles in Miami to the assassination.

The magazine article, written by Joseph McBride, also quoted an unidentified source "with close connections to the intelligence community" as saying Mr. Bush "started working for the agency in 1960 or 1961, using his oil business as a cover for clandestine activities."

Stephen Hart, a spokesman for the Vice President, said that he had talked to Mr. Bush about the story and that the Vice President denied any involvement with the agency before President Ford named him its Director in 1975.

"He was an oilman in the early 1960s, and in 1963 he was running for the Senate," Mr. Hart said.

Bill Devine, a spokesman for the intelligence agency, declined to comment on the possibility that Mr. Bush, or someone else with that name, worked for the agency in the 1960s.

"It's our standard policy on allegations that people have worked for the C.I.A. or that sort of thing," Mr. Devine said. "We neither confirm nor deny."

The magazine said Mr. Hoover's memo was recently discovered among 98,755 pages of bureau documents released in 1977 and 1978 in connection lawsuits brought under the Freedom of Information Act.

At the time the memo was written, Mr. Bush was running the Houston-based Zapata Off-Shore Company, which the magazine said gave Bush an opportunity to do extensive overseas travel, including trips throughout the Caribbean. In 1964, Mr. Bush ran unsuccessfully for the Senate.

In his 1987 autobiography, "Looking Forward," Mr. Bush calls his appointment to head the agency "a real shocker" in light of his background as a "non-professional outsider — and a politician to boot." However, Mr. Bush also notes in the book that "I'd come to the C.I.A. with some general knowledge of how it operated."

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Other Allegations of Oswald-Cuban Exile Ties

Following the assassination, other reports of specific connections between Lee Harvey Oswald and the anti-Castro Cubans began to circulate, though many of them had to be rejected for lack of substantiation. Over the years, however, some of the reports gained momentum, if not credence, to a degree that we could not ignore them. We proceeded to run out the various leads, and the result was a bit ironic. While we were ready to believe that Oswald's mysterious Latin associations — as demonstrated, for example by the visit to Silvia Odio — were significant, our assessment of the claims of exile leaders who actually claimed encounters with Oswald was negative. After careful analysis, we decided not to credit a claim made originally in 1976 by Antonio Veciana, the commander of Alpha 66, of having been introduced to Oswald in Dallas in August or September 1963 by his CIA case officer, a man Veciana identified as Maurice Bishop. We also rejected the story of Marita Lorenz, who told us she had driven from Miami to Dallas on November 15, 1963, with Oswald and several anti-Castro activists, including Gerry Patrick Hemming, Orlando Bosch, a terrorist (who was charged in the 1975 bombing of a Cubana Airlines plane, which took seventy-three lives), Pedro Diaz-Lanz, the former Cuban Air Force chief, and Frank Sturgis, who was arrested in the Watergate break-in in 1972. All four men denied Lorenz's charge emphatically, and we could find no evidence to refute them. Lorenz, who claimed to have been Fidel Castro's mistress as well as the instrument of an attempt by the CIA to poison Castro (possibly as part of the CIA-Mafia plots), did not help her credibility by telling us that when she arrived in Dallas with Oswald and the anti-Castro activists, they were contacted at their motel by Jack Ruby.

The Plot to Kill the President

by G. Robert Blakey &
Richard N. Billings

Times Books
1981

pp 175-76