

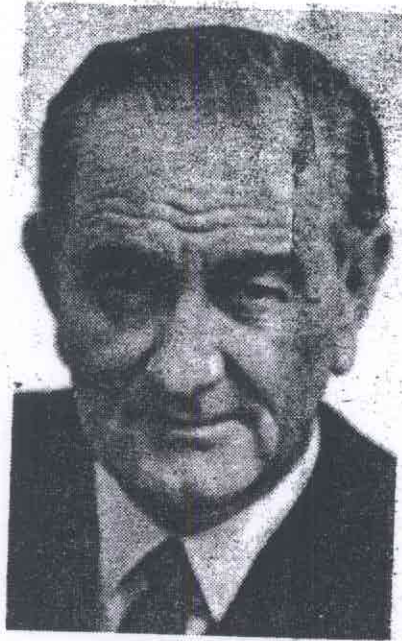
International

When the late Martin Price interviewed controversial author Harold Weisberg in the spring of 1979 on the subject of the assassination of JFK, the latter's theories were met with considerable public disbelief. Put in perspective of The SPOTLIGHT's current series, however, Weisberg's views gain added credibility. Here is the story as it appeared in The SPOTLIGHT on April 16, 1979.

FOURTEENTH IN A SERIES
EXCLUSIVE TO THE SPOTLIGHT

By Martin Price

Harold Weisberg, considered by many to be the dean of the assassination buffs and who independently examined the slaying of President John F. Kennedy for more than 15 years, has concluded that the international bankers and industrialists who reaped billions in profits from U.S. involvement in Vietnam and other so-called "limited wars" were the men most probably behind the successful plot to kill Kennedy.



LYNDON JOHNSON
... Made shrewd move.

Megabankers

A graphic featuring the letters 'JFK' in a large, bold, serif font. To the right of the letters is a magnifying glass with a black handle. The lens of the magnifying glass is focused on a small, detailed image of a car, likely the presidential limousine. Below the magnifying glass, the text 'The Mystery Solved' is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

JFK

The Mystery Solved

In an exclusive interview with *The SPOTLIGHT* Weisberg, who over the years has published five "underground" books dealing with Kennedy's slaying (largely at his own expense), noted that in determining who might have killed the president it is important to ask two questions: "Who would have benefited? And of those who would have benefited, who was in a position to set up Lee Harvey Oswald?"

Dismissing any major, organized involvement by either right-wing or left-wing political groups, Weisberg's exhaustive studies have led him to conclude that those with both means and motive were the very men who feared and disliked Kennedy's foreign policy initiatives with regard to either South Vietnam or the Soviet Union, or both.

He notes: "There was a very powerful, very well-connected group who were opposed to the liquidation of the Vietnam adventure, and who feared that Kennedy was moving to disengage us from what they saw as a potentially lucrative war. This group included many persons, but most notably those who made fabulous profits out of our involvement and the tons of materials, equipment and other goods wasted there. The second group—and these largely intertwined with the first—were uncertain of, or vehemently opposed to, the policy of detente being pursued by Kennedy.

"The key to understanding this is Kennedy's speech at American University and his call for a limited nuclear test agreement with the Soviets. People have forgotten this now for the most part, but it was important as a signal that he was finally grasping the foreign policy reins. The Cuban missile crisis marked a turning point for Kennedy. Until then he was a largely ineffectual president, and there were many people who wanted him to remain so."

MOTIVE AND MEANS

While Weisberg does not name any names in his theorizing on who specifically might have been behind the Kennedy slaying, his ideas buttress *The SPOTLIGHT*'s long-held contention that the forces of international business and big banking—as personified by the Rockefellers and their Council on Foreign Relations, Trilateral Commission etc—were clearly in a unique position not only to arrange and to carry out

the assassination but to orchestrate the massive cover-up that followed it.

Weisberg is particularly vehement about the cover-up. He asserts: "There was never a real official investigation of the Kennedy assassination. Begin with that understanding and then know that it (i.e., the cover-up) crossed all political lines.

"Lyndon Johnson," he adds, "was quite shrewd in placing the major responsibility for the probe on the 'conservatives.' When, after all, did you ever hear of a major presidential commission composed primarily of members from the opposite political party?"

THE CHICKEN HOUSE PAPERS

Weisberg, 63, is a one-time investigative reporter. He served with the Office of Special Services (OSS) during and for a time after World War II and eventually turned Senate investigator.

At the time of the Kennedy killing, he was in the process of liquidating a profitable chicken farm in suburban Maryland, which had, over the years, become the depository for literally hundreds of thousands of pages of government documents, which he has shaken out of the Justice Department, the FBI and the CIA through numerous Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) suits.

Weisberg says that he became interested in undertaking the probe—which subsequently has consumed virtually his every waking hour—"because of the magnitude of the crime and because it was inconceivable to me that such a thing could happen in the United States of America and that both the press and the public could be totally closed off from the truth."

Weisberg, who has come to believe firmly that Lee Harvey Oswald was "simply a patsy" for the real killers, has compiled reams of long-suppressed government documents evidencing the deliberate "ineptitude" of the CIA, FBI and other official bodies involved in the Kennedy probe.

EYEWITNESS REPORT 'NOT PERTINENT'

One FBI report he examined recently, for example, showed that the county jail in Dallas was located on the seventh floor of a building on the northeast end of Dealey Plaza, and that the prisoners—who crowded around the windows as Kennedy's motorcade was passing by—had a unique vantage point to witness the killing. The report also revealed at least one prisoner took the initiative of going to the FBI and of stating he saw a

man with a rifle at a fifth-floor window of the Texas Book Depository—not at the sixth floor (which Oswald allegedly shot from). In reviewing this report, an FBI agent had made the notation: "Not pertinent."

His anger rising even today, Weisberg notes: "This was known at the beginning. Before I ever saw the FBI report I had heard it from reporters in Dallas. They knew that the prisoners were jammed at the windows, looking out. Yet none of these people was ever seriously questioned. This is just one example of what and how important evidence was excluded."

With regard to the CIA Weisberg becomes even more vehement. He won't say the agency as a whole was involved in the killing. But he does not rule out



RICHARD HELMS
... Aided cover-up.

the possibility that a clique within the agency played some role in plotting the president's death. Moreover, he blames the agency's most recent leaders for their various parts in suppressing evidence from both the Warren Commission and from the public.

Weisberg, who (as a former OSS officer) was more or less present at the creation of the CIA, notes that the agency "contains an inner circle which operates in its own manner—ultimately not responsible to anyone." He blames the agency's numerous failures on its long dependence on Ivy League leader-

ship, which has, over the decades, continued to "inbreed" instead of bringing in fresh blood.

CIA POLICY IS TO LIE

Through a long and costly FOIA suit, Weisberg obtained what is perhaps the earliest proof of how the CIA and FBI operate. He successfully pried loose, from the National Archives, top-secret testimony by former CIA director and Warren Commission member Allen Dulles, which was long kept secret on grounds of "national security."

The hearing testimony, which occurred on January 27, 1964, centered on the FBI's denial of a news story alleging Oswald had been an informant for the bureau.

In a discussion among Warren Commission members concerning the validity of Hoover's denial and means by which the story could be even further discredited, Dulles—discussing the agency he had so recently headed under President Dwight Eisenhower—admitted that it is CIA policy to lie, even under oath, about their independent agents and informants, whom Dulles at one point termed "terribly bad characters."

'RASPUTIN' ANGLETON

Weisberg placed the blame for the CIA's cover-up of information pertinent to the Kennedy assassination at the feet of former Counterintelligence Chief James J. Angleton, of former director of operations ("dirty tricks") the late T.H. Karamessines, and of former Director Richard Helms. Among the many things these men particularly did not want made public, he adds, were the

comments Dulles made about the agency. Weisberg notes, "What Dulles essentially said, after all, was that the CIA would lie about anything, at any time and to anyone."

Angleton, whom Weisberg describes as a "would-be Rasputin" and the real leader in manipulating the CIA cover-up, was revealed by *The SPOTLIGHT* (Nov. 28, 1977) as the U.S. intelligence official who worked closely with the Israeli intelligence arm (the Mossad) and as the man who allegedly conspired with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan in the nefarious 1967 Israeli attack on the "USS Liberty," in which hundreds of American seamen were killed or injured.

With regard to the House Assassinations Committee, whose plans for still another whitewash were disrupted by the discovery of a dictabelt recording that showed under analysis that four shots

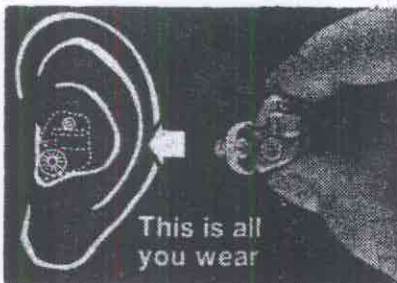
killed Kennedy rather than three and thus that Oswald could not have acted alone, Weisberg has little good to say. He attributes the suicide of Russian emigre and Oswald associate George deMohrenschildt to pressures brought by committee investigators seeking his testimony.

DRIVEN TO SUICIDE

DeMohrenschildt, who (some long believed) had knowledge of Oswald's alleged role in the Kennedy assassination, took his life immediately prior to the time he was scheduled to speak with committee investigators, giving rise to



JAMES ANGLETON
... Former top spy.



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speculation that he might in fact have been murdered. Weisberg rejects this speculation, saying:

"The House Committee was pressuring him for testimony. He was sick. His marriage had gone bad. He'd become a college professor and was facing a forced retirement. By the time all the investigators got to him, he was depressed and suicidal, and he had just recently been released from the psychiatric ward at Parkland Hospital in Dallas (where Kennedy had been pronounced dead).

"I know that at least one reporter in Dallas had warned the House probers to lay off deMohrenschildt or to at least approach him gently. They just didn't give a damn about him, though."

Aside from its questionable role in the deMohrenschildt suicide, the House committee gets generally low marks from Weisberg for its conduct of the controversial and costly probe into Kennedy's death. Even the committee's last-minute vindication of Weisberg's long-held multiple-assassin theory, about

which he first wrote in his 1965 book "Whitewash I," does not raise this respected assassination prober's opinion of their work, for to him this is simply the logical, inevitable acknowledgement of something he knew all along.

He regards the committee's work on the whole as simply a "rehash of all the nut theories of the past," and he believes that their handling of the case has merely contributed to the public's "disenchantment and distrust" of the government.