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Gentlemen:

I have just finished reading Dr. Charles Crenshaw's Signet book "*JFK: Conspiracy of Silence*." Having been a Kennedy researcher for fifteen years I had doubts the doctor could add to what we already know. Discovering the project involved J. Gary Shaw heightened my curiosity. Shaw has, in my opinion, developed a knack for merging fact with fiction. I must say that I was not disappointed. The book is replete with errors. My hope is you can correct the more glaring ones for the second printing.

In spite of John Davis' glowing recommendation about the authors' use of "solid evidence" there is none! The book does not contain an index or footnotes. For that reason alone Crenshaw's book fails as competent research. A chronicle of this sort lacking footnotes allows the book's editor to be duped into accepting unfounded statement as fact. I will give you a few examples:

Page 34 Granted Oswald went on maneuvers in the Philippines but he was stationed with the U-2 spy plane mission at Atsugi, Japan.

Page 35 Francis Gary Powers flew from Peshawar, Pakistan on May 1, 1960. He did not leave from the Philippines.

Page 41 Milteer's conversation is out of context. Milteer was referring to the possibility of Jack H. Brown killing Kennedy with a high powered rifle from an office building. He even discussed the possibility of Brown's use of explosives planted in the President's car. This was to occur while the President was in Florida. That is why the informant (Willie Somerset) was working with Dade County law enforcement. *WXP 10*

The complete transcript appears in Harold Weisberg's "*Frame-Up*."

Page 44 I thought this book was written by a doctor with experience in gun shot wounds. Why was there a need to go to medical textbooks to get a description of a "deep punctate stellate" wound on Rose Cheramie's body? Couldn't this type wound occur in other ways than by gun shot? The story is less sinister if presented evenly.

Page 50 The indication that Nixon was in Dallas, November 22, "ostensibly to attend a board meeting of the Pepsi-Cola" company smacks of yellow journalism. The November 22, 1963 edition of the Dallas Morning News has Nixon's picture and comments on page one of section four. Nixon left Love Field two hours before the President arrived. The book distorts his comments about where he was. He was in the air at the time of the assassination.

Page 54 Josiah Thompson solved the Julia Mercer episode long ago. Check his book "*Six Seconds In Dallas*." The complete story appears on page 218 of the hardcover edition.

Page 61 Professor Jerry Rose, of the State University of New York at Fredonia, solved the Jerry Belknap story. Rose obtained a copy of Belknap's deposition for the FBI. The document is reprinted on the back cover of "*The Third Decade*" Volume Two Number One, November, 1985.

Belknap realizing the President had been shot felt there was little chance for his (Belknap's) treatment. He walked away.

Page 67 Someone interviewed Jean Hill on film shortly after the assassination. In that interview she states at least twice she saw no gunman or puff of smoke, only the President looking at a dog on the seat of the limousine. She has embellished her story over the years.

Channel 5, KXAS of Fort Worth, Texas has the video in its archives if you wish to check.

I found other factual errors but will limit my letter to one more. I have obtained copies of the Presidential telephone and activity logs for November 24, 1963 from the LBJ Library in Austin, Texas. Based on these logs I cannot confirm that Doctor Crenshaw received a telephone call from Johnson. Unfortunately, the doctor to whom Doctor Crenshaw delivered the message (Dr. Shires) refuses to confirm or deny the communication. This is strange behavior since Crenshaw dedicated the book to Shires .

Point of fact, two independent sources have told me the telephone conversation quotation was watered down. I understand Johnson was to tell Crenshaw, "Make sure the bastards dead." The editor should hold the authors responsible for their undocumented tabloid style writing. The publishers deserved better than this.

Best wishes,

Dave Perry

THE STRANGE CASE OF DOCTOR CRENSHAW

After re-reading "*JFK: Conspiracy Of Silence*" I have determined three dates are important with regard to Doctor Crenshaw's story. They are November 22, 1963 the date he treated John F. Kennedy, November 24, 1963 the date Jack Ruby shot Lee Oswald and November 17, 1990, the date the doctor decided his part in the "conspiracy of silence" should end. (Page 9)

Unfortunately, reviewing the book in light of those dates presents major problems. The most glaring being that Doctor Crenshaw does not remember when he decided there was a conspiracy. The result is that his motivation for coming forward is thrown into question.

Page 152 - On November 22, 1963 he states, "But if I tell them (CBS television) the medical truth, that President Kennedy was shot from the front, they have more than one gunman, they have a conspiracy." This would lead you to believe that Crenshaw knew Oswald did not act alone shortly after the doctor found Oswald was apprehended and was named as the lone assassin.

This statement loses all credibility based upon additional quotes.

Page 111 - "It wasn't until years later, when I saw autopsy pictures of John Kennedy taken at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, that I realized there was something rotten in America in 1963."

Page 154 - ". . . and when I recently saw the official autopsy pictures. I knew something had been askew."

Page 11 - Crenshaw looks at the autopsy photos again and responds, "No, these aren't the same wounds I saw at Parkland. From these pictures it appears someone performed some surgery on the head."

Crenshaw claims he saw the photographs for the first time at The JFK Assassination Information Center after November 17, 1990. He was shown those photographs by J. Gary Shaw.

If the reader becomes confused by the doctors apparent incongruity as to when he finally decided there was a plot, you need only dig a little more. It may be the doctor is on a subliminal guilt trip over his failure to act in an honest and sincere manner.

Page 203 - "From the silence of the people involved came a great miscarriage of justice . . . At best, they may be considered cowards . . . at worst, coconspirators or accessories after the fact." This statement was made after November 17, 1990.

Page 152 - The doctor discusses his feelings on November 23, 1963 as he is hounded by the press for comments. "Just as the film was about to roll, I replied, 'An official statement was made yesterday. I have nothing to add. Now if you will excuse me.' . . . At that point I entered the 'conspiracy of silence.'"

I have but one question. Based on the quotations from his book, how long did it take for the doctor decide whether he was a coward, coconspirator or accessory after the fact?