

# PROBE

Magazine. The truth is in here.

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## Is the King Case Dead? Murder in Memphis – Again

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### Were the JFK Autopsy X-rays Forged?

Book excerpt from *Assassination Science: Experts Speak Out on the Death of JFK*. David Mantik, M.D., Ph.D., takes us through his search for the truth about the Autopsy X-rays

Is there a conscious, coordinated effort to undermine any hope for a new trial for James Earl Ray in the Martin Luther King case? Or can the strange events unfolding in Memphis be chalked up to the incompetence and miscalculations of Ray and his allies? Wherever the truth may lie, there is little doubt that as the New Year rolls in, the hope for a new trial, so real and vibrant last summer, appears to be receding further over the horizon daily. Unless the King forces recover, or some spectacular development strikes and catches fire, it could be that the sixties assassination case that seemed about to be reopened, has now been closed forever.

As we reported in July (Vol. 4 No. 6) Judge Joe Brown, at Ray lawyer Bill Pepper's request, was trying to resolve the issue of whether or not James Earl Ray's rifle could have fired the alleged bullet that killed King on the terrace of the Lorraine Motel in April of 1968. Because a round of test firings, also requested by Pepper, had proved inconclusive, Brown had tried to dig up the bullets test fired by the FBI in 1968. These were found by the Bureau at the end of July. The FBI lab notes on the 1968 test firings, like those by the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) in 1978, claiming inconclusive results as to whether Ray's .30.06 Remington hunting rifle had fired the fatal shot. So Pepper, and his local Memphis partner Wayne Chastain, were on the verge of asking Brown for further testing.

At this point, two things happened. First, Ray's legal team began to split apart, and second, the local District Attorney's office began a successful attempt to derail Brown's efforts to find cause to reopen the case.

Concerning the former, Ray's defense team began to break apart over an internal dispute

that seemed to pit Pepper and Chastain against Jack McNeil who, like Chastain, is a local Memphian. The dispute appeared to be over McNeil's unexpected meetings with James Earl Ray and his authorization of other people to see Ray (*Memphis Commercial Appeal* 7/23/97). At this point Pepper tried to fire McNeil. But McNeil refused to step down, saying that only Judge Brown could remove him from the case. Simultaneous with this infighting, Mark Lane tried to enter the case as an ally of another lawyer trying a different tactic. Lane joined local attorney Andrew Hall in trying to get a grant of clemency for Ray which, of course, would preclude a new trial. Lane was quoted in the *Commercial Appeal* (7/22/97) as saying that he had "very strong doubts about Pepper's credibility." This was based on the June 19th ABC ambush of Pepper with a living Bill Eidson, a former Special Forces agent who Pepper depicted in his book as dead. According to Pepper, Eidson was one of the Army snipers ordered to Memphis to assassinate King as part of a contingency plan (see *Probe* Vol. 4 #5). Because of this, Eidson has filed a libel action against Pepper. Lane also added,

appraising Pepper's performance: "He's taken very strong evidence and fouled it." By November, Hall was saying that Pepper had sabotaged his clemency bid by convincing supporters not to send letters to the governor.

#### Fights All Around

At the beginning of August, an even stranger episode took center stage. To join the dispute amongst lawyers, a dispute between judges now broke out. Earlier motions in the Ray case had been heard in the court of Judge John Colton. But in 1994, through a routine rotation assignment, Pepper's request for

new rifle tests ended up in Brown's court. In April, 1997 the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals rejected the local District Attorney's argument that Brown did not have the authority to proceed with the testing. Most thought that this decision had settled the jurisdictional matter. Apparently it did not. For on August 5th, Judge John Colton ordered the clerk of court's office to confiscate the Ray case files from Brown's office. This order was based on

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KENNEDY ASSASSINATION**

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## From the Chairman's Desk:

Could it really have been just a few months ago that things looked so promising in the King case? Newspapers were carrying stories about its possible reopening; James Earl Ray was actually on news and talk shows; Bill Pepper was actually debating people about the facts of the case etc. We don't really know what happened to wreck all this, but in this issue we chronicle the whole sorry mess in one installment, giving the reader a macroscopic view of the wreckage. As we note in our cover story, in 1996, the state of Tennessee overturned a point of law that stated that a defendant could get a new trial if his original presiding judge had not decided on his request for a rehearing. In retrospect, we can't help wondering about the timing of that rewrite of the law books.

As we have done in the past, we print here an excerpt from a new book on this issue and tell you how to get it. This excerpt, from Dr. James Fetzter's collection of essays called *Assassination Science*, concerns Dr. David Mantik's continuing work on the John F. Kennedy skull X-rays. Mantik's work on the medical evidence in this case has continued to be utterly fascinating and this new book features three essays by him. This piece makes the best case yet for alteration of autopsy evidence after the fact in order to conceal a conspiracy. David invites anyone to debate him on this issue as he has been researching it for about four years now. We think his essay is quite convincing, but welcome anyone who wishes to debate his findings.

John Armstrong's two part article on the case for two Oswalds elicited a lot of interest from our readers, so we encouraged John to elaborate on his work revolving around the possible use of an Oswald double in the Tippit case. No one has done any really deep work on the Tippit murder since Jim Garrison's fine chapter on the episode in his book *On the Trail of the Assassins*. Armstrong's work presents some new evidence to light up a different area of that murder, one that has been ignored for much too long.

Donald Gibson continues to dig deeper into connections between New Orleans and Wall Street. Here he pushes back the curtain on the mysterious International House, so much a part of the New Orleans aristocracy in general and Alton Ochsner and Clay Shaw in particular. He shows how this was basically a Wall Street, power elite invention; a device to push a global economy way before that phrase became a liberal buzzword. He also raised some interesting points about the enigma of Richard Sorge and the Institute for Pacific Relations, which appears to have been, in CIA jargon, a "false flag" front i.e. an establishment creation meant to attract and keep track of leftists. Interestingly, Hoover and Joe Alsop knew this. Charles Willoughby did not.

Lisa Pease pays tribute to a marvelous, but ignored, first generation researcher of the first rank: the late Maggie Field. She had the privilege of meeting her before she died a few months ago. She shares some of that experience with our readers. Finally, I chronicle some more of the unfortunate public utterances of the Review Board members. "Nuff said. Let's be happy with John Tunheim and the marvelous staff."

*Jim*

## What is CTKA?

Citizens for Truth about the Kennedy Assassination was organized as a result of the April 1993 Chicago Midwest Symposium on Assassinations. At the end of that conference, it was generally decided that the time had come to create a political action group, which would urge the executive branch of our government to reopen the unsolved assassinations of the 1960s—i.e., the murders of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and Dr. Martin Luther King. CTKA endeavors to ensure that the Review Board fulfill its mandate to release *all the remaining records* pertaining to the JFK assassination; to amend the current Freedom of Information Act to render future covert actions more difficult to hide; and to urge the American people to discover the truth about their history.

If you are not already a member of CTKA, please consider supporting our efforts with a subscription to PROBE or a donation to help cover the hidden costs of running a not-for-profit organization.

Thanks to all of you who are already CTKA supporters. Let's continue to work together to get the truth out about our collective past.

## The Review Board's Public Comments (Part II)

By Jim DiEugenio

Since the Assassination Records and Review Board (ARRB) effectively started doing business in 1994, the *Los Angeles Times* has been rather hesitant to run any stories on its work or even acknowledge its existence. For example, when the Board released the startling Gerald Ford documents this past summer, showing that Ford had altered the medical evidence for the *Warren Report* (*Probe* Vol. 4 #6), the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *USA Today*, all carried stories about the release. The *Los Angeles Times* did not. When the Board visited Los Angeles in September of 1996, many local news outlets covered that hearing. The *Times* did not.

### Nelson, Joyce, and the Los Angeles Times

The most significant—perhaps only—coverage the biggest newspaper in the west has given the Board was in its August 20, 1997 issue. It was a general profile piece, billed as an "Update", although I fail to see how one can update what a paper has barely acknowledged. The writer, Heather Knight, provided very little depth to the complex chronicle of the ARRB saga. In fact, besides doing interviews with Board chairman John Tunheim, plus members Anna K. Nelson and William Joyce, everything in the article could have been conveyed by a general press release from any number of people at the ARRB offices. Unfortunately, for about a million people in southern California, this is all they may ever know about the Board, its functions, and its discoveries.

Knight dealt with two main acts of the Board. One was the Board's proposed taking of the Zapruder film (*Probe* Vol. 4 #5). Knight spent all of two paragraphs on this. The other specific issue she dealt with was the discovery of some of Clay Shaw's personal papers through an unnamed acquaintance of his. Knight called these effects, "Shaw's diaries and correspondence", leaving the impression that somehow this is a complete, contemporaneous, pristine collection. Those who have gone through it at the National Archives would debate that point. And in *Probe* (Vol. #5 p. 5) we showed how just one entry in his journal reveals how disingenuous the man really was.

Apparently, this further discrepancy in Shaw's statements did not bother Anna Nel-

son. Taking no time or care to measure or qualify her remarks to the press on such a complex figure as Shaw, she stated to Knight that this release was "one more step that totally discredits Garrison's trial [it was actually Shaw's trial] and, incidentally, totally discredits Stone's movie." This is a statement that is disturbing in its carelessness, disturbing because Nelson is supposed to be a histo-

Far from "discrediting" Garrison and Stone, the newly freed record fortifies Garrison's case against Shaw. Nelson's comment is so obsolete it reeks of playing to the gallery for "spin control" purposes.

rian and most serious historians acknowledge the value of declassified government records. We have noted in *Probe* the many new releases about Shaw that prove that both he and the government lied about his true status with the CIA. In an excerpt from Bill Davy's monograph *Through the Looking Glass*, Davy showed that Shaw's name did surface in the FBI's initial investigation of the assassination in November of 1963. In a two part article in *Probe* (Vol. 4 Nos. 4 & 5), I demonstrated in detail from the newly declassified record—available to Nelson—how the CIA, FBI, and Justice Department worked to monitor, obstruct, and sabotage Garrison's prosecution and the actual trial of Clay Shaw. Far from "discrediting" Garrison and Stone, the newly freed record fortifies Garrison's case against Shaw. Nelson's comment is so obsolete it reeks of playing to the gallery for "spin control" purposes.

But she wasn't through. Both she and William Joyce commented on the validity of the

*Warren Report's* conclusion in light of the newly declassified record. We will quote the article itself for Nelson's response:

Nelson said that before joining the board, she accepted the commission's conclusion, but now believes it acted hastily. Although she believes Oswald fired the fatal bullet, she thinks there is likely more to the story.

Do we have an emerging Robert Blakey on the horizon? Did Oswald fire from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository while, coincidentally, an unknown assailant fired from the grassy knoll?

Joyce's comments were probably even worse. Again, quoting the words in the article:

Joyce said he believes the Warren Commission—which determined Oswald acted alone—did a "very good job. To date, I have not seen any compelling evidence that leads me to believe there was a conspiracy," he said.

Taken together, and considering the date of the article, these two comments are appalling. The reason being that, just one month before, the ARRB sent out a press release showing Gerald Ford's handiwork on the medical evidence in the *Warren Report*. Specifically, that he elevated the location of JFK's back wound to preserve the fiction of the single bullet theory. Could Nelson and Joyce really not know what this means? Of course, most of the *Times* readers were not puzzled since the paper never ran a story on the Ford documents in the first place. Talk about controlling the limits of the debate.

This dearth of coverage by the *Times*, the vacuity of Knight's article, the spin control by Nelson and Joyce and, most of all, the timing of the piece, were all brought into dramatic focus by what was featured by the *Times* the next two days. On August 21st and 22nd, the newspaper placed two articles about the Kennedy case on its front page. A belated look at the Ford papers perhaps? No. The two day story detailed a proposed college seminar about differing theories on the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Steven J. Frogue, chairman of the district board supervising the Orange County community college system had arranged to have four speakers at a non-academic credit seminar. Among the four were Michael Collins Piper. Piper's book, *Final Judgment*, is one of the weirdest ever written on the JFK case. He actually feels that Israel's

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# ARRB

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intelligence force, the Mossad, was one of the prime players in the conspiracy. In one of the more bizarre passages in the book, he actually seems to proffer the idea that Jack Ruby may still be alive (pp. 176-178).

Piper is associated with the controversial periodical *Spotlight*, which has been accused by some of bearing an anti-Semitic streak. Frogue himself has also been accused of the charge. The three other speakers Frogue invited were Sherman Skolnick, Dave Emory, and John Judge. Skolnick was accused by the *Times* of being on the advisory board of *Spotlight*, which he denied, although he has had articles printed there. Interestingly, Skolnick faxed a letter to Saddleback College President Ned Doffoney denying that he had agreed to participate in any seminar blaming the assassination on the Jews. John Judge sent a letter to the *Times* saying the same and also denying that he had been contacted by the newspaper, as the first day's story had stated. Needless to say, his letter, to our knowledge, was not printed.

On August 22nd, the *Los Angeles Times* also published an editorial. Actually it was the lead editorial, matching the front page treatment given the articles. This editorial played to the hilt the Frogue-Piper theme of "anti-Semitic overtones into conspiracy theories surrounding the assassination of John F. Kennedy." The editorial announced that Frogue, under pressure from the *Times* story, was forced to cancel the seminar. The *Times* praised this move. But then came the capper:

There is a difference between airing seemingly crackpot ideas in an intellectual, substantive manner on a campus devoted to academic freedom and giving legitimacy to bigoted ravings with no balance from opposing speakers.

Note that there are no qualifying statements around the phrase "seemingly crackpot ideas" so the implication is that anyone who believes in conspiracy theories about the JFK case is part of that group. Also note that the phrase "no balance from opposing speakers" implies that the other three people would have either endorsed Piper's theory or sat there in stony silence as and after he uttered it. From my conversation with Judge, and what I know about Emory and Skolnick, I doubt very much that this would have been the case. In fact, I doubt very much if the other three would have shown up at all if they would have known they were sharing the dais with Piper and Frogue. Also note another implication of the first part of the statement. The *Times* is saying that conspiracy theories on the JFK case

are so exotic and rarefied that the arcane ivory tower is the only forum for them. In the editorial, the *Times* also railed away at Piper's alleged belief that the Holocaust was a hoax. So the not-so-subliminal message is that all Kennedy conspiracists are both "seeming crackpots," and therefore naturally gravitate toward the type of people who denounce the Holocaust as false. This strained, fraudulent guilt by (not even) association ploy is the kind of thing that George Will and the *Washington Post* (not to mention the intelligence agencies) specialize in. That is, all conspiracy theories are of the same value; none have any real merit; therefore they are all part of the "crackpot" fringe.

As described above, the timing of the Frogue-Piper articles was curious. The *Times* had already known about Frogue and his ideas. They ran an article about him in 1996 focusing on his anti-Semitic beliefs and mentioning that one of his alleged ideas is that Lee Harvey Oswald was somehow an agent of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). So they had to have someone giving them information about him. To run the lightweight piece on the Board, including the accommodating "Oswald did it" remarks by Nelson and Joyce, and then to follow it with the weird and empty charges of Frogue and Piper suggests a larger agenda by the *Times*. That is, if you show that (supposedly) serious and scholarly people who have access to the declassified record still say that the Warren Commission was essentially correct, and you contrast them with people like Frogue and Piper, you have somehow demonstrated that after the "secrets" have now been revealed the only people who can believe in a conspiracy today are people who believe that the Holocaust is a hoax, and that Hitler, Elvis, and Jack Ruby are alive. Considering what declassified documents about former *Times* reporter Jerry Cohen reveal about his relationship with Clay Shaw and his revelations about the *Times*' editorship's agenda on Garrison, the suspicions that the *Times* was acting in accordance with some secret agenda are quite justified. Needless to say, the *Times*' stories on the proposed seminar were circulated nationally and internationally, appearing in both the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* and the British publication *The Guardian*.

## Kermit Hall: Staunch Lone-Nutter

Since we last reported on the Board's public comments (Vol. 4 #2), another member has made some statements that basically correspond with those of Nelson and Joyce. In February of 1996, Kermit Hall gave a lecture at the University of Maryland Law School. The lecture was then expanded and annotated for the law school's journal, the *Maryland Law*

*Review*. It appeared in early 1997 in Volume 56, No. 1 of that series. The article itself runs to 38 pages. It also includes 18 pages of documents. Hall was helped on the piece by seven other people who aided him in research and critiqued evolving drafts. With all the time and care that seemingly went into the piece we can pretty much count it as Hall's defining message about his work on the ARRB. This is revealed in the title of the piece. It is "The Virulence of the National Appetite for Bogus Revelation." But since Hall is appearing in an academic journal, the directness must be dressed up with an air of academic distinction. So he and his helpers have decked out the piece with long and copious footnotes, clearly meant to impress the reader with the impression of weight and wisdom. As we shall see, they do the opposite.

But first, let us note some of the good things in Hall's piece. He includes the Board's very broad description of what constitutes an assassination-related record eligible for review (pp. 34-35). He gives a good overview of the work of the Board and what its functions and overall goals are (pp. 14-17). He also outlines the huge amount of money, time and effort spent in the bottling up of national secrets (pp. 19-20). Hall also discusses some of the issues that have come up in the Board's debates with intelligence agencies over matters like the release of names of informants, the release of so-called "sources and methods" of intelligence gathering, and the potential harassment of family and friends if an intelligence official's name is divulged.

If these would have been the only points that Hall had discussed i.e. his own experiences with and hopes for the Board, the article would have been a good and valuable contribution to the history of that body. Unfortunately, he did not stop there. First of all, for a seven man research team, there are some obvious factual errors in the piece. Hall says that the House Select Committee on Assassinations explored the death of Robert Kennedy. Not true. Hall writes that Otis Pike's intelligence committee addressed the JFK assassination. Not only is there no section in that report dealing with the Kennedy assassination, a quick scan shows that the name Kennedy is nowhere to be found in it. He states that the findings of the Church and Pike committees, plus those of the Rockefeller Commission inspired Oliver Stone's film *JFK*. Stone's movie was inspired by publisher Ellen Raye's handling Stone Jim Garrison's book. Period. Hall even spells Warren Commission critic Howard Roffman's name wrong.

Then there are matters that are not purely of factual accuracy but arise out of interpretations of both facts and circumstances. For in-

stance, in a crucial section of his essay, Hall lists five reasons for the Warren Commission's fall from grace:

1. Because of classification procedures, some of its information could not be revealed.
2. Some important information was not given to it.
3. Because Lyndon Johnson feared the outbreak of World War III over a communist link to the assassination, the Commission was under great pressure to "produce an answer that discounted foreign influence."
4. Over the years, the Warren Report's ballistics and medical analysis has proven "problematic".
5. The *Warren Report* was a bulky legal brief that was obscure about Oswald's motivation.

All these excuses are too kind to the Warren Commission. And they all seem to avoid what now appears to be a clear conclusion derived from declassified documents. The Commission came to, not just wrong, but indefensible conclusions on all its major tenets. To preserve these false conclusions, it and agents of the intelligence community fiddled with the evidence and the record. Hall, like Joyce and Nelson, appears not to have the intellectual and emotional make-up to bring himself to say this.

Evidence revealing this mindset dots the essay. Following Gerald Posner's lead, Hall states that Stone's film posits a plot "hatched by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in collaboration with organized crime, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and other elements of the American government." As I noted with Anna Nelson and her comments on Stone's *Nixon*, this is not borne out by a close viewing of the film. Evidently, Hall can't discern between a conspiracy before a crime, and a cover-up after the fact. Stone's film depicts a conspiracy "hatched" by the military and the CIA. This is clearly suggested in the Donald Sutherland/Kevin Costner scene which takes place in Washington D. C. At the operative, or lower level, it includes CIA agents and Cuban exiles, who are, in actuality, CIA contract agents. Everything else Hall throws in, is talked about but not depicted, or takes place as part of the cover-up after the crime. Hall actually wrote that the *Warren Report*, "even if it had been compiled perfectly" would have been reevaluated in the light of the congressional investigations of the 1970's. In my view, if the Report had been "compiled perfectly" it would have exposed a conspiracy, which is why it was not "compiled perfectly". Had such a conspiracy been exposed and prosecuted, the 70's events that led to the congressional investigations may never have happened.

In a curious passage, Hall writes that the

Commission's success relied upon the correct questions being raised by those members familiar with intelligence operations. He then completely underplays and avoids the fact that Allen Dulles spent his career in intelligence and knew about the very things Hall complains were kept from the Commission: Operation MONGOOSE, the plots to kill Castro, and the CIA's alliance with the Mafia. In keeping with the likes of Seymour Hersh, Kitty Kelley, and John Davis, Hall can describe MONGOOSE as "a covert scheme concocted by President Kennedy and his brother Robert F. Kennedy, to assassinate Fidel Castro with the help of organized crime." He then uses the Church Committee report as a footnote to this false claim. Yet, in the pages of the report that he cites (pp. 139-146), there is only one reference to the idea of assassination. It occurs at the end and the attribution about the intent for assassination is attributed to CIA Director of Plans Richard Helms.

In another spurious statement, Hall says that "new forms of analysis have been generally supportive of the Commission's findings." As is his research team's penchant, the footnote to this statement includes a long series of books and monographs. But the vast majority of these citations criticize the medical and ballistics findings. Hall seems to be implying here that the controversy over the HSCA's acoustical findings, and computer simulations of the single bullet theory on Robert Richter's 1988 PBS *Nova* broadcast have salvaged the Warren Commission's findings. To preserve his argument, he does not go into any depth on these matters. And he does not mention new findings by people like David Mantik and Millicent Cranor, which further weaken the single bullet theory. The list of books is meant to give the appearance of analysis.

Hall makes another controversial statement when he writes that, "Since 1787, the government has become more rather than less accountable, its secrets more rather than less readily accessible to its citizens." Most historians would disagree with this, since, technically speaking, there really was not any government to speak of in 1787. The Constitution had not been adapted in 1787 and the government was basically a caretaker type, a leftover vestige of the failed Articles of Confederation, until George Washington's inauguration in 1789. It was in this century that the millions of pages of classified documents have piled up. Today at the giant federal depository in Suitland, Maryland that classified collection takes up 26 acres and literally tens of millions of pages. It was in this century, with the creation of the CIA, FBI, and National Security Agency, that an intelligence community—a parallel government operating away

from the White House and the Supreme Court, and not foreseen by the Constitution—has sprung up.

## Hall and Holland

From his essay, it can properly be said of Hall that either he is not a detail man or his general sympathies gravitate towards his reliance on people like Max Holland, who he references in his notes quite often. In fact the title of Hall's piece seems borrowed from a quote that Holland used in his article for *American Heritage* (November 1995) entitled "The Key to the Warren Report." Hall's article seems to owe much to Holland's earlier essay. Since the release of Stone's film, Holland has been an inveterate apologist for the Warren Commission, frantically and relentlessly trying to pump life into a dead horse. Consider some of his praise for the Commission in his 1995 article:

It was not a fiendish cover-up, nor was it designed to anesthetize the country by delivering a political truth at odds with the facts. It was a monumental criminal investigation carried to its utmost limits and designed to burn away a fog of speculation.

Holland's article expounds the typical pap about the CIA and FBI limiting its flow of information to the Commission due to Cold War pressures and covert operations. In other words, he recycles the intelligence community's latest cover story issued in 1993 through publications like *Newsweek* and CIA assets like Walter Pincus. We are to believe that all the questionable machinations and manipulations of evidence were part of a benign cover-up not meant to affect evidentiary conclusions, but to disguise Cold War pressures and ongoing covert operations. So Holland has no problem with the *Warren Report*'s two main conclusions, namely that Oswald fired all the shots in Dealey Plaza and there was no conspiracy, small or large, to aid him:

Reaching these simple findings required a prodigious effort by many dedicated people, and it is no small accomplishment that after more than 30 years the first conclusion remains proven beyond a reasonable doubt and the second has never been challenged by any hard, credible evidence.

We won't ask what Holland's definitions of "reasonable doubt" or "hard, credible evidence" consist of. From the above, as the reader can see, there is no point in discussing these matters with Holland. He is a John Latimer/David Belin type of zealot. So rules of evidence and debate do not apply. He also goes in for Frank Capell style character assassination. This is revealed by the constant targets of his piece. They are three murdered people:

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# Harvey, Lee and Tippit: A New Look at the Tippit Shooting

By John Armstrong

*In the past two issues of Probe, we have featured John Armstrong's groundbreaking work on the dual Oswalds, one called Harvey, one called Lee. In this article, John focuses on the Tippit shooting, presenting a fresh new hypothesis for what happened. There are so many conflicting pieces of evidence in the Tippit shooting that determining exactly what happened seems almost as difficult as unraveling the Kennedy assassination itself. While some of the evidence is indeed open to interpretation, this article presents a worthy contribution to the body of research relating to this event, and deserves a fair hearing.*

— Eds.

**A**t 10:00 AM on Wednesday, November 20, 1963, Dallas Police Officer J.D. Tippit was having coffee at the Dobbs House Restaurant. Another man, known to employees as a regular "coffee customer," was complaining loudly about his order of eggs to waitress Mary Dowling. Tippit, a frequent customer, noticed the incident but said nothing. The man complaining was later identified by the owner and employees of the Dobbs House as "Lee Harvey Oswald."

On the morning of November 22nd, J.D. Tippit hugged his oldest son Allen and said, "no matter what happens today, I want you to

know that I love you." Such overt signs of affection toward his son were uncharacteristic of Tippit. This was the last time young Allen Tippit saw his father alive. Some time later, "Lee Harvey Oswald" was seen at the Top Ten Record Store—a block from the Texas Theater. Oswald returned a short time later and was in the small record shop at the same time J.D. Tippit was there. An hour later Lee Oswald walked into the Jiffy Store on Industrial Blvd near Dealey Plaza. He purchased two bottles of beer and was asked for identification by store clerk Fred Moore. When Oswald displayed his Texas driver's license, Moore remembered the birthdate on the license as "October, 1939." When Oswald returned a short time later he purchased "peco" brittle. Beer and peco brittle seemed an unusual combination and was remembered by Fred Moore.

Neither the employees nor owners of the Dobbs House Restaurant, Top Ten Record Store or the Jiffy Store were called to testify before the Warren Commission. And with good reason. On November 20th and 22nd, "Lee Harvey Oswald" was working at the Texas School Book Depository (TSBD). He could not have been at the Dobbs House Restaurant nor the Top Ten Record Store in Oak Cliff, nor the Jiffy Store on Industrial Blvd.

The Tippit shooting, like the Kennedy assassination, has befuddled researchers for years. One of the main problems has been witness testimony placing Oswald in different places at the same time. Was Oswald in the 6th floor window or the 2nd floor lunchroom of the TSBD at the time of the assassination? Did Oswald leave Dealey Plaza in William Whaley's cab or in a Rambler Station Wagon? Was Oswald sitting in the Texas Theater or shooting Officer Tippit at 1:15 PM? If Oswald was in the Dallas Jail at 2:00 PM, who was the man, identified as "Lee Harvey Oswald," driving a red Ford Falcon on West Davis Street in Oak Cliff—a car with license plates that belonged to J.D. Tippit's best friend?

Other questions remain unanswered. Why were the spent cartridges given to Officer Poe at the scene of the Tippit shooting not identified by him four months later? Was there enough time for Oswald to have walked from 1026 N. Beckley to 10th & Patton? Why did some witnesses identify Oswald as Tippit's killer while others did not? The questions seem

to multiply. The Warren Commission carefully chose a few select witnesses and questionable evidence to support their conclusion that Oswald shot Tippit. But when *all* of the evidence surrounding the Tippit shooting is properly examined, a far different picture emerges.

## Leaving Dealey Plaza

Shortly before 12:30 PM a photograph captured the image of a man in the southwest corner window of the TSBD. (This photograph can be found in *The Search for Lee Harvey Oswald* on page 109.) The man appears to be wearing a white T-shirt and has a hairline nearly identical to a photograph of Lee Oswald taken by Robert Oswald (Lee, page 96-97). Arnold Rowland described a person wearing "a light-colored shirt," probably the same man, at the west end window of the 6th floor 15 minutes before the assassination. The man in the window could have been "Lee Oswald" who had been impersonating and setting up "Harvey Oswald" as a patsy for the past three months. (See my two previous articles "Harvey and Lee" in the last two editions of *Probe*.)

Jack Ruby telephoned a friend on November 22nd and asked if he would "like to watch the fireworks." Unknown to Ruby, his friend was an informant for the criminal intelligence division of the Internal Revenue Service. He and Ruby were standing at the corner of the Postal Annex Building at the time of the shooting. Minutes after the shooting Phil Willis, who knew Jack Ruby, saw and photographed a man who looked like Ruby near the front of the School Book Depository.

Harvey Oswald told police he had been in the lunchroom at the time of the assassination and had "committed no acts of violence." Coworker Charles Douglas Givens remembered Oswald wore a brown, long sleeved shirt the day of the assassination. This brown shirt was noticed by Mary Bledsoe when Oswald boarded the Marsalis bus and again by cab driver William Whaley when he drove Oswald to Oak Cliff. Although many people have felt Whaley was not credible, I think there is reason to believe his original, pre-Warren Commission identification because of the other details he noticed, such as an identification bracelet on his left wrist. Oswald was later photographed wearing just such a bracelet and the bracelet appears in the Dallas Police inventory as well. Whaley

described, in various separate reports, a dark or brown shirt with a light or shiny colored streak in it.

Does this mean Lee Oswald (white shirt) and Harvey Oswald (brown shirt) were both in the TSBD at the time of the assassination? Did they both leave Dealey Plaza shortly after the assassination? Let us follow the evidence.

On the Oak Cliff side of the Houston Street viaduct is the Good Luck Oil Company service station (GLOCO). Five witnesses saw J.D. Tippit arrive at the GLOCO station at 12:45 PM. He sat in his car and watched traffic cross the bridge from Dallas for about 10 minutes. There were no police dispatches ordering Tippit to this location. If Tippit was not somehow involved, why was he sitting there watching traffic? Within a minute of the cab passing the GLOCO station, Tippit left and sped south on Lancaster. Two minutes later, at 12:54 PM, Tippit answered his dispatcher and said he was at "8th and Lancaster"—a mile south of the GLOCO Station. He turned right on Jefferson Blvd. and stopped at the Top Ten Record Store a few minutes before 1:00 PM. Store owner Dub Stark and clerk Louis Cortinas watched Tippit rush into the store and use the telephone. Without completing his call or speaking to store personnel Tippit left, jumped into his squad car, and sped north across Jefferson Blvd. He ran a stop sign, turned right on Sunset and was last seen speeding east—one block from N. Beckley. Tippit was then two minutes (at 45 mph) from Oswald's rooming house. Tippit's whereabouts for the next 8-10 minutes remain unknown.

Cab driver Whaley let Harvey Oswald off near the corner of Neeley and Beckley around 12:54 PM (Tippit was driving past 8th & Lancaster). Oswald walked 6 blocks to his rooming house arriving near 1:00 (Tippit was at the Top 10 Record Store). Housekeeper Earlene Roberts told Secret Service Agent William Carter (12/5/63) "Oswald did not have a jacket when he came in the house and I don't recall what type of clothing he was wearing." While inside his room, Earlene Roberts glanced out her front window and saw a Dallas police car drive by slowly and honk the horn twice. She told the Warren Commission the police car was #107. Tippit's car was #10. If this car was not Tippit's, then whose car was it? All other Dallas Police cars were accounted for that day. While in his room, Oswald changed pants and, if you believe the Warren Commission, picked up his gun. Yet Earlene Roberts cleaned his extremely small room. She never saw a gun, nor a holster.

On November 30th, FBI Agent Alan Manning interviewed Mrs. Evelyn Harris. In his summary of that interview, he wrote:

the daughter of Mrs. Lucy Lopez, a white woman married to a Mexican, worked at a sewing room

across the street from the TSBD. Her daughter and some of the other girls knew Lee Harvey Oswald and also were acquainted with Jack Ruby. They observed Jack Ruby give Oswald a pistol when Oswald came out of the building.

This writer does not offer an opinion regarding the allegations stated in this FBI report. It is a fact that Oswald tried to fire a pistol in the Texas Theater (heard by Dallas Police officers and theater patrons). It is a fact that the FBI determined that this pistol had a defective firing pin. One has to wonder how a pistol with a defective firing pin could fire four shots at Officer Tippit and then fail to fire in the theater. If the girls are correct, Ruby could have intentionally given Oswald a pistol with a defective firing pin. This allegation was never followed up by the FBI, as there are no known interviews of these girls nor was Ruby ever questioned about this.

Harvey Oswald left the rooming house wearing a "dark jacket" and was last seen by Earlene Roberts on the corner of Zang and Beckley around 1:03 PM. During the next few minutes Oswald managed to get to the Texas Theater, over a mile away, without being seen by anyone en route. The only explanation that makes sense is that he was driven to the theater—a two and one half minute ride—perhaps by Tippit.

### The Texas Theater

Researcher Jones Harris interviewed Julia Postal in 1963. When Harris asked Julia Postal if she had sold a ticket to "Oswald" (the man arrested), she burst into tears and left the room. A short time later Harris again asked Postal if she sold a ticket to "Oswald" and got the same response. From Postal's refusal to answer this question and her reaction to same, Harris believes that Postal did sell "Oswald" a theater ticket. On February 29, 1964 Postal told FBI Agent Arthur Carter "she was unable to recall whether or not he bought a ticket." (A few months later, when the *Warren Report* was issued, Postal's memory had improved. She was now certain the man did not buy a ticket. See page 178 of the report.)

Butch Burroughs, an employee of the Texas Theater, heard someone enter the theater shortly after 1:00 PM and go to the balcony. Harvey Oswald had apparently entered the theater and gone to the balcony without being seen by Burroughs. About 1:15 PM Harvey came down from the balcony and bought popcorn from Burroughs. Burroughs watched him walk down the aisle and take a seat on the main floor. He sat next to Jack Davis during the opening credits of the first movie, several minutes before 1:20 PM. Harvey then moved across the aisle and sat next to another man. A few minutes later Davis noticed he moved again and sat next to a pregnant woman. Just before the

police arrived, the pregnant woman went to the balcony and was never seen again. In addition to Harvey there were seven people watching the movie on the main level (six after the pregnant woman left). Within 10 minutes, he had sat next to half of them.

We have followed the probable movements of the man wearing the "brown shirt," Harvey Oswald, from the Book Depository, to the bus, to the cab and to the rooming house. We still don't know how he managed to get from the rooming house to the Texas Theater without being seen. What about Lee Oswald, the man wearing the "white shirt," and possibly seen by Arnold Rowland in the west end window of the 6th floor shortly before the assassination?

### The Man on the 6th Floor?

Another man was seen on the sixth floor shortly before the assassination by Richard Carr. Carr described him as "heavy set, wearing a hat, tan sport coat and horn rim glasses." Minutes after the shooting, James Worrell saw a person described as "5'10" and wearing some sort of coat" leave the rear of the Depository heading south on Houston Street. Carr saw the same man and recognized him as the man he had seen on the 6th floor of the Book Depository. The man walked south on Houston, turned east on Commerce, and got into a Rambler station wagon parked on the corner of Commerce and Record. The Rambler was next seen in front of the Book Depository by Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig. Craig saw a person wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved shirt, who he later identified as Oswald, get into the station wagon and then travel under the triple overpass towards Oak Cliff. Marvin Robinson was driving his Cadillac when the Rambler station wagon in front of him abruptly stopped in front of the Book Depository. A young man walked down the grassy incline and got into the station wagon which subsequently sped away under the triple overpass. A third witness, Roy Cooper, was behind Marvin Robinson's Cadillac. He observed a white male wave at, enter, and leave in the station wagon. A photograph, taken by Jim Murray, shows a man wearing a light-colored short-sleeved shirt headed toward the Nash Rambler station wagon in front of the Book Depository. Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig, also in the photo, is pictured looking at the man and the station wagon. The Hertz sign, on top of the Book Depository, shows the time as 12:40 PM. The man in the white shirt, possibly Lee Oswald, left Dealey Plaza in the station wagon and was last seen heading toward Oak Cliff.

### Scene of the Shooting

Twenty minutes later, in Oak Cliff, a man resembling Lee Oswald is seen hurrying past the 10th Street Barber Shop—a block from

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Jack Ruby's apartment. Mr. Clark, a barber, said he saw a man he would bet "his life on" was Oswald passing his shop in a great hurry. At 1:00 PM bricklayer William Lawrence Smith left his construction job for lunch at the Town and Country Cafe—two doors west of the 10th Street Barber Shop. While walking east to the cafe a man, who he later identified as Oswald, walked passed him heading west—toward 10th & Patton. A minute later, Oswald was seen by Jimmy Burt and William A. Smith walking west. The Warren Commission told us Oswald was walking east.

The clock read 1:04 PM as Helen Markham left the washateria of her apartment house near the corner of 9th & Patton. While walking south on Patton she noticed a police car driving slowly east on 10th Street. One half block in front of Markham, on the opposite side of Patton, cab driver William Scoggins was eating lunch in his cab. Scoggins noticed a man walking west as Tippit's patrol car passed slowly in front of him. Jack Tatum, sitting in his red 1964 Ford Galaxie a block east, noticed the same man turn and walk toward the police car. Tatum turned left onto 10th street and drove slowly west past Tippit's car. Tippit was then talking to the man through the passenger side car window. Tatum said "it looked as if Oswald and Tippit were talking to each other. There was a conversation. It did seem peaceful. It was almost as if Tippit knew Oswald." Tatum noticed that the man had dark hair, was wearing a white T-shirt, white jacket and had his hands in his pockets. Seconds later Tatum drove past Helen Markham, who was standing at the corner of 10th & Patton, waiting for him to pass. The police car was stopped 100 feet to the east. She noticed a man was talking to the policeman through the car window. Domingo Benavides, in his 1958 Chevrolet pickup, was driving west on 10th Street approaching Tippit's car. Jimmy Burt and William Arthur Smith were sitting on the front porch at 505 E. 10th.

Officer Tippit got out of his patrol car and was walking to the front of the car when the man pulled out a gun and shot him. Startled by the shots, Benavides turned his truck into the curb and ducked under the dash—he was 20 feet away. William A. Smith and Jimmy Burt ran towards Burt's car. Markham fell to her knees, covered her eyes, and began screaming.

When Jack Tatum heard shots, he stopped his car, looked over his shoulder and saw Tippit lying on the ground. He saw the gunman walk around the rear of the police car, then turn

and walk along the driver's side of the car to where Tippit had fallen. The man then shot Tippit in the head. Tatum said "whoever shot Tippit was determined that he shouldn't live and he was determined to finish the job." Smith and Burt jumped in Burt's 1952 blue Ford and sped to the scene of the shooting—less than a block away. Burt got out of the car in time to see Tippit's assailant hurrying south on Patton Street. Smith described Tippit's killer as wearing a white shirt, light brown jacket, dark pants and dark hair.

## After the Shooting

Frank Wright and his wife (a half block east at 501 E 10th), and Acquilla Clemmons (one block west at 327 E. 10th) heard shots, but did not actually see the shooting. Wright, nearly a block east, said he saw a man standing over a policeman who had just been shot but did not see a gun. The man got into a car facing the opposite direction and drove off. The car was described by Wright as a gray, 1951 Plymouth coupe. Wright is the only witness who claimed the assailant drove off in a car. Clemmons, nearly a block west, said she saw another person that appeared to be involved with the shooter in some way. She is the only witness who implied that two people were involved in the shooting.

We know Arthur Smith and Jimmy Burt, a block east, drove to the scene of the shooting within a half minute. Burt jumped out of his car and ran to the corner, a distance of 100 feet, in time to see the assailant scurrying south on Patton. Jimmy Burt may have been the second man seen by Clemmons. Burt quickly returned to his car and immediately drove off. Burt may have been the man seen by Frank Wright (a block east) leaving in a car described by Wright as a "grey, 1951 Plymouth coupe," although Burt left the scene driving his two tone blue 1952 Ford.

Wright's wife called the police to report the shooting. After several minutes Domingo Benavides got out of his pickup and tried to use the police radio. Mr. Bowley, who was driving west on 10th Street and did not see the shooting, stopped and used the police radio to report the shooting. Bowley looked at his watch—the time was 1:10 PM (Commission Exhibit 2003). Helen Markham, who was walking to catch the 1:12 PM bus for work, said the shooting occurred at 1:06 PM. Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig was aiding in the search of the TSBD building. When he heard the news that a police officer had been shot he looked at his watch and noted the time was 1:06 PM. An original police transcript, found in the National Archives, lists the time of transmission as 1:10 PM. If Markham, Bowley, Craig, and the original Dallas Police broad-

cast times are correct, Tippit was shot prior to 1:10—when Harvey was very likely sitting in the balcony of Texas Theater. If Tippit was shot as early as 1:10, "Harvey Oswald" could not possibly have ran from his rooming house to 10th & Patton, a distance of 1.2 miles, in 6 minutes. In addition to this time problem, not a single witness, in heavily populated Oak Cliff, saw anyone resembling Harvey Oswald after the Tippit shooting (except Mrs. Roberts and those at the Texas Theater).

In order for the Warren Commission to assert that Oswald killed Tippit, there had to be enough time for him to walk from his rooming house to 10th & Patton—over a mile away. The Warren Commission and HSCA ignored Markham's time of 1:06 PM, did not interview Bowley (1:10 PM), did not ask Roger Craig (1:06 PM) and did not use the time shown on original Dallas police logs. Instead, the Warren Commission (1964) concluded that Oswald walked that distance in 13 minutes. The House Select Committee on Assassinations (1978) determined the time was 14 minutes, 30 seconds. Both concluded Oswald was last seen at the corner of Beckley and Zang at 1:03 PM. Either of their times, 13 minutes or 14 minutes and 30 seconds, would place Oswald at 10th & Patton at 1:16 PM or later. The time of the Tippit shooting as placed by the Commission, 1:16 PM, contradicted the testimony of Markham, Bowley, Craig and the Dallas Police log. Another problem for the Warren Commission to overcome was the direction in which Oswald was walking. If he was walking west, as all of the evidence suggested, he would have had to cover even more ground in the same unreasonably short period of time. The Dallas Police recorded that the defendant was walking "west in the 400 block of East 10th." The Commission ignored the evidence—5 witnesses and the official Dallas Police report of the event—and said he was walking east, away from the Texas Theatre.

## Whose Jacket is it Anyway?

An ambulance was dispatched from Dudley Hughes Funeral Home (allegedly at 1:18 PM) and arrived within a minute. Tippit's body was quickly loaded into the ambulance by Clayton Butler, Eddie Kinsley (both Dudley Hughes employees) and Mr. Bowley. Tippit's body was en route to the Hospital by the time the Police arrived. Dallas Police Officer Westbrook found a brown wallet next to where Tippit had fallen. He showed the wallet to FBI Agent Barrett. The wallet contained identification, including a driver's license, for Lee Harvey Oswald. It seems unbelievable that anyone would leave a wallet, containing identification, next to a policeman he has just shot. But Barrett insists Oswald's wallet was found at



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concession stand and the main floor. It is possible to go directly to the balcony, without being seen by people at the concession stand, by climbing the stairs to the right. Brewer walked through the first and second set of double doors to the concession stand. He asked Butch Burroughs, who operated the concession stand, if he had seen the man come in. Burroughs said that he had been busy and did not notice. Brewer checked the darkened balcony but did not see the man he had followed. Brewer and Burroughs then checked and made sure the exits had not been opened. Brewer then went back to the box office and told Julia Postal he thought the man was still in the theater and to call the police.

Julia called the police. Police broadcasts at 1:45 PM reported "Have information a suspect just went into the Texas Theater . . . Supposed to be hiding in the balcony" (17H418). When the police arrived, they were told by a "young female," probably Julia Postal, that the man was in the balcony. The police who entered the front of the theater went to the balcony. They were questioning a young man when Officers Walker, McDonald and Hutson entered the rear of the theater. Hutson counted seven theater patrons on the main level. From the record, these seven would break down as follows:

- 2 Two boys (half way down center section searched by Walker & McDonald while Hutson looked on)
- 1 Oswald (3rd row from back—center section)
- 1 Jack Davis (right rear section—Oswald first sat next to him)
- 1 Unknown person (across the aisle from Davis—Oswald left his seat next to Davis and moved to a seat next to this person; Oswald then got up and walked into the theater lobby)
- 1 George Applin (6 rows from back—center section)
- 1 John Gibson (1st seat from the back on the far right side)

Oswald bought popcorn at 1:15 PM, walked to the main floor and reportedly took a seat next to a pregnant woman. Minutes before police arrived, this woman disappeared into the balcony and was never seen again. She was not one of the seven patrons counted by Officer Hutson.

Captain Westbrook and FBI Agent Barrett came into the theater from the rear entrance minutes later. Westbrook may have been look-

ing for "Lee Harvey Oswald"—identified from the contents of the wallet he found at the scene of Tippit's murder.

From police broadcasts, the police were looking for a suspect wearing a white shirt, white jacket, with dark brown or black hair, and hiding in the balcony. But their attention quickly focused on a man wearing a brown shirt with medium brown hair, on the main floor. When this man was approached by Officer McDonald, he allegedly hit McDonald and then tried to fire his .38 revolver. Several police officers and theater patrons heard the "snap" of a pistol trying to fire. A cartridge was later removed from the .38 and found to have an indentation on the primer. An FBI report described the firing pin as "bent." The

What a provocative scenario: five blocks from where Oswald was arrested we have an Oswald double in a car traced to Tippit's friend and the friend works for a CIA associated company that plays a role in the plots against Cuba and Castro.

man in the brown shirt, Harvey Oswald, was subdued by Officers Hawkins, Hutson, Walker, Carroll and Hill, and then handcuffed. Captain Westbrook ordered the officers to "get him out of here as fast as you can and don't let anybody see him." As he was taken out the front, Julia Postal heard an officer remark "We have our man on both counts." In an FBI report, we find the following:

this was the first time that she [Postal] had heard of Tippit's death, and one of the officers identified the man they arrested by calling out his name, "Oswald".... (Emphasis added. FBI report 2/29/64 by Arthur E. Carter.)

If the person who identified Oswald by name was Captain Westbrook, he could have obtained Oswald's name from identification—perhaps the Texas driver's license—in Lee Oswald's wallet found at the scene of the Tippit shooting. If someone other than Captain Westbrook identified Oswald by name, then someone in the Dallas Police had prior knowledge of Oswald. Identification of the policeman who made this statement might have aided in answering this question.

Harvey Oswald, the man wearing the "brown shirt," who probably bought a ticket from Julia Postal, bought popcorn from Butch Burroughs at 1:15 PM, sat next to Jack Davis

before the main feature began at 1:20 PM, sat next to another identified patron, and then sat next to a pregnant woman (who disappeared), was brought out the front entrance and placed in a police car. En route to City Hall, Oswald kept repeating "Why am I being arrested? I know I was carrying a gun, but why else am I being arrested?" In light of the above, it was a good question to pose.

The police (Lt. Cunningham and Detective John B. Toney) did question a man in the balcony of the theater. Lt. Cunningham said "We were questioning a young man who was sitting on the stairs in the balcony when the manager told us the suspect was on the first floor." Detective Toney said "There was a young man sitting near the top of the stairs and we ascertained from manager on duty that this subject had been in the theater since about 12:05 PM." Notice that both Cunningham and Toney say they spoke to the "manager." Manager? We know from Postal's testimony that the owner of the theater, John Callahan, left for the day around 1:30 PM. The projectionist remained in the projection room during Oswald's arrest. Julia Postal remained outside at the box office. Burroughs was the only other theater employee and, according to his testimony, he "stayed at the door at the rear of the theater" (near the concession stand), "did not see any struggle" and then "remained at the concession stand" during Oswald's arrest. Burroughs never left the main level of the theater. Clearly, neither Postal, Burroughs, nor the projectionist (the only theater employees on duty) spoke to these officers either in the balcony or on the stairs in the balcony. Someone either identified himself as a theater "manager," or the officers mistook someone as the theater "manager," or these officers were lying about speaking to the "manager." The "manager" and the person whom they questioned in the balcony remain unidentified.

Oddly, and inconsistently, the police homicide report of Tippit's murder reads "suspect was later arrested in the balcony of the Texas Theater at 231 W. Jefferson." Detective Stringfellow's report states "Oswald was arrested in the balcony of the Texas Theater." After (Harvey) Oswald's arrest Lt. E.L. Cunningham, Detective E.E. Taylor, Detective John Toney, and patrolman C.F. Bentley were directed to search all of the people in the balcony and obtain their names and addresses. Out of 24 (the number of tickets Postal said she sold) theater patrons that day, the Dallas Police provided the names of two—John Gibson and George Applin. If the names of the other 22 theater patrons were obtained, that list has disappeared. The identity of the man questioned by police in the balcony remains a mystery. He was not arrested and there

# Kennedy vs. the Early Globalists

By Donald Gibson, Ph. D.

Today, many voices on the left, e.g. William Greider and *The Nation*, have rushed to warn us of the impending evils of a global economy. They're a little late. The powerful movement to have the U.S. head a global economy has been in the works for decades. The figures behind it figure in some of the struggles in John Kennedy's presidency. Some figure directly in the cover-up of his assassination. And one of the globalists foot soldiers—Clay Shaw—figures in the setting up of Lee Harvey Oswald for the crime itself.

In 1925, leading interests within the upper class created three private organizations, each of which was designed to serve the interests of an increasingly "internationalist" financial elite. In the years leading up to the assassination of President Kennedy, two of these organizations and a successor of the third were intertwined with each other and each was connected to Kennedy's enemies and to Clay Shaw or Lee Oswald. During 1925 International House was created in New York City; the Institute of Pacific Relations was formed in Hawaii; and a forerunner of the International Trade Mart, the International Trade Exhibition, was started in New Orleans. In a previous article (*Probe* Vol. 4 #6), it was shown that Edward S. Butler and Alton Ochsner, co-founders of the Information Council of the Americas (INCA), and Clay Shaw were part of a network of people in New Orleans associated with the International Trade Mart and the International House. Ochsner and Shaw acted as leaders of those two organizations. The organizations are not important in and of themselves. We will focus on them because they lead us to the networks of people who opposed Kennedy and had direct or indirect connections to many of the people who played a role in the cover-up and, perhaps, in the assassination. We begin by looking at each of the three organizations separately.

## International House

The first International House (IH) opened formally at 500 Riverside Drive, New York City, in 1925. It would become over the succeeding decades host to and refuge for thousands of students, over one-third of which have been from other countries. This has in-

cluded large numbers of graduate and post-graduate students. It was located near Grant's Tomb and the Union Theological Seminary, cofounded by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and was only a block or so from the home of Corliss Lamont, whose father and brother were J. P. Morgan partners.

According to news accounts, the idea of International House was brought to John Jr., by Harry Edmonds, an official of the New York Young Men's Christian Associations (YMCA). Rockefeller founded IH in New York City and in at least three other cities, Chicago, Berkeley, and Paris. The Institute of Pacific Relations was also created in 1925 with Rockefeller money. This transpired at a YMCA conference organized by John Mott. According to Peter Collier and David Horowitz, Institute personnel became "the core of the U.S. intelligence network in the Pacific."

Other International Houses were begun in the U.S. and abroad. IH opened in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1937, in Rome in 1951, and in Tokyo in 1955. In the 1950's the managing director of IH in Japan was Shigeharu Matsumoto. IH was started in Japan with money from Japanese interests and from the Rockefeller Foundation. In the late-1930s Matsumoto was closely associated with Hotzumi Ozaki, one of the leading Japanese figures involved with the Institute of Pacific Relations. Ozaki was also a close associate of and collaborator with the famous spy Richard Sorge. *Warned of Pearl Harbor*

In the U.S. an IH was started in New Orleans in 1943, though not formally dedicated until 1946. In New Orleans IH was thought by some to be a part of the trade initiatives made toward Latin America by Secretary of State Cordell Hull. New Orleans, long one of America's most important port cities, was the only other port beside New York where goods could enter and leave without payment of duties. In the early 1960's, by value of cargo handled, New Orleans ranked second, in the U.S., trailing only New York. IH got some unwanted publicity in 1977 when it was charged by many, including a few of its own members, with racism or reactionary politics when its members voted not to allow Andrew Young to speak. Young had been born in New Orleans and in 1977 was the U.S. delegate to the United Nations. IH subsequently changed

its position and invited Young.

In 1947 the International House Association was formed to provide an organization for former IH students. This was followed later, in 1965, by the formation of a worldwide alumni council.

Since 1925 representatives of the wealthiest and most influential families have been involved with IH. The Rockefeller involvement continued when David Rockefeller became chairman of the executive committee of the board of trustees of the New York IH in the 1940's. Another trustee was David's brother, John D. Rockefeller III. In 1964 Nelson Rockefeller, then Governor of New York, received an IH award; he used that occasion to attack Kennedy's Alliance for Progress. David would do the same in an April, 1966, article appearing in the Council on Foreign Relations' *Foreign Affairs*.

The other major financial power, the Morgan interests, was also involved with International House. For example, the first managing director of IH in New Orleans was Herman C. Brock, formerly in charge of the Latin American division of the Morgan controlled Guaranty Trust Company. One of the trustees of New York's IH in the early 1960's was Morgan Guaranty vice president Peter H. Vermilye.

The chairman of the board of trustees of New York's IH in the 1950's and 1960's was none other than John McCloy, future Warren Commissioner. Close to both Morgan and Rockefeller interests, McCloy would play a leading role in the Warren Commission's operations. As chairman of New York's International House for a decade or more, McCloy must have been at least familiar with the name of New Orleans IH official and International Trade Mart Director Clay Shaw. McCloy may well have known Shaw or Shaw's associate at IH and ITM, Alton Ochsner. McCloy also may have known Ochsner because he was chairman of the Ford Foundation when it gave money to Ochsner's hospital and foundation. (*Probe* Vol. 4 #6 p.13)

The position of New York IH board chairman had been held earlier by Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War under Taft and Secretary of State in the Morgan dominated Hoover administration. Stimson was pushed onto the Roosevelt administration by Thomas W. Lamont, who was actively involved with

one of our other two organizations, the Institute of Pacific Relations, for over twenty years. As FDR's Secretary of War, Stimson was McCloy's superior and mentor. Peter Collier and David Horowitz, in *The Rockefellers: An American Dynasty*, note that:

Stimson was then [World War Two] recognized as the dean of American diplomacy, having served as Secretary of War or State in four Cabinets going back to the Taft administration; he was the guiding eminence of the Council on Foreign Relations, and his office had become a kind of academy for young men like McCloy, Robert Lovett, and others who would shape American policy in the postwar era, the best and brightest of their time and place, but who outside their own elite world, were virtually anonymous.

When Stimson was chairman of International House in the late thirties, his trustees included John D. Rockefeller III, Raymond B. Fosdick, and Frederick Osborn.

Fosdick was a trustee of the Rockefeller Foundation and he had served as a representative of the Rockefeller Bureau of Social Hygiene. He was an expert on police organization. Frederick Osborn was a partner in G. (Grayson) M. (Mallet) P. (Prevost) Murphy & Company. He was associated with the Rockefeller Institute and with the Carnegie Corporation. He was a commissioner of Palisades Interstate Park Commission and he served as a director of the Population Association of America, of the American Eugenics Society, and of the Association for Research in Human Heredity. Frederick's father was a prominent corporation lawyer and one of his uncles was Cleveland H. Dodge, long an associate of J.P. Morgan and William Rockefeller. Another of Osborn's uncles was eugenicist Henry Fairfield Osborn. Frederick went from Princeton to Wall Street and then to the work of promoting eugenics. In 1947 Frederick was appointed by Dean Acheson to be one of the U.S. representatives to the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission. Although he tried to distance himself from Nazi eugenics, he promoted the idea after World War Two that there was too much reproduction among so-called inferior lower classes. In 1952 he and John D. Rockefeller III established the Population Council and Osborn became a prominent population control activist.

Other notables associated with International House have included Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, Sears, Roebuck chairman Robert E. Wood, Rockefeller in-law and Council on Foreign Relations executive director George S. Franklin, George W. Ball of Lehman Brothers, and Henry Kissinger. Among the former students of IH was Ferenc Nagy, one-time premier of Hungary. As Jim DiEugenio has pointed out, Nagy was involved in the creation

of Permindex and his fellow Permindex directors included Jean DeMenil of Schlumberger Corporation, Paul Raigorodsky, and Clay Shaw. Nagy and Hans Seligman had worked with Shaw in moving Permindex from Basel, Switzerland, to Rome, Italy. Nagy was living in Dallas in 1963. DeMenil's Schlumberger Corporation owned the ammunition dump raided by Oswald/Shaw associate David Ferrie. Raigorodsky, a wealthy oil man involved in the Dallas White Russian Community, was a friend of Oswald's pal George De Mohrenschildt.

What was the purpose of International House? We get some idea from a statement made by Dr. Raymond Fosdick at the founding of the Chicago IH in 1932. Fosdick, who was chairman of the Rockefeller Foundation's committee on the extension of International Houses, said:

The knell has sounded for the old concept of political nationalism just as much as it has for economic nationalism. Sixty nations cannot span the earth with their ships and airplanes and competing systems of commerce and expect the business to run without some centralized technique of understanding and supervision.

This is a straightforward statement of outlook and purpose. It is an expression of the aims of international banking and of transnational or multinational corporations, *before* the latter terms gained popular usage. The goal was to create and control a global economy. It indicates a hope that nations and national governments can be made irrelevant and that new international control organizations can be formed.

Those involved with IH repeatedly stated their desire for a unified, peaceful world. For example, in 1932 IH students demonstrated in favor of world disarmament. In 1936 IH students and officials worked with organizations such as the Foreign Policy Association and the American Friends Service Committee to promote world peace. When the International House Association was formed in 1947, it was dedicated to world brotherhood and peace. There is no reason to doubt the sincerity of their desire for peace, but only the most naive will believe that they wanted peace on any but their own terms.

International House has been affiliated with a variety of organizations. At its founding IH worked with the National Council of Christian Associations to promote the World Court. In New Orleans its work was aided by United Fruit. Its efforts were often joined with those of the Foreign Policy Association and it collaborated with the Institute of Pacific Relations (IPR). One of the latter's controversial leaders, Frederick Field, worked in 1936 with IH to present a seminar on world prob-

lems. Field and, in fact, much of the IPR staff were accused of communist sympathies. A similar charge was made against International House in the early 1930s by Ralph M. Easley, chairman of the executive committee of the National Civic Federation. Easley characterized IH as a "hotbed of radicalism." This type of attack on IH would be repeated by Joe McCarthy against the IPR two decades later. If Easley and later McCarthy had meant by "radical" only the idea that IH and IPR wished to make fundamental changes in the organization and goals of the United States and other nations, they would have been on firm ground. McCarthy chose to obfuscate matters by using the term communism in a loose and often misleading way.

## Institute of Pacific Relations, An IH Sister

We know with certainty that the first conference of the Institute of Pacific Relations was held in Honolulu in July of 1925. As noted earlier, one account is that the IPR was born at that conference with leadership provided by Charles F. Loomis and John Mott of the YMCA and money from John D. Rockefeller, Jr. A secretary of the American Council, later known as the American IPR, for many years was Edward C. Carter, a veteran of the YMCA movement. Carroll Quigley offers a different account in *The Anglo-American Establishment*, saying that IPR was founded late in 1924 at Atlantic City and was part of the network of organizations created by the UK-US elite which included the Institute of International Affairs and the Council on Foreign Relations. Newspaper accounts at the time mentioned still other origins, one pointing to the Williamstown Institute of Politics and another mentioning the Pan-Pacific Union of Honolulu.

The role of the YMCA officials may seem incongruous. It is an organization known to most for its recreational services and its Christian identity. The organization's history, however, suggests that it may have multiple purposes. It has been supported and led by many of the most influential men in the world. The name, YMCA, was first used by a group in London in 1844 led by Sir George Williams. The first YMCA organizations in North America were begun in 1851 in Montreal and Boston. Early leaders and supporters included J.P. Morgan, Theodore Roosevelt (the first President Roosevelt's father), William E. Dodge, Dwight L. Moody, Cornelius Vanderbilt, John D. Rockefeller Sr. and Jr., Cyrus McCormick, J. Ogden Armour, Julius

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# Globalists

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Rosenwald, William Sloane, Mrs. Russell Sage, and the Swift family. Within just eleven years, by 1855, 250 associations were formed in locations around the world, and many others were to be created later. In addition to its role as a hospitality and exercise center and as a promoter of its own brand of "muscular Christianity" (it may be a forerunner of today's Promise Keepers), the YMCA organizations around the world could be excellent covers for a variety of intelligence activities. They would be useful, at the least, to provide information to the globally oriented millionaires and billionaires who have directed and financed this movement. Whatever the details of the IPR's founding may be, its general nature is fairly clear. It was backed by figures associated with Morgan and Rockefeller interests and it had close associations with the Milner group, which played a similar role in Britain. The Institute's leading supporters in 1925 included President Lowell of Harvard, W. Cameron Forbes (a United Fruit director and relative of Oswald's friend Michael Paine), Bernard Baruch, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Fletcher S. Brockman of the International YMCA, and Julius Rosenwald. Rosenwald's daughter, Edith Stern, knew Clay Shaw and the Sterns's WDSU-TV presented Oswald in New Orleans.

For years the leading figure of the IPR was Jerome D. Greene. Greene was an official of the Rockefeller Foundation and then of the banking firm of Lee, Higginson and Company. He was also a member of the American Social Hygiene Association and of the General Education Board. According to Quigley:

Greene 'wrote' the constitution for the IPR in 1926, was for years the chief conduit for Wall Street funds and influence into the organization, was treasurer of the American Council [of the IPR] for three years, and chairman for three more, as well as chairman of the International Council for four years.

Quigley added that Greene linked the financial circles of London, and their leading representative Lionel Curtis, to those of the eastern United States. Those U.S. financial circles provided the money for IPR for three decades after its creation. That money came from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Carnegie Foundation, Standard Oil, ITT, International General Electric, National City Bank (Citicorp) and the Chase National Bank as well as from individuals such as Frederick Vanderbilt Field, Thomas Lamont, and Jerome Greene. Lamont was vice-chairman of the IPR's American Council when Greene headed that group. Field

later served as secretary of the American Council. Greene and Lamont worked closely with officials of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Foreign Policy Association, and the Carnegie Corporation.

On the British side, IPR's significant early figures included Lionel Curtis of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (British equivalent of the CFR), W. P. Kerr (Lord Lothian) of the Rhodes Scholarship, and W. W. Astor.

As was noted above, the IPR came under attack in the years after World War Two from non-Establishment conservatives who believed, or said they believed, that the IPR was serving "communist" interests. For a time IPR lost its tax exempt status and it relocated its headquarters from New York to Vancouver. Although the IPR was accused at times of promoting the interests of the Soviet Union, which did affiliate with the IPR for a short period in the 1930's, the more substantial accusation was that IPR supported the Chinese Communists against the Nationalist Government of China. For example, Alfred Kohlberg, a member of IPR from 1928 to 1947, accused the IPR in 1953 of instigating a shift in U.S. foreign policy in July of 1943 by initiating a series of attacks on the Nationalist Government. Kohlberg, whose views were described by Thomas Lamont as "silly", also complained that the IPR's trustees refused to remove communists from the IPR after he had made their identity known to the trustees. Another former IPR member, and onetime adviser to General Douglas MacArthur in Tokyo, Kenneth Colegrove, informed a Senate committee investigating tax exempt foundations in 1954 that when the Rockefeller Foundation was informed in 1945 that the IPR was being "captured" by subversives, the Foundation failed to investigate the situation and continued giving money to the IPR. In 1947 Arthur Dean, a J.P. Morgan man, chaired a meeting of IPR officials and supporters which reviewed charges of communist influence within IPR and rejected those charges.

For some reason, conservatives such as Kohlberg and Colegrove found it difficult to formulate the hypothesis that would explain the odd behavior of the IPR's leaders and backers. That hypothesis would be that those leaders and backers were *themselves* responsible for the change of policy on China and they *wanted* a certain type of leftist working for IPR because they would be useful in implementing the change of policy. This is a very important issue and it merits far more attention than can be given to it here. I think, however, that a sense of it can be gained by looking at a conclusion reached by Ron Chernow in his 1990 book *The House of Morgan*. About the Morgan group's view of government and the economy,

Chernow concluded that the "House of Morgan always favored government planning over private competition, but private planning over either."

This observation needs some revision and a little more clarity. The older dominant circles of finance in the U.S. definitely prefer to control events through private organization—that is their first choice. If this is not possible, they will support government action *if they feel confident* that they can dominate the government agency or the formation of the policy. Domestically, this produces a staunch general opposition to "big government" but it also means a willingness to create or expand government when this is the only way to achieve a goal (as with, for example, the creation of the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Federal Reserve system, and the Central Intelligence Agency).

In the international arena the thing they *cannot* tolerate is any effort, public or private, which will undermine their power in the world economy. They oppose any type of economic nationalism aimed at economic development, diversification, and independence. This is a policy with roots in the early history of colonialism. It is a policy of keeping other areas of the world poor and backward in order to exploit those areas and to prevent the rise of other centers of economic influence in the world. No one has done this better than the British ("the sun never sets on the British empire"; "Britannia rules the waves"; "the white man's burden"; etc.). In the last couple of decades the neo-colonial policy has become mixed with a movement toward a global economy.

Non-Establishment conservatives misread the Establishment's outlook and purposes. Any strong political movement committed to using government to promote economic development, even if it preserves much of a capitalist economy, is intolerable to the Establishment. In the international arena, and in different ways at home as well, the primary enemy is activist government committed to economic progress. Establishment interests would prefer a weak or easily manipulated leftist regime, or even a communist government, in underdeveloped nations if that government has little or no development ambitions.

In China the U.S. and British establishments were confronted with a difficult choice. Back the Chiang Kai-shek nationalist movement, which included some pro-development, anti-colonialist people, or back the substantially anti-modernist Maoist communists. Neither option was desirable. The Establishment split over the choice with some important figures continuing to back the Nationalists (e.g., Henry Luce of Time, Inc.), but with the majority assuming positions rang-

ing from unenthusiastic and relatively passive support for Chiang to reluctant tolerance of Mao. People associated with the IPR were in the second category. For example, in a book written just after World War Two, Thomas Lamont continued his long criticism of Chiang Kai-shek, opposed aiding the Nationalists, and questioned whether the communists in China really were communists. Some of the IPR people looked like or in some ways were "left-wing." And that was the only thing that interested many of the conservative critics of IPR.

### Clay Shaw: Free Trader

In 1947 the International House in New Orleans, the International Trade Mart, and the International Trade Zone were three different but related elements of a drive to make New Orleans a major port for international trade. The recently established Trade Mart, headed by Clay Shaw, was part of the general effort to create a system of international trade, free of government interference when possible. The file on Shaw compiled during the Garrison investigation noted that Shaw testified before the House Ways and Means Committee in 1956 as an expert on foreign trade. Then, and at other times, Shaw spoke in favor of global "free trade" and he opposed government measures, such as tariffs, to regulate trade. As noted above, the ITM had a forerunner in New Orleans which was created the same year that IH in New York and IPR got under way. That was the International Trade Exhibition established in 1925. One of those involved in this effort was L.S. Rowe, the Director General of the Pan American Union. The Union was almost certainly a sister organization of the Pan-Pacific Union of Honolulu which was involved in the creation of the IPR.

In 1947 IH and ITM were visited by Orin C. Judd, the secretary of the World Trade Corporation, headed by Winthrop Aldrich, chairman of the board of Chase National Bank. Judd wanted to see if anything useful could be learned for similar efforts underway in New York. Serving on the board of the Trade Corporation was Herbert Brownell, who later was Attorney General under Eisenhower. Brownell brought with him to Washington his friend from Nebraska J. Lee Rankin, later to be chief counsel to the Warren Commission. The year before the Trade Corporation was created, in 1946, Aldrich and Allen Dulles gave speeches on world trade to a luncheon gathering in New York. Also addressing the group was John E. Lockwood, then a partner in the law firm of Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Coit & Mosle. Lockwood, who had numerous connections to the Rockefeller interests, would be in the early sixties a partner of John J. McCloy at Milbank,

Tweed, Hadley & McCloy.

In 1947, the same year that the World Trade Corporation was started, another significant group intensified its actions to promote international trade. This group, the World Commerce Corporation (WCC), was started in 1945 as the British American Canadian Corporation. The president of the WCC was Frank T. Ryan of John J. Ryan & Sons. The WCC board included former Secretary of State (1944-45) Edward Stettinius of U.S. Steel, Canadian E.P. Taylor, former O.S.S. director William J. Donovan, and Sir William Stephenson, who ran British intelligence operations in the United States during World War Two.

Stephenson worked closely during the war with Lord Halifax, the British ambassador to the United States. In his 1957 book, *Fullness of Days*, Lord Halifax noted his friendships with Thomas W. Lamont, Dean Acheson, and John J. McCloy. Halifax, then, knew well one of the three men directly responsible for the creation of the Warren Commission (Acheson), one of the two or three most important figures overseeing the operation of the Warren Commission (McCloy), and the father (Thomas Lamont) of the author (Corliss Lamont) of a pamphlet, stamped with the address "544 Camp Street", handed out in New Orleans by Lee Harvey Oswald (*Probe*, Vol. 4 #1 p. 17). Carroll Quigley, in *Tragedy and Hope* and in *The Anglo-American Establishment*, recounts how Neville Chamberlain, Lord Halifax, and Viscount Runciman acted to support Nazi aggression and virtually forced Czechoslovakia to capitulate to Hitler. Viscount Runciman's son, Sir Steven Runciman, was acquainted with Clay Shaw and knew some of Shaw's friends, including Sir Michael Duff and Peter Montgomery. Montgomery was the lover of Anthony Blunt, the famous spy associated with Kim Philby, Guy Burgess, and Donald Maclean.

### IPR and Oswald's Cousin

In light of the many conflicts between President Kennedy and the Morgan-Rockefeller dominated Establishment over foreign and domestic policy, it is important that we take notice of the direct connections between this network, or its close allies, and the events surrounding the assassination and cover-up. We have seen in this article, for example, that John J. McCloy headed the New York branch of the Rockefeller backed IH while Clay Shaw was an officer of IH and ITM in New Orleans. A relative of Oswald's "friend" Michael Paine, W. Cameron Forbes, was a founder of IPR. The daughter, Edith Stern, of another IPR supporter, Julius Rosenwald, owned the television

on news for stations  
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station on which Oswald appeared and was, with her husband, friendly with Clay Shaw. These kinds of connections, along with the prominent role played by Rockefeller-Morgan people in the IPR, indicate that we take a new look at an old story about Oswald's cousin Dorothy Murret.

As Michael Canfield and Alan Webberman point out in their 1975 book *Coup d'Etat In America*, there were allegations that Dorothy Murret was associated with Harold Isaacs while Isaacs was doing CIA backed work at the Center for International Studies. Isaacs, who for a time paraded as a Trotskyist, had earlier written for the *Shanghai Evening Post*, *Newsweek*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*. According to Dick Russell in *The Man Who Knew Too Much*, Isaacs was, at the time Kennedy was killed, the house guest of Shigeharu Matsumoto, managing director of International House in Tokyo. Isaacs was close to the mysterious Agnes Smedley, who was affiliated with the IPR and also worked for or with the famous spy Richard Sorge, who Russell also writes about in his book. Isaacs wrote for the IPR's *Pacific Affairs*. Matsumoto had been close to Sorge's collaborator Hotzumi Ozaki. (I think it is important to note that while people affiliated with IPR such as Isaacs, Smedley, Ozaki, and Sorge appear a number of times in Russell's book, he never discusses the IPR or its connections to them. Instead, he takes his analysis in the direction of people like the Hunt family and General MacArthur's aide General Charles Willoughby. The decision to ignore IPR, which has many more clear and direct connections to the cover-up and crime than General Willoughby, seems arbitrary.)

### The Sorge Puzzle

Sorge was a Russian-born German who allegedly gravitated to the German communist party after his service in the German military during World War One. Sorge is one of the most mysterious figures of the twentieth century. A German citizen born in Russia and executed in Japan, he had strong connections to significant people in Germany, Japan, Russia, America, and Great Britain. The generally accepted view is that he was a communist spy in the 1930's and 1940's. In my view, there are good reasons to question this conventional wisdom (accepted by Russell). There is evidence that clearly suggests an alternative hypothesis i.e., Sorge was a spy for a network of powerful private interests with only limited loyalties to any particular nation. This network included people involved with the Institute of Pacific Relations.

Among the people arrested and prosecuted

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in 1941 and 1942 in Japan for association with the Sorge spy ring was Hotzumi Ozaki, Sorge's chief assistant and an active IPR member. Ozaki was executed with Sorge in November of 1944. Also implicated but not punished was the Oxford educated Prince Kinkazu Saionji, a longtime IPR member. Not arrested, but implicated in Sorge's activities and affiliated with IPR were American Agnes Smedley and the German born Guenther Stein. Stein later turned up at a 1945 IPR conference in Virginia as a member of the British delegation. Like Harold Isaacs, Stein wrote for the Establishment *Christian Science Monitor*. Also a journalist, Agnes Smedley worked for Sorge's employer, the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, in the 1930's. Smedley left the United States in 1950 just before being ordered to appear before the House Un-American Activities Committee and died suddenly, at age 56, in a London nursing home. Smedley had been close to Harold Isaacs in the 1930's. The IPR apparently infiltrated General Douglas MacArthur's Tokyo headquarters at the end of the war in an attempt to learn about or influence MacArthur's investigation of Sorge.

It is possible that Sorge worked for IPR related groups based in the United States and England with associates in Germany, Japan, and, perhaps, Russia. Some of the important things Sorge is credited with doing for the Soviet Union may have been done for the English establishment or England's friends within the U.S. upper class. For example, one of the most important of Sorge's accomplishments in Japan—where his cover was that of German newspaperman—was to propagandize in favor of a Japanese military strike to the south rather than against Russia. The problem here is that a strike southward meant a strike against the United States. Everyone in England and the U.S. who wanted to bring America into the war on the side of England had an interest in seeing that happen. So, who were Sorge and his IPR related associates serving in this enterprise?

Sorge was a rather strange communist. He described his brother as having been an "extreme leftist," saying that the brother had "strong anarchist leanings rooted in Nietzsche and Stirner". Sorge's concepts of political direction were broad enough to include the ultra-reactionary, nihilist Friedrich Nietzsche as part of the "left."

Sorge's own history is rather unusual. Born in Russia, educated in Germany, he studied under Dr. Kurt Gerlach who had been educated in England. While still in his twenties, Sorge spent time at the Institute for Social

Research in Frankfurt in the early 1920's and was at that time close to Alfons Paquet, a Quaker writer. According to F. W. Deakin and G. R. Storry in *The Case of Richard Sorge*, there were indications around 1926 and 1927 that there were two Richard Sorges: one in Germany and one in Russia. It is hard to ignore the parallel with Oswald being seen in the United States while he was in Russia.

Sorge went to Shanghai in 1930 where he began, or renewed, a relationship with Agnes Smedley. The IPR associated Smedley introduced Sorge to the IPR member Hotzumi Ozaki who later would become Sorge's primary link to Japan's premier in the years leading up to World War II, Prince Fumimaro Konoye. IH managing director Shigeharu Matsumoto was an advisor to Konoye in those years and the IPR's Prince Kinkazu Saionji was close to Konoye.

While in Shanghai in the early thirties Sorge served on a committee with Harold Isaacs that was formed to defend a member of the Swiss Communist Party arrested in Shanghai in 1931. Back in Germany in 1933 Sorge prepared to go to Tokyo as a correspondent for the *Frankfurter Zeitung*. He got a letter of introduction to use in Japan from Karl Haushofer, the famous Nazi theorist of geopolitics. In 1938 Sorge wrote a two part article that appeared in Haushofer's *Zeitschrift fur Geopolitik*.

Sorge's espionage activities in Japan extended over a period of almost a decade. His performance was at times less than satisfactory in the eyes of his Soviet masters (or dupes). During the time of the Russo-German non-aggression pact, signed in August of 1939, Sorge was severely criticized for the lack of and low quality of intelligence that he was providing. His performance would make sense if he was working for a London-New York-IPR network. A Russian-German alliance offered nothing very useful to an Anglo-American establishment that was more interested in pitting Germany and Russia against each other.

In the 1936-41 period, money for Sorge's group, allegedly coming from Moscow, was funneled through the Stillman-Rockefeller-Morgan controlled National City Bank and the American Express company. This is somewhat puzzling if Sorge was indeed a Soviet spy. It makes sense if Sorge's group was part of an IPR related operation.

Ozaki was arrested as a traitor and spy on October 15, 1941. The IPR associated Japanese Prime Minister, Prince Konoye, resigned the next day. Sorge was arrested three days later. As noted earlier, Sorge and Ozaki were executed in 1944. Fifteen other people were convicted as participants in the Sorge ring. All but one, Sorge's radioman Max Klausen, were Japanese.

The man who oversaw the investigation of this spy ring after the war ended was MacArthur's assistant General Willoughby. Willoughby, who later wrote *The Shanghai Conspiracy*, apparently believed that Sorge was a Soviet spy. Assuming that, he then suspected the IPR people of being communists or the dupes of communists. Given Sorge's associations and history it seems reasonable to reverse that thinking. That is, Sorge worked for those New York-London finance aristocrats and quite naturally had the multiple connections to IPR.

Deakin and Storry end their book by saying that the roles of Agnes Smedley and Guenther Stein in the Sorge affair are "baffling." Their roles seem odd as long as we hold onto the Willoughby/official story that Richard Sorge was a Soviet agent and that he controlled this spy ring. If either of those two assumptions is wrong then the participation of Stein and Smedley is no longer odd. If Sorge was a double agent or was himself manipulated by agents of the IPR network (like Smedley or Stein or even the radioman Max Klausen), then the only odd thing to explain is the extent to which the Soviets were deceived.

If Oswald's cousin did know or work for Harold Isaacs, then we have still one more direct link between members of the Anglo-American Establishment and those involved in the events surrounding the murder of the thirty-fifth President of the United States. This is not meant to imply that Dorothy Murret knew about or played any role in the assassination. I know of no reason to think she knew anything prior to the assassination. If, however, she was connected to Isaacs it is still one more area in which the Establishment enemies of Kennedy show up. Some other figures, involved in the cover-up, do show up in relation to IPR.

Of the three men who acted to have the Warren Commission created, Joseph Alsop, Eugene Rostow, and Dean Acheson (*Probe* Vol. 3 #4 pp. 8-9, 27-31), two played some role in the controversy surrounding IPR. Also, two of the top men at the FBI who directed the FBI's cover-up of the assassination, Alan Belmont and J. Edgar Hoover, participated in key events related to IPR. All of the above mentioned four men acted in ways that were supportive of IPR or its members. Much of this developed around the somewhat mysterious Owen Lattimore.

### Alsop Knew the Truth

Harold Isaacs and two of Sorge's known IPR associates, Guenther Stein and Agnes Smedley, were acquainted with Owen Lattimore of IPR. The case of Owen Lattimore

was the most publicized of a series of instances in which members of the IPR, or the organization as a whole, were accused of communist ties or sympathies by Senator Patrick A. McCarran's Internal Security Subcommittee and by Senator Joseph McCarthy. McCarthy acted in relation to the McCarran Committee and on his own. As has happened frequently in sensitive areas like this, McCarran and McCarthy (and others) knowingly or unknowingly misrepresented the nature of the problem. Lattimore, rather than being the agent of a communist government, was used as an agent by the higher circles associated with the IPR. McCarran and McCarthy were apparently seeing too much red to be able to systematically investigate that relationship.

One of the people who came to the defense of those associated with Lattimore was Dean Acheson. Acheson claimed that he did not know Lattimore personally; others implied that he did. Acheson's agent in pressuring President Johnson to create the Warren Commission, Joseph Alsop, was more deeply involved, at least in public, in the defense of Lattimore. In September of 1951, the staunch anti-communist Alsop entered the controversy by publicly attacking Senator McCarran and defending IPR and Lattimore. This repeated the defense of IPR offered in 1944 by another Establishment luminary, Thomas Lamont of J. P. Morgan.

Alsop tried to put IPR's alleged Chinese communist sympathies in a positive light by pointing to the anti-nationalist and somewhat pro-Mao Tse Tung articles published by *Time*, the *New York Herald Tribune*, and the *New York Times*. Alsop and Lattimore had known each other in the early 1940's when Alsop was an aide to General Claire Chennault. Alsop also played a role in the events surrounding the Sorge spy ring. In 1948 columnist Drew Pearson said that Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal wanted to give the Army's top secret report on the Sorge spy ring to Joe Alsop.

So what we have here is Establishment conservatives coming to the defense of friends under attack by non-Establishment conservatives. The image of poor liberals under assault by right-wing fanatics is substantially an Establishment created image and myth. This myth-making was helped by the contentless and inconsistent use of political labels by people such as McCarthy. Toward the end of McCarthy's reckless activities he was going after elements of the U.S. Establishment, but he persisted in talking as if he were chasing commies. Consequently, few people understood why he was turned into a symbol of evil. It was not because he was an unscrupulous red hunter. There were plenty of those around.

It was because he chose to hunt on the Establishment's preserve.

## Hoover Knew Too

In some ways, an even more intriguing link between the IPR controversy and the Kennedy assassination is evident in the FBI's response to the non-Establishment conservatives' attack on IPR. Although there were people in the FBI anxious to pursue charges against Lattimore and the IPR, J. Edgar Hoover and Alan Belmont, who was the head of the New York office and then the number three man in the FBI, were not interested in doing so. This is virtually identical to their attitude toward Lee Harvey Oswald. That is, the normally enthusiastic red hunters at the top of the FBI had no interest in Oswald's various connections to ostensibly left-wing people because such an interest would have gotten in the way of the single assassin story and a real investigation of Oswald would have led to ITM, IH, and perhaps, the Institute of Pacific Relations rather than to Fidel Castro. The FBI's determined avoidance of information in the case of the Kennedy assassination was a rerun of the earlier Lattimore-IPR episode.

On numerous occasions the FBI refused to cooperate with the conservative critics of IPR and Lattimore. In 1950 the FBI reacted to a State Department investigation of IPR by criticizing the investigation rather than IPR. Part of the State Department report was based on information provided by the former IPR member Alfred Kohlberg. Back in 1947, Belmont, then head of the New York FBI office, had challenged Kohlberg's credibility when Kohlberg had first raised charges against IPR. Belmont later subjected Kohlberg to a very hostile interview. In October of 1950 the FBI simply stopped talking to Kohlberg.

Also in 1950, Hoover sent a memo to Assistant Attorney General Peyton Ford in an attempt to discredit another IPR critic. In September of 1950 the FBI turned down a request from Joe McCarthy to see the FBI's summary analysis of Lattimore. When a former communist, Joseph Kornfeder, charged Lattimore with being a communist, Belmont challenged Kornfeder's veracity.

For about two years, from 1953 to 1955, Lattimore was under indictment and prosecution by the Justice Department. At the outset Belmont refused to cooperate with a Justice Department effort to scare a witness into testifying against Lattimore and throughout the two year period Hoover refused to cooperate in any way with the prosecution of Lattimore.

This behavior is, on the surface, inconsistent with the FBI's history. There had long been at the top of the FBI a clear enthusiasm

for surveilling, harassing, and intimidating a variety of people perceived to be subversive or radical. In the case of Lattimore and IPR, Hoover and Belmont lost their normal obsession with pinkos and radicals. I suggest that this is so because they knew, or came to know, that an investigation would lead to the highest levels of power. Similarly, when it came time to investigate that unusual left-wing figure, Lee Oswald, there was more than just disinterest. Belmont and Hoover acted to prevent any real investigation because they knew, as with Lattimore and IPR, that they could not go where an investigation would lead.

## Conclusion

The Institute of Pacific Relations, International House, the International Trade Mart as well as Perminex and the World Commerce Corporation were all expressions of the interests of groups of wealthy people based in New York, Boston, and London. They wanted an integrated global economy under their control. Kennedy wanted strong, independent nations cooperating with each other to advance common purposes. They wanted a passive and submissive federal government. Kennedy was an activist President in the tradition of Lincoln and FDR. They wanted the majority of people to submit to whatever economic and social conditions the Establishment offered. Kennedy stimulated hopes for personal aspiration. They thought that much, or most, of the world's people should remain forever impoverished. Kennedy sought an effective course of action to stimulate national and global progress. Kennedy, following the Constitution, thought that the federal government was obligated to promote the "general welfare". They thought it was supposed to promote their welfare. Ultimately, Kennedy believed in economic democracy. The Establishment did not. ✦

### Battling Wall Street: The Kennedy Presidency

By Professor Donald Gibson

Was JFK the tool of the Eastern Establishment, or was he its bitterest enemy? Professor Donald Gibson challenges the conventional wisdom and asserts, with powerful support from the historic record, that Kennedy acted consistently on the side of economic, political, and social progress. CTKA still has access to copies of this out of print book. Order your own copy from CTKA for \$19.95. Please add \$2 for shipping if in the U.S.A., \$3 if outside the U.S.A. Send check payable to "CTKA" at P.O. Box 3317, Culver City, CA 90231.

# Were the Kennedy Autopsy X-rays Forged?

by David W. Mantik, M.D., Ph.D.

*David Mantik earned his doctorate in physics from the University of Wisconsin and his degree in medicine from the University of Michigan. He is board certified in radiation oncology and is on the staff of the Peter A. Lake Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, California. David has given several lectures at various conferences and seminars about the John F. Kennedy assassination. He was published in Probe previously (Volume II No. 3) when he obliterated Dale Meyers' computer modeled defense of the single bullet theory. In our view, David has done probably the most significant and challenging work on the medical evidence and the Zapruder film since the release of JFK. Dr. Mantik invites responses to the following essay from any interested observer, especially his medical colleagues Randy Robertson and Joe Riley. We will gladly print any well-reasoned debate of this piece either here or on our Web site ([www.webcom.com/ctka](http://www.webcom.com/ctka)). This would be unprecedented for us, but we consider Mantik's work on X-ray forgery that important. — Eds.*

About four years ago I sat down to breakfast with my 7 year old son and 5 year old daughter. I had just decided that it was time to try a simple experiment.

Over the preceding months my attention had been drawn to the JFK autopsy X-ray films (see Figures 1 and 2). Since my schedule at that time permitted almost no free moments, I had chosen that brief interlude at the breakfast table to stare again at the puzzling prints of these films in David Lifton's *Best Evidence*. In particular, the mysteries of the 6.5 mm object had puzzled me. It was supposedly the largest piece of metal on the skull X-ray films but, oddly, the pathologists could not recall it—nor did they remove it. Defenders of the pathologists had offered one absurd explanation after another in their defense. These excuses included a proposal that they had actually removed it—even though they never described it at the back of the skull (where it was obviously located). In fact, the pathologists persisted in saying that they had removed only the much smaller object above the right frontal sinus. Another defense was the inevitable psychological one: they were so harassed that they couldn't see straight! Or perhaps it had simply fallen off before they could retrieve it!

This object seemed ridiculously simple to see, but I wondered just how easy this could be. So I decided to try Christopher, our seven year old. "Christopher," I said, "Could you come here and find the bullet?" In a second he was at my side and, without hesitation, he pointed straight at it. Now I wondered how far I could carry this. So I turned to our five year old, who was seated across the table, and hadn't seen Christopher point. "Meredith," I said, "Do you think you could find the bullet?" So she marched around the table and looked at the print, momentarily puzzled. "Well, what's it supposed to look like?" she asked. When told that it would be white, there was only a fleeting hesitation before she pointed at the correct area and said, "Is that it?" Unfortunately, I could not also fairly ask my wife since she was the medical director of our local emergency room!

In the official version then, we were supposed to believe that what was actively sought but could not be seen at the autopsy—by three experienced pathologists, one radiologist, numerous ancillary medical personnel, and all too many onlookers—could be spotted almost instantly (and independently) by a five year old and a seven year old. The point of this essay is to resolve this riddle. Before we arrive at that point, however, some history is in order.

## A Brief History

The X-ray film in question was taken from the front, with JFK lying on his back at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center. The X-ray film was placed directly behind his head and the X-rays entered from the front. This is an anterior-posterior view, usually abbreviated simply as "AP". This film (Figure 1) shows a nearly round, 6.5 mm, very white object within the upper part of the right orbit. At the 4 to 6 o'clock quadrant, however, a section is missing so that it is not perfectly round.

On the lateral view, from the side (Figure 2), a small fragment is scarcely visible (on prints) at the rear of the skull, near the cowlick area. This was much easier to see though, on the X-ray films at the National Archives. On this lateral view it is about the same height as on the AP—about 6 mm high, but it is only 3 to 4 mm wide (i.e., from front to back).

On the AP view, this object is overwhelmingly the most impressive metal-like object. That was confirmed all too quickly by my children. (They would have had more trouble on the lateral view.) On this AP view, there is another small piece of metal—7 x 2 mm. It lies directly above the right frontal sinus. The pathologists always refer to *this one* when asked about the largest fragment—and they did remove it. It was later subjected to several scientific tests. Reference to this fragment is also found in the FBI report prepared by Sibert and O'Neill (Warren Commission Document #7), who were present at the autopsy that night. This same 7 x 2 mm piece of metal can also be seen on the lateral view (Figure 2), where it does indeed lie just above the right frontal sinus—exactly where the pathologists described it.

The FBI report also refers to this second, somewhat smaller, fragment: "The largest section of this missile as portrayed by the X-ray appeared to be behind [it should have said above] the right frontal sinus. The next largest fragment appeared to be at the rear of the skull at the

juncture of the skull bone [*probably the lambdoid suture*]." My own comments appear in italics here.

Roy Kellerman of the Secret Service (who sat in the right front seat of the limousine during the shooting) was interviewed by Jim Kelly and Andy Purdy at the Holiday Inn North, St. Petersburg, Florida on August 24th and 25th of 1977 for the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA). In their report (p. 3), he said that the skull X-ray film showed a "...whole mass of stars, *the only large piece* being behind the eye which was given to the FBI agents when it was removed." (Emphasis added.) Since it was the 7 x 2 mm fragment that

photographer stated, "However, careful examination at the autopsy, and the photographs and X-rays taken during the autopsy, revealed no evidence of a bullet or of *a major portion of a bullet* in the body of the President...." (Emphasis added). This statement is remarkable for what these reviewers do not say: they fail to comment on what they actually saw on the films *during this review* on 1 November 1966!

The eyewitness testimony, therefore, is unanimous—this 6.5 mm object was not seen at the autopsy. It first appeared in the historical record after Attorney General Ramsey Clark's panel review in 1968. (One member of the Clark Panel was Russell Fisher, M.D., Maryland



Figure 1. The official AP (anterior-posterior) X-ray of JFK's cranium.

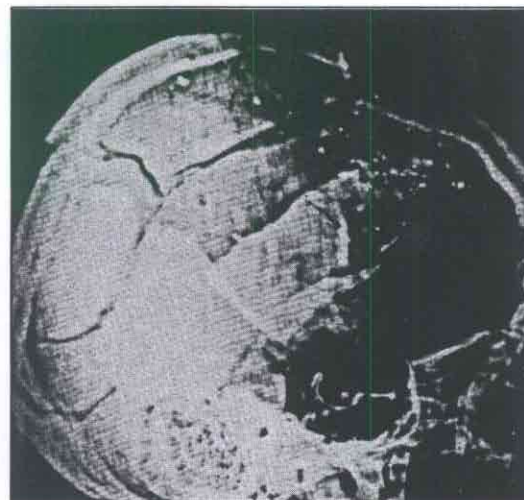


Figure 2. The official right lateral X-ray of JFK's cranium

was removed, the implication is clear: Kellerman, like *everyone else*, knew nothing about the much larger 6.5 mm object that is so obvious on the AP view. It is surely odd that none of the government panels ever asked the four autopsy physicians whether they had seen this 6.5 mm object *during* the autopsy. When the HSCA asked chief pathologist James J. Humes about the largest metal fragment, he unhesitatingly referred to the fragment above the right frontal sinus (HSCA Vol. 7 p. 251). He never did discuss this 6.5 mm object on the AP view that is unequivocally at the *back* of the skull (as determined from the lateral view). When Gary Aguilar, M.D., recently asked assistant pathologist J. Thornton Boswell about this fragment, Boswell *also* only described the fragment above the right frontal sinus. And he clearly added that all the other metal fragments were very small, distinctly smaller than the 7 x 2 mm fragment above the right frontal sinus. He made no mention at all of the most obvious fragment on the AP film.

Shortly before his death several years ago, I was able to ask the radiologist, John H. Ebersole, M.D., this same question (telephone conversations of 2 November and 2 December 1992). At the moment of that question, the entire interview came to an abrupt halt—and the question remained forever unanswered. My tape recording of that interview has now been donated to the Assassination Records and Review Board (ARRB) as part of their collection. Anyone can play it for themselves. It has some other interesting moments, too.

After reviewing the X-ray films at the National Archives on November 1, 1966, the autopsy pathologists, the radiologist, and the

State Medical Examiner, who performed the controversial autopsy in 1978 of John Paisley, a CIA operative; see *Widows*, by William R. Corson, et al., 1989, Chapter 8.) (Editor's note: Two other people involved in the formation of the Clark Panel also had some interesting ties to the CIA. See *Probe* Vol. 3 #1.)

There are additional puzzles about this object. According to the Warren Commission (Exhibit Numbers 567 and 569), both the nose and tail of this same bullet were found in the front of the presidential limousine (see Lifton, 1992, Chapter 4 and Warren Commission Hearings, 1964, Vol. 17, p. 257). But how is it possible for a nearly complete cross section from somewhere *inside* the bullet to embed itself on the *outside* of the skull? Experts have never seen even a nose fragment from a full metal jacketed bullet embed itself in this manner, let alone a cross section from inside a bullet (*Mortal Error*, Bonar Menninger, 1992, p. 68). In addition, the fragment is *not* at the bullet entry site selected by the HSCA—it lies one centimeter *inferior* to their chosen entry site! How does such a bullet fragment migrate below its supposed entry site and then *embed* itself on the outside of the skull after such a migration? It sounded to me as if someone had invented smart bullets before the smart bombs of the Gulf War. Needless to say, no one has ever explained this queer migration—but that is the official story!

Logically, it made more sense to me that this 6.5 mm object had been superimposed onto the X-ray film. There is a very good reason why someone might want to do that. The rifle attributed to Lee Harvey Oswald was a 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano—exactly the same cali-

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## Forged X-rays

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ber as this object. Furthermore, Oswald had supposedly shot JFK from the sniper's nest in the Texas School Book Depository, which was behind Kennedy. Therefore, since this bullet fragment was the right size and it was located on the back of the skull, we were supposed to believe that Oswald fired it.

But how could someone change an X-ray film without using razor blades and tape? Of course, no government investigation could take such an unconventional proposal seriously, so it was never explored. The HSCA did compare X-ray films taken of JFK before his death and, from these, they confirmed that the autopsy X-ray films were really Kennedy's. Although I also have done that, and I concur with that conclusion, that was not really germane to the issues surrounding this 6.5 mm object.

I thought it might be interesting to look at the autopsy X-ray films. So one day I sat down and wrote a letter to Burke Marshall, the Kennedy attorney for these matters. He controls access to all of the autopsy material, even though they are actually stored at the National Archives. About a year (!) later I actually received permission to see them. In fact, over the years I have reviewed them on seven different days. (I have also examined the autopsy photographs, JFK's clothing, the 7 x 2 mm fragment, and the "magic bullet".) On my first visit I obtained some very odd measurements on this 6.5 mm object. And, shortly afterwards, I realized how to do the whole experiment correctly. Before I get to that point, though, I must introduce the subject of optical density.

### About Optical Density

Where X-ray films are very black, many X-rays have hit the film. For example, the air around the skull in these autopsy films is very black. Where the bone is very thick, on the other hand, the X-ray film looks quite transparent (in prints on paper, this appears as a harsh white area). The area around the ear (the petrous bone) is especially clear because it is the densest bone in the body. Simply by looking at a film, a radiologist (or anyone else who wants to learn) can tell a lot about the tissues that the X-rays encountered on their way to hitting the film. It is easy for him (or her) to spot a bone—or an air cavity—because they are so distinctive. So the more tissue in the path of the X-rays, the whiter the image; the

less tissue, the darker the image. It's a little like trying to read a sign in a dense fog. The more fog there is in the way, the harder it is to see the sign. It would be just like trying to read a metal sign in the X-ray beam through a lot of bone. And, vice versa, where there is only a little fog, the sign is easier to see, just like a metal sign would be easier to see on an X-ray film taken in air.

If anyone wanted to know how much tissue (relatively speaking) the image represented at any point on the X-ray film, he could measure how black or white the image was at that point (simply by measuring how much light gets through at that site). The optical density

at any point is directly related to the light transmission. This measurement is quite simple to do. After calibrating a small device (a densitometer), the film is placed on the surface (which is a light box). At one point on the surface there is a second (small) light source that shines through a tiny hole (usually one millimeter in diameter, although this can be changed as I did in these experiments). The desired point on the X-ray film is placed directly over this small hole and the arm above the table is brought down to make a tight contact with the film at that point, so that no outside light can interfere. Inside the arm is a detector that measures how much light actually gets through the film. The machine reads this in optical density units.

Optical density is defined as

$$OD = \log_{10} (I_0 / I)$$

where  $I_0$  is the incident light intensity and  $I$  is the transmitted intensity. This definition has the advantage of making optical density proportional to the amount of silver halide reduced to black metallic silver. For example, if two films of OD equal to one (10% of the light gets through) are overlaid, the combined OD will be two (1% of the light gets through)—which makes good common sense.

An OD of zero represents 100% transmission—all the light gets through. This would be similar

to an X-ray film taken of a really thick piece of lead. An OD of 1.00 represents a transmission of 1/10 or 10%; an OD of 2.00 represents a transmission of 1%; an OD of three yields 0.1%; an OD of four, 0.01%, etc.

In daily radiological practice, ODs of most X-ray films are centered around 1.0. This choice is automatically made by the human eye for convenience in discrimination among commonly viewed human tissues as seen on an X-ray film. The usual working range is from about 0.5 to 2.0. It is unusual for the OD of observed tissues to exceed 3.0

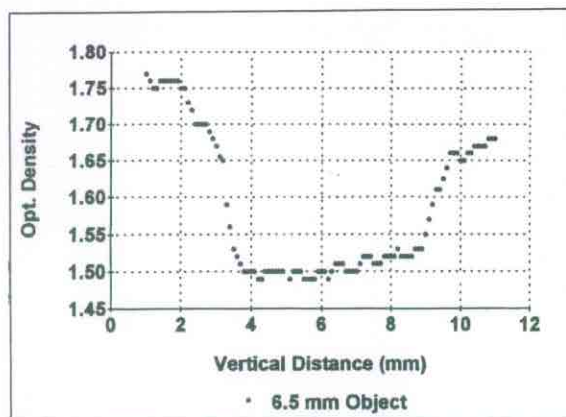


Figure 3. JFK lateral skull X-Ray: 6.5 mm object.  
Vertical scan: superior to inferior

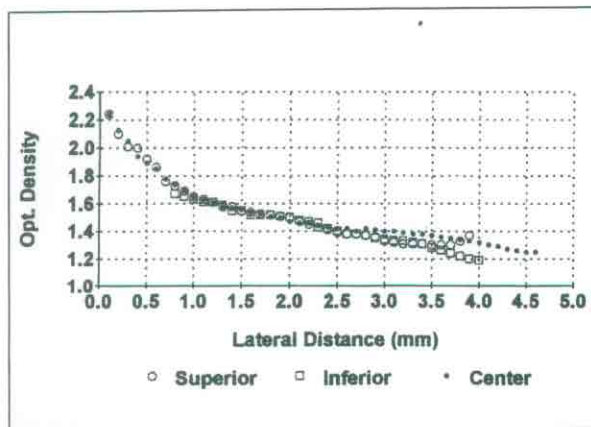


Figure 4. JFK lateral skull X-ray: 6.5 mm object.  
Horizontal scans: posterior to anterior

except as a byproduct of exposure requirements at other sites on the film. An OD of 2.0 appears quite dark, while an OD of 0.5 looks nearly transparent.

### A Thought Experiment

Assume, for the moment, that this 6.5 mm object was a fraud. In that case, it should not yield measurements consistent with real metal. For example, there might be especially bizarre results when comparing the ODs from the lateral to the ODs on the AP—because one view has real metal and the other does not. Let's use fog again to illustrate this principle. Suppose you are in a dense fog trying to read a sign. Also imagine that your twin is standing in the sunshine well outside of the fog. He can see how thick the fog is between you and the sign because he can see where it starts and where it ends (e.g., you might think the fog goes all the way to the sign—but you might be wrong!) Meanwhile, though, you can also tell where the fog is thickest—that's where the sign will be hardest to read. You could even develop a kind of scale for measuring just how much fog lay between you and any part of the sign. And your twin, on the other hand, would be like someone looking at the AP view—on that view anyone can see with his own eyes how thick the metal is from left to right. But if you measure the ODs (that's like looking through the fog) on the lateral film, you also would be able to tell (relatively speaking) how thick the metal was (from right to left).

So what would be expected if the image on the AP had been faked? Suppose someone had simply made the image more transparent at just this site so that it would look like a cross section of a bullet. What would that do to the ODs? On the AP view, the ODs would be very low (0.5 or a little more—which is what they are). And this would imply that the metal was very, very thick here. Since X-rays have a hard time getting through lead, it might even suggest lead. But if you next looked at the lateral view (I'm assuming that this lateral is authentic—as is shown later), you would see for yourself (just using your eyes—no ODs) that the metal was only a thin sliver (from front to back). So a paradox would result: you could see with your own eyes that it's quite thin on the lateral view (from front to back), but the ODs (taken on the AP) would be implying that it was very thick (also from front to back)! Such inconsistency should never occur for a real object—this paradox would then strongly suggest that the film had been altered at this site.

That was the experiment that I proposed to do. I would obtain many OD measurements—along lines in several different directions on this 6.5 mm object. But first I had to do something creative. I borrowed a very precise gear mechanism from our X-ray measuring tank (we use this to measure how intense the X-rays are at any specific depth). Next I built a sturdy little plastic jig and secured the gear mechanism to it. Then I screwed the entire apparatus to the densitometer. More importantly, though, I could now manually scan the films in a systematic manner and get 100 measurements every centimeter. Using a razor blade edge, I also reduced the size of the small transmission hole to nearly 60 microns—that was quite small, much less than the usual one millimeter. That would allow me to measure very narrow areas on the film, which I needed to do since I was taking 10 data points every millimeter. Now I was ready. Best of all, the whole thing really worked and it was small and easy to carry. So I took it along with

me to the National Archives.

### Back at the National Archives

At the Archives, I first focused on the lateral X-ray film. I scanned the 6.5 mm object from top to bottom, at 0.1 mm increments (see Figure 3 and Table 1). What was quite surprising to me was how little the ODs changed from just outside this object (where there was bone) to inside the object—that meant that it must be quite thin (from left to right inside the skull). This was a very promising start because it should have looked quite thick—after all, on the AP view, I could see that it was 6.5 mm thick (from left to right). So I had discovered a serious inconsistency right away. And there were more to come. On this lateral film, I actually scanned this object from top to bottom in several parallel lines, but these were all quite similar, so only one of them is shown in Figure 3.

I continued with the lateral X-ray film, but next I scanned it from back to front instead of from top to bottom. This would be really interesting. I could see on the AP that the object had been chewed out at the 4 to 6 o'clock quadrant. That meant that there should be less

metal at the bottom. So, on the scan near the bottom, the ODs should show a lot less metal (i.e., the image should look darker and the ODs should be higher). In Figure 4, three scans are shown, going from back to front. One scan (S) was taken near (but still inside) the superior border, another (C) was taken near the center, and a third (I) was taken near the inferior border (but still inside). The data from these three scans were nearly identical to each other, except near the front surface of the 6.5 mm object—

here the ODs were lowest on the inferior scan. That meant there was more metal at the bottom than at the center or at the top (on going from left to right within the skull). But that was exactly the opposite of what was obvious (to the eye) on the AP view! On the AP view anyone can see that the width is much less than 6.5 mm at the bottom—where a section was missing. But these ODs tell us just the opposite—that there was more metal at the bottom! If anyone had wanted evidence of forgery, this was about as good as it could get, but there was still more to come.

I also measured the ODs just outside of this metal fragment at positions corresponding to each hour of the clock; starting at 12 o'clock (and going clockwise) these ODs were 1.72, 1.45, 1.33, 1.25, 1.11, 1.24, 1.41, 1.59, 3.30, 3.24, 3.49, 3.44. The largest numbers here were measured in the air posterior to this fragment. The smallest numbers were found anterior to the fragment, where the ODs inside and outside the fragment were very similar. That similarity implies that the fragment is extremely thin at its anterior edge.

### A Real Shocker

I next turned to the AP view and scanned across the center of this 6.5 mm object, going from right to left (see Figure 5 and Table 2). This scan tells us that there is more metal (quite a lot more) on the right side than on the left side. (By right and left here I always refer to the skull itself.) That was a little odd, of course, because the object initially had looked round and uniform. Then I decided to remove my glasses and take a good look at it. (I am extremely near sighted, so

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| Object   | OD   | Apparent Width* | Actual Width** |
|----------|------|-----------------|----------------|
| 6.5 mm   | 1.50 | thin            | 2-3 mm         |
| amalgams | 1.00 | wider           | 10 mm          |
| 7 x 2 mm | 1.60 | thin            | 2 mm           |

\*from right to left, based on ODs on the lateral  
\*\*as seen on the AP view with the unaided eye

Table 1. ODs on the Lateral Skull X-ray.

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with my glasses off I can see small things really well—like splinters in my children's fingers.) To my amazement, I could actually see that this object was not one but two! It was a superposition of images! Just inside the right border of this object I could see a crescent shaped metal fragment; its right border was almost perfectly parallel with the right border of the 6.5 mm object. Its (right to left) width was only about 2-3 millimeters across at most places. It was quite irregular and ragged looking—like shrapnel often is. Additional little bits and pieces were splattered around inside the 6.5 mm object and there were even tiny pieces just outside the 6.5 mm object. These latter pieces were so small, however, that I hadn't seen them in prints that appear in books. And at the bottom it was definitely wider—exactly what the ODs had told me. I suddenly understood—I was seeing the original shrapnel through the superimposed 6.5 mm object! And what I saw there was completely consistent with all the measured ODs. This was the authentic fragment that Sibert and O'Neill had described.

In a wonderful book, Raymond Fielding (*The Technique of Special Effects Cinematography*, 1965/1985, p. 177) reports that a typical outcome in superposition special effects is the "phantom" effect, in which background detail can be seen through an actor. If this X-ray image had been produced by a photographic superposition process—I will show later that it was and how to do it—then that would explain my ability to see the original metal fragment right through the forged object. As carefully as I could, I then sketched the real shrapnel; that sketch is still in my notes. But on the AP view, the OD scan through the 6.5 mm object also tells us (Figure 5) how much shrapnel (relatively speaking) there was on the original X-ray film. The 6.5 mm object, since it was faked, was most likely uniform in OD (that will be obvious later) so any changes in OD across this object (on the AP) are due to the original shrapnel. The OD graph shows just what I saw with my glasses off: the original metal is almost completely on the right side of the 6.5 mm object.

When I got home I realized that I had another experiment to do: what would a real 6.5 mm metal fragment look like on an X-ray film—and what would the OD scan look like? I already had a 6.5 mm Mannlicher-Carcano bullet—someone had given me one. It was time to sacrifice it. I sawed off about 3 mm of the base—there was obvious lead in the bullet. From previous experiments, I already had several authentic human skulls. So I taped this bullet fragment to the back of the skull, just like in the autopsy X-ray films. I adjusted the skull position under the fluoroscope until it matched the autopsy X-ray films and I took a lateral X-ray film. It looked very similar to the autopsy film: it was in the right spot and it overlapped the skull bone just right. Then I scanned it (Figure 6). In the same figure, for comparison, is the 6.5 mm object from the lateral autopsy film. Note that the ordinate (the vertical scale) has been greatly changed from Figure 3, in order to show both on the same graph. This comparison is quite

striking. Whereas the OD of the autopsy 6.5 mm object was almost the same as the background bone (it was only about 0.2 OD units more transparent), the OD of the real metal was almost 1.5 OD units more transparent. This is quite a large difference: it meant that the image of the real metal transmitted over ten times as much light as the area right outside of it—but the autopsy image did not even transmit twice as much light as the area just outside of its borders. That's why it was so hard to see in the prints that I had been looking at. This experiment was telling me the same thing that I had already learned at the Archives. On the lateral view, a real 6.5 mm piece of metal should have looked much whiter (or more transparent) than the object on the lateral autopsy X-ray film. On the autopsy film, it was real enough all right, but it was thin (much thinner than 6.5 mm)—just as Sibert and O'Neill had said. And just as I had seen with my naked (and myopic) eyes on the AP view.

**The X-ray films (and the photographs, too) were treated with a kind of reverence by the government agencies who examined them (the HSCA, especially)—as if they were unchangeable objects of nature. Their view was that witnesses could lie and they could be mistaken, but that X-ray films and photographs would never mislead. And if the X-ray films and photographs disagreed with the witnesses, wasn't it obvious that it must be the witnesses who were wrong? Although everyone knows that photographs can be forged, surely there could be no tampering with a Presidential autopsy. In any case, it was assumed that X-ray films, once taken, could not be changed.**

Next I looked at the teeth. The teeth are not seen in the prints in this book—or anywhere else for that matter. But they are very easy to see on the X-ray films. Kennedy had extensive dental repairs—except for the incisors and canines, he had fillings almost everywhere. Most of these amalgams were probably inserted during his pre-adult years and (typically) they would have been composed of nearly equal parts of mercury and silver. Both of these elements have high atomic numbers and they would naturally appear transparent on an X-ray film. On the AP view these amalgams mostly overlap one another—they are like a long slab of dense mercury and silver, many centimeters long.

The reason that these dental amalgams are important is that they can serve as a superb measuring stick, in relative terms, for how much metal there is in other objects on the same film. In particular, I had found that the OD of the 6.5 mm object on the AP was about 0.6—which suggested that it was very thick (from front to back). So I wondered how this would compare to the amalgams.

As I had expected, these amalgams were quite transparent. The ODs on the right side of the AP view were about 0.78; on the left, they were 0.74, on average (see Table 2). These values all imply less metal (front to back) than for the 6.5 mm object. How could that be? How could the 6.5 mm object be longer (front to back) than all of those dental amalgams added together? On the lateral film, I could see with my eyes that this 6.5 mm object was only 3-4 mm thick (from front to back)—that was clearly much, much thinner than all of those dental fillings all lined up—by almost a factor of 10! But that is what the OD data were telling me—so this made no sense at all. But, of course, if someone had simply overexposed this area to lighten it up (so that it would look like 6.5 mm shrapnel), then that is what would be expected.

Now recall that the pathologists actually removed one metal fragment from the skull. On the AP view, this 7 x 2 mm fragment has an OD of 1.44 (see Table 2), a much higher number than the OD of 0.60 for the 6.5 mm object on the same film. These widely differing ODs suggest that the 6.5 mm object is, by far, the thicker of the two (from front to back). But we can see their actual thicknesses (from front to

back) on the lateral view—and they are nearly identical! So this made no sense either. (I had to be sure, of course, that overlapping tissue within the skull, on the AP view, did not confound this conclusion. I was able to assure myself that this was not a problem by obtaining OD data from just outside of these objects and also by correlating the lateral and AP views.)

On the lateral view, the OD of the 7 x 2 mm fragment was 1.6 (see Table 1). This provided strong evidence that the 7 x 2 mm fragment was real—the ODs on the lateral and AP were consistent with one another. And I also knew that they were consistent with what I saw with my naked eyes. So this real fragment behaved quite differently from the faked 6.5 mm object.

There was one last question: on the lateral view, how did the ODs of the amalgams compare to ODs of the 6.5 mm object? And here again, there was nothing remarkable—which, in itself, was strong evidence that this fragment has not been altered on this view. The ODs of the amalgams are about 1.00 (see Table 1). From the above graphs, we have already seen (on the lateral view) that the ODs of the 6.5 mm object are about 1.5, so the amalgams must contain much more metal (from left to right within the skull) than the 6.5 mm object. From the data already reviewed here, we know that the 6.5 mm object is not really 6.5 mm wide—it is really closer to 2 to 3 mm wide. Since the dental amalgams are significantly wider than this (as seen with the naked eyes on the AP view), the ODs of the amalgams and the (real) 2-3 mm fragment are completely consistent with each other—but that would not have been the case if the object really had been 6.5 mm wide.

The evidence for alteration is quite overwhelming from all of this data. All lines of evidence point in the same direction and are consistent with one other. To make this very transparent, I next summarize all of these arguments, as follows:

1. On the lateral view, the 6.5 mm object looks (by the OD data) much thinner (left to right) than a comparable slice from a real Mannlicher-Carcano bullet.

2. On the AP view, a superposition of images inside this 6.5 mm object is evident to the naked (myopic) eye: one is the genuine bullet fragment described by Sibert and O'Neill, while the second is a phantom introduced in the dark room at some later date.

3. On the AP view, the OD scan across this 6.5 mm object is entirely consistent with what the naked eye sees: most of the real metal is on the right side.

4. On the lateral view, there is more metal (by the OD data) at the inferior pole of this 6.5 mm object (left to right) than at the center or at the superior pole. To the naked eye, however, the 6.5 mm object has a bite taken out precisely at this level—so the OD data (on the lateral film) are grossly inconsistent with the (AP) visual image.

5. On the AP view, the ODs of the 6.5 mm object tell us that it is thicker (front to back) than all of the dental amalgams superimposed on one another.

6. On the lateral view, the OD measurements tell us that the 6.5 mm object is much thinner than one dental amalgam. This is, of course, what should be expected, since the lateral view is authentic and the real metal was only 2-3 mm across (right to left).

7. On the lateral view, the ODs of the 6.5 mm object and the 7 x 2 mm fragment (the real one) are similar—as they should be for fragments about 2 mm thick (from right to left). This is consistent with the FBI report, but not with the visible 6.5 mm object on the AP view.

8. On the AP view, the 6.5 mm object is astonishingly thicker (by OD data) than the 7 x 2 mm object (from front to back), even though the unaided eye can see (on the lateral view) that they are actually about the same thickness.

All of this evidence is therefore completely self-consistent—and it all tells us that the 6.5 mm object was not originally on the AP view. But how could someone add an image of a bullet onto an X-ray film? The X-ray films (and the photographs, too) were treated with a kind of reverence by the government agencies who examined them (the HSCA, especially)—as if they were unchangeable objects of nature. Their view was that witnesses could lie and they could be mis-

taken, but that X-ray films and photographs would never mislead. And if the X-ray films and photographs disagreed with the witnesses, wasn't it obvious that it must be the witnesses who were wrong? Although everyone knows that photographs can be forged (that started before the Civil War—see Fielding's book on pp. 73-74 for some fascinating photographs), surely there could be no tampering with a Presidential autopsy. In any case, it was assumed that X-ray films, once taken, could not be changed.

Unfortunately, what everyone had forgotten was that X-ray films can be duplicated—by a photographic process in the dark room, using light alone. So that if photographs can be altered, so can X-ray films. After I taught myself how to do this, I began to play around with this

*continued on page 24*

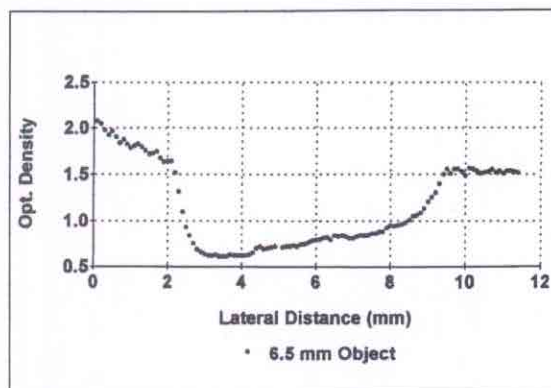


Figure 5. JFK AP skull X-ray: 6.5 mm object.  
Horizontal scan: right to left.

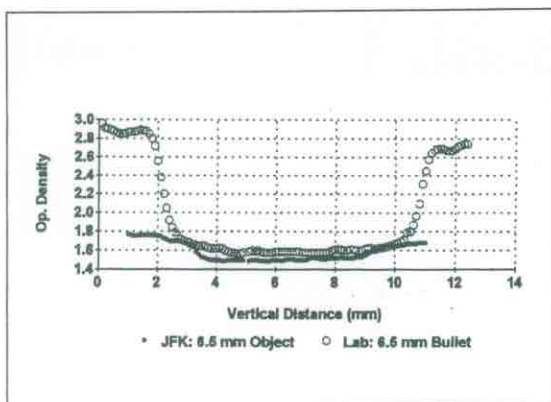


Figure 6. Lateral skull X-rays: JFK vs. lab.  
Vertical scans: superior to inferior.

## Forged X-rays

continued from page 19

idea. I even produced a skull X-ray film with a scissors inside the skull—as if the neurosurgeon had forgotten an entire scissors. It was fun to show this at lectures. But the really remarkable thing was not the location of the scissors—it was the *color* of the scissors! Since surgical scissors are metal, it should have looked transparent (or white). Well, this scissors was black—meaning that it was composed of thin air—an air scissors!

### Unexpected Problems

Before we pursue this, however, I must mention some surprises that I had to confront. Modern duplicate X-ray films have an emulsion on only one side, like photographic film. Standard X-ray film, on the other hand, has an emulsion on each side, and so did these autopsy X-ray films. This surprising observation put me off the scent for awhile. I was not familiar with double sided emulsions being used for making copies. However, if these films had had an image on just one emulsion (instead of on both emulsions), I might still have been able to argue that they were copies. But then I noticed that the image actually appeared on both emulsions. I could conclude this because the emulsion had peeled off in several places so that I could see one emulsion at a time. Actually, I used the background grid lines on the film for this purpose, which was just as good. There were about 2.3 lines per millimeter, and with my glasses off I could see these well. I also used a high power microscope to confirm that the image occurred on both sides; because the depth of field was so shallow, I could focus on one side at a time. This observation made me think that the films had to be originals. Furthermore, when I tried to copy an image onto a double emulsion film, these films would turn a bizarre greenish color—which was clearly unnatural.

As time passed, however, all of these issues were resolved. One evening as I was puzzling over these conundrums, I decided to phone a very good friend, a superb diagnostic radiologist at the hospital where I work. He did not have an immediate answer either, but said that he would dig through his library of old medical physics books. A short time later he called back with some astonishing news—in the mid to late sixties, the film manufacturers began adding a dye to their emulsions so that it was no longer possible to use it for making good duplicates. This information was discovered in a textbook edition that was published just two years after the assassination (*Formulating X-ray Techniques*, John B. Cahoon, Jr., 1965). My jaw dropped! Now I understood why I had failed to make good copies when using double emulsion films. The next night my wife and I flew to San Francisco and I still remember my elation over this discovery as we walked down the aisle to see *The Phantom of the Opera*.

In those days hardly anybody (perhaps no one) used single emulsion duplicating film like everyone does today. The Kodak catalog from 1963 does not list it, although it does appear in catalogs from a few years later. Instead, everybody made duplicates by using regular double emulsion film—only they had to be clever about it. I slowly discovered all of this in talking to older techs and radiologists. It was the techs especially who remembered this because they had to do it.

And as I searched the old textbooks I was amazed at what I found. One edition published just two years before the assassination even contained detailed recipes for copying film onto standard double emulsion films—down to the second in exposure time (Cahoon, 1961, pp. 40-43). This was all done with a simple light box—no X-rays were needed. And this same author (a radiologist) even said that this technique was so good that it was hard to tell the original from the copy (see Figures 15A and 15B in Cahoon). To prove his point, he printed them side by side. At least in the book, I couldn't tell them apart either. So this mystique about the immutability of X-ray films (at least in that era) was wrong. Neither the Warren Commission (which did not actually review the X-ray films) nor the HSCA (which did review them in the late 1970s) considered the issues that I have presented here. Without a chain of custody, X-ray films would have been no more legitimate in a courtroom than photographs. Nowadays, though, it would not be possible to do this with double emulsion film; the dyes added to the emulsion simply won't permit realistic looking X-ray films. As a final note on this matter, Dr. Cyril Wecht recently recommended that I serve as an expert witness in a case of possibly forged X-ray films. My findings (for several reasons) were that the films were authentic. I was a little disappointed not to be able to use my knowledge in a more exciting manner!

The final mystery was the presence of an image on both emulsions. From my training in radiation oncology, I had remembered that not too much light crosses over from one emulsion to the other in an X-ray film cassette.

Such crossover is considered undesirable because it tends to fuzz out the image. Then one day I phoned the experts at Kodak. Two of them got on the line, including Arthur G. Haus, Director of Medical Physics, and we had a round table discussion. (I later had the pleasure of meeting Haus at one of my specialty meetings in Los Angeles; he also graciously reviewed this article for me.) In the course of that conversation, they stunned me. They said that for film in the 1960s, a great deal of light could cross over from one side to the other—enough to produce a nearly equal image on both emulsions, even though it had been exposed to light only from one side! So there, at last, was the explanation. In the early 1960s, nothing special had to be done to copy a superior image onto a double emulsion film. Furthermore, the image would be nearly equal (and of good quality) on both emulsions, just as I had seen on the autopsy films. That was because in the 1960s films were not as good as our present ones—crossover is more limited nowadays. (See Arthur G. Haus, 1995, "Characteristics of Screen-Film Combinations for Conventional Medical Radiography", Eastman Kodak Publication No. N-319.)

### How It Was Done

So now, at last, we can explain what happened. Sometime after the autopsy the original X-ray films were taken to the dark room for copying and alteration. There is one clue to when this event occurred. Within one month after the autopsy, John Ebersole, the radiologist, was called to the White House to look at the X-ray films. This strange episode (HSCA Record No. 180-10102-010409, Agency File No. 013617, pp. 5-6) suggests that Ebersole was being tested on his reaction to the altered films—the official excuse of needing his help for a Kennedy bust makes no sense. If X-ray films were really useful for this purpose, then those taken during life would have been much more

| Object   | OD         | Apparent Length* | Actual Length** |
|----------|------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 6.5 mm   | 0.60       | very long        | 3-4 mm          |
| amalgams | 0.74, 0.78 | long             | 30-40 mm        |
| 7 x 2 mm | 1.44       | short            | 2 mm            |

\*from front to back, based on ODs on the AP

\*\*as seen on the lateral view with the unaided eye

Table 2. ODs on the AP Skull X-ray.

appropriate than the badly fragmented skull seen at the autopsy. Ebersole, however, is either very tongue-in-cheek about all of this, or else he is astonishingly naive. (Also, see below for the experiences of Jerrol Custer, the technologist.)

A simple piece of cardboard (or whatever you wish to imagine) was used as a template. A hole was cut out in the shape of a 6.5 mm fragment; it is anyone's guess as to why the bite was taken out (most likely, though, a perfect circle would have looked too suspicious to be shrapnel). Then the film was duplicated in the usual fashion, using light in the darkroom. But before the duplicate film was developed it was exposed one more time. This time the cardboard template was placed over the duplicate film so that light could only pass through this 6.5 mm hole. That area on the duplicate film then, when developed, would look very transparent, just like the autopsy 6.5 mm object. In fact, the variety of things that I could do with this approach was limited only by my imagination. One day I took my daughter's tracing template for a pteranodon to the office; when I went home that night I had a skull X-ray film with a pteranodon inside. (I had to use single emulsion film, of course.)

So the pathologists were right, after all. They really hadn't seen that 6.5 mm object at the autopsy. The entrepreneur who did this had to be clever, however. If he had simply placed a counterfeit image onto the AP view willy-nilly, most likely it would not have been spatially consistent on the two views. But, by using something that was already there, Mother Nature solved the problem for him. He didn't bother altering the lateral—there was no need to. All he had to do was add the fake image right over the pre-existing shrapnel that the FBI had reported. Mother Nature had already located this image on both films consistent with reality—so he had no decisions to make. In fact, a small army of quite expert radiologists have not noticed any problems at all with the AP film—which is not a discredit to any of them. These issues can only be recognized with the OD measurements. Of course, in retrospect, it would be interesting now to ask the radiologists about the "phantom" image—i.e., being able to see the original shrapnel through the 6.5 mm object. But that also might not really be fair because they are not experts in special effects cinematography.

### In Conclusion

Now, in view of all of the above, it would be extraordinarily interesting to ask the pathologists several more questions. If we are fortunate, that may actually have occurred within the past 18 months. When the ARRB recently interviewed these men, they had already received from me several questions about this 6.5 mm object—specifically submitted in preparation for these interviews. That report will be made public before the ARRB expires on September 30, 1998. All I know (second hand) is that the pathologists gave the impression that they wanted to be somewhere else.

One last comment needs to be made. I had the great pleasure of meeting Jerrol Custer, the X-ray technologist from the autopsy, at a New York press conference in 1993. Although he does not specifically recall seeing a 6.5 mm object on the AP film, he admits that his memory

is now fuzzy about this. But he definitely recalls that he took several sets of skull films. The radiologist, Ebersole, told me (on tape) that he took at least five X-ray films of the skull. He also told the same story to the HSCA (HSCA Record No. 180-10102-010409, Agency File No. 013617, pp. 19, 45-46, 51). That document was finally released in 1993. The problem is that there are now only three skull films—not nearly enough to match the 5 or 6 that both of these men recall. And if anyone would know, they should—and on this they agree with each other, even though they have not spoken to one another since the autopsy.

Custer recalls an amazing event. On the day after the assassination, at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center, he was asked to take X-ray films of skull fragments and bullet fragments. He was directed to do this by someone in his department and also by a plainclothes person whom he did not know. (See *High Treason II*, Harry Livingstone, 1992, pp. 216-217.) His recollection is consistent with the process I have

described here; it also suggests that as early as the next morning a fabrication team was on site. Probably none of Custer's films were used, however. Sooner or later this team would have recognized that this goal was much easier to achieve in the darkroom with a simple template, as I have described above. (They might not have known this immediately, however, since there were no recipes for altering X-ray films—especially not for Presidential autopsies).

It is safe to conclude that the current AP skull film in the National Archives cannot be an original—that one was probably destroyed. For the success of the fabrication team, it would have been essential not to leave too many films in the file—the more that were left, the more alterations would have been required. Although these changes are easy enough to make, the real challenge then would have been to complete the alterations consistently from film to film. For example,

Custer recalls taking an oblique X-ray film (taken through the large occipital defect). The task of matching that view precisely to the altered AP view would have posed a colossal challenge. It would have been much easier to retain as few X-ray films as possible. (On the second lateral film, the posterior skull, including the 6.5 mm fragment, is cut off; Custer says he did not have enough room in the autopsy suite to get his portable unit in proper position for this. It was therefore safe to leave this film in the collection.) There are other (measurable) reasons for suspecting that the other two (both lateral) skull films have also been altered. These changes occur in the posterior skull—where they would not have interfered with identification of the X-ray films as Kennedy's. Custer has repeatedly stated—with some passion—that the current skull X-ray films do not look like the ones that he took. I think I know what he means, but that is a story for another book.

The above, in slightly edited and abridged form, is reprinted with permission of the publisher and author from the recent book *Assassination Science: Experts Speak Out on the Death of JFK*, edited by James H. Fetzer, Ph. D., published by Catfeet Press, Chicago 1998, available by order through Barnes and Noble Booksellers.—Eds.

**As I searched the old textbooks I was amazed at what I found. One edition published just two years before the assassination even contained detailed recipes for copying film onto standard double emulsion films—down to the second in exposure time. This was all done with a simple light box—no X-rays were needed. And this same author (a radiologist) even said that this technique was so good that it was hard to tell the original from the copy.**

# Rest In Peace, Maggie Field

By Lisa Pease

**M**arjorie Field, known as Maggie to her friends and colleagues, was one of the earliest researchers into Kennedy's death. Her recent passing leaves the research community poorer for her absence.

I had the great fortune to meet Maggie last year. The woman positively radiated goodness and love, as well as a sharp mind with a keen perception of events and people. I wanted very much to write about Maggie for the later generations of researchers who may be unfamiliar with this remarkable, noble woman who cared so much about the greater implications of the Kennedy assassination and aftermath.

Maggie told me that she first suspected a conspiracy when she heard that a "Communist" from Dallas who had lived in Russia had been arrested. She knew how ridiculous the idea of a Communist living in right-wing Dallas was, and felt the story was just too pat to be believed. When Oswald was subsequently killed live on TV, she felt certain he was being silenced. She described her feelings on this moment years later to Calvin Trillin for an article he published in *The New Yorker* (6/10/67):

I saw Oswald on TV, being paraded through the station back and forth like an animal, and they asked him why he killed the President and he said, "I didn't kill anyone." I believed him. I really didn't have anything to go on then, but I was convinced that it was a political conspiracy and I was convinced that Oswald was not the assassin.

Maggie was instantly concerned not just for Oswald, but for what the arrest of the man meant for the rest of us:

If one man can be picked off the street and arrested and jailed for two murders he didn't commit, then not one of us is safe. I saw one lawyer after another turn his back on the deprivation of every basic human right. One or two attorneys spoke out, but where were all the other lawyers in this country? Where was the press in this country swallowing this thing whole and not raising its voice?

Maggie led a comfortable life. As the wife of a Beverly Hills stockbroker, she could have

chosen a much easier path through life. But from the day of the assassination, Maggie spent the next several years of her life saving and cataloging any information she could find on the Kennedy assassination.

Others who could truly be deemed first-generation researchers included (but were not limited to) a young Philadelphia lawyer named Vincent Salandria, a young businessman in Los Angeles named Ray Marcus, a researcher at the World Health Organization in New York named Sylvia Meagher, and a housewife from Hominy, Oklahoma named Shirley Martin. Martin piled her four children into her car and drove to Dallas to interview witnesses. She believed that the only way to get to the truth would be to trust no one and do her own research. Lillian Castellano, a bookkeeper in Los Angeles, having heard the evidence that the shots had come from the front and having seen a picture of the storm drain in front of the motorcade, worked diligently to bring this information to the attention of local news media as well as the Commission members themselves.

The most visible of the early critics was Mark Lane. He had published one of the earliest articles pointing out the failings of the government's case, offered to serve as the dead Lee Harvey Oswald's "defense counsel" to the Warren Commission, and stumped the cause of conspiracy tirelessly to all who would listen. Because of his visibility, Lane became a lightning rod for the research community, and it was through him that many of the early researchers found each other. Lillian Castellano told *The New Yorker*: "I thought I was the only one in the world who had these doubts," adding, "The first year, thinking I was alone, it was terrible." My own mother recalled to me how she would try to bring up the subject of the Kennedy assassination at dinner parties only to be met with stone cold silence. Maggie encountered the same resistance, and had to work to convince relatives and friends of her beliefs. Maggie finally met fellow Angeleno researchers Marcus and Castellano when Lane came to town to speak. Through ever widening circles, Maggie met Sylvia Meagher, who in turn introduced Maggie to additional researchers. Salandria's

early articles on the case brought him quickly to the attention of the growing community. Meagher delighted in what she called "the dramatic transition from taboo to dialogue."

Maggie was so avid a research in her spacious Beverly Hills home that she bought not one but two full sets of the twenty-six volumes of evidence from the Warren Commission, one for upstairs and one for downstairs. When I met Maggie, one of the episodes she shared with me was the time she had Roger Craig over. He went right to Volume 6, where his testimony is located, and proceeded to write in it the corrections to his testimony, which he claimed had not been recorded accurately.

Maggie's intense interest in the case led her to compile such solid evidence that she actually landed a book contract with Random House. As most current researchers understand, Random House has a particularly shoddy record regarding both the John and Robert Kennedy assassinations. Not surprisingly, Field's contract to do the book was inexplicably terminated. The book Maggie had prepared was atypical of other research books. Rather than presenting the evidence of conspiracy through a narrative, she produced large sheets in which she placed the Warren Report's individual conclusions juxtaposed against the Commission's own records which refuted those conclusions. She called these sheets "panoplies." Her book was to be titled simply *The Evidence*. Maggie had a signed contract and had even received her first advance payment for the book when she was told that Random House would not publish the book. The excuse given was that the publishing expense would be too great. In a *Los Angeles Free Press* interview (12/8/67), Maggie rejected this explanation:

[Random House was] in consultation with a production man in New York, and he was so excited about the book that he said, "I will waive my fee, and take it in royalties, because I believe it is an important book...." Then they still told me there was a production problem. At that point I felt that I really couldn't accept that as a valid excuse.

For a long time, Maggie Field was good friends and an avid correspondent with Sylvia

Meagher. One of the funnier anecdotes Maggie shared with me was of the time when she had graciously invited Larry Schiller to her home. He had told her that he planned to write a book about the critics of the *Warren Report*. She thought he was doing an honest, serious piece. Her dog seemed to know better. The dog, normally as friendly and sweet-tempered as Maggie herself, bit Schiller in the leg as he was exiting. Maggie felt terrible about the incident until she learned that Schiller was really writing, with an associate, a hit piece on the critics. Sylvia Meagher wrote this to Maggie after learning of the episode:

Schiller is a great big phony and dollar-lover. Your dog is intelligent; and my cat stupid, for not biting this pair of sharp operators.

Maggie was very supportive of Jim Garrison and what he was trying to do. In fact, she had been asked by the *LA Free Press* to go to New Orleans to serve as their on-the-spot commentator. She refused, saying in her typically prescient way that this was not going to be the trial of Clay Shaw; this was going to be the "public electrocution" of Jim Garrison.

Maggie and Sylvia eventually reached an impasse over Jim Garrison during the New Orleans District Attorney's investigation into the murder of the President. Sylvia felt Garrison was damaging the credibility of the critics and interfering with the chances of a new, honest investigation. Given the history of the case, Sylvia was dreaming if she thought the government would have been any more honest in 1966 than they had been in 1963.

I asked Maggie what had happened to Sylvia to turn her so rabidly anti-Garrison. Maggie explained that she felt Sylvia had been "intellectually seduced." A bright woman who had never gone to college, she thrived on vindication from others of her mental abilities. One person in particular who managed to cozy up to her was Edward Epstein. We now know that Epstein was nearly a protégé of James Jesus Angleton, the CIA's longtime Counterintelligence chief whose most secretive unit held a pre-assassination file on Oswald. But at the time, Sylvia defended Epstein when others thought he appeared to be some sort of infiltrator who had written an all-too-weak criticism of the Warren Report in his first book, *Inquest*. Sylvia did eventually come to suspect Epstein, but quite a bit later than others in her circle.

Maggie was that rare breed of person who, once knowing something, feels compelled to act upon that knowledge. She wrote detailed, eloquent letters about the case to a range of people from media representatives to government officials, always pressing for greater rep-

15th August 1967

Mr. Clayton Fritchey  
c/o The New York Post  
75 West Street  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Fritchey:

Can Garrison be stopped? Yes, of course:

- By governmental agencies which suppress and withhold vital evidence in the name of "national security".
- By Governors of states who refuse to extradite key witnesses, one of whom is an admitted CIA operative.
- By 2 subpoenaed FBI agents who are protected from telling what they know by the cloak of "executive immunity".
- By the news media and the press who have not studied the 26 volumes of hearings, exhibits and reports, but who, nevertheless, have set themselves up as authorities on the assassination to this nation and to the world.
- By people like you who are so busy trying to stop Mr. Garrison that you haven't bothered to inform yourselves of what any schoolboy would know, if he saw even half of the Warren Commission's published evidence.

If Mr. Garrison does not have a valid case, why try to stop him? Why not let him present his case for all to see, make a fool of himself before the court of world opinion? (If you are so concerned about the rights of the accused, where were your cries of outrage when Lee Harvey Oswald was a suspect in two murders and was held and interrogated for twelve hours without benefit of legal representation or any tapes or records of his interrogations?)

The answer is so obvious. The brainwashed American people have finally lost their innocence and are no longer impressed by the pressure tactics to bury the truth. Methinks that you, NBC, CBS, Newsweek and all the rest of the self-righteous propaganda merchants protest too much. You're overplaying your hand. You may well succeed in stopping Garrison because the power and the wealth and the techniques are all on your side - but you'll never stop the truth from ultimately emerging because too many of us are going to continue to work until it does. This country is not going to be worth fighting and working for until it does,

Very truly yours,

*Maggie Field*

resentation of the truth about the case. An example of one such letter appears above.

Maggie, whose work was thoroughly documented and faithful to the evidence, never let the minutiae of the case blur the greater significance of the event. I'll let Maggie have the last word, with a comment she gave the *LA Free Press* at the end of 1967, presciently

heralding the events of the year that followed:

[U]ntil we can get to the bottom of the Kennedy assassination, this country is going to remain a sick country. No matter what we do. Because we cannot live with that crime. We just can't. The threat is too great. There are forces in this country who have gotten away with this thing, and will strike again. ♣

## ARRB

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Oswald, President Kennedy, and Robert Kennedy. Before Sy Hersh, Holland had formulated a two-tiered plan to counter the sensation surrounding Stone's film. First, by avoiding the ever growing record of evidence manipulation exonerating Oswald, he could hammer home the antique and equally obsolete rubric of Oswald being a lonely sociopath. Second, in keeping with other CIA lapdogs, e.g. Richard Helms' official biographer Thomas Powers, he would shift the blame for the Castro plots from Helms to the Kennedys. With that neat feat done, the author can perform a simple trick: Castro sympathizer Oswald killed Kennedy before Kennedy could do the same to Castro; in a roundabout way, it was self-defense.

## Holland and Halpern

In fact, like Hersh, Holland got in contact with Helms' old buddy and top associate, veteran covert operator Sam Halpern to give him some help in propagating this line. Halpern, among other things, had a prime role in the CIA coup that overthrew Salvador Allende in Chile, one of the bloodiest, most murderous campaigns the Agency ever engaged in. No surprise, Halpern tells the always accepting Holland that it was Bobby Kennedy who had the idea of using the Mob to kill Castro. Holland, like Hall, conveniently avoids four points in parroting Halpern's story to the reader. First, the 1967 Inspector General Report, commissioned by Helms and never meant to see the light of day, rendered the opposite verdict: the CIA started the plots on its own. *And Halpern's name is listed second on the list of witnesses who testified in that inquiry.* Why is Halpern changing his story now? Second, that same report acknowledges that the CIA was having conferences with mobsters during the Eisenhower administration, before Bobby ever got near the White House. Third, Holland doesn't tell the reader that Halpern has been evolving this story over time. Earlier, Halpern told author Ronald Goldfarb (*Perfect Villains, Imperfect Heroes*) that Bobby was interested in using mob assets in Cuba to destabilize Castro's regime. No mention about that "Mafia wannabe" Bobby killing Castro with his mobster buddies who he was, oddly, simultaneously trying to put in jail. Fourth, Holland leaves out the fact that Justice Department official John Seigenthaler told Goldfarb that when Bobby found out what Helms and the CIA were doing behind his back, he told him he thought it was a disgrace. Halpern would have us believe he jumped up and high-fived him.

One final note should be made about Hall's article. In the opening passage, he tries to strike an overall motif to supplement his rather strident title. To do this he joins the ranks of the *Los Angeles Times*. He groups Kennedy researchers into the growing ranks of conspiracy nuts. Sure enough, he mentions one of these complementary groups as people like author David Irving, who wrote a book denying the Holocaust. Another group was composed of Joseph McCarthy and his followers who posited a giant Communist conspiracy inside the American government bent on subverting the

To reduce these historical facts to the level of Holocaust denial, and Elvis sightings is a corruption of legitimate political and legal discourse in which Hall, both a lawyer and historian, should not be indulging.

United States and making it a part of the Soviet empire. The CIA got its budget approved for years upon this very premise, but this point never seems to bother Hall.

## Using Hofstadter

Consistent with his method, Hall lists a long line of books in one of his footnotes which describe this tendency throughout American history. Of course, he mentions the old chestnut that most Warren Commission apologists pluck, namely Richard Hofstadter's *The Paranoid Style in American Politics and Other Essays*. Another historian served up by Hall is David Brion Davis, a friend and follower of Hofstadter. Hofstadter is used so often by mainstream historians and journalists that he has become almost a staple item in attempts to discredit Warren Commission critics. The problem with using Hofstadter, as is Hall's problem generally, is that I doubt if he has read the book; or, if he has, he may be hoping that the reader is unaware of its contents. Because in the context that Hall uses it, the book is almost humorous.

First of all, Hofstadter's 1965 book, as the title denotes, is a collection of essays. The first four deal with what people like Hall say they

are concerned about, the so-called "paranoid style". The essays were written over a period of time from approximately 1954 to about 1965. What Hofstadter was trying to isolate and describe was the rightwing impetus that temporarily boosted McCarthy to his brief, powerful position in American politics. At first he treats this rightwing movement as a temporary, ephemeral aberration on the American scene. But what makes Hofstadter's work mildly amusing is that he has to keep on returning to this ephemeral aberration because it keeps on popping up, e.g. in the Goldwater campaign of 1964. Hofstadter keeps trying to quantify and analyze this puzzling, "minority" movement—and he keeps on failing. For instance, he tries to compare it with other upsurges of nationalism in American history and tries to show how immigration patterns compare then and now. This proved so silly that he ultimately printed a mild retraction.

The final amusing irony is that Hofstadter mentions people and trends that will return again after the publication date of the book and create an even more powerful political movement than Goldwater's. For instance he mentions conservative anti-feminist Phyllis Schlafly as an eccentric. He also touches on the potential power of religious fundamentalism. He also notes Goldwater's use of white backlash to make dents in the Democratic stronghold of the south in 1964, the only area in which Goldwater ran with any strength. Inevitably, Hofstadter reminds us of the man in the dark groping at an elephant and describing it in parts, yet unable to put together the floppy ears, the long trunk, and the tusks into a whole being. As mentioned above, all these elements that Hofstadter describes would return in 1980 with a vengeance, and that more powerful political movement, of course, was Reaganism, which blended two kinds of conservatism: the adaptable Wall Street flavor with the redneck John Birch Society kind. It created a juggernaut that has permanently altered the political landscape. So Hofstadter's inept description of what he saw as an offbeat "minority" movement ended up taking over the country, aided by assassinations of those who would have provided a counterbalance.

David Brion Davis wrote a book called *The Slave Power Conspiracy and the Paranoid Style*, which Hall also mentions in his footnotes. The book is a direct descendant of Hofstadter's. Davis states that the abolitionist movement portrayed a huge conspiracy of forces that propagated the institution of slavery for economic gain in America. There is no doubt that this kind of rhetoric existed in the years before the Civil War, as they do over any great national, emotional issue e.g. the Vietnam War. But what Davis ignores is that there was, if not a conspiracy, a tacit agreement between

northern and southern Democrats to preserve slavery in the south and therefore preserve a corrupt and venal coalition in power. As historian Robert Remini has described in *The Revolutionary Age of Andrew Jackson* (p. 41), Martin Van Buren of New York met with southern slavery advocate John Calhoun prior to the 1828 election of Jackson in order to forge this coalition. The Whig party made the same conscious choice. After the war, the Democratic party did the same: it sided with the defeated confederates to destroy Radical Reconstruction and restore a white aristocracy in the south that subjugated black Americans anew with segregation laws. Davis never addresses this reality in his slim book.

The main point here is that the analogy that Hall tries to draw is a false one. The resurgence of a new and muscular rightwing in

prominent Americans during the nation's first generation. Alexander Hamilton was a first-class conspirator, a master of intrigue and deception. His whole orchestration and manipulation (some, like Claude Bowers, would say provocation) of the Whiskey Rebellion was a masterful maneuver to negate Thomas Jefferson's growing populist centers, the so-called Democratic Clubs. And George Washington, who Hamilton always counted on in his declining years to cooperate with his schemes, went along with it. The only man better at deception and intrigue—today we would call it covert action—was Jefferson's temporary ally, Aaron Burr, who hatched a (probably) treasonous scheme to establish a southwest empire that Oliver Stone could make a hell of a movie about. To reduce these historical facts to the level of Holocaust de-

have also turned out to be "see no evil, hear no evil, say no evil" Candide types. The one solid choice was Tunheim who, true to his judicial background, has made no public comments on what he feels the evidence reveals. This is conspicuously admirable. Its lamentable that his four associates don't follow his professional lead. It seems these four have decided to follow in the footsteps of David Belin and Robert Blakey. *Probe* wishes to go on the record with that declaration now. There is no point in denying it.

What this sad development should do is spell out a lesson for any new types of public citizen boards for the future, like the one being contemplated for the IRS. From here on in, the salaries granted to the staff, versus those on the Board should be reversed. To pay these people more than what the real work-



**See No Conspiracy**



**Hear No Conspiracy**



**Speak No Conspiracy**

America, or political arrangements to retain slavery and white supremacy, are not comparable to the Kennedy assassination. The former are broad political and social movements that lend themselves, not to illegal conspiratorial acts and decisions but rather to immoral networks of power. The murder of John F. Kennedy was a criminal act of conspiracy that should have been decided in 1964 in a court of law governed by rules of procedure, evidence, testimony. It should never have been decided by a group of handpicked attorneys overseen by Allen Dulles and John McCloy, and supplied with information controlled by J. Edgar Hoover, Richard Helms, and James Angleton for David Belin and Wesley Liebeler to place into a preordained design. To compare a conspiracy to commit murder and treason to the deceptive parlor games of Hofstadter and Davis is to present an analogy that would get any freshman kicked out of his philosophy class.

Of course, the bottom line in all this is that conspiracy is as American as apple pie and as old as the republic. In both its narrow and broader senses, it describes actions by two

nial, and Elvis sightings is a corruption of legitimate political and legal discourse in which Hall, both a lawyer and historian, should not be indulging.

The above descriptions of what Hall, Joyce, and Nelson have been saying and writing for public consumption are illuminating. When combined with my last review of the Board's public comments, it gives us a pretty good profile of where the Board itself stands on the subject they have been supposedly investigating, and how it personally affects them. The answer to the latter question in the cases described above, plus Henry Graff's is: not much. The trends I detected earlier and the dangers it presented for those who do take it seriously have now become not trends, but reality. When the Review Board was originally chosen, most people thought that Hall and Graff would line up as eternal "lone-nutters" no matter what the declassified record revealed. They both had intelligence backgrounds, and Graff was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. No one knew much about Joyce and Nelson, although Jim Lesar reportedly thought Nelson was a good choice. They

horses make is ridiculous. The Board members do not give up their regular jobs. They collect two full paychecks for working what is essentially a part-time job and sitting in on meetings in which they are advised by the worker bees on how to vote. Meanwhile the staff members give up their jobs and, generally, make less than what the part-timers make. This makes no sense. And on top of it all, their positions allow the Board members to write and speak to the media in a cavalier way that constant exposure to documents and evidence would probably mitigate against. We are sure that a hundred other candidates with advanced degrees would do what these four have done for much less money. Two names that spring to mind are John Newman and Phil Melanson. This reversal would free up funds to hire more staff members to do more of the necessary work. That is one lesson learned from this go round.

The other lesson of course, is that no one ever got ahead in the academic world by advocating the truth about conspiracy in the Kennedy assassination. ♦

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## King Case

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a report by special court-appointed master Mike Roberts, a University of Memphis law professor. His report said that Brown's care for the files was so haphazard that their present condition "imperils any possible retrial of this case." Roberts' report also questioned whether or not Brown should be presiding over the present hearings, since Ray had entered his 1969 guilty plea in Criminal Court Division 3, where Colton presides today. Roberts' report was filed with the Court Clerk while Brown was on vacation in Jamaica.

The day after the Colton-Roberts maneuver, prosecutor John Campbell filed a motion to dismiss the Pepper-Chastain request for a new round of test-firings. Campbell's motion stated:

The proposition that his right to ask for testing is unlimited and can continue until the defense obtains the results it like is totally unreasonable and would amount to an abuse of discretion by the court.

At the same time, Roberts announced through the *Commercial Appeal* (8/7/97) that he was preparing a final report questioning Brown's authority to hear the case at all. He also predicted that the pressure on Brown would mount leading to a meeting with a presiding judge to resolve a dispute over who should hear the case.

The *Commercial Appeal* now openly joined the effort to stir things up. On two consecutive days, August 8th and 9th, it ran derogatory lead editorials about Judge Brown. The first was headed "More Circus: Ray Confusion grows on judge's vacation", the second was bannered, "Ray Fiasco: Transfer is a solution; talks also would help."

Brown fired back in a phone interview with the newspaper while still on vacation. He said that the Colton-Roberts maneuver was motivated by local Republican politics and was a ploy to try and wreck his credibility. Brown further added that, "It's ridiculous, it's disgusting and it's partisan politics." In response to this, Colton made a comment that revealed a certain empathy with local prosecutor John Campbell. Colton said that Brown was "absolutely correct" in overseeing the original round of rifle testing approved by the appeals court, but then suggested that Brown had overstepped that original authority. Colton stated, "It has been determined that he [Brown] should make the ruling on that issue and that issue alone." Previously, Campbell had expressed concern that Brown was conducting an open ended inquiry when the judge had requested the original FBI test bullets for com-

parison purposes.

At this point, the FBI stepped forward. U.S. Attorney Veronica Coleman said that the Bureau would agree to turn over the 1968 test fires to county prosecutors "upon a proper request." Campbell responded that his office would request that the Bureau turn over the 1968 test bullets on the condition that the defense paid for further testing. Also, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* on August 15th noted that one of the grooves found on the 1997 test bullets was not mentioned in the examiner's notes from the 1968 FBI test-firing.

### Prosecutor Roberts?

On August 16th, Court Clerk Bill Key did something he previously stated he would not do. He delivered an order to Brown's office seeking the return of the Ray files to him. On more than one occasion, Key had said he would not do this until Brown had returned from vacation on August 18th.

On the 18th, and the day before Brown was expected to rule on another round of test-fires, two more surprise turns took place. First, Colton appointed Roberts as a special prosecutor to look into the King case. Campbell immediately filed an emergency appeal over Colton's action, claiming Colton had no authority to name Roberts as a special investigator with subpoena power. Campbell commented: "He's basically going to convene his own little grand jury, I guess. He's going to take evidence and then seal it.... I don't really know where he's going on it."

Roberts agreed to put his probe on hold until the appeal court ruled on Campbell's motion. Tennessee Attorney General John K. Walkup joined in Campbell's appeal. Now, whether willy-nilly or not, a formal challenge had been mounted and filed over Brown's proceeding and authority. It would be impossible for a court to rule on Colton's actions without touching on Brown's. Roberts seemed to invite the challenge to his new and surprising authority. He said to the *Commercial Appeal* on August 19th, "If someone wants to challenge it, let them challenge it, and it will go up to the Court of Criminal Appeals."

The combined appeal stated:

Judges Brown and Colton are doing harm to the justice system because of the confusion they have engendered. The public can have no confidence in the reliability of any decisions which may eventually be entered in the wake of these orders.

Meanwhile, the state attorney general in Shelby County, Bill Gibbons, asked the FBI to turn the 1968 test bullets over to the local Criminal Court Clerk's office. Gibbons also said that he was investigating "every credible lead." He then qualified that by saying:

Our position is that James Earl Ray murdered Dr. King and is exactly where he belongs—in prison. The one remaining issue is if anyone helped Ray.

Before Roberts' inquiry was halted, Colton issued some interesting insights into how it was to be conducted. On August 20th, he told the *Commercial Appeal* that Roberts would be working without a fee and no court reporter would be assigned to him when taking testimony. He expected such costs to be paid privately, perhaps by Roberts himself.

On August 21st, Colton and Brown met in the office of Probate Court Judge Donn Southern, who also serves as presiding judge of Shelby County's state trial courts. It was a closed meeting and both judges refused to comment as they left. Southern did issue a statement saying that there should be no more public feuding and that such feuding had had a negative impact on the court's work.

On Friday, August 29th, the three judge appeal court panel sharply criticized both Brown and Colton on the grounds that both had overstepped their power to investigate Ray's claims. The court voided Colton's order giving subpoena power to Roberts. The judges stated that Colton did not have jurisdiction to act and had usurped the prosecutor's authority to investigate crimes. The court ruled that Brown, under narrow constraints, could continue testing the rifle. But it shackled his efforts by voiding his order that the FBI turn over the 1968 test bullets for comparison purposes and also demanding that Ray, not the state, pay the bill for the testing. The first round of tests had cost \$18,000. The court found that Brown had crossed the line from adjudicator to investigator and that he had exceeded his authority in several ways, including his criticisms of the DA's office and his receiving sealed documents which created "an appearance of secrecy."

#### Junking Judge Brown

Within a week of this ruling, the DA's office moved to get Judge Brown taken off the Ray case. On September 3rd, motions were filed asking Brown to step down from the case on the grounds that he had made false statements, engaged in conversations with the defense, and was lacking in objectivity. The motion asked that the case be reassigned to another judge. At first, Brown made no overt move to answer the motion.

In the interim, Andrew Hall tried another alternative to free Ray. Working with Mark Lane, Hall drew upon a technicality in old Tennessee law. Days after pleading guilty to King's assassination, Ray sought to withdraw his plea in a letter to Shelby County Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle. Battle died of a heart attack days later, before he could rule on Ray's

request. The law had stated that a new trial should be allowed when a judge dies while considering such a motion. This bid was dismissed by Judge Cheryl Blackburn on September 18th. The judge decided that since the law had been altered in 1996, it did not apply.

By the second week of September, Brown seemed to be withdrawing from the case. Admonished by the appeals court, attacked by the DA, constrained by what Ray's defense team could afford in the way of further rifle tests, Brown made no more rulings on the case. In November, he flew to Los Angeles to tape a

**Billings and Herman both believed that the subpoenas were issued so the evidence they had would not be presented before a grand jury independently of the DA's office, which is what McNeil had been attempting to do.**

pilot for a possible television syndication deal with Big Ticket Television, the producers of *Judge Judy*. Commenting on the initial taping, Brown said, "I had a ball. It was fun." (*Commercial Appeal* 11/4/97) A later report in December by the entertainment trade magazine *Variety*, said that the *Judge Joe Brown Show* was racking up TV station clearances for a fall 1998 launch.

With Brown apparently out of the picture, the local DA's office, with state attorney Bill Gibbons in tow, now took over whatever investigation was left to be done.

#### Bizarre Bazaar

On September 5th, Gibbons wrote a letter to Roberts asking him for whatever information he had garnered while he was special prosecutor for Judge Colton. Roberts replied in a letter to Gibbons that an investigator from Gibbons' office had threatened to charge him with obstruction of justice if he didn't tell what he knew. He added that people "in your office have chosen to threaten me as a way of attacking Judge Colton." Roberts also added that he felt troubled about "revealing allegations made by citizens claiming the killing of Dr.

King was not being adequately investigated." (*Commercial Appeal* 9/11/97)

Gibbons then decided to go public with his own beliefs on the subject:

James Earl Ray is a professional con man who very much wanted attention. This is a guy who had very, very low self-esteem and saw assassination as a way to improve it basically. I think that was the primary motive.

Gibbons then added that, "There is a pretty good possibility that he had some help." Gibbons' ideas about a very limited kind of conspiracy with Ray as the trigger man are reminiscent of those of Robert Blakey. And the *Commercial Appeal* (9/17/97) revealed that local DA's John Campbell and Lee Coffee had traveled to Indiana in September to talk to Blakey about his views on the King case. After the meeting, Campbell told the paper that Blakey's congressional committee "still came down to the conclusion that James Earl Ray killed Martin Luther King."

By September the status of the case boiled down to two separate branches, both rather weak. One consisted of Andrew Hall and Roberts (Lane seems to be out of the picture at this time). In November, they announced they would team up on a new effort to free Ray by arguing that he was mentally incompetent when he pleaded guilty in 1969. The plea was coerced since he was suffering from isolation and harassment while in jail. The Hall-Roberts teaming was of short duration. Hours after appearing before Judge Colton, Roberts was fired, ten days after he started working. Hall said that Pepper was behind the termination. Jerry Ray, James Earl Ray's brother, said Pepper called Ray in prison and told him he had too many lawyers at work for him. By November 11th, Wayne Chastain, Pepper's former partner, also announced that he was leaving the case.

The second branch consisted of Chastain's former partner, Jack McNeil who returned to the case after being separated from Pepper and Chastain. McNeil was now hooked up with detectives John Billings and Ken Herman, two local investigators who had long been delving into the King assassination. Gibbons and Campbell subpoenaed the two gumshoes to have them appear before the county grand jury to present all evidence they had of a conspiracy in the King case. The two detectives had worked for Pepper before, especially on the Raoul side of the case. A man Ray calls Raoul squirmed him around Canada and the U.S. paying him large amounts of money to be a courier in what seemed to be a gunrunning operation. Ray and Pepper are now convinced that Raoul played a major part in setting him

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## King Case

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up to take the fall in the King case. Billings and Herman both believed that the subpoenas were issued so the evidence they had would not be presented before a grand jury independently of the DA's office, which is what McNeil had been attempting to do. In late September a three-person panel made up from the grand jury and headed by foreman Herbert W. Robinson was handed a set of affidavits by McNeil. By Tennessee law this panel would review the evidence before deciding if the grand jury should investigate further and/or indict someone. McNeil's affidavits and evidence centered on two people: the mysterious Raoul, and former Memphian Lloyd Jowers. Jowers was the man who claimed on national television in 1993 that he was paid \$100,000 to have King killed. Amid the evidence turned over by McNeil to Robinson was a tape of that interview, and an affidavit by one Glenda Grabow who claims to have known Raoul. Grabow is the person who Pepper calls "Cheryl" in his book *Orders to Kill*. (Incidentally, Pepper gave her real name away in the book himself. In photo #24, he calls her "Cheryl", yet in the caption to photo #27, a drawing of Ray lawyer Percy Foreman, he calls her Glenda Grabow.) In the accounts in the *Commercial Appeal*, it appears that Grabow has expanded her story a bit. She now appears to be saying that Jack Ruby knew Raoul also.

To this latest effort, Robert Blakey responded through the *New York Times* (11/23/97):

There is a difference between suspicion and evidence. The government has to respond to these suspicions. But I am extremely skeptical of the underlying credibility of any of the evidence. These people are forcing the government to chase ghosts.

In December, while the three grand jurors were visiting the scene of the 1968 shooting, the Lorraine Motel, Herman and Billings visited Dallas. Apparently they were trying to shore up the new Jack Ruby side of the Raoul story. Meanwhile, on December 1st, the Associated Press ran a wire story saying that Pepper and others had misunderstood the Army Intelligence side of the supposed assassination story.

Now, retired Colonel Edward McBride who oversaw the 111th Military Intelligence Group's Memphis operations said the reason King was under surveillance was only to monitor whether or not a riot would break during his visits and if any troops would be needed to be sent into a city to restore order. Another agent of that

group, Jimmie Locke, was quoted as saying, "We weren't particularly concerned except that he might be the catalyst for an event of some kind." The 111th is the military group that Pepper says sent a military sniper team into Memphis the day of King's murder. It is also the group to which, Pepper says, local undercover agent Marrell McCollough's reports eventually went.

On December 10th, *Newsday's* Michael Dorman reported on the final developments in the Herman-Billings Dallas investigation. Apparently, the two investigators ran into Beverly Oliver. Oliver claims to be the so-called

**Beverly Oliver claimed to have been the "Babushka Lady" who filmed the assassination of JFK. But when Oliver Stone's researcher checked the camera she claimed to have used in Dealey Plaza, the model was not for sale in America at the time. She's now telling Ray's investigators that she saw Raoul at Ruby's club (where she also had claimed to see Oswald and David Ferrie).**

"Babushka Lady" who is seen in pictures of President Kennedy's fatal trip through Dealey Plaza in Dallas on November 22, 1963. The woman has a camera in her hands and probably took some very valuable photos of the assassination. Yet no one had ever seen the pictures or found out who she was. In the 1970's, researcher Gary Shaw of Cleburne, Texas said that he had discovered that Oliver was the mysterious woman. Oliver made claims that she worked at Ruby's club, saw Oswald with Ruby, and saw Oswald's friend David Ferrie at Ruby's also. Yet, when Oliver Stone's researcher on JFK, Jane Rusconi, checked on the camera Oliver said she had in Dealey Plaza, it turned out the model was not for sale in America at the time. According to Dorman's

report, she now told Herman and Billings that she saw Raoul at Ruby's club also. Dorman also reported that Ray's defense was also investigating the idea that Ruby was actually still alive and living in Chicago.

After making a presentation to the three-member panel in mid-December, McNeil announced he was seeking indictments against Jowers and a New York man he (and Pepper) thought was Raoul. According to the *Commercial Appeal*, Jowers is now saying that four Memphis police officers were in on the plot to kill King. After the presentation, McNeil told the press that he felt the three man panel was "genuinely interested." He continued, "It was a very good meeting." Evidently, McNeil got the wrong impression. On December 18th, the panel rejected McNeil's request for a re-examination of all the evidence and a reopening of the case to the full grand jury. In a letter to McNeil, Herbert Robinson said that the panel found "there was not sufficient, credible information presented in this matter to warrant an investigation by the Grand Jury." According to the *Commercial Appeal* of December 19th, the Gibbons-Campbell task force will continue to work on leads in the case.

### Death by Media

If this inquiry is now, for all intents and purposes, dead, it will be in no small part due to the role of the mainstream media. The *New York Times* apparently decided to go after Dexter King. Dexter was the member of the slain leader's family who most openly allied himself with Pepper. He also met with Ray last spring in a nationally televised meeting on CNN. He also appeared on many talk shows pushing the conspiracy angle in the King case and the need for a new trial for Ray. In a syndicated story that was published by many papers in mid-August, *Times* reporter Kevin Sack attacked the King family for not doing more to promote MLK's legacy of civil rights activism. Sack wrote that the family was preparing "to transform King's legacy into a financial empire." (This refers to a proposed deal between the King family and Time-Warner over intellectual property rights to King's speeches and images.) Sack honed in on Dexter's role in this as the new executor of MLK's estate. He also attacked Dexter for backing Pepper's book and the British based attorney's efforts to free Ray.

This attack was followed up by a similar article by Curtis Wilkie in the December issue of *George*. Wilkie works for the *Boston Globe*, which was recently bought by the *New York Times*. His article was a longer, harsher version of Sack's. Wilkie criticized Dexter for meeting with Ray on national television in the following terms:

Once revered as the last blood link to the civil rights prophet, the King family has seen its credibility shaken by its blessing of Ray. Yet the alliance with *the killer* is just the latest in a series of audacious moves that 36 year old Dexter King has made since taking over the family's power base.... (Emphasis added)

Wilkie's bias is clear from the above italicized words. If he granted the probability that Ray was innocent, he could not then make the blanket charges he needs to frame his hit piece. Eliminating the bias, overkill, and spurious lamentation for a lost legacy, the rest of Wilkie's article comes down to three main points: 1) The King family, especially Dexter, was taken in by Pepper's book; 2) Dexter has decided to make money from the failing Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change; and 3) Dexter has concentrated power in his hands by forcing some of the Center's elder board members to resign.

Most of the people who read this journal know that Wilkie's first point is dubious. Whatever the faults in Pepper's book, he did raise some interesting points that merit consideration, and he did win a symbolic acquittal of Ray in the only legal forum he ever had: HBO's 1993 mock trial. Concerning Wilkie's second point, the King Center, by Wilkie's own account it was not doing very well before Dexter took over. If Dexter wants to sell his father's papers to a large college library, why not? They would be better cared for there and better organized by a professional archivist, which the Center can't afford. Wilkie's third point is partly related to the second. Some of the people on the Board stemmed from King's sixties generation of civil rights activism, which really doesn't exist anymore. The Center has not been all that successful with them and Dexter and his siblings don't see themselves as emulating their father, which is their prerogative. It is doubtful that any leader in America could today do what King did in his brief career. Certainly, John F. Kennedy Jr., the guiding light behind George understands that fact.

The *New York Times* also carried an article about another media force lurking amid the dying embers of the once hopeful King case. In an August 20th article noting the dispute between Colton and Joe Brown, the *Times* mentioned that Gerald Posner was in Memphis working on a book for Random House about the King assassination. In a peculiarly insightful way, Posner may have made a valuable comment to the *Times*: "The judges are not just arguing over local issues, but over who will control the enduring historical record of this combustible and unpredictable case." If one considers what Brown was attempting to do early last year versus what has happened since,

the "combustible historical record" of the King case seems pretty much a dying flame.

But fireman Posner won't have much help from the Ray brothers in stamping out this one. In an exchange of letters published on the JFK Lancer web site ([www.jfklancer.com](http://www.jfklancer.com)), Posner approached James Earl Ray about an interview for his upcoming book. In the very same disingenuous way he approached subjects for his JFK whitewash *Case Closed*, Posner assumed the role of the disinterested observer who would follow the evidence wherever it would lead. The Ray brothers were not falling for it. Jerry Ray wrote Posner on August 21st

**Whatever the forces behind these new twists, Judge Brown has now effectively joined the ranks of Jim Garrison and Richard Sprague as those too passionate in their efforts to find the truth about the assassinations of the sixties.**

that he and his brother would not cooperate with Posner. Jerry Ray wrote that if Posner needed some help in writing his kind of book, he should interview people at the FBI, the Justice Department, Robert Blakey, Louis Stokes (former chairman of the HSCA), and King biographer Dave Garrow. He told Posner he could give him the name of additional "slime balls" (Ray's phrase) to speak to upon request.

Meanwhile, James Earl Ray's condition continues to weaken. In October, he was sent to Columbia Nashville Memorial Hospital in serious condition. This was his eighth visit in the last year. Ray is dying of cirrhosis of the liver. Tennessee hospitals have refused to consider him as a transplant candidate because of his age (69), and prison officials refuse to pay for an out of state operation. He has been approved for a liver transplant at the University of Pittsburgh, but can't be placed on a waiting list until he makes a payment of \$278,000. Because of this, Pepper and King family friend Rev. James Lawson are trying to raise money through a fund supporting this

cause. See the box at the end of this article for information.

But all is not gloom. To use a suitable cliché, hope, in the form of Oliver Stone, springs eternal. In the October issue of *Icon* magazine, Stone was pictured on the cover. Near the end of the long profile of the embattled movie director, the following tantalizing sentence appeared: "He's planning on returning to a political subject in the near future—the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr." The *New York Times* (11/23/97) mentioned that Stone had been to Memphis and has a project in development called *MLK*. So if Posner, as expected, douses the sparks, perhaps Stone's film will reignite the combustion.

Still, the sad spectacle chronicled above cries out for explication. What was John Colton's motivation? Why did Roberts and Colton spring their surprise on Brown while he was on vacation? Did their agenda coincide with that of Campbell and Gibbons? Why did Brown walk away from the case? Why did Roberts, as Ray's lawyer, try to pursue the case in Colton's court when the jurisdictional matter had been decided in Brown's favor twice already? Does McNeil really find Beverly Oliver credible? Did Pepper fall for two deceptions: Captain William Eidson's "death", and the Grabow/ Cheryl association with Raoul? Why did Pepper not temporarily move to Memphis to be sure no internecine feuds could wreck the opportunity of a lifetime? If Dexter King truly wishes to see a new trial, why did he not finance another round of test fires which would have helped keep Judge Brown on the case?

Future historians of King, and his assassination, have these and more questions to sift through in order to explain the most recent reversal in the King chronicles. Whatever the forces behind these new twists, Judge Brown has now effectively joined the ranks of Jim Garrison and Richard Sprague as those too passionate in their efforts to find the truth about the assassinations of the sixties.

Meanwhile, with Brown out of the picture, the Gerald Posner version awaits. But this time, Oliver Stone may have the last word. ♦

### James Earl Ray Fund

Anyone interested in contributing should write the following address:

Rev. James Lawson Holman  
United Methodist Church  
3320 W. Adams Blvd.  
Los Angeles CA 90018

# Tippit

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new transcript reports the Tippit murder by Bowley at 1:19 PM, nine minutes later than in the original. In the original transcript, when Bowley is reporting the shooting to the dispatcher, an unknown person in the background said "No. 78, squad car #10" This unknown person was familiar enough with police terminology to refer to Tippit as number 78 and his car as a "squad car." The new transcript, as created by the Bureau, identified the unknown person in the background, as the "citizen" and "dispatcher." How this FBI agent was able to listen to the voice of one unknown person and divide that conversation into the citizen (Bowley) and the dispatcher has not been explained. The Commission used the items in the new transcript to certify that Oswald now had enough time to go from the rooming house to 10th and Patton and shoot Tippit.

## Strange Evidence

The empty shells obtained and initialed by Officer Poe at the scene of Tippit's murder were apparently not the same shells the Warren Commission held as evidence. When the Commission's shells were shown to Poe months later, he could not find and identify the marks he remembered making. Two .38 Remington-Peters and two .38 Winchester-Western hulls were found. But only one Remington-Peters slug and three Winchester-Western slugs were removed from Tippit's body. The .38 revolver taken from Oswald had been rechambered (slightly enlarged) to accept .38 Special cartridges. When discharged through a rechambered weapon, .38 Special cartridges "bulge" in the middle and are noticeably "fatter" than cartridges fired in an unchambered revolver. The empty cartridges, found in the National Archives, appear normal in size, indicating that they were fired in an original .38 revolver—not in a rechambered revolver such as the one taken from Harvey Oswald at the Texas Theater. The revolver taken from Oswald at the Texas Theater was not the gun used to kill Tippit. The Warren Commission tells us that Oswald ordered the .38 pistol from Seaport Traders in Los Angeles, via REA Express. But they have never explained how REA Express delivered the pistol C.O.D. to P.O. Box 2915 in Dallas. Who would deliver a gun C.O.D. to a post office box? Who paid REA? How were they paid? Who signed for the delivery? These riddles have yet to be answered.

## A Question of Shirts

The Warren Commission did not ask Butch Burroughs what time "Oswald" snuck into the

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# BOOKSHELF



## On the Kennedys

### ***Mutual Contempt Lyndon Johnson, Robert Kennedy, and the Fued that Defined a Decade***

by Jeff Shesol  
W.W. Norton and Company

Excellent chronicle of the last year's of Bobby Kennedy's life, and his gripping feud with Lyndon Johnson. Strongly recommended.

### ***The Kennedy Tapes Inside the White House During the Cuban Missile Crisis***

By Ernest May and Philip Zelikow  
Belknap Press of  
Harvard University Press

Probably the most detailed description of what went on in the White House during the Missile Crisis, based on newly released tapes of the ExComm meetings. Makes JFK look even better than we thought he was.

### ***Robert Kennedy Brother Protector***

By James W. Hilty  
Temple University Press

Chronicle of the cooperation between JFK and his brother during the White House years.

## Video

### ***Waco: The Rules of Engagement***

Directed by William Gazecki  
Produced by Somford Entertainment in Los Angeles.

This unflinching and gripping film based largely on actual congressional hearings intercut with rare footage of the ATF/FBI actions will shock and amaze. The film can be attained by calling 310-289-3900. Highly recommended.

## On the Assassination

### ***Assassination Science***

(Excerpted in this issue)  
Edited by James Fetzter  
Catfeet Press  
a Division of Carus Publishing,  
315 Fifth St.  
P. O. Box 300  
Peru, IL 61354-0300

### ***Bloody Treason***

(To be excerpted in an upcoming issue)  
By Noel Twyman  
Laurel Publishing,  
P. O. Box 87 5128,  
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

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# Notebook

## The "C" Word Again

Last issue we discussed Daniel Pipes' book *Conspiracy: How the Paranoid Style Flourishes and Where It Comes From*. All one needs to know about it is that Gerald Posner wrote a blurb for it. Yet, surprisingly (or not) *The Washington Monthly* in its November issue gave the book a good review. This publication is another of the supposed liberal magazines that, on second glance, isn't so liberal. For example, they didn't like *JFK* and they think that Alger Hiss was guilty. But actually, it's worse than that. How did editor Charlie Peters ensure that Pipes' book would be well received? He stacked the deck. The reviewer was Chris Buckley, son of former CIA officer Bill Buckley. Buckley reveals a couple of interesting things in his generally silly review. First, the lawyer that drew up the incorporation documents for his father's magazine, *National Review*, was CIA Director William Casey. And, as suspected, Daniel Pipes is the son of Richard Pipes, former White House adviser on the Soviet Union to Ronald Reagan. It appears the Pipes family is selective about its conspiracies. Joe McCarthy and the giant communist conspiracy to control the world is OK; but Oswald killed JFK and if you don't think so, it's because of lefties like Mark Lane and Jim Garrison. Interestingly, the younger Pipes does not tell the reader that Richard is his father. Perhaps because we may think he has an agenda? But then what's Charlie Peters' excuse?

## The Perils of Scott Enyart

When we last left Scott Enyart (Vol. 4 Nos. 1 & 2), he had won his jury trial against LAPD and the judge was angry at defense attorney Louis "Skip" Miller for speaking with a juror before the verdict was in. Miller appealed so Scott could not collect his cash award. Now it turns out that the Court Clerk has lost his record of the trial. This includes everything beyond the actual transcript of testimony i.e. sidebars, meeting in chambers etc. It also includes the airing of misconduct charges against Miller. The city now wants more time to try and reassemble the record somehow. This of course delays the time for Scott to be paid and since Scott paid much of the lawyer's fees himself, he is losing money. It will also make it tougher to defend against the appeal, since the questionable acts of Miller are now apparently lost. Make no mistake about it. The RFK case is still a live wire and only the tip of the iceberg is visible during the unbelievable Enyart case.

## MONGOOSE Lives

Due to ARRB releases (to be discussed later in *Probe*) and Sy Hersh's book, much about John Kennedy's Cuba policy has been on display in the press lately. Much of the coverage seems distorted. Many commentators seem to think the covert actions against Cuba were the Kennedys' private obsession. Then how does one explain the recent violence against Cuba? In mid-November the *Miami Herald* ran a series of articles revealing that longtime CIA operative Luis Posada funded a series of raids and bombings by Salvadoran criminals against Castro's regime in 1997. The same month, the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* revealed that four Cuban exiles were captured off the coast of Puerto Rico on suspicion of shipping arms into Cuba in a Castro murder plot.

Since they were arraigned in an American court, the judge, a man named Juan Perez, freed them on bail. Yet, at a November trial in Havana, another American terrorist plotting against Cuba was sentenced to 15 years in jail. The man, Walter Van der Veer was a member of Comandos L, a militant Cuban exile group based in Miami. Meanwhile, on December 18th, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that a federal judge in Miami had decided that the families of the pilots shot down over Cuba in February 1996 are entitled to damages. Judge James L. King decided that the planes piloted by the exile group Brothers to the Rescue were not inside Cuban air space (surprise). Therefore, Castro exhibited "outrageous contempt for international law and basic human rights." The three families were asking for 79 million. King thought that was kind of cheap. He granted an award of 200 million. Unfortunately, Cuba—which did not recognize King's jurisdiction—does not have that much in frozen U.S. assets. But if we know Bill Clinton, he'll scrape together quite a considerable sum. But remember, as Sy Hersh and his CIA pals tell us, Cuba was the Kennedy brothers' private vendetta. That's why the vendetta is still continuing 30 years after they were both murdered.

## The Drug Trade Triumphs

On December 18th, the *Los Angeles Times* reported on a leaked version of the CIA's long awaited report on the charges leveled against that agency by Gary Webb's 1996 three part series in the *San Jose Mercury News*. That series triggered an uproar by the establishment that ended up with *Mercury News* editor Jerry Ceppos finally crying uncle. In the face of an attack by the major newspapers (*New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*) Ceppos first exiled Webb to a beat 100 miles from his home and then got rid of him. With the newspapers all rushing to bail out the Agency, the still-secret report concludes that Webb's charges are "without foundation." (Yawn). The media bannered this across front pages without revealing the evidence in the report to the public. Meanwhile, a November 10th report by the White House stated that Americans spent 57.5 billion dollars on illegal drugs in 1995. No newspaper made any connection between the two events. If that much contraband can make it into the country undetected, then what are we paying billions in law enforcement for? Meanwhile, Webb is writing a book. It should be a doozy.

## Castro and the Mob? C'mon!

A few issues ago, (Vol. 4 #5), we reported on the 6/29/97 A&E special which featured Jack Anderson postulating that the Mafia, in cahoots with Castro assassinated President Kennedy. This was so bizarre we thought no one could take it seriously, especially in light of new documents showing that Castro conducted reconstructions trying to figure out how the assassination happened. Well, after Sy Hersh and ABC did their bit to falsify history, syndicated columnist George Anne Geyer picked up this bone. In a December 8th column she deduces from Hersh's outline that Castro conspired with Sam Giancana to kill Kennedy. This is just after Giancana has plotted with the CIA to kill Castro. And we thought Fidel was a smart guy. Hersh's book and Anderson's special, was meant to sow this kind of disinformation. And Hersh's buddy, Bob Loomis isn't done. Loomis' former boss at Random House, Harold Evans sponsored Max Holland's upcoming panegyric for the *Warren Report*. Evans is married to Tina Brown, editor of the *New Yorker*, where Hersh used to work. Brown's magazine published one of the very few positive reviews of Hersh's book. I'll stop there. Daniel Pipes might put me in the expanded version of his book.

# Tippit

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balcony nor what time he sold "Oswald" popcorn (1:15 PM). Jack Davis was not interviewed by the Warren Commission. He could have told them Oswald (man in brown shirt) was sitting next to him before 1:20 PM. On November 22nd not a single person who saw Oswald before, during or after Tippit's shooting described him as wearing a brown shirt. Witnesses said he wore a "white T-shirt and a white or light-colored jacket." There was no mention of a brown shirt by Johnny Brewer for two weeks; by Sam Guinyard for three months; by Julia Postal until February 29, 1964. The jacket found under the Oldsmobile at the Texaco Station was made in the U.S. (the label read "created in California by Maurice Holman"); yet Marina said Oswald owned only two jackets—both purchased in Russia. Marina was never asked about this contradiction. Neither Westbrook nor FBI Agent Barrett were questioned by the Warren Commission about Oswald's driver's license.

Some witnesses identified the man in police custody as Tippit's killer, some did not. Laurel Kitrell—long time employee of the Texas Employment Commission—had the opportunity to interview both two "Lee Oswald's" in October, 1963 and recognized they were different people. She said they were "very similar in appearance, but different." Witnesses saw someone resembling Lee Oswald (white shirt, flush face, black hair) briefly before, during, and after the Tippit murder. When they saw Harvey (brown shirt, brown hair) in the police lineup, they may have mistaken him for Lee.

This is what I think happened to Tippit and Harvey Oswald. What about Lee? At 2:00 PM, while Harvey was in police custody, someone matching Lee's description was seen driving west on Davis Street in a car as seen by T. F. White. Lee was seen twelve hours later at the Lucas B & B Restaurant (two doors from Ruby's Vegas Club) with Jack Ruby. Head waitress Mary Lawrence was well acquainted with Ruby—she had known him eight years. She reported seeing Oswald and Ruby together

early in the morning (1:30 AM) of November 23rd, following the assassination. Two days later she received an anonymous phone call. A male voice said "If you don't want to die, you'd better leave town."

Did Lee Oswald and Tippit know each other? Was Tippit involved? They were seen at the Dobbs House on November 20th and the Top Ten Record Store on the morning of November 22nd. Tippit was at the GLOCO Station when Oswald's (Harvey) cab crossed the Houston St. Viaduct. Tippit spoke to and was possibly shot by "Lee Oswald." License plates from the car of Tippit's close friend, Carl Mather, may have been seen on a car driven by Lee Oswald shortly after the assassination. There are either a lot of Oswald/Tippit coincidences or Tippit was somehow involved.

Who was the unidentified FBI agent who made numerous changes to the police broadcast? Did people within the Dallas Police Department participate in a cover-up of the Tippit murder? Were they aware of two "Oswalds"? Who changed the time of Tippit's murder from 1:10 PM to 1:19 PM on DPD police broadcasts? What happened to Oswald's driver's license? We know a Lee Oswald showed a Texas driver's license to Fred Moore at the Jiffy Store on Industrial Blvd on the morning of November 22nd. Dallas Police Captain Westbrook reportedly found Oswald's driver's license at the scene of the Tippit murder later that afternoon. Detective Paul Bentley, when interviewed on WFFA TV on Saturday, November 23rd, said "there was a Dallas Public Library card. He had other identification such

as a driver's license and credit cards, things like that in his wallet" (credit cards for Oswald?) Why was the license not listed on police inventory reports? How did the license get from the scene of Tippit's murder to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)? A Texas driver's license belonging to Lee Oswald turned up at the DPS the following week. Aletha Frair, and 6 employees of the DPS saw and handled Oswald's driver's license. It was dirty and worn as though it had been carried in a billfold. Mrs. Lee Bozarth (employee of DPS) stated that she knew from direct personal experience there was a Texas driver's license file for Lee Harvey Oswald. The DPS file had been pulled shortly after the assassination. Who pulled Oswald's file from the DPS? What happened to this file and driver's license? Lt. E.L. Cunningham, Detective E.E. Taylor, Detective John Toney, and patrolman C.F. Bentley were directed to search all of the people in the balcony and list their names and addresses. What happened to that list? Why were none of these officers questioned about their knowledge of such a list? Why are there no police or FBI interviews of the theater patrons? Why were Lt. Cunningham and Det. Toney not asked about the man they questioned in the balcony? Why was Bernard Haire, who saw the police take a man from the rear of the theater, never interviewed by the FBI nor asked to testify before the Warren Commission or the HSCA? Why was Captain Talbert not asked about the man he questioned in the alley behind the theater? Why was neither T. F. White nor Carl Mather questioned by the Warren Commission? When finally questioned by the HSCA 15 years later, why did Carl Mather insist on being granted immunity before he testified? Why is his testimony still classified? Why do police reports state that Oswald was arrested in the balcony? Why does Sheriff Decker's file list the assailant's name as "Harvey Lee Oswald"?

Because these questions, although unanswered, have a common thread. These questions—if properly answered—could expose a government agency's creation, manipulation, and control of both Harvey and Lee Oswald. That agency is the CIA.

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