

# The Insider

## Politics



Edward Jay Epstein:  
The phantom blockbuster

Beginning in its March issue, *The Reader's Digest* will start a new and startling assassination series from the world's best investigative journalists. Edward Jay Epstein's *Ultimate Assassin: The Secret Life of Lee Harvey Oswald* will be the first to follow in a *Book of the Month Club* distribution and is expected to be a major bestseller. *The Digest* certainly hopes so; it spent

*Book of the Month Club News*

## The Ultimate Assassination Book: A Story to Make Your Eyes Roll

500 G's researching the story. Epstein was assisted in its preparation by two full-time researchers and—at 15 cents a page—ordered most of the 250,000 pages of the Warren Commission documents housed in the National Archives. He traveled to Mexico, reportedly to meet with Uri Nazenko, a KGB agent who returned to the U.S. with the Soviet Oswald file soon after the Kennedy shooting; to Hong Kong to talk to former CIA chief Richard Helms; to Japan; to Dallas.

*Reader's Digest* managing editor Fulton Oursler set up an interview for Epstein with George DeMouronschidt in West Palm Beach, Florida, last March. DeMouronschidt was promised \$1,800 a day for a manuscript of four days of writing by Epstein, but committed suicide the second day.

According to various sources, this is the heart of



Jack Ruby: As He Was

Epstein's thesis: Lee Harvey Oswald was sent by the CIA to a Russian-language school in Monterey, California, then to Japan with the Marines and then on to the U.S.S.R.



Jack Ruby: As He Is

There, Oswald posed as a double agent for the KGB, passing on information to the Soviets about our U.S. rights to enhance his turgid credibility. Epstein also, allegedly, suggests that the KGB plotted with the Cuban intelligence agency to assassinate JFK.

Epstein's explanation of Oswald's motives for spying in the DeSaturated Matrix is delectable but a little over 22 hours of the assassination, he reports, the CIA and the KGB sought each other out to arrange to off Oswald. Apparently, communication between the two agencies was not as good as it could be.

Then—and it all gets a little to swallow at this point—the CIA contacted Ruby and asked if he'd shoot Oswald. As for Ruby, instead of some assassination, explaining is reasonable enough, that he didn't want to spend the rest of his life in jail—no sense, he'd swear, and the Commission would help you simulate the murder, then death, and after wards, slip you to a safe haven.

So, it is said, Ruby agreed, left jail for a hospital, was ultimately declared dead, and watched the world mark his passing while the CIA substituted another body for information. In other words, Ruby lives. And if that's true, Epstein will have no trouble passing off his book for \$12.95 on 3/24/68. But it couldn't be true. It could not be true. It couldn't.

## Brown, Chavez Splitsville Over Grower-Geared Farm Board Choice

The strong political alliance between California Governor Jerry Brown and Cesar Chavez, head of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW), is beginning to break down. Long considered a key to any Brown presidential challenge in 1976, Chavez is now pulling back from the governor, whose administration, he claims, has allowed the state's farm labor law to work in the interests of the state's powerful growers.

Passed and signed in 1975, the farm labor law is the proudest and most touted Brown accomplishment, useful in selling the governor's

work to liberals disgruntled with Sacramento's increasingly conservative drift. But Chavez and other union leaders see Brown's appointment of San Jose attorney Harry DiLizzonna as chief counsel to the state's Agricultural Labor Relations Board as a threat to the UFW's sway over California's estimated 360,000 farm laborers.

Chavez says slings of unfair labor practices against several growers—including harassment of illegal aliens and refusal to bargain after union election victories—have been hurtled by the

board, cutting the 30,000 workers represented by the UFW to go without union contracts. Chavez says the situation could become critical because the union needs to triple its present membership to "make it into the future."

"DiLizzonna may be working for the growers the way he acts," says a peeved Chavez. "He's a terrible appointment." Chavez insists he won't endorse Brown in his reelection bid, despite the pro-diffusion of the governor's probable opponents toward prostrating themselves at the boots of the big growers.

—Joel K. Klein