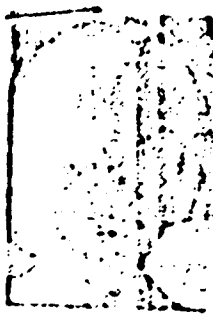


HARRIET VAN HORNE



Doubts About Dallas

IT HAS always seemed to be that the conspiracy theory of history makes its strongest appeal to the weak-minded. I refuse to believe that some plumed and belted early wrote Shakespeare's plays. I decline to accept that gypsy crone, who calls herself Anastasia, as the daughter of the Czar.

Such notions are, of course, revealed truth to people who know there are hordes of Communists in the State Department and armadas of flying saucers Out There. I sit in the skeptic's corner. That's why I am astonished to find myself somewhat troubled by the recent spate of writings, here and abroad, suggesting that Lee Harvey Oswald may not have been the assassin of President Kennedy.

These writings, let me say quickly, are not conclusive in any sense. But they do cast certain doubts on the official case against Oswald.

A dramatic piece of evidence—again, inconclusive—was the photograph reproduced in the weekend papers. Taken at the very instant the President lurched forward in his car, the photo showed a dimly familiar figure in the doorway of the Texas Schoolbook Depository. Enlarged several times, the figure bears a marked resemblance to Oswald. Was it he? If so, how could he have been, at the same moment, six flights above the street firing a rifle?

If we are to believe the FBI, the man in the doorway was another employee of the depository, a man who rejoices in the name Billy Lovelady.

From the day of the assassination, a considerable body of opinion in Europe has inclined toward the conspiracy theory. One of the most talked-about books in England is "Who Killed Kennedy?" by an American expatriate, Thomas Buchanan.

Buchanan's main theses are not new. But they remind me again of how very touchy the FBI has been in its brief, almost noncommittal replies to the inevitable questions.

Because there were five bullets (Buchanan insists) and because one apparently entered Kennedy's throat from the front, he feels there must have been two assassins.

Buchanan's conclusion: Right-wing, oil-rich Dallas hired left-wing, dirt-poor Oswald to do the awful deed, then supplied a second killer in case Oswald weakened or missed the

Mr. Tolson	/
Mr. DeLoach	/
Mr. Mohr	/
Mr. Bishop	/
Mr. Casper	/
Mr. Callahan	/
Mr. Conrad	/
Mr. Felt	/
Mr. Gale	/
Mr. Rosen	/
Mr. Sullivan	/
Mr. Tavel	/
Mr. Trotter	/
Tele. Room	/
Miss Holmes	/
Miss Gandy	/

What do we know of this Van Horne character?

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and THE SUN
New York, New York
May 26, 1964
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M.A. Jones to DeLoach
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"What do we know about this Van Horne character?" See 73

A more scholarly case has been marshalled by a Canadian, a former Rhodes scholar now teaching sociology at Berkeley. Prof. Mordechai Brienberg says in *The Spectator* (a slim but influential British weekly), that District Attorney Wade changed his statements on half a dozen crucial points. He takes the official version of Oswald's movements after leaving the warehouse and demolishes it, step by step.

Brienberg also finds it odd that the doctors who worked so valiantly on Kennedy have not been forbidden to discuss the case, particularly since, he says, their report cannot be reconciled with police reports.

In his meticulous way, the professor finds it significant that Oswald had in his possession the private phone number of the FBI official in charge of "subversives" in Dallas. "This information is not obtainable from the Dallas phone directory," he writes. "Moreover, the agent had contacted Oswald several times before the assassination." Could Oswald, he seems to be asking, have worked as an informer for the FBI?

Whatever the merits of these writings, the question of who killed Kennedy will doubtless be argued by historians still unborn. As citizens, the aspects of the case we should find most troubling are the ineptitudes of the Dallas police, the carelessness of the Secret Service and the arrogant, above-the-fray attitude of the FBI. In a democracy there is no place for "secret police," however holy their reputation.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson	✓
Belmont	✓
Mohr	✓
DeLoach	✓
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
DeLoach	✓
Evans	
Gale	
Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 5-27-64

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: HARRIET VAN HORNE
CRITICISM OF FBI
NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM AND THE SUN
DATED MAY 26, 1964

BACKGROUND:

Captioned individual in her column of May 26, 1964, entitled "Doubts About Dallas" refers to recent writings about the assassination of President Kennedy. In referring to historical writings in general she states she is a skeptic and refers to some of the recent news stories about Lee Harvey Oswald and the doubt that has been expressed by some that he is the assassin. Miss Van Horne refers to the rumors and erroneous stories already discredited by the FBI such as the recently released photograph allegedly showing an individual who resembled Oswald in the doorway of the Texas Schoolbook Depository at the time President Kennedy was shot; there were five bullets involved in the assassination, some of the shots coming from in front of President Kennedy; Oswald was working as an informant for the FBI. Miss Van Horne claims these questions will be argued by historians for years and refers to the ineptitudes of the Dallas Police Department and the Secret Service and the "arrogant, above-the-fray attitude of the FBI. In a democracy there is no place for 'secret police,' however holy their reputation."

INFORMATION IN BUREAU FILES:

Harriet Lowe

According to the current edition of "Who's Who of American Women," Harriet Van Horne was born 5-17-20 at Syracuse, New York. She received a B. A. degree from the University of Rochester in 1940. She is married to David Lowe. She is a television critic and columnist with the New York World Telegram and the Sun where she has been employed since 1942. She has also been associated with the Scripps-Howard Newspapers as a TV columnist since 1962. She is a free-lance magazine writer and is a frequent panelist on radio and television. She resides in New York City.

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According to the current issue of "Celebrity Register," Harriet Van Horne has made news several times with her columns; a parody of an Ed Sullivan column regarding Cardinal Spellman which was later pulled from the paper; her columns on Margaret Truman's singing, one of which stated "She got her best reception when the audience was entirely members of a ladies Democratic club."

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Rosen

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JUN 18 1964

M. A. Jones to DeLoach Memo
RE: Harriet Van Horne

Bureau files reveal only three references to Miss Van Horne. In 1958 one of her television columns referred to the television industry's efforts to improve television programs. In connection with violence on television she referred to typical letters she had received from TV viewers one of whom referred to the Director as stating that some types of television programs are unhealthy entertainment and a contributing factor to juvenile delinquency. The two other references deal with her name being mentioned during our investigation of subjects of Bureau cases who referred to her radio or television column but there was no indication that Harriet Van Horne was associated with these individuals.

A check of the New York indices today failed to disclose any pertinent references to Miss Van Horne.

Richard D. Peters, Editor of the New York World-Telegram and the Sun, is on the Special Correspondents' List and we have had cordial relations with him and his newspaper. Last outgoing correspondence to him was 5-13-64 in connection with the Director's 40th Anniversary.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

Suggest I talk with
Walker Stone re this
woman -
JMN 7/5/68 ↑
Moss.
Kearney