

ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE
New Orleans

September 20 - 24, 1968

Participants:

Jim Garrison, DA, New Orleans;
Bill Doxley, DA's staff, ex-CIA;
Jim Alessi, DA's staff
Bill Turner, Life magazine, former FBI;
Richard Sprague, photography expert, Hartsdale, New York;
Bernard Fensterwald, Washington, D.C.

With the enthusiastic agreement of all present, approximately fifteen or twenty hours of conversations were taped; and they are now being transcribed for distribution to the participants and others concerned. It was agreed that a transcription would be very valuable as too much transpired at the meetings for anyone to absorb at the time.

There was a great deal of discussion of all three (Kennedy, King, Kennedy) assassinations; there was probably more discussion of JFK, but almost as much on King; there was less on RFK because we had much less knowledge.

There was general consensus that there are a number of "ties" between the three assassinations. For example, there would appear to be a common motive involved. There are certain threats against at least two of the people by the same individuals. Additionally, there are "geographical" ties; i.e., Mexico and Canada.

As to the JFK assassination, we made remarkable progress in three specific directions:

- (1) We were able to pinpoint and identify any probable participants in and around Dealey Plaza.
- (2) We tentatively concluded that there were at least two persons using the identity of Lee Harvey Oswald during the period 1959 - 1963.

If we are correct, many puzzles have been cleared up; This is a considerable extension beyond the theory of a part-time "false Oswald".

(3) We eliminated what would appear to be a number of false leads and agreed to concentrate in a relatively few areas which looked particularly productive.

As to the King assassination, there was a general feeling that there is a massive flim-flam in process. Richard Sprague and his associates have done a tremendous amount of work on this matter. There is considerable doubt as to exactly who is in jail in Memphis, as no one outside of the "authorities" has been permitted to see, talk with, photograph, or fingerprint the prisoner. The antics of the judge and defense attorney are particularly suspicious. It seems doubtful that the prisoner (whoever he is) is much more liable to get to trial than did Lee Harvey Oswald.

There had been re-current rumors from New Orleans that Jim Garrison was in bad shape, physically and/or mentally. Despite a recent hernia operation, he appeared to be in good physical condition and, as the tapes will show, is in excellent mental health. He is "very much on the top of the situation" although very dubious that he will ever be permitted by the Federal government to bring Clay Shaw to trial.

Garrison's attitude toward the meeting was most interesting. Several times he volunteered how helpful the exchange of ideas and information was and hoped that we would be able to meet again very soon. It is our plan to meet again in November.

Forsterwald suggested the formation of a national group to study the assassinations and this suggestion was greeted with much enthusiasm by all present, especially Garrison. Garrison had two distinct reasons for wishing to join the project:

(1) There is no "heir" to his investigation if anything happens to it; and (2) a parallel investigation will draw some of the fire from him. He said that he would either go on the Board of the new organization or stay off, depending on what would be most helpful. Fensterwald said that he thought it would be helpful to have him on, as his absence would be clearly marked.

It is Fensterwald's tentative plan to organize a non-profit corporation in the District of Columbia entitled "Corporation to Investigate Assassinations". The following experts would be invited to become members of the Board of Directors:

Darnard Fensterwald
Jim Garrison
Bill Turner
Richard Sprague
Marcus Backin
Richard Poplin
Fred Cook
Vincent Calandria
Ray Marcus

Additionally, we are anxious to have a few "big names" and the following names are suggested, if available:

Eugene McCarthy
Archbishop Cushing
Jim Fite
Edward Bennett Williams

It would be helpful if we could get one or two prominent but moderate Negroes. In addition to the Board of Directors, we would invite almost every "expert in the country" to become an associate or consultant to the corporation. This list is much too long to name at this time. The only prominent expert to be included would be Edward Epstein.