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FOR THE AUSTRALIAN (REFER JAMES HALL)

EX PIERS AKERMAN

ASSASSIN ONE

A FEW MONTHS AN IRREGULAR COMMITTEE OF DEDICATED MEN MEETS IN A LITTLE-USED OFFICE AT WASHINGTON'S GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY TO CONTINUE THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION INTO THE THREE ASSASSINATIONS AND ONE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF U.S. POLITICS IN THE PAST ELEVEN YEARS.

THE BAND OF VOLUNTEERS, FORMED TO PRESS INQUIRIES INTO THE ASSASSINATIONS BEYOND THE POINT AT WHICH THE OFFICIAL PROBES STOPPED, IS UNIQUE IN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE.

FORMED IN 1966 BY ENERGETIC WASHINGTON ATTORNEY BERNARD (BUDD) FENSTERWALD, THE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS CONTINUES TO DIG FOR FRESH FACTS, PULL THE MOUNTAINS OF MATERIAL TOGETHER AND PUSH FOR THE RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION STILL HELD BY UNCOOPERATIVE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

LAST NOVEMBER MARKED THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, SIX YEARS AGO IN APRIL MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS SHOT, AND SIX YEARS AGO IN JUNE ROBERT KENNEDY WAS MURDERED. GOVERNOR GEORGE WALLACE MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVED THE ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE MADE IN MAY, 1972.

"WE KNOW THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY INVOLVED IN THE DEATH OF JOHN KENNEDY, THERE IS EVERY EVIDENCE THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY IN ROBERT KENNEDY'S DEATH AND WE BELIEVE THAT WHILE MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS POSSIBLY MURDERED BY SINGLE ASSASSIN THERE WERE PROBABLY OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE PLOT," FENSTERWALD ADMITS SINCERELY.

"EVEN GOVERNOR WALLACE HAS SAID HE BELIEVES THERE WERE OTHERS INVOLVED IN THE ATTEMPT UPON HIM.

"BUT SINCE THE WARREN COMMISSION THERE HAS BEEN A HISTORY OF A MASSIVE COVER-UP WHICH HAS BLANKETED ALL THE INFORMATION STILL HELD BY THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATIVE BODIES."

THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATIONS HAVE ATTRACTED NEW INTEREST FROM THE U.S. PUBLIC SINCE THE REVELATIONS OF WATERGATE AND THE NEW FACTS THAT HAVE BECOME KNOWN ABOUT THE MURKY ROLE PLAYED

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ASSASSIN TWO

ASIDE FROM FENSTERWALD, OTHERS ON THE COMMITTEE INCLUDE PROFESSOR RICHARD POPKIN, WHO DEVELOPED SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE OF TWO 'OSWALDS' IN BALLS, FORMER FBI AGENT WILLIAM TURNER, RICHARD SPARGUE, A COMPUTER AND PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPERT, FLETCHER PROUTY, A FORMER U.S. AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, AND WRITERS FRED CLYX AND PARIS PLANNONDE.

FENSTERWALD IS A FORMER AIDE TO THE LATE SENATORS ESTES KEFAUVER AND HOMAS HERRINGS AND WAS A COUNSEL TO FORMER SENATOR EDWARD LONG'S COMMITTEE ON THE INVASION OF PRIVACY.

IRONICALLY, IT WAS A LEAK OF INFORMATION BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE THAT SWEARED SENATOR LONG'S COMMITTEE BY GIVING THE LONG-DISTANCE IMPRESSION THAT THE SENATOR WAS TRYING TO ASSIST THE THEN IMPRISONED TEAMSTER CHIEF, JAMES HOFFA, SINCE RELEASED BY PRESIDENT NIXON.

FOLLOWING THE ATTACK REPORTED BY LIFE MAGAZINE, SENATOR LONG'S POLITICAL CAREER WAS AT AN END, HE WAS DEFEATED FOR RE-ELECTION IN 1966, AND FENSTERWALD WENT INTO PRIVATE PRACTICE AND DEVOTED HIS ENERGIES LARGELY TO AN INVESTIGATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION.

THE SCION OF A WEALTHY NASHVILLE MERCHANT FAMILY, AND A GRADUATE FROM THE HARVARD LAW SCHOOL MAGNA CUM LAUDE, HE WAS THE IDEAL PERSON TO LEND CREDIBILITY TO THE ASSASSINATION DUFFS WHO HAD BEEN CONDUCTING THEIR OWN INFORMAL STUDIES OF THE ASSASSINATION.

IN WASHINGTON HE JOINED RANKS WITH JOSIAH THOMPSON, A HAVERFORD COLLEGE PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR, WHO WROTE THE BOOK 'SIX SECONDS IN DALLAS,' A DETAILED WORK WHICH DEMONSTRATES THAT A LONE RIFLEMAN OPERATING FROM THE SIXTH FLOOR OF THE TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY COULD NOT HAVE FIRED THE BULLETS THAT KILLED PRESIDENT KENNEDY ON NOVEMBER 22, 1963.

THIS BOOK HAS STILL NOT BEEN REFUTED AND IS ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS WHY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF AMERICANS BELIEVED KENNEDY WAS KILLED BY CONSPIRATORS.

(MORE)

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ASSASSIN THREE

SYLVIA BEASHER, THE U.S. OFFICIAL WHO INDEXED THE 26 VOLUMES OF THE WARREN COMMISSION'S REPORT AND THEN WROTE 'ACCESSORIES AFTER THE FACT,' WHICH LEFT MANY QUESTIONS UNANSWERED--WHICH FOR UNKNOWN REASONS THE ASSASSINATIONS THOUGHT FIT TO LEAVE THAT WAY.

IN FACT, THE WARREN COMMISSION, WHICH PRESIDENT JOHNSON STATED WOULD LEAVE NO SPECULATION ABOUT PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION, EMERGES AS A FLINSY DOCUMENT OF NO DEPTH BASED ON AN ALMOST TOTAL LACK OF INVESTIGATION.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON APPOINTED THE COMMISSION WITH THE HOPE THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S DEATH WOULD NOT BE CLAKED IN THE SAME MYSTERY THAT STILL SURROUNDS PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO, YET THE LINCOLN ASSASSINATION IS STILL THE EASIER TO UNDERSTAND.

IN FACT JOHNSON ADMITTED IN AN INTERVIEW BEFORE HE DIED THAT HE STILL HAD STRONG DOUBTS ABOUT THE WARREN COMMISSION'S REPORT AND THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS RUNNING A "DAMNED MURDER INCORPORATED IN THE CARIBBEAN," AN ALLUSION PERHAPS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF CONVICTED WATERGATE BURGLAR E. HOWARD UNT'S OPERATIONS IN THE AREA FOLLOWING THE DISASTROUS DAY OF PIGS OPERATION.

WHEN FENSTERWALD SERIOUSLY BEGAN HIS INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE DEATHS OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, SENATOR KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, HE WAS INITIALLY LUMPED INTO A LEAGUE OF FOOLS AND OPPORTUNISTS. HIS EFFORTS SINCE THEN HAVE CHANGED THAT IMAGE, BUT IT WAS A SLOW BATTLE IN 13

FROM THE BEGINNING, HIS EFFORTS HAVE BEEN LARGELY SELF-FINANCED, FEW ORGANISATIONS SEE THEIR WAY CLEAR TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE INVESTIGATION, AND THE COST HAS BEEN HIGH.

HIS FIRST MOVE WAS TO TAKE AN 8000-MILE FLIGHT AROUND THE U.S.M. TRAVELLING TO DALLAS, LOS ANGELES AND ATLANTA, TALKING WITH WITNESSES, LAWYERS AND POLICEMEN WHO HAD BEEN IN ANY WAY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CASES OR HAD THEORIES THEY FELT WORTH RELATING.

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ASSASSIN FOUR

ONE OF FENSTERWALD'S FIRST INFORMANTS WAS THE LATE MIAMI POLICE CHIEF WALTER HEADLEY, AN OFFICER WITH AN OUTSTANDING RECORD AND A NATIONAL REPUTATION AS A TOUGH LAW-AND-ORDER COP.

HEADLEY CLAIMED THAT HE HAD TALKED TO MANY FEDERAL AGENCIES OF AN ASSASSINATION PLOT FOR NINE MONTHS BEFORE THE DALLAS DISASTER. HE SAID HIS DETECTIVES HAD PIERCED INTO AN INFORMER WHO HAD BEEN TRAVELLING AROUND THE SOUTH AND MID-WEST AND REPORTED A HATE-CRAZED GROUP THAT PREACHED ASSASSINATION.

THE INFORMER DESCRIBED IN ALMOST PERFECT DETAIL THE PLOT TO USE A HIGH-POWERED RIFLE WHICH COULD BE DISSEMBLED, AND IN A TAPED RECORD OBVIOUSLY PREDICTED "THEY WILL PICK SOMEBODY UP...JUST TO THROW THE PUBLIC OFF."

THE POLICE CHIEF WAS SO ALARMED HE ORDERED PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S MIAMI MOTORCADE TO BE CANCELLED AND NOTIFIED THE FBI AND THE SECRET SERVICE OF THE REASONS - KYET NO MENTION OF THIS CAN BE FOUND IN THE WARREN COMMISSION'S REPORT.

FENSTERWALD'S NATIONWIDE TOUR PRODUCED A MOUNTAIN OF INFORMATION THAT HAD BEEN UNTAPPED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION INCLUDING A 12,000-CARD INDEX COVERING ALMOST EVERY FACET OF THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION COMPILED BY THREE DALLAS CITIZENS.

ON A TRIP OVERSEAS IN 1969, FENSTERWALD FOUND CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE KING ASSASSINATION HAD SIMILARITIES WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATION. IN PARTICULAR WERE FRAGMENTS OF EVIDENCE POINTING TO THE FACT THAT MORE THAN ONE MAN HAD USED JAMES EARL RAY'S NAME. IN DALLAS, THERE WAS EVIDENCE THAT MORE THAN ONE PERSON HAD POSED AS LEE HARVEY OSWALD.

INFORMATION ON RAY'S ARREST IN LONDON WAS NOT RELEASED BY COTLAND YARD OR THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE AND FENSTERWALD RETURNED HOME.

THE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS HAS SNIPPETS OF INFORMATION GUARANTEED TO TITILLATE AND WHET THE APPETITE OF ANY ASSASSINATION BUFF, BUT INCREDIBLY THERE HAS STILL BEEN NO OFFICIAL REACTION.

(MORE. .)

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN
ASSASSIN FIVE

THE DOUBTS EXPRESSED BY FORMER DALLAS POLICE CHIEF JESSE CURRY, WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE DALLAS POLICE AT THE TIME OF THE ASSASSINATION, ARE PERHAPS THE MOST INTERESTING OF ALL.

IN HIS BOOK, 'JFK ASSASSINATION FILE,' CURRY CLAIMED THAT A BRAFFIN TEST OF THE RIGHT SIDE OF OSWALD'S FACE SHOWED NO TRACES OF ANY NITRATES, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED IF OSWALD HAD FIRED A RIFLE.

HE ALSO SAID THAT HOWARD BRENNAN, THE STAR WITNESS WHO IDENTIFIED OSWALD FOR THE WARREN COMMISSION AND TESTIFIED THAT HE HAD SEEN HIM FIRING FROM THE SIXTH FLOOR OF THE BOOK DEPOSITORY, CONTINUALLY CHANGED HIS EVIDENCE AND FAILED TO IDENTIFY OSWALD POSITIVELY IN A POLICE LINEUP.

CURRY TOLD REPORTERS WHEN HIS BOOK WAS PUBLISHED THAT THERE WAS NO PROOF THAT OSWALD HAD FIRED THE RIFLE, AND CONTENDED THAT NO-ONE HAD EVER BEEN ABLE TO POSITIVELY PUT OSWALD IN THE BOOK DEPOSITORY WITH A RIFLE IN HIS HAND.

BECAUSE OF THE REFUSAL BY FEDERAL AGENCIES TO RELEASE EVIDENCE CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATIONS, THE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS HAS BEEN OBLIGED TO LAUNCH A NUMBER OF SUITS UNDER THE INFORMATION ACT.

THE ACT RULES THAT INVESTIGATORY FILES HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT ARE ONLY EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE IF THAT INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE RELEASED IS LIKELY TO CREATE A CONCRETE PROSPECT OF SERIOUS HARM TO LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFICIENCY.

THE COMMITTEE IS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO OBTAIN A SPECTROGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF THE BULLET AND BULLET FRAGMENTS SAID TO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND THE WOUNDING OF GOVERNOR WALLACE.

THE SUIT IS BEING BROUGHT BY HAROLD WEISBERG, THE AUTHOR OF THE WHITEMASH TELEVISION SERIES. THE SPECTROGRAPHIC REPORTS HE IS SEEKING WERE NOT RELEASED TO THE WARREN COMMISSION BY THE F.B.I. THOUGH THEY WOULD PROVE CONCLUSIVELY IF THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE GUNMAN IN DEALEY PLAZA.

FENSTERMAID IS SUING FOR ACCESS TO THE 4000-PAGE F.B.I. REPORT ON THE MURDER OF ROBERT KENNEDY.

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FOR THE AUSTRALIAN
ASSASSIN SIX

THE F.B.I. ENTERED THE CASE ALTHOUGH THE LOS ANGELES MURDER WAS CLEARLY A CALIFORNIAN STATE CRIME AND NOT A FEDERAL CRIME. THE F.B.I.'S REPORT WAS TURNED OVER TO THE L.A. DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND SUBSEQUENTLY TO SENATOR SIRHAN'S DEFENSE STAFF.

TWO AUTHORS, ROBERT KAISER AND ROBERT HOUGHTON WERE SHOWN THE FILE AND WROTE THE TWO BEST-SELLERS 'R.F.K. MUST DIE,' AND 'SPECIAL UNIT SENTOR.' BUT THE FILE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN BY ANYONE ELSE.

FENSTERWALD IS ANXIOUS TO CLEAR UP THE CONTRADICTIONARY EVIDENCE THAT CURRENTLY EXISTS ABOUT ROBERT KENNEDY'S MURDER. ALL THE WITNESSES AGREE THAT SIRHAN WAS SOME DISTANCE IN FRONT OF KENNEDY WHEN HE Began FIRING.

BUT THE CORONER'S REPORT SHOWS THAT ALL THREE BULLETS WHICH STRUCK THE SENATOR WERE FIRED FROM BEHIND, BELOW AND AT A MAXIMUM RANGE OF SIX INCHES.

THE POLICE BURNS ACTUALLY PINPOINT THE FATAL SHOT AS ENTERING THE HEAD BEHIND THE RIGHT EAR AND FROM A DISTANCE OF NO MORE THAN TWO INCHES.

SIRHAN WAS NEVER IN A POSITION TO FIRE THIS SHOT.

FENSTERWALD IS ONE OF THE LAWYERS STILL RETAINED BY JAMES EARL RAY, MARTIN LUTHER KING'S ALLEGED KILLER.

HE RECENTLY TRIED TO HAVE THE CASE REOPENED ON THE GROUNDS THAT RAY DID NOT ACT ALONE AND THAT HIS GUILTY PLEA HAD BEEN COERCED. RAY CLAIMS HE TRIED TO TELL THE TRUTH AT HIS TRIAL BUT WAS TOLD TO SIT DOWN AND BE QUIET BY THE JUDGE AND HIS OWN DEFENSE ATTORNEY, WHO WISHED TO KEEP THE FACTS QUIET BECAUSE HE WAS WRITING A BOOK

THE CASE IS CURRENTLY PENDING HEARING BY THE SUPREME COURT, BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT RAY'S ORIGINAL HEARING WILL BE REOPENED.

INTEREST IN THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF GOVERNOR WALLACE WAS RENEWED WHEN CONVICTED WATERGATE BURGLAR HOWARD HUNT ADMITTED THAT FORMER PRESIDENTIAL AIDE CHARLES COLSON ATTEMPTED TO SEND HIM TO MILWAUKEE AN HOUR AFTER THE SHOOTING TO BURGLE ARTHUR BREMER'S APARTMENT.

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FOR THE AUSTRALIAN
ASSASSIN SEVEN AND LAST

AUTHOR GENE VIGAL HAS THREE POINTS TO POINT OUT THAT BREMER'S LIFE-STYLE SWITCHED DRAMATICALLY IN THE MONTHS BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

LIKE SELMER, HE DIDN'T BEGIN TO KEEP A DIARY UNTIL SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE THE SHOOTING, ALMOST AS IF HE WISHED TO ESTABLISH AN IDENTITY FOR OTHERS TO FIND THAT WOULD JUSTIFY HIS RADICAL ACTIONS.

THERE IS ALSO THE QUESTION OF THE AMOUNTS OF MONEY BREMER SUDDENLY CAME INTO WHICH ALLOWED HIM TO GIVE UP HIS LIFE AS A BUS-BOY AND TAKE RESIDENCE IN THE WALDORF-ASTORIA.

BERNARD FENSTERMELD IS DETERMINED TO SEE THAT ANSWERS ARE FOUND FOR ALL THESE QUESTIONS THOUGH HE REALISES THAT NO SOLUTIONS WILL BE FOUND EASILY BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S BLOCK ON INFORMATION.

CONGRESS IS EQUALLY UNCOOPERATIVE - OF 535 CONGRESSMEN SENT INFORMATION BY FENSTERMELD'S COMMITTEE, NOT ONE HAS BOTHERED TO REPLY OR EVEN REGISTERED INTEREST.

"IT IS THE BLAND ACCEPTANCE OF THE WARREN COMMISSION'S REPORT BY CONGRESS AND THE NEGATIVISH OF CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDE THAT WORRIES ME," FENSTERMELD SAID.

"THEY ARE ALL FRIGHTENED OF WHAT MIGHT BE UNDER THE ROCKS IF WE START TO TURN THEM OVER."

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