

# SPECIAL Gallery REPORT

JULY 1979

## THE JFK ASSASSINATION

**I**n view of *Gallery's* continued concern in setting the record straight on the JFK assassination, we gathered ten leading researchers and critics to a symposium in New York earlier this year. The experts—some of whom were consultants to the House Committee—included L. Fletcher Prouty, Richard E. Sprague, Larry Harris, Jack White, Jerry Policoff, Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, Victor Marchetti, Peter Dale Scott, Gary



Mack, and Robert Groden. They discussed what the House Committee did and did not do during its investigation of the assassination. Their unanimous decision was that the Committee—which spent

two years and over \$5 million conducting the hearings, and only admitted to the conspiracy theory on the very last day of its life, after hearing the acoustical "gunshot" tapes—did not go far enough. This special section includes names of actual witnesses that the House Committee should have called but didn't. It is the most comprehensive critique and analysis of the Kennedy assassination to appear in any magazine—ever.

### The Record

After fifteen years of supporting the conclusion that President Kennedy was slain by lone assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, U.S. congressmen dramatically reported on December 31, 1978, new and strong evidence pointing to a conspiracy! This recording reproduces the highlights of that evidence; it is an important historic "document" that you will want to keep.

To properly understand and appreciate the sounds on this record, it is essential that you first read this brief explanation.

### How the recording came into being

About two minutes before the first shot was fired at President John F. Kennedy—17 seconds past 12:30 P.M.—the microphone on a motorcycle policeman's two-way radio was left in the "on" position, tying up one of the city's two police channels. This motorcycle was escorting the President's limousine. After the shooting, the Dallas Police force was thrown into disarray because no one on that channel was able to send or receive instructions to act. (The "bleep" sounds are police officers trying desperately to cut into the frequency.) Ironically, however, the sounds picked up by the open microphone were broadcast over the "locked-open" radio and recorded at police headquarters. These very sounds held the key to the new evidence—sounds that stayed "garbled" and hidden until researcher Gary Mack discovered an answer that had eluded the government for over fifteen years.

### Solving the mystery

In January 1977, Mack received a copy of the police recording from a colleague, Mary Ferrell, and made some startling discoveries. It had occurred to Mack that the sounds of the gunshots, though inaudible to the human ear because of all the additional noise such as the engine roar from motorcycles, would nonetheless still be on the recording. The problem was to filter out the unwanted sounds so that the "little pops" that Mack had discovered in his audio analysis could be further analyzed by experts using the best available equipment and techniques.

Dr. James Barger of the acoustics firm of Bolt, Beranek & Newman performed most of the acoustic analysis; it affirmed that at least four gunshots over an interval of 8.3 seconds were present on the recording. Further, the time intervals between the shots were 1.6 seconds between the first and second; 6.1 seconds between the second and third; and 0.6 seconds between the third and fourth. According to the Com-

mittee, this corresponds with Zapruder film frames Z-160, Z-189, Z-301, and Z-312/313 (although critics contend that the four shots took place at Z-171, Z-200, Z-312, and Z-323).

THIS ANALYSIS PROVIDED ABSOLUTE, SCIENTIFIC PROOF OF CONSPIRACY BECAUSE, WHEN THE FBI TESTED THE RIFLE ALLEGEDLY OWNED BY LEE HARVEY OSWALD, IT FOUND THAT THE GUN COULD ONLY BE FIRED ONCE EVERY 2.25 SECONDS, AND, AT THAT, WITHOUT AIMING. THEREFORE, IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN TWO SHOOTERS TO SQUEEZE OFF ONE SHOT EACH WITHIN 1.6 SECONDS, AND TWO SHOOTERS TO SQUEEZE OFF THE SHOTS IN THE 0.6-SECOND SEQUENCE. (IT HAS SINCE BEEN REPORTED THAT EVEN MORE SHOTS MAY YET BE FOUND ON THE TAPE THROUGH HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED COMPUTER ENHANCEMENT.)

This recording contains three segments of the Dallas Police tape while the motorcycle microphone was left open and during a period of transmission interference.

**Segment 1** is of the assassination exactly as originally recorded, starting several seconds before the shots were fired. It begins with interference "hash" that suddenly disappears, revealing a motorcycle engine slowing down. An unknown officer then says, "All right, Jackson," and the first shot is fired some four seconds later. (They sound like the "little pops," but to the untrained ear they are virtually inaudible.)

**Segment 2** is the superimposition of the test shots fired in Dealey Plaza in August 1978 over the Dallas Police recording. The shots are in the exact sequence determined by the experts. Listen for the motorcycle engine; it remains at a constant slow speed for some thirty seconds before accelerating and leaving the area. The beeps are the attempts of two-way police radios to get on the channel.

**Segment 3** is excerpts of the interference period following the assassination. You will hear one officer give an "all clear" statement, another one whistling into his microphone (perhaps testing to see if his unit was functioning), passing sirens from the motorcade and, at the very end, a frustrated officer speaking to anyone who could hear him.

### Note:

Repeated playings might damage the grooves and erode some of the vital sounds. We suggest you rerecord onto tape or cassette.

\*See page 69-13 for these Zapruder photographs.

**IMPORTANT:**  
**Before**  
**listening to**  
**this record,**  
**read the**  
**information**  
**on the left.**

### INSTRUCTIONS

—Using pen or pencil point, push through the center hole of the recording.

—Taking care not to touch the record grooves with your hands, bend each corner of the record down, so that the disc lies flat on the turntable platter. If the disc is not flat, the needle may skip grooves during play.



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This supplement was produced under the general editorship of Jerry Policoff, one of America's most painstaking researchers on the Kennedy assassination.

PHOTO CONSULTANT: ROBERT GRODEN

## Investigations Bound To Fail

**T**he months before the assassination of President John Kennedy were filled with turmoil and change. The Cold War was thawing out as Kennedy signed the nuclear test ban treaty with the Soviet Union and made conciliatory speeches about the need for East-West détente. Kennedy's hostile designs on Fidel Castro's Cuba had also mellowed. Under his orders the FBI clamped a tight lid on hostile activity directed against Cuba by American-based Cuban exiles. Kennedy had warned the most extreme of the exile leaders to desist from exporting revolution from American shores, and he had secretly dispatched emissaries to Castro aimed at easing tension between the U.S. and Cuba. Vietnam, too, occupied the President's attention. Although American "advisers" numbered less than 20,000 during the Kennedy Administration, Kennedy had announced plans for the phased withdrawal of all troops only a month before his demise. Privately, the young President also vented his anger at the CIA and the military establishment. He had retreated from the politics of brinkmanship and his war against organized crime and Jimmy Hoffa's Teamsters Union had won him powerful enemies.

As the 1964 election approached, Kennedy faced a serious struggle for retention of the White House. Crucial to his reelection chances was the state of Texas, where the Democratic Party was in turmoil as rival conservative factions led by Governor John Connally and liberal-moderate factions led by Senator Ralph Yarborough struggled for control of the statewide Democratic organization. Thus, in the role of peacemaker, Kennedy journeyed to Texas in November 1963. Dallas, known as the bastion of Texas conservatism, was a mandatory stop, though aides and advisers argued against a visit to the city

where a right-wing mob had, only a month before, assaulted then-UN ambassador Adlai Stevenson because of his liberal politics.

On November 22, 1963, as the Presidential motorcade rounded a corner in Dallas' Dealey Plaza, President Kennedy was assassinated, Governor Connally seriously wounded. Within an hour Lee Harvey Oswald was apprehended in a Texas movie theater several miles away in connection with the murder of a Dallas police officer. Oswald had been employed in the Texas School Book Depository in Dealey Plaza, and within the next twenty-four hours an impressive circumstantial case was assembled by the Dallas Police implicating the twenty-four year old ex-Marine, ex-defector to the Soviet Union, as the chief suspect in the assassination. Biographical data on Oswald immediately began to flood the media. The Dallas Police all but pronounced the crime solved as they paraded a rifle, allegedly belonging to Oswald and found in the Depository, before the press. Headlines like "Assassin Named" (*New York Post*); "Evidence Against Oswald Described as Conclusive" (*New York Times*); "The Man Who Killed Kennedy" (*Time*); "Assassin" (*Life*) filled the front pages.

Had Oswald lived, it is doubtful that he could have received a fair trial. But on November 24, 1963 he, too, was assassinated, by Jack Ruby, a Dallas strip joint operator and police buff with shadowy connections. Ruby, like Oswald, was immediately depicted as a patriotic psychotic moved by grief to assassinate "the assassin" and avenge the President. Through it all, most of the American media naively spoon-fed that scenario to the public. After all, noted the headline of an article in *The New York Times*: "Lone Assassin the Rule in U.S.: Plotting More Prevalent Abroad."



# That Were

By Jerry Policoff

## Rumors of Conspiracy

The American press notwithstanding, rumor of conspiracy began to grow in the public mind and in the foreign press. The rumor was also sparked by the persistent belief of some witnesses that the shots fired in Dealey Plaza had come from more than one direction. All early press accounts had indicated that the President was shot from the front (AP's first dispatch out of Dallas reported that "the shots apparently came from a grassy knoll in the area"), rather than from the Book Depository Building, which lay to the rear. Doctors trying to save the President's life at Parkland Hospital had enlarged a throat wound to perform a tracheotomy. Their consensus was that the wound had been one of entrance.

With rumors spreading, on November 29, 1963 President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed The President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy—better known as the Warren Commission—to investigate the assassination and report back to him. Nine months later the Commission released its findings: Lee Harvey Oswald, acting on his own, killed President Kennedy. Jack Ruby, acting on his own, killed Lee Harvey Oswald. Oswald fired three shots. One missed. One bullet hit President Kennedy and then proceeded to



Lee Harvey Oswald

inflict five nonfatal wounds upon Governor Connally. One struck the President in the head, fatally wounding him. A nearly pristine bullet was found near a stretcher at Parkland Hospital. It was the bullet designated as having inflicted seven nonfatal wounds upon two men, breaking a rib and a wrist, and tearing flesh and tissue along the way. This came to be known as the single-bullet or "magic bullet" theory. More than for any other single issue, the Commission was to be attacked for this finding, which even its staunchest defenders would concede was difficult to believe. Yet no other finding of the Commission was more essential to its lone-assassin premise. An amateur film of the assassination taken by dress manufacturer Abraham Zapruder had provided a clock of sorts of the assassination. The Warren Commission (whose internal working papers reveal that no alternative to Oswald as the assassin was ever seriously considered) found that not enough time elapsed between the earliest point at which President Kennedy could have been hit and the latest point at which Governor Connally could have been hit for the alleged murder weapon to have fired two shots. Thus, even though the film did not show simultaneous reactions by Kennedy and Connally, the Commission hypothesized just that, with Connally—his rib and wrist shattered and his lung collapsed—exhibiting a delayed reaction.

Although the Commission released no evidence to buttress its report, the press heaped it with lavish editorial praise. *The New York Times*, at enormous cost, published the entire summary of the report as a forty-eight-page supplement to its September 28, 1964 edition. *The Times* went on to collaborate with Bantam Books and the Book-of-the-Month Club in publishing hard and soft-bound editions of the Warren Report.

## "Supporting" Data

When twenty-six volumes of "supporting" data and testimony were issued two months after the Warren Report, the media again complimented the Commission.

Nevertheless, by the fall of 1966 critical books by Mark Lane, Edward J. Epstein, and Harold Weisberg were domestic best-sellers.

By late 1966 it had become clear that the arguments of the critics were far from frivolous. They had shown that evidence in the twenty-six volumes often radically contradicted the Warren Report. New documents were being ferreted out of the Commission's files deposited in the National Archives indicating that the case against Oswald was not nearly as strong as was the case for predetermined conclusions by the Warren Commission. For example, holes in the President's clothing indicated that he had been hit several inches below his shoulder by the first shot to hit him and testimony of nearly everyone who had seen the President's body supported this. The autopsy report, however, said this wound was located several inches higher, at the base of the neck. This was a crucial discrepancy, because the Warren Commission had hypothesized that the bullet passed through the neck, exited the throat, and then proceeded to wound Connally. A wound lower down would have required the bullet to make a 90-degree turn within the President's body and then turn again to hit Connally—a difficult feat even for a magic bullet. Moreover, one of the more provocative documents in the volumes was a signed statement by one of the autopsy surgeons, Commander James J. Humes, to the effect that he had "destroyed by burning" certain preliminary autopsy notes.

Many earwitnesses had identified the grassy knoll, located to the right front of the Presidential limousine, as the source of the shots. Much of the case against Oswald began to crumble as the critics found testimony, ignored by the Warren Commission in its report, but which tended to support

Oswald's contention that he had been on the first floor of the Depository, far away from the alleged snipers' nest on the sixth floor, when the President was shot. Point by point, the case against Oswald and the case for one assassin began to crumble.

By late 1966 calls for a new investigation of the assassination were coming from the likes of William Buckley, Cardinal Cushing, The American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the Vatican newspaper *Osservatore*, *The New York Times*, *Life*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *The London Times*, and others. Gallup and Harris polls revealed little faith in the Warren Report. In Congress bills were introduced calling for a reopening of the investigation into the John F. Kennedy assassination.

## The Garrison Probe

On February 17, 1967, the *New Orleans States-Item* reported that District Attorney Jim Garrison had quietly begun to investigate a Kennedy assassination conspiracy with roots in New Orleans. The flamboyant six-foot-six DA turned out to be anything but quiet. Proclaiming that he had "solved" the Kennedy assassination, Garrison swiftly indicted Clay L. Shaw, a prominent New Orleans businessman, charging him with conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy. It would be nearly two years before Shaw could be tried, and in the interim Garrison was to become nearly as controversial as the Warren Commission, as he elaborated an extensive plot involving Cuban exiles, various right-wing elements, and the CIA. Garrison's conspiracy seemed to become increasingly broad, and the feisty DA was soon doing battle with the Justice Department, which resisted his effort to obtain Kennedy autopsy photos and X rays; the CIA, which resisted his subpoena of former Warren commissioner and CIA director, Allen Dulles; the FBI, whose New Orleans headquarters Garrison at one point considered raiding; NBC, which Garrison maintained was part of a conspiracy to wreck his investigation; and



others. Among the critics a divisive line grew as camps supporting and opposing Garrison and his methods and theories began to take shape.

On January 21, 1969 Clay Shaw finally went to trial. Much of the trial was consumed by a presentation of evidence refuting the Warren Report. For the first time the Zapruder film, owned and kept under tight wraps by Time, Inc., subpoenaed by Garrison, was shown to large audiences. That film made much of the American public aware for the first time that the President's head was thrown violently back upon impact with the fatal shot—a reaction seemingly more consistent with a shot fired from the grassy knoll than with a shot fired from the Book Depository Building. Also, for the first time, one of the autopsy surgeons, Dr. Pierre Finck, was subjected to intense cross-examination under oath. Reluctantly, Dr. Finck revealed that the President's back wound had not been dissected to determine its path, because military brass presiding over the autopsy had maintained tight control and had forbidden this standard procedure. (The military generals and admirals in attendance at the autopsy were medical men, ruling out the possible explanation that they were simply ignorant of proper autopsy procedure.) But it was Clay Shaw, not the Warren Report that was on trial, and many present felt that the case presented against Shaw did not warrant his indictment. On March 1, 1969 a jury acquitted him after deliberating for less than an hour.

With Shaw's acquittal, the case against the Warren Commission receded into the background. Hope for a new investigation seemed doomed. Undoubtedly this would have been the case, but Vietnam, the assassination of Robert Kennedy, the assassination of Martin Luther King, revelations about the FBI's COINTELPRO programs, and finally Watergate were developing a new consciousness in the American public. Official cover-ups were no longer notions to be scoffed at. In fact, the U.S. Government had been found to be actively

involved in plotting the assassinations of foreign leaders, and in so doing had even conspired with the Mafia.

### Congressional Stirrings

On February 19, 1975 Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez, a Texas legislator who had been a passenger in the 1963 Dallas motorcade, introduced legislation calling for a reopening of the Kennedy investigation and a probe into the killings of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King. Two months later Congressman Thomas N. Downing of Virginia introduced his own bill calling for a probe of the John Kennedy death. Meanwhile, the Rockefeller Commission investigating the CIA let it be known that it was reexamining the Kennedy assassination—a move that was greeted with derision by the critics, since the Rockefeller Commission's executive director, David W. Belin, had been junior counsel for the Warren Commission and remained one of its few staunch defenders. Not surprisingly, the Rockefeller Commission essentially endorsed the original findings of the Warren Commission.

On September 8, 1975 Senator Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania introduced a Senate resolution calling for a reopening of the Kennedy investigation, and in the House, the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Constitutional Rights held hearings into allegations that Oswald had delivered a threatening letter to the Dallas headquarters of the FBI just weeks before the assassination. Conflicting testimony on the contents of the letter, and under what circumstances and at whose command it was destroyed was heard. No further hearings were held, and no prosecutions were recommended, despite evidence of perjury. But once again it was clear that a cover-up had occurred in 1963 and was still under way.

In November 1975 Senators Richard Schweiker and Gary Hart were named co-chairmen of a subcommittee of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (the Church Committee) and assigned to investigate

the role of the U.S. intelligence agencies in investigating the JFK assassination. Bella Abzug's subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights decided to hold hearings on National Archives declassification requests as they pertained to the John Kennedy assassination.

By March 1976 the Gonzalez and Downing resolutions had 136 cosponsors, but both bills were tied up in the Rules Committee, and attempts to extricate them for a floor vote seemed hopelessly mired. On June 23, after being held up and sanitized by the Church Committee (eight of fifteen of whose members previously sat on the Senate CIA oversight committees, known for their indulgence of the CIA), the Schweiker/Hart report was released. The report found no evidence of conspiracy (although the subcommittee made no effort to reexamine the physical evidence, in effect accepting the premise that Oswald pulled the trigger), but it did conclude that the FBI and CIA had not followed up important leads, and the Warren Commission's investigation "was deficient and that facts which might have substantially affected the course of the investigation were not provided." Further investigation by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence was recommended.

The Schweiker/Hart report was seriously flawed. It leaned heavily toward possible involvement of Fidel Castro in the assassination, but tended to shy away from evidence pointing toward organized crime or Cuban exiles. Several points of evidence that might have supported a hypothesis of an intelligence connection for Oswald were ignored. But for the first time an official government investigation had pronounced the Warren Commission a deficient investigation.

As interest in the case increased, so did the mortality rate of the witnesses. William Harvey, the CIA man who had overseen the CIA/Mafia plots against Castro, died of a heart attack in June of 1976. In August John Roselli, an organized crime figure central to the plots, was murdered. His death followed that of Mafia chieftain Sam Giancana, who

had been slain just prior to his scheduled appearance before the Church Committee.

The King assassination, too, was now gathering attention. More and more documentation was developing on J. Edgar Hoover's King obsession. For the first time the Congressional Black Caucus, at the urging of Coretta King, began to put pressure on the House leadership to investigate the King assassination. Hurried meetings were arranged. The Downing and Gonzalez resolutions were merged and reintroduced in the Rules Committee, this time with the backing of the House leadership and the Congressional Black Caucus. On September 15, 1976 the resolution calling for a Congressional probe into the deaths of John Kennedy and Martin Luther King cleared the Rules Committee. Two days later, the House of Representatives passed the resolution overwhelmingly.

The next step was to appoint a chairman. This created an unusual dilemma. Traditionally, the author of a resolution establishing a select committee is appointed chairman of that committee. But Henry Gonzalez was not held in the highest esteem, either by his fellow legislators or by the House Leadership. In fact, he had been excluded from the original discussions between the Black Caucus, the Leadership, and Downing, which had resulted in the compromise that extricated the assassination bills from the Rules Committee. Downing, on the other hand, was a lame duck congressman who had not sought reelection in 1976. His ap-



New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison



pointment would mean that a new chairman would have to take over when the new Congress convened. Much to Gonzalez' chagrin, Downing was appointed chairman by Speaker-elect Tip O' Neill.

The rivalry between Gonzalez and Downing manifested itself almost from the beginning. Downing's first choice for Chief Counsel was Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., a Washington attorney and Warren Commission critic who operated a sort of clearing house/lobbying operation known as the Committee to Investigate Assassinations. Fensterwald had eliminated his name from consideration, but Gonzalez, who believed Fensterwald to be a CIA agent, was apparently willing to take no chances. The infighting emerged in *The Washington Star* on October 4 under the headline: "Is Fensterwald a CIA Plant? Assassination Inquiry Stumbling." The piece was based upon material leaked to the *Star* by Gonzalez' office.

That same day Richard A. Sprague (not to be confused with Warren Commission critic Richard E. Sprague) was appointed acting Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the Committee.

Sprague seemed to many to be an ideal choice. As Special Prosecutor for Washington County, Pennsylvania between 1970 and 1975, he had unraveled the complex conspiracy behind the brutal murder of United Mine Workers reformer Joseph (Jock) Yablonski. His successful prosecution of UMW President Tony Boyle in that case won him a national reputation as a skilled investigator and courtroom lawyer. Sprague had also distinguished himself long before in Philadelphia where he had gained an almost legendary reputation in the District Attorney's office.

As a condition to taking the position, Sprague demanded complete authority to hire and fire staff and to run the investigation as he saw fit. He proposed to set up two separate homicide investigations, one for Kennedy and one for King, plus a separate legal division. Sprague raised eyebrows by requesting a staff of 200 (perhaps the largest Congress-

sional staff ever proposed) and an annual budget in excess of \$6.5 million. Sprague said that the staff was necessary to conduct a thorough homicide investigation, and that the proposed budget was a "bare-boned minimum," pointing out that the Committee would be unable to utilize the FBI or CIA to assist in any investigatory areas where Government agencies might themselves be suspect.

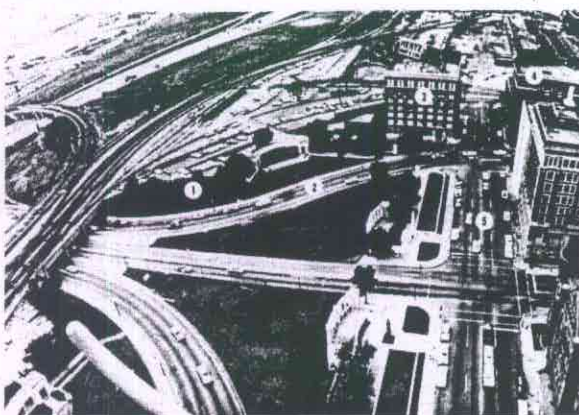
Sprague's ambitious plans were endorsed by the Committee members, but they caused considerable consternation on Capitol Hill. His problems, however, were only beginning. Sprague's intended use of lie detectors and surveillance equipment stirred an intensive debate over Constitutional issues. A series of critical *New York Times* articles about Sprague's career in the Philadelphia DA's office (branded "hatchet jobs planted by Sprague's enemies" by many familiar with the Philadelphia political scene) added fuel to the controversy. Sprague's outspokenness was also a source of irritation to members of Congress, who felt that Congressional staffers should be neither seen nor heard.

Meanwhile, the Committee was in legal limbo. Not yet having been reestablished by Congress, it had no funds and was without legal status. On January 28, after much debate, it was reestablished for a two-month trial period by a vote of 237 to 164.

Inside the Committee more trouble was brewing. Henry Gonzalez, who had been appointed the new Chairman by Tip O' Neill, resented Sprague's independence. Sprague, in turn, clearly had little respect for the new Chairman. Events came to a head when Sprague resisted Gonzalez' attempt to reduce the size of the staff (seen by many as an effort to purge the holdovers from Downing's Congressional staff). The other Committee members supported Sprague, and the staff remained intact.

On February 10 Gonzalez summarily fired Sprague, giving him two hours to clear out of his office, simultaneously cutting off staff access to FBI files, and terminating long-distance phone service to Committee offices. In an un-

Aerial Overview of Dealey Plaza



① Grassy Knoll ② Elm Street ③ Book Depository  
④ Dal-Tex Building ⑤ Houston Street

precedented reaction, the other eleven Committee members overruled Gonzalez, ordering Sprague to stay put.

Clearly outnumbered and out of control, Gonzalez submitted his resignation three weeks later. A month after that Richard Sprague, at the urging of the remaining Committee members who felt that his continued presence would result in the House killing the Committee (Congressional egos, it seems, were not prepared to abide the deposing of a Committee chairman by a staff member) stepped aside as Chief Counsel. The following day Congress reconstituted the Committee by a slim 230 to 181 margin. A month later an annual budget of \$2.5 million was approved by a still slimmer 213 to 192 vote.

Over the next several months the Committee, now headed by Congressman Louis Stokes, one of the four Black Caucus members on the Committee, searched for a new Chief Counsel. Finally, on June 20, 1977, Professor G. Robert Blakey, head of Cornell University's Institute on Organized Crime, was appointed.

Blakey had spent four years in the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section of the Department of Justice (also known as the "get Hoffa" squad) under Attorney General Robert Kennedy, and had gone on in staff and advisory roles to serve several other committees and task forces on organized crime. Blakey had also been one of the principal

authors of the controversial Section III of the Omnibus Crime Bill, which for the first time authorized court-approved wiretapping and electronic surveillance by law enforcement officials.

At his first and only press conference, Blakey vowed that there would be no more press conferences and proceeded to batten down the hatches. As one of his first acts he abolished the press office.

From the outset, Blakey's approach differed radically from Sprague's. Where Sprague had insisted that no time limit be placed on the investigation, Blakey made it clear the Committee would go out of existence when its current two-year mandate of which eighteen months remained) expired. His approach to evidence was primarily academic, as opposed to Sprague's emphasis upon investigative aspects. Committee investigators were required to submit lists of prospective leads to Blakey. Those lists were not sifted through until November, when several potentially promising ones were vetoed—not because Blakey underestimated their importance, but because he felt that there was insufficient time remaining to pursue them to their conclusion. (This was reminiscent of a 1964 incident when Warren Commission General Counsel J. Lee Rankin, confronted with a hot lead as the Commission was racing to complete its report, testily chastised staffers: "It's time to close doors, not open



them.") Thus the House Committee's field work, limited as it was, did not get under way in any comprehensive manner until December.

Early on, Blakey lectured his staff about the value of narrowing objectives. He divided the Kennedy investigation into five narrowly defined areas. The compartmentalization tended to seal members of respective areas off from one another.

Blakey also differed with Sprague in his attitude toward



G. Robert Blakey

the intelligence agencies, agreeing—where Sprague had refused—to compel staff members to sign secrecy oaths before being cleared to examine classified files. Blakey added a nondisclosure agreement of his own, which threatened stiff retribution against any staff member or consultant who discussed Committee business with outsiders. Members' staff aides, generally the eyes and ears of Congressmen too busy to pay strict attention to Committee detail, were denied access to Blakey's investigation.

Staff problems also developed. Among the early casualties was Kevin Walsh, who as a longtime researcher of the Kennedy assassination, was the greatest advocate of the critics on the staff. Robert Lehner, Chief Deputy Counsel in charge of the King case, resigned after feuding with Blakey over what Lehner considered to be Blakey's overly narrow approach to investigating the King assassination.

Blakey also seemed unduly cozy with the FBI and CIA, agreeing to allow the CIA to review the Committee's pre-

liminary drafts of its final report. At one point, confronted with staff skepticism over the CIA's good intentions, Blakey replied: "You don't think they'd lie to me, do you? I've been working with those people for twenty years."

Blakey's investigation, for all intents and purposes, got under way in December of 1977. It effectively ended in June 1978 when twenty-eight staffers, twenty-five of them investigators, were fired for "budgetary reasons."

In August the Committee was charged with breaking its own rules by employing an undercover agent to spy upon Jerry Ray, James Earl Ray's brother, and to record telephone conversations with Ray. Oliver Patterson claimed that the Committee had recruited him, and when his undercover status was discovered by Mark Lane, James Earl Ray's lawyer, Patterson's Committee contact made arrangements for Patterson to plant damaging stories about Lane and Ray with *The New York Times*. Instead Patterson arranged for Mark Lane and reporters from two St. Louis television stations to accompany him to his meeting with *New York Times* reporter Anthony Marro. Faced with the accusations, Blakey vowed to investigate, and a few days later pronounced the Committee innocent of all charges (Patterson was eventually paid money he claimed was owed him by the Committee. Though Patterson never signed an affidavit, the Committee claimed the money was in payment for expenses incurred by Patterson as an "affidavit witness"). With this exception, the Committee operated relatively free of the hostile and negative press that prevailed during the Sprague/Gonzalez tenure.

In September, the Committee held public hearings on the Kennedy case—hearings that, with the exception of testimony on accoustical evidence, seemed singularly aimed at bolstering the lone-assassin findings of the Warren Commission.

In December, the Committee announced that there was a high likelihood of a conspiracy and then diligently closed up shop.

## The Investigation Was a 'Charade'

Interview  
with  
**Richard A.  
Sprague**

FORMER CHIEF  
COUNSEL TO THE  
ASSASSINATIONS  
COMMITTEE



by Jerry Policoff

**Q:** You originally spoke of an open-ended investigation. What do you think about the Committee folding right after being presented with an acoustics test that says there were four shots?

**A:** On "Face The Nation," one of the questions that was asked of [Chairman Louis] Stokes was, in effect, "Well, if you've produced this thing, why are you folding up shop now? Why isn't this the time to continue?" And Stokes' response, which I thought was significant, was, "Oh, we can't do that, because the chairman promised Tip O'Neill that this thing would terminate in two years, and that was the basis of getting funds."

And that gets back to things I've said from the beginning. This was not really intended to be an investigation. The two-year concept was mine, if you'll recall. When I first came to Washington, I was asked how long I thought it would take. And my response was, to properly investigate murder you can never put a time limit on it. If you've got an outside limit, and people who are being investigated know that, they can stall you for that length of time and defeat the investigation.

If you ask me what I think ought to be the time to get a job done, my estimate would be two years. But when they terminated after hearing this acoustics evidence, they did the very thing that they were created to put a stop to, namely coming to a conclusion from just a tidbit of evidence.

Even my estimate of two years was provided you had the appropriate funding and manpower. When I got into that budget struggle with them, I

said, the moment you cut down on the financing and the size of the staff, the estimated length of an investigation has to be extended. It makes a difference if you're doing a job with ten people that can be done in thirty days, or you're doing it with one person, where you'd need six months. So that their use of "two years" emphasizes the basic problem that existed back in my time on the Committee. The whole thing was for the [House] Leadership to have a thorough investigation. I think it is shocking that the people on the Committee do not have the strength of character to realize they have not done a thorough, proper investigation, and insist on going on, whether the Leadership likes it or not. Of course, when I left, I'd really decided that Congress in the political sense is not the proper vehicle for an investigative job anyway.

**Q:** Do you think they were afraid of a conspiracy?

**A:** Who knows? Some of them might just be thinking that they're over their own heads. I mean, some of them couldn't investigate a tiddlywinks game. They might think, "My God, maybe we do have something. I don't know where to go. I don't know what to do." There hadn't been any investigation up to then; what the hell do they do now? If they'd continued at that point, they'd really have to do some investigating, and in a year and a half they really hadn't done anything. I'm sure that others had no stomach for it. They were just marking time until the thing got over with. I think on the whole that this did not get them the national acclaim they thought it would, and that they were happy to be done with it.



But you'd have thought that there would have been one or two people of quality who'd have wanted to go on.

Q: Do you think there were any?

A: No. I think they were only interested in themselves.

Q: What do you think of the way Blakey ran the investigation? What would you have done differently?

A: That's a tough question. I'm not that knowledgeable of everything he did. I don't know the full depth of it. But I did gather that Blakey's approach was really just to analyze what has been published and not to do independent investigation. I think that's totally wrong. You investigate what's published, but that's not the whole job. You've got to have independent investigation. I also feel, from what I was told, that he was just running the appearance of a staff. In that sense, it was a charade. There was not really the development of an investigative staff. People who I know are top-notch investigators complained on the QT. They had a nice job. Their salaries were enough, and they sat it out, but they weren't investigating a thing. I think Blakey was more interested in the points that Blakey might make with people he thought might be helpful for his future career.

Q: Can you think of anything offhand that was dramatic in terms of evidence that wasn't dealt with after you left?

A: Nothing in a single dramatic way. We had a whole book of things that had to be investigated and covered.

Q: How would you characterize the job the committee did?

A: A botch-up. Not an investigation. That was not why the Committee was created.

Q: Why was it created?

A: I fully believe it was created to make the Black Caucus feel it had tremendous input into the high command of the Democratic Party when Carter was running for President.

Q: Well, do you think the Black Caucus did its job?

A: I think that once they were on the Committee and started to feel that things about the sexcapades of [Reverend Martin Luther] King and others might come out, some people

began to think that the smartest thing was to let it rest.

Q: Did you ever get any information that any of that material might just leak out?

A: No, no one intimidated me that they would leak it. I got the attitude that it was a concern from the other side.

Q: So there was never any intimidation of blackmail there?

A: No, except for what was in their own minds, from their own knowledge of what they were doing. I don't know of anyone from any agency saying to them, "If you push, you will get it." But I did get their concern that the investigation would bring it out.

By the way, one thing that I did get, but I never did get to the point where I could verify it: I had been told way back that at the very beginning of this thing that Richard Helms, who was then Ambassador to Iran, had spoken to a member of the Kennedy family. That he told that person that the Kennedy family ought to see to it that there was no investigation. And that he intimidated something or other might come out. And, as a matter of fact, that was one of the things I wanted to look into. Ultimately I wanted a go at Helms. I wanted to get him up there and ask him a variety of things.

Q: Was there any real investigation going on when you were there?

A: No. All we were in a position to do was to think about where we should go once we were funded. Remember, we had no funds at that time. We had a staff that went for two months without being paid. There were some few things that were picked at. But they were really done, in a sense, while twiddling thumbs.

I still say that this whole thing at the beginning was window dressing. And I think that really accounts for the initial appointment of a lame-duck chairman in Downing. And secondly, before Gonzalez even became chairman, while Downing was still chairman, a number of the Committee members went to Tip O'Neill and begged him not to make Gonzalez chairman. But he nonetheless did.

Q: Are you saying that you feel that the Leadership of the House structured the Commit-

tee from the beginning to either make it fail or bog down?

A: Yes. It is my opinion that the thing was politically motivated with the Presidential election coming up, and not with any desire for a Kennedy investigation, but to make the Black Caucus feel potent, and with a view to wait out the election, and then make the thing, in effect, collapse. That's why there was a lame-duck chairman in Downing. When members of the Committee urged O'Neill not to make Gonzalez the chairman because they recognized that Gonzales would not be someone they could work with, that certainly should have indicated to O'Neill that making Gonzalez chairman would create problems for the Committee. In addition, when we started off we started to recruit a top-notch staff. But we needed funding from the new Congress. And what did O'Neill and the whole Leadership say right off the bat: "What proof do you have that a conspiracy existed to justify your continuation?" Now, how the hell could we justify continuation when we just had seed money for starting up and starting to plan and recruit a staff? That was said to make the thing look palatable to the public, but what it really does is to put the whole thing on the back burner and eventually kill it. I think one of the problems that arose on my level with the Congress was they heard they had a prosecutor who was getting things heated up for a top-notch but obviously expensive investigation, and that wasn't what they had in mind. So they handled it in a way to create internal dissension, play up the cost factor, make it appear that they're on the side of the poor, put-upon taxpayer—saving his money—and killing the Committee.

Q: Why did they pick you, with your reputation for going after things? You got [Tony] Boyle.

A: Well, I think Downing became convinced there should be a thorough investigation. I guess he thought I was the kind of guy who could do it. As I've been talking about this, in general I've been talking about the Leadership of the House, not about the individual members of the Committee. I think the

individual members at that time were interested in an investigation; but I think the weaknesses of those individuals came to light thereafter. And as soon as things got tough, they had no stomach to stand up and fight.

Q: Where do you think it's going now?

A: *Fini*. Terminated.

Q: You think it's just going to lay there, despite the acoustics results?

A: I think that what's going to happen is that you'll just get more books, and people will go their merry way, each one giving his own opinion, which is inconclusive and cannot be accepted at full value because the Committee is dead. There will just be more wild-eyed speculation.

I can't picture a better way to have presented that tape and have it fall flat on its face than the way in which it was done. Because if that tape is legitimate, accurate, precise, and scientifically established evidence, then its significance is tremendous. And if that is so, there was an obligation to subject it to examination by experts, and then to come out with it. The way it was presented was almost as though it was calculated to have it fall flat on its face.

Q: Do you feel that's what it was?

A: No. I feel that you had a bunch of fools.

Q: Some people feel it was deliberate.

A: That may be, but you're giving them more credit than I think they deserve.

Q: The Bronson film came up at the eleventh hour as well.

A: Well, if there really is a desire for an investigation, you don't stop then. Can you imagine if I were still Chief Counsel, and the thing went just like it did, and at the last moment we uncovered those things. Can you picture me saying, "Well, we'll close up shop now," and politely just walk away? I'd have been on every network screaming, "My God, it's unfortunate it took us two years to get to this point, but this mandates going ahead." Yet the picture of them is that they want to throw this out in a way that's calculated to cause it not to be accepted and then say good-bye.



# The Gallery Symposium: A Convening of Experts

**O**n December 31, 1978 the two-and-a-half-year investigation of the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. officially closed with the release of a seventeen-page preliminary report of the findings of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. The report's dramatic conclusions made headlines the world over: "The Committee believes, on the basis of the evidence available to it, that President John F. Kennedy was probably assassinated as the result of a conspiracy."

The Committee named no assassins, other than Lee Harvey Oswald, but unequivocally cleared the Soviet Union; Cuba; anti-Castro groups "as groups"; organized crime "as a group"; the Secret Service; the FBI; and the CIA. The Committee largely reaffirmed the findings of the Warren Commission with a parenthetical addition: Lee Harvey Oswald killed the President (but another unknown assassin also fired an errant shot from the grassy knoll in front of the limousine).

Thus, the Committee issued what many consider to be a "safe" report.

The conspiracy conclusions rested almost entirely upon eleventh-hour testimony from acoustics experts. They had analyzed a Dallas Police tape recording of the crucial seconds before, during, and after the assassination of the President. The experts concluded

that there was a "95 percent probability" that four shots were fired (one more than was postulated by the Warren Commission), including one from the knoll. In so doing, the Committee came in for a barrage of criticism: from the critics of the Warren Commission, who challenged the limited basis behind the conspiracy findings and the apparent acceptance of Oswald as the assassin without sufficient scrutiny of the case for his innocence; and from the press. The press criticized the Committee's embracing of conspiracy based upon such "flimsy" evidence. *The New York Times* (one of the few newspapers that had been graced by leaks from the Committee), in a notable departure, accepted the second-assassin theory, but was critical of the Committee's use of the word "conspiracy." After all, hypothesized the *Times*, why not "two maniacs" instead of one?

On January 30, 1979 *Gallery* gathered a distinguished group of researchers and scholars familiar with the work of the House Select Committee on Assassinations and convened a symposium to discuss the work of the Committee. The result is this special issue, which delineates the need for further investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.

The symposium participants included:

## Larry Harris

Currently working for the *Dallas Daily News*, he is the coauthor of *Cover-Up*. For the

last two years he has been researching the Tippit shooting and is currently working on a book on that subject.

## Jerry Pollicoff

A broadcast salesman, he is one of the most painstaking and careful researchers on the Kennedy assassination. He has published several articles on that subject in *The New York Times* and *New Times*.

## Dr. Cyril H. Wecht

The Chief Coroner of Allegheny County and Director of the Institute of Forensic Sciences at Duquesne University School of Law in Pittsburgh, he has long been a critic of the Warren Commission Report. Testifying before the House Select Committee in the fall of 1978, he was a vociferous critic of some of their medical conclusions.

## Peter Dale Scott

A former Canadian diplomat with a Ph.D. in political science, he now teaches English at the University of California, Berkeley. Since 1972 he has continued to research and publish on the political context of the Kennedy assassination. He has also produced a widely acclaimed film on that subject for Canadian television.

## Victor Marchetti

An ex-CIA operative who specialized in Soviet Affairs. He is the author of *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*.

## Robert Groden

An expert photo technician and optics expert who has done more work on the Zapruder film than anyone, Groden served as an expert consultant to the

House Select Committee on Assassinations.

## L. Fletcher Prouty

From 1955 to 1963, Colonel Prouty was the "focal point of officer" between the Pentagon and the CIA. During 1962 and 1963 he was Director of Special Plans (clandestine operations) in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is the author of numerous articles and of *The Secret Team*, published by Prentice Hall (1973).

## Richard E. Sprague

A pioneer in electronic computers, he is a consultant to the Battelle Memorial Institute. He is accepted as one of the most knowledgeable photographic researchers and analysts of all pictorial evidence associated with the John F. Kennedy assassination. He has published books and articles on electronic systems.

## Jack White

A graphics expert, he is vice president of Witherspoon & Associates of Fort Worth, Texas—an advertising and public relations firm. In his capacity as a photoanalyst, he testified in the late fall of 1978 before the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

## Gary Mack

He is program director of KFJZ-FM, Fort Worth, Texas and is also an audio specialist. After analyzing the sound tapes from the "open transmitter" of the motorcycle policeman who was part of the JFK motorcade, he concluded that more shots were fired than were officially mentioned in the Warren Commission Report.



Left to right: Victor Marchetti, Dr. Cyril Wecht, Larry Harris, Jack White, L. Fletcher Prouty



Left to right: Richard E. Sprague, Gary Mack, Jerry Pollicoff, Peter Dale Scott, Robert Groden



# The Sounds of Conspiracy: How the Government's 15-Year Lone-Assassin Theory Was Destroyed

Judging from their overall activities, two of the primary objectives of the House Select Committee on Assassinations under Chief Counsel G. Robert Blakey were to discourage conspiracy theories and to discredit the critics of the Warren Report. In fact, one of the major assignments Blakey gave the Committee's research staff was to scour the critical literature in search of errors. It would be a supreme irony if the acoustic evidence that forced the Committee to endorse a finding of probable conspiracy developed, as it appears likely, out of an attempt to further discredit the critics.

A copy of the Dallas Police tape that had inadvertently recorded the sound of shots in Dealey Plaza was secured through undisclosed sources by Dallas area critic Mary Ferrell several years ago. Gary Mack, program director for Dallas/Fort Worth radio station KFJZ-FM, developed an interest in the Kennedy assassination in the spring of 1975 as

a result of viewing Robert Groden's enhanced version of the Zapruder film. Learning of the existence of the police tape late in 1976, Mack realized that it might have picked up the sound of gunshots. With the aid of sound engineers and sophisticated recording studio equipment, Mack, utilizing Mary Ferrell's tape, filtered out much of the background noise and interference. "Events" in the tape began to appear: "little pops; little crackles here and there . . . that were not repeated anywhere else on the tape." Mack continued to work with the tape for several months. "I came up with a total of seven noises," he explained at the *Gallery* symposium, "which I believed were gunshots." Continuing: "That was really about as far as I could go. I wrote an article for Dallas critic Penn Jones' newsletter, 'The Continuing Inquiry,' in August of 1977 and laid out specifically what I had done, the conclusions I came to and why, and the last paragraph or so was really a plea for someone who's really more

knowledgeable in acoustics than I am to take the same tape, and with far more refined processes than I could even imagine, analyze it to see if gunshots were on the tape. Penn's newsletter was mailed at the end of August 1977. Within a week I got a call from the Committee. They were, of course, very anxious to learn more about this, and they asked me to send the filtered tape that I had worked on. And I said, 'Well, I'll be happy to send you this tape if you like, but you might as well get the same tape that I worked from. Mary sent the tape; the Committee had it in the middle of September 1977. A source, whom I cannot identify, told me that when this tape arrived, some Committee members listened to it, some staff members listened to it, and they were ecstatic—not because it showed gunshots, but because this was going to be the best example of how foolish the critics can be. For that reason—basically because they could not hear any shots—they decided to get the best in the world—Bolt, Beranek & Newman.'

Early testing of Mary Ferrell's tape apparently yielded inconclusive results. But in March of 1978 Committee investigators discovered that evidence collected during a Special Unit Dallas Police probe of the assassination, conducted in 1964, still existed in the personal possession of retired Dallas Police Captain Paul McCaghen. Among the material uncovered was the original police dictabelt, badly worn from continued play during transcription, and a first-generation taped copy, recorded before the dictabelt had been damaged. Discovery of the new cache of evidence leaked out and was reported in *The Dallas Morning News*.

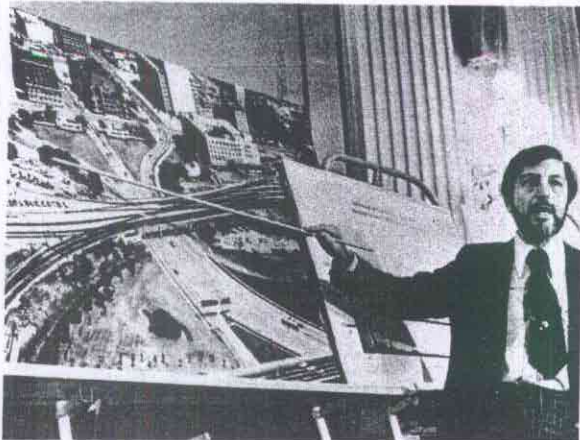
The new tape was dis-

patched to Bolt, Beranek & Newman. This time the results were quite different: the tape contained the sound of at least four shots. The third shot in the sequence came from the direction of the grassy knoll, to the right front of the Presidential limousine. News of the findings spread among the staff, which dubbed the new evidence "Blakey's Problem."

The acoustic results were leaked to the press in August. Representatives of virtually all major electronic and print media covered the Committee's August 20 reenactment of the assassination in Dealey Plaza, aimed at obtaining fresh acoustic soundings that could then be compared with the police tapes for matching echo patterns.

In what can at best be characterized as a glaring omission—something of a habit for the House Select Committee on Assassinations—Blakey ordered test firings from only two locations: the officially alleged sniper's nest on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, and the grassy knoll (already tentatively identified as a firing point by Bolt, Beranek & Newman). Numerous other locations have been cited as possible firing points in the critical literature. Echo patterns produced by shots fired from these locations, if compared with patterns existing on the police tape, could have verified or disproved theories of shots from these locations. "We took the two most likely places based on the testimony," Blakey revealed to the *Los Angeles Times*, "and that's all we did."

On September 11, Dr. James E. Barger of Bolt, Beranek & Newman testified to a fifty-fifty chance of four shots on the police tape. Barger indicated that he had not had suffi-



Acoustics expert Professor Mark Weiss points to the grassy knoll as the source of the third shot, during testimony before the House Assassinations Committee.



cient time to adequately analyze the results of the August 20 reenactment and that these findings were thus hastily arrived at and subject to considerable refinement. On December 28, doctors Mark Weiss and Ernest Aschkenasy of Queens College in New York City testified that their far more refined analysis indicated a 95 percent probability of a fourth shot from the grassy knoll.

#### Excerpts from the Gallery Symposium:

**GRODEN:** The police tape, of course, becomes central to the questions of the number of shots fired, the directions from which they originated, and was there or was there not a conspiracy? There is a great deal left unsaid by the House Committee's work on the tape. Not one of the three eminent scientists who were dealing with this was ever asked, "Could these have been the only shots?" The Dallas Police tape picked up the impulses of four shots. However, this does not preclude shots fired through a silencer, or those having such characteristics that they would not raise their volume above that of the police motorcycle engine, which was right next to the microphone. Indeed, if a shot had been fired from any point, except the Depository window, or behind the stockade fence at the grassy knoll, it would have been rejected as a false alarm, simply because the echo patterns would have been different. No other firing point, except these two points, was ever tested by the Committee.

It is interesting to note that in a photograph by Mary Moorman, and in the later frames of the Zapruder film, there is a shape that appears approximately eight feet to the left of the corner of the stockade fence. Without any knowledge that these photographs or films existed, Professors Weiss and Aschkenasy, through scientific testing, placed the shooter at eight feet to the left of the corner of the stockade fence—exactly where two bits of photographic evidence, that they had never seen until after the testimony, showed that there was probably a person there.

**MACK:** Bolt, Beranek &

Newman were the people who analyzed the famous 18½-minute gap in Richard Nixon's tape and recordings of the gunshots at Kent State University. These people are acknowledged the best. You can do no better than Bolt, Beranek & Newman. Because the tape that they were using was a second-generation copy, it was felt that the original needed to be found and analyzed. The original recording was done on a dictabelt machine—a plastic belt—many secretaries have used them. I think they're still in business, but it's an old recording technique now. These plastic belts, once played more than three or four times, start to deteriorate very quickly. Apparently the Dallas Police Department decided in 1963 to transfer the recordings from the original dictabelts to regular reel-to-reel magnetic re-

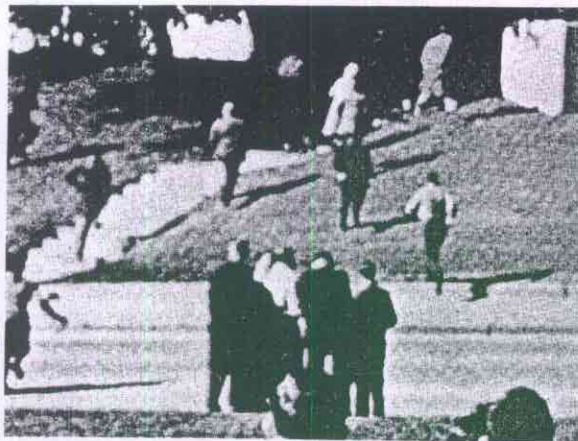
tape and find out for sure was to fire gunshots in Dealey Plaza. For those who have not been there, Dealey Plaza has not changed one bit. The trees are a couple of inches higher, a little fuller; two buildings have been constructed, but they are some distance away from the Plaza. Other than that, everything's identical there.

They sealed off the area on Sunday morning about 5:30. Several of us were there. They fired shots from the sixth floor window, from where Oswald allegedly fired, using a rifle that was virtually identical to the alleged Oswald rifle. They also fired shots from the grassy knoll, from behind the picket fence—about three feet north of the corner. Now, this is not the position where they have since determined the shooter was located. They set out three targets along Elm Street, and a

ference—a very minor difference—but it could make a difference in the conclusions. The same way with the shooter north of the corner of the picket fence, as opposed to eight feet west of the fence. These are minor. But these were the only two positions they fired from.

There was a lot of publicity about this in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Most people were under the impression that this was an attempt to fire three shots in 5.6 seconds, which, of course, is not true. The idea was to actually record patterns of sound on paper. And if these sound patterns would overlap and match the sound patterns on the original Dallas Police tape in all areas, then we'd have proof that not only was the microphone open in Dealey Plaza, but it did pick up the sounds of gunshots and showed where the gunshots came from.

This research could have been done in 1963. There is no doubt about it. Although Dr. Barger used some techniques that had not been developed then, they were only for some clarification of other noises. The test that Weiss and Aschkenasy did used nothing more than a pocket calculator, a length of string, and a ruler. And it could have been done by any reasonably intelligent high-school student who understood physics and math. Not advanced physics, not advanced math, not calculus—algebra at best. The speed of sound is about 1,130 feet per second. And if you know how long it takes sound to go from one point to another, you can know the distance between those two points. Let's use even numbers so it's easy to follow. Let's say the speed of sound is 1,000 feet per second. In one half-second, sound will move 500 feet. In a quarter-second it will move 250 feet. This is the principle that the acoustics experts used. It can be done one of two ways. It can be done from a mathematical standpoint. There are formulas for probability. Or, it can be done by actual trial. You can place a shooter and a microphone at specific points in the Plaza, let's say 150 feet apart. And this is what Weiss and Aschkenasy did. They started



Bystanders converge on the grassy knoll moments after the shots were fired.

cording tape. It's a good thing they did, because they could have erased this evidence. Obviously no one in the Dallas Police Department, or in the FBI or anywhere else that we know of, ever thought to look on this recording for gunshots.

The first thing that Bolt, Beranek & Newman did was to make sure that the magnetic tape version was an exact copy of the dictabelt recordings. They matched identically. There were no changes; there were no alterations or deletions made in the reel-to-reel tape.

As I understand it, the original, preliminary report indicated four shots and some evidence of more. But the only way to correctly analyze the

fourth target down under the triple underpass, because one bullet did miss the Elm Street area totally. It hit a curbstone, a small piece of which then hit a bystander down by the underpass. They had to locate the first two targets on Elm Street in different positions than the Kennedy limousine was in 1963 because there's now an overhead sign. It interfered with the acoustic analysis because the man firing the rifle from the Book Depository window could not get a clear line of sight to where the target should have been. So they moved the target to the southernmost of the three lanes on Elm Street. It could be a minor error that could make a dif-



with a known distance, as indicated by the sounds on the Dallas Police tape. After that it was a process of measuring and tracing all of the twenty-two echo patterns.

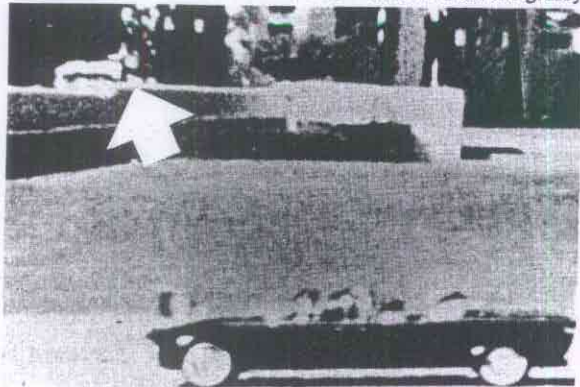
The first noise received by the microphone is the shock wave; the second noise is the muzzle blast; and all following noises are echoes of the blast. If the first echo reached the microphone .2 seconds after the muzzle blast, then it traveled 200 feet. That meant it must have bounced off a hard, reflecting surface before reaching the microphone.

A length of string representing 200 feet was cut. One end was fixed at the shooter's location and the other at the approximate location of the microphone. With the tip of a pencil to take up the string's slack, the string was moved on the map until a known reflecting surface, such as a building or lamp post, was found. This left a straight line from the shooter to the surface and another straight line from the surface to the microphone. This process was repeated for each of the twenty-two echo patterns. When all reflecting surfaces had been located, the scientists had fixed positions to work from. When compared, the echoes matched the Dallas Police tape and showed that the microphone was not only moving, but also its exact location when each echo was received.

The motorcycle in question was traveling along with the motorcade up until three seconds before the first shot was

fired. At that point, the motorcycle slowed down greatly, almost to a stop. Now, the engine of course is still idling, at a constant rate of speed. The engine stayed at that rate of speed for about thirty seconds, and then it speeded up and was going faster than when before the shots were fired. Weiss, Aschkenasy and Barger were able to compute the location within a foot and a half at every single point during the shooting sequence, and they found that the motorcycle—or I should say, the open microphone—was on the left side of the motorcade at the time of the first and second shots. It was just approaching, or just about in the Elm/Houston intersection. At the time of the third and fourth shots, it was on Elm Street, just past the Elm/Houston intersection. They were able to determine that rifles were used, because almost all rifles fire a bullet that travels faster than the speed of sound. The bullet traveling through air sets up a shock wave. The shock wave comes first. The muzzle blast, the bang, comes second. The shock wave exhibits a specific characteristic when you see it traced out on paper. This is mechanically traced out, based on the electrical impulses. This is not something that some artist just makes up.

So, here we have the first two shots, apparently fired from the rear, and the shock wave comes nowhere near the motorcycle. That's why they were not recorded. The third shot—the one from the grassy



Is this an assassin? Many feel that this photograph reveals a rifleman taking aim at the President. This is one of the spots avoided by the Committee in its August test firings in Dealey Plaza.

## HOW MANY EARWITNESSES?

A person unacquainted with the evidence in the Kennedy assassination would be understandably confused if he had followed all of the Committee's hearings. Until the presentation of the acoustical evidence most of the testimony and material presented had tended to bolster the Warren Commission findings that Oswald, acting alone, had fired three shots at the President from the sixth floor southeast corner window of the Texas School Book Depository Building. (The Committee's other presentations, as we shall see, leave much to be desired).

Blakey stated during the presentation of the acoustical evidence that there was some evidence to support a shot from the front. He cited a staff analysis of eyewitness testimony indicating that of 160 witnesses who had identified the source of the shots, twenty-one thought the shots originated from the direction of the grassy knoll. It is difficult to characterize this statement as anything other than outright distortion. There are at least sixty-four documented examples of different witnesses identifying the knoll area as the source of at least one shot. Most were never called to testify before the Warren Commission. None were called to testify before the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Critics have long contended that the violent backward motion of the President's head upon impact with the fatal bullet, particularly when considered along the earwitness testimony of shots from the knoll and eyewitness accounts of unusual activity in that vicinity, presented an overwhelming case for the presence of an assassin in front and to the right of the President.

Examples of lists compiled by the critics include:

"51 Witnesses: The Grassy Knoll." By Harold Feldman. This article was published in *Minority of One* in 1965.

"Six Seconds in Dallas." By Josiah Thompson (Bernard Geis, 1967). Table in appendix provides documentation for forty-three different witnesses who unambiguously identify the knoll as the source of shots.

"The Case For Three Assassins." By David S. Lifton and David Welsh. Originally published in *Ramparts* in 1967. Reprinted in *The Assassins*, edited by Peter Dale Scott, Paul L. Hoch, and Russell Stetler (Vintage, 1976). This article quotes sixty-four witnesses who identified the knoll as the source of at least one shot. Witnesses are grouped according to where they were standing at the time of the assassination.

knoll—from behind the picket fence—the shock wave traveled directly to the microphone on the motorcycle. But there was a problem: the shock wave hit the windshield of the motorcycle and scattered—boom—and went off on both sides in all directions. They had some trouble with that until they lined up their tests in New York and realized what had happened—the windshield scattering the shock wave. The fourth shot, fired from the rear, exhibited the classic shock wave characteristic. That's how they determined where the third shot came from, and at least got an idea of the general direction for the fourth.

Computing distance, as I said, is very simple, and at the time of the third shot, Weiss and Aschkenasy computed the distance from the rifle tip, the tip of the barrel, to the open microphone, was almost exactly 200 feet. The fourth shot, from the rear, was fired at a point where the microphone was 120 to 140 feet in back of

the limousine. So, they could actually plot out on a map of Dealey Plaza exactly where this motorcycle officer was for each shot. It's a very simple procedure. And the real beauty of it is, it's a black and white situation. This is not subjective evidence. This is hard evidence. Anyone can go back to the tapes of the shots fired during the reconstruction and redo the whole thing. And they'll come out to the same conclusion every single time. That's why Weiss and Aschkenasy and Barger were not concerned about this controversy about who had the open microphone. It doesn't matter. There was an open microphone there.

There is a controversy I should explain: Yet another acoustic analyst, by the name of Anthony Pelicano in Chicago, was given the same tape that I worked from, and he has come to quite different conclusions. His conclusions are that the open microphone was not in Dealey Plaza, but was out at the Trade Mart, and these conclusions were based



on some of the things that you can hear during the interference sequence that only could have come from the Trade Mart. There was apparently some sort of radio communication center set up at the Trade Mart. There were motorcycles out there, and at one point on the tape you can hear a broadcast of Channel Two on Channel One. What apparently happened was that there were two motorcycle officers together, or one motorcycle officer and a police car, and another open microphone—of which there are many throughout this tape; not just one, there are many, over this five-to eight-minute period—but apparently an officer out at the Trade Mart with an open microphone was right next to another police radio that was broadcasting Channel Two. Consequently, the microphone picked up what was said on Channel Two. In another segment of the tape, you can hear an officer whistling. He's obviously oblivious to what has happened. So he's got to be in some other location in the city. You can hear some officers starting a motorcycle engine; you can hear their feet banging against the side of it—many extraneous noises. There is a carillon bell from a church near the Trade Mart. And because this bell sound was heard on the tape, again the conclusion was drawn that the microphone was not in Dealey Plaza.

Well, they determined it was Dealey Plaza. There are twenty noises from echoes bouncing off various places. These are exact measurements, down to a foot. The map that Weiss, Aschkenasy and Barger worked from was accurate to within one foot. And of the twenty-two noises that were analyzed, they used twenty. Two of them did not come back in exactly the right position, so they took out two of these indicators. If they had used these two, to compute the information, the probability would not be 95 percent or greater; it would be 100 percent. That's a very important thing to understand. The probability that was given by the experts, of 95 percent or better, was only because they left out information that would have supported what they were

doing—only because they weren't as certain of these last two noises as they felt comfortable with. There is no way that these impulses, caused by echoes, would look the same if the microphone were anywhere else but Dealey Plaza. In fact, Aschkenasy said, when the Committee members questioned him on this, you "would have to find a duplicate Dealey Plaza, somewhere in Dallas for the open microphone not to have recorded the shots." This is physical evidence; it cannot be altered. The original dictabelt cannot be altered either. If you want to record over a belt that has already been recorded, it erases what's already there. Literally destroys it. It cannot be done. The dictabelt and the magnetic tape copy done in early '64, are identical in every way. The tapes are not fake. Pelicano did his analysis by listening to the Dallas Police tape only. He did not have access to the tapes of the reconstruction that Barger Weiss and Aschkenasy have.

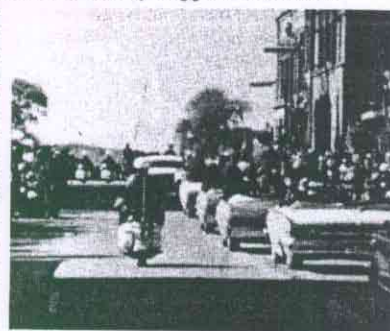
Now to the police tape itself. I have an edited version that includes the important areas of the tape—the part where the officer is whistling; the part where you can hear a Channel Two broadcast on Channel One; you hear the motorcycle in question, because that is the loudest thing on the tape. Later on you hear sirens which were picked up by another open microphone somewhere outside of Dealey Plaza. And you hear many different officers trying to get on Channel One. Each time one of the officers pressed the button on his mike to transmit, it caused a beep. It's a keying noise. It's a very short beep, it's a tone. Then, once they realized they couldn't get on the channel, they took their fingers off the button and the beep ceases. You hear a whole bunch of these things. You hear ten, probably fifteen officers trying to get on the radio channel. The only officers that can be on the channel are the ones with the strongest signal as received by the antennae at the Dallas Police Department. It is possible for two or perhaps even three to be on at the same time, which explains how the tape can contain sounds not recorded in Dealey Plaza.

## THE SEARCH FOR THE OPEN MICROPHONE

During its last day of public hearings, the House Select Committee on Assassinations took testimony from H.B. McLain, one of the motorcycle policemen who accompanied the Presidential motorcade on the day of the assassination. The Committee had pegged McLain as the most likely candidate for the stuck microphone that had recorded the shots in Dealey Plaza. The basis for this conclusion was belief, based upon general positioning of motorcade participants, that McLain was in the position that Weiss and Aschkenasy had identified as the source of the mike. A photograph taken later in the day at Parkland Hospital was also believed by the Committee to show McLain's motorcycle switched to the culprit Channel One (the normal communication channel was Two). McLain has claimed the stuck mike could not have been his. McLain now claims that he could not have been on Channel One because after hearing a tape of Channel Two, he clearly recalls being on that channel. He claims further that he accelerated his motorcycle immediately after the shots and that he accompanied the Presidential limousine all the way to Parkland Hospital. McLain, pointing out that the tape records only the distant receding sound of sirens, maintains that his microphone could not therefore have made the recording.

McLain's belated recollections have been widely cited, particularly by CBS, as evidence that the acoustics experts are wrong—that the recording in fact could not have originated in Dealey Plaza. Evidence gathered by *Gallery* suggests otherwise:

**Photo #1:** This photograph is part of an amazing sequence from the Dallas Cinema Associates film. Here McLain, clearly identifiable by the number 352 of his motorcycle, reaches down with his left hand to the area of the motorcycle microphone. This sequence occurs at about the same time that the microphone was opened, thereby locking Channel One.



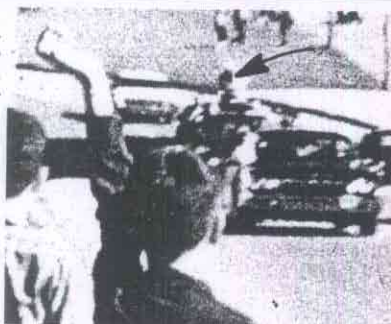
Enlargement

**Photo #2:** Acoustics experts calculated the location of the open police microphone at the Houston-Elm intersection at the moment of the first shot. This frame from the *Elsie Dorman* film, taken from the fourth floor of the Book Depository, confirms that officer McLain was at that spot at precisely that moment.

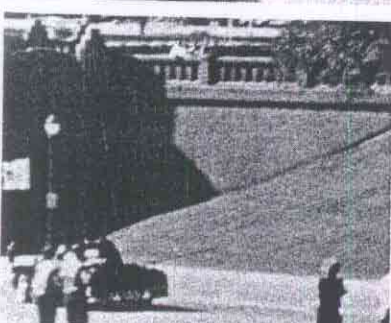




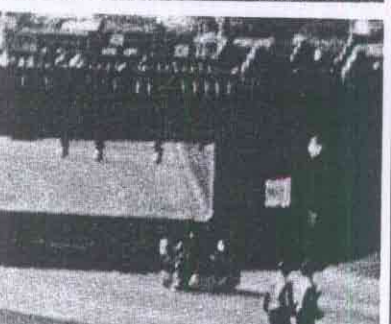
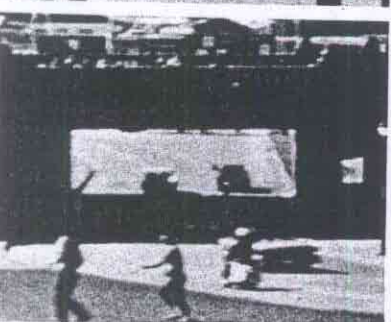
**Photo #3:** This frame, from a recently discovered film by Jack Daniel, shows the Presidential limousine after the shots have been fired. The limousine is racing toward Parkland Hospital, accompanied by a lone motorcycle known to be that of B. J. Martin. No other motorcycle is in sight.



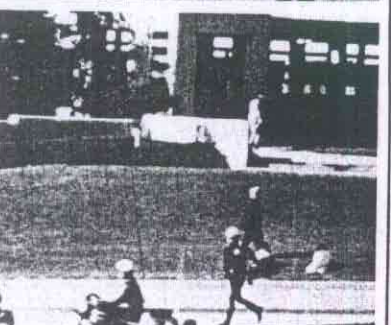
**Photos #4, 5, & 6:** These photos, from a film by F.M. Bell, depict the same scene from the Plaza side of the underpass. They prove conclusively that Martin's was the only motorcycle to immediately follow the limousine to Parkland.



McLain is clearly mistaken about having immediately accompanied the Presidential limousine to Parkland Hospital. Photographic evidence suggests that a) he keyed up his mike at about the time Channel One began recording; b) he was in the same place that Weiss and Aschkenasy predicted a motorcycle would be located, with an open microphone; and c) he remained in Dealey Plaza for at least thirty seconds after the assassination, contrary to his recollection that he immediately accelerated and sped to Parkland Hospital, accompanied by sirens.



**Photo #7:** This photo is also from the Bell film. Another motorcycle is now heading toward the triple underpass, through which the Presidential limousine passed approximately thirty seconds earlier. This could be McLain.



## BLAKEY'S PROBLEM: TOO MANY, TOO CLOSE

When Committee staffers first learned of the acoustic results, many began to refer to them as "Blakey's Problem." Indeed the fourth shot raises a far greater problem for Blakey and the Committee than merely a second assassin. The results bring into doubt the authenticity of at least some of the medical evidence, and they all but demolish the notion that Oswald could have fired three shots from the rear.

The Zapruder film of the assassination provides a sort of clock that allows the calculation of the timing of the assassination. The camera operated at a speed of 18.3 frames per second, meaning that each frame represents 1/18th of a second.

According to the Dallas Police tape, the spacing of the four shots is as follows:

- 1.6 seconds or 29 Zapruder frames between shots 1 and 2
- 6.1 seconds or 112 Zapruder frames between shots 2 and 3
- 0.6 seconds or 11 Zapruder frames between shots 3 and 4

There is only one unambiguous point of contact of a bullet visible on the Zapruder film. That is frame 313, which shows the President's head exploding. One bullet can thus be assumed to have struck the President at frame 312 (1/18th of a second before the impact explosion). This would have to be either the third shot (which came from the knoll) or the fourth shot (which came from the rear).

## THE COMMITTEE'S UNLIKELY SCENARIO

Critics have long contended—without acoustic evidence to support them—that the shot that drove the President's head violently backward to the left could only have come from the right front, the grassy knoll. The Committee was determined to conclude that all shots were fired from the southeast corner window of the Book Depository. It presented physical evidence in support of this conclusion, though much of this evidence does not stand up to close scrutiny. Nevertheless, the Committee would not concede that JFK was hit from the front, even once, because then it would have to go back and reevaluate and authenticate evidence that it had previously accepted in support of the lone-assassin theory. To accommodate its conclusion that the shot from the front missed JFK, the Committee postulated the following sequence of shots. (Because we know how much time elapsed between shots, we can match each shot to a frame of the Zapruder film by converting seconds to frames—one second equals 18.3 frames. Thus, if we link one shot with Zapruder frame 312—henceforth identified as Z312—the other frames that coincide with shots can be determined by counting frames forward or backward.):

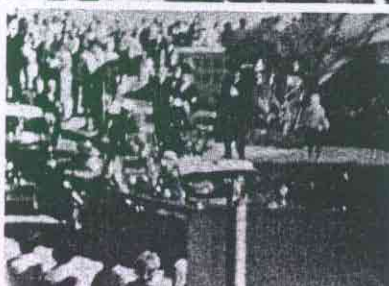
### The Committee says the first shot came here:

**Z160:** The President is seen waving to the crowd in this frame. There is no evidence that he has been hit or that anything is amiss. The Committee concludes that a shot was fired at this point and missed.



### The Committee says the second shot came here:

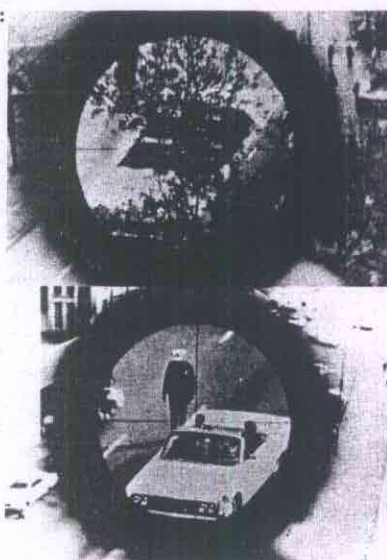
**Z189:** Kennedy is still waving. According to the Committee, Kennedy is hit here. The bullet goes on to strike Gov. Connally. The limousine disappears from Zapruder's view at Z210 when a sign intervenes with his line of sight. When the automobile reappears at Z222, Kennedy is obviously hit. Connally shows no visible reaction until sometime in the 230s. The Warren Commission and the Assassination Committee feel that Connally sustained a delayed reaction, even though the bullet allegedly entered his back, shattering his rib and collapsing his lung; emerged from his chest; shattered the thick radial bone in his wrist; and lodged in his thigh.





#### Committee Problem #1:

This is what a sniper on the sixth floor of the Depository would have seen if he was firing during the Zapruder 166 to 210 sequence, when we know there were shots. An assassin firing from the sixth-floor southeast window of the Depository would have had his clearest shot at the President as the car was on Houston Street approaching the building. These are Secret Service reenactment pictures made on December 5, 1963.



#### Committee Problem #2:

Only 1.6 seconds have elapsed since the first shot. When the FBI tested Oswald's rifle in 1964, it found that the rifle could not be fired twice in less than 2.3 seconds. Blakey lamely suggested that tests with another similar rifle proved it could be done in 1.6 seconds, but even CBS, in a shockingly biased 1967 news special that attempted to resurrect the Warren Report, was unable to find Master Marksmen able to turn the trick in less than 2.1 seconds.

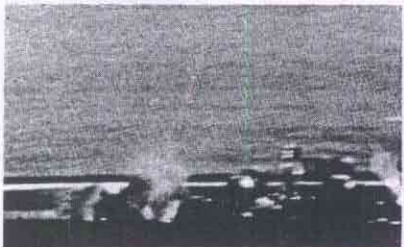
The Committee says the third shot came here:

**Z301:** This is the shot from the knoll. It is a miss, according to the Committee.



The Committee says the fourth shot came here:

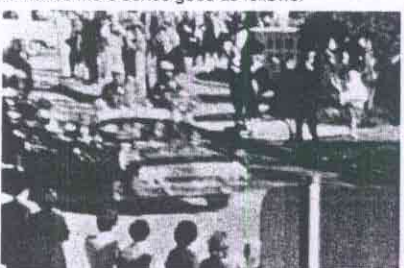
**Z313:** In this frame Kennedy's head explodes and is driven violently backward and to the left by a shot fired—according to the Assassinations Committee—from behind.



#### A SOUND ALTERNATIVE

An alternative theory that makes more sense goes as follows:

**Z171:** The first shot is fired here. It is not fired from the Book Depository, as tree obscures the view. Shot comes from undetermined point at the rear. It misses.

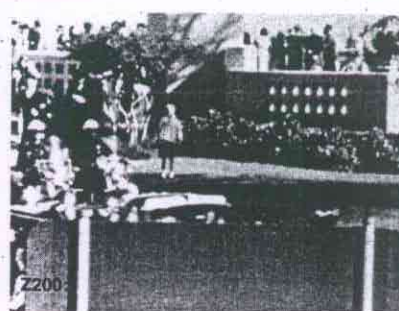


**Z200:** Shot number two, also from the rear. Probably strikes Kennedy just before he disappears from view of Zapruder at Z210. Kennedy's hand seems to freeze. When he emerges at frame 225 he is definitely hit. **Z226:** Another shot is fired, probably the one that struck Connally. This shot does not appear on the acoustics tape, but interference does occur at this point as another policeman attempts to break in on Channel One. This event obliterates all other sounds on the tape. There is some evidence of reaction by both Kennedy and Connally in the frames following 226. A shot at this point would account for Connally's back wound. The single-bullet theory is very simply untenable, and the acoustics experts did not exclude the possibility of more than four shots.

**Z313:** Kennedy is hit by a shot from the grassy knoll located to the right front. He is driven violently back and to the left.

#### Some Startling New Evidence Concerning Shot #4

If shot #3 from the grassy knoll struck the President in the head, the last of the four shots would have to occur at frame 323. Robert Groden's analysis of the Zapruder film reveals startling new evidence that strengthens the case for this sequence of frame/shot match-ups. Immediately following frame 323 Governor Connally undergoes a violent reaction to what appears to be an outside force. He literally spins around in his seat, though he has supposedly sustained all of his gunshot wounds more than five seconds earlier. Could Connally have been hit again by a fourth shot? Connally sustained five wounds: one in the back; one in the chest; one on both sides of his wrist; and one in his thigh. The Warren Commission and the Assassinations Committee decided that the first bullet that struck Kennedy went on to hit Connally and inflicted all of his wounds. It now appears that one of those wounds may have occurred much later—at Z323. Adding to the weight of the evidence is the fact, previously unexplained, that Connally can be seen clearly in the Zapruder film to be holding his Stetson hat long after his wrist has supposedly been shattered. Frame 274 of the Zapruder film also shows a clear view of Connally's wrist, which appears to be undamaged. It now appears highly likely that Connally's wrist wounds were caused by shot #4 fired at frame 323.



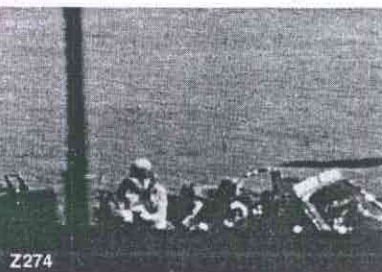
Z200:



Z226:



Z313:



Z274

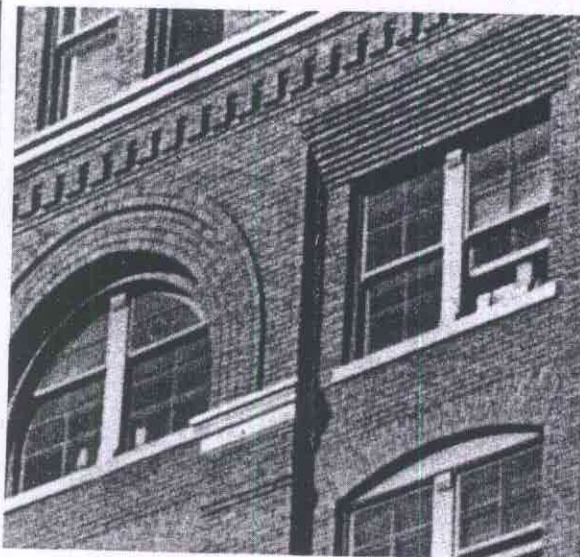


# How Many Men in the Sniper's Nest? Another Eleventh-Hour Bombshell

PHOTO BY POWELL

In November 1977 the FBI, as a result of a Freedom of Information suit by Harold Weisberg, released the first of two batches of files, each containing 40,000 pages of previously classified reports dealing with the Kennedy assassination investigation. These files had been available to the Assassinations Committee for many months prior to their release to the public.

Researchers immediately set about examining the files, disseminating them among a small group of critics for study and evaluation. Among the documents was found reference to a witness to the assassination, Charles L. Bronson. According to the document, Bronson had filmed the assassination and felt certain that "the Texas School Book Depository Building was clearly photographed" and that "the window from which the shots were fired will be depicted in the film."



*This photograph of the sixth-floor windows of the Book Depository Building was taken within two minutes after the assassination. They show book carts in a different position than they were in two minutes earlier. This indicates the presence of somebody in the so-called sniper's nest at the time Lee Harvey Oswald was accounted for on the second floor.*

That the Assassinations Committee did not seek out the Bronson film can be interpreted in only one of two ways: 1) the Committee made an inadequate examination of FBI files that were available to it; or 2) the Committee was not interested in seeking out new evidence which might upset its apparently predetermined conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was in the window. In fact, the Assassinations Committee made no systematic search for photographic evidence and, according to Committee sources, in one case failed to follow up a lead that might have led to the discovery of several new films and photographs.

Researchers immediately recognized the possible significance of the Bronson film and passed the document on to Earl Golz, a reporter with *The Dallas Morning News*, who had previously followed up other leads in the Kennedy case and produced much fine investiga-

## WHERE WAS OSWALD?

During the public hearings of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, not one word was said about the whereabouts of Lee Harvey Oswald at the time of the assassination. Clearly, the Committee accepted his presence on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository as a foregone conclusion and expected the public to do likewise. In fact, few findings of the Warren Commission were more weakly established than that Oswald was on the sixth floor.

The finding that Oswald was in the alleged sniper's nest was based on the testimony of Charles Givens, a porter who worked in the Depository, and Howard Brennan, a construction worker who witnessed the assassination. Givens told the Warren Commission on April 8, 1964 that he had left the sixth floor, where he was working that morning, at 11:45 A.M. to go to lunch, but had returned at 11:55 A.M. to get his cigarettes. Upon returning, he told the Warren Commission, he saw Lee Harvey Oswald still there. The Warren Report states that no one saw Oswald between the alleged Givens encounter and the assassination which took place thirty-five minutes later at 12:30 P.M. Brennan claimed to have seen the gunman on the sixth floor, and he identified him as Oswald when he testified before the Warren Commission.

Thus, Givens placed Oswald on the sixth floor after everyone else had departed for lunch, and Brennan placed him in the window at the time of the shots. The Commission chose to ignore Oswald's claim that he was in the first-floor lunchroom, eating his lunch at the time of the assassination.

But the case for Oswald's presence on the sixth floor is far from well established. Givens had told the FBI on November 22, 1963 that he had last seen Oswald on the first floor at 11:50 A.M. On February 5, 1964 Lt. Jack Revell of the Intelligence Division of the Dallas Police Department told the FBI that Givens "would change

his story for money." Brennan's positive identification of Oswald for the Warren Commission is tainted by his failure to identify Oswald in a lineup the day of the assassination. Brennan, who was nearsighted, was not wearing his eyeglasses that day.

On the other hand, there is persuasive evidence to support Oswald's claim that he was eating lunch when the assassination occurred. One of his co-workers, Bill Shelley, saw Oswald on the first floor between 11:45 A.M. and noon. Another, Eddie Piper, saw and spoke with Oswald on the first floor at noon. Most significant is the "statement" of Carolyn Arnold, the FBI report of which was excluded from the Warren Commission's twenty-six volumes of hearings and exhibits. According to the FBI account of its interview with Ms. Arnold on November 26, 1963, she thought she caught a glimpse of Oswald as she left the Depository at 12:15 P.M.

Dallas Police Officer Marrion Baker raced into the Depository immediately after the last shot was fired. He encountered a calm and collected Oswald drinking a Coke near the lunchroom less than two minutes after the assassination. Oswald was not out of breath as he surely would have been had he just raced across the building and down several flights of stairs—if he could have done it in time.

The case for Oswald's innocence seems strong based upon all of this, but the investigative reporting of Earl Golz of *The Dallas Morning News* now seems to have provided him with an unshakable alibi. Golz tracked down Carolyn Arnold, now Mrs. Carolyn Johnston, as a possible sidebar to the Bronson story. She had not seen the FBI account of her interrogation until Golz showed it to her in November 1978. "That is completely foreign to me," she told him. In fact, she said, she had left for lunch at about 12:25 P.M. (about the time Bronson's film was capturing movement on the sixth floor), and she saw Oswald in the lunchroom as she was leaving. He "appeared to be eating his lunch."

Mrs. Johnston was not called as a witness by the House Select Committee on Assassinations.



tive reporting. Golz found Bronson and his film in Ada, Oklahoma. Sure enough, the film showed the sixth floor of the Depository about six minutes prior to the assassination (the time is established because at that moment Bronson is filming an ambulance that had arrived at that time to attend to an epileptic seizure). Close examination of the film revealed what appeared to be movement in the sixth-floor corner window and in the window immediately adjacent to it. Were there two people, or perhaps three, on the sixth floor of the Depository just brief moments before the assassination?

There was certainly other evidence to suggest that there were. Carolyn Walther told the FBI after the assassination that she had seen two men, one dark complected, in the sixth-floor window. She was not called by the Warren Commission or the Assassinations Committee. Contacted by Earl Golz, she revealed that the FBI had pressured her to change her story: "They tried to make me think that what I saw were boxes."

Arnold Rowland also saw two men on the sixth floor, one with a rifle. One had a dark complexion. Rowland was called by the Warren Commission, which devoted two pages in its report to discrediting his testimony. The Assassinations Committee never looked for him.

Mrs. Tony Henderson also saw two men on the sixth floor, one with a dark complexion. An FBI report, published in the volumes of Warren Commission exhibits, indicates uncertainty as to which floor the men were on, but an earlier one—not published—reveals certainty. Mrs. Henderson was called neither by the Warren Commission nor the Assassinations Committee. She confirmed her observations to Golz.

An attorney testifying before the Warren Commission on another matter told the Commission that he had a client who had been in the Dallas County Jail on the day of the assassination. The attorney suggested that the Commission might try to ascertain who was in the jail and question them as to what

they might have seen (the jail overlooks Dealey Plaza and faces the Depository). The Warren Commission failed to take the hint. So did the Assassinations Committee. But a tip led Earl Golz to Johnny L. Powell, who had been a prisoner in the jail that day. He had observed two dark-complected men with a rifle on the sixth floor of the Depository. "Quite a few of us saw them," Powell told Golz.

If there were two or more men on the sixth floor of the Depository, the case against Oswald as a lone assassin collapses. The Committee had evidence to this effect before the Bronson film surfaced. It chose not to investigate.

Golz' copyrighted front-page story ran in *The Dallas Morning News* on November 26, 1978. All three networks and most major newspapers carried the story.

The Committee hurriedly obtained the Bronson film and dispatched it to its photo panel, which convened on December 2. The panel had previously examined another film that showed the window from a different angle and had determined that apparent movement in that film was "false images." But the Bronson film was found to be of "superior quality." Without funds to enhance the film, the panel was unable to come to any conclusions, but it did suggest that computer enhancement was advisable, conceding the appearance of movement in the windows. One member of the panel, Robert H. Selzer of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, stated that there was clearly movement which could be human in both sets of windows. He strongly suggested computer enhancement.

Although it is hard to believe that Congress would have turned down a request for funds to analyze this startling new evidence, it was presented with no such dilemma. The Committee chose to close up shop without seeking an extension or funds to clear up "loose ends." On January 8, 1979, after the December 31 closing of the Committee, Chairman Louis B. Stokes wrote to Attorney General Griffin Bell recommending that the Justice Department investigate the film.

## Autopsy Cover-Up: Wandering Wounds

One of the most perplexing aspects of the House Select Committee's investigation under Blakey has been its handling of the John Kennedy autopsy evidence, beyond doubt the most crucial physical evidence relating to the assassination.

The autopsy has been steeped in controversy from the very outset. Whisked away from Dallas where it legally should have been autopsied by the Dallas Medical Examiner, Kennedy's body was flown to Bethesda Naval Hospital where three military pathologists performed the task. Of the three, only one was a forensic pathologist trained to deal with violent death. Even so, his role in the autopsy was strictly a secondary one.

Almost all aspects of the Bethesda autopsy have come up for criticism. Almost every finding has been contradicted by other evidence. Bullet holes in the President's shirt and jacket, for example, indicate that he was struck in the back approximately six inches below the collar. The wound was seen by four Secret Service agents, two FBI agents, and the President's personal physician, all of whom concurred that the wound was four to six inches below the shoulder. Yet the location of this wound was reported in the autopsy as being far higher—at the base of the neck. That higher location was essential to the Warren Commission's single-bullet theory, which concluded that the shot that hit the President went on to exit his throat and inflict five nonfatal wounds on Governor Connally—turning up eventually in near-perfect condition at Dallas' Parkland Hospital.

The throat wound presented another problem. It was a small, neat wound that doctors at Parkland Hospital in Dallas had enlarged for a tracheotomy. Seven doctors who worked on the President's wounds at Parkland indicated that the throat wound was an entrance wound. The Bethesda autopsy doctors

never realized there had been a throat wound until they spoke with the Parkland doctors after the body of the President was no longer in their possession. Critics have challenged the autopsy doctors' deduction that this was an exit wound in view of the opinion of the Parkland doctors. Conflict also arose over the description of the wound in the President's head. Doctors at Parkland Hospital unanimously described a wound that had done massive damage to the occipital (back) portion of the President's skull. Yet the autopsy report described a wound in which the occipital area was undamaged. Indeed a large bone fragment, discovered in Dealey Plaza and examined at Dallas' Methodist Hospital before being turned over to the FBI, was thought by the pathologist who examined it to be from the "occipital region of the skull," which had been reported intact in the autopsy report. (The House Assassinations Committee had this fragment examined by anthropologists to determine whether it was occipital bone from the rear portion of the skull or parietal bone from the side portion. No testimony was given on the matter during the public hearings conducted last September.) And the doctor who had directed the autopsy destroyed the preliminary draft of the autopsy and notes taken during the autopsy—material that is normally included as part of a final autopsy report. Photographs and X rays taken during the autopsy, which could have clarified many of the points of conflict, were strictly withheld from examination even by qualified pathologists.

In January 1969 the autopsy controversy was settled to the satisfaction of much of the press when the Justice Department released the report of a panel, appointed in 1967 by Attorney General Ramsey Clark, of three pathologists and a radiologist, under the direction of Dr. Russell Fisher of the University of Maryland. The Fisher Panel Report, as it is commonly re-



# Missing Evidence,

by Jerry Policoff

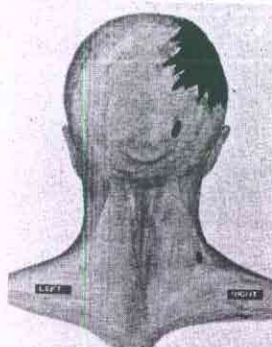
ferred to, appeared to support the original autopsy findings; the Panel had seen the autopsy photos and X rays. But to those familiar with the mass of medical evidence, the Panel only raised more questions. For example, a comparison of the Fisher Panel Report with the original autopsy report reveals a four-inch difference in the location of a small entrance wound in the head. The autopsy report had specifically placed that wound just above the right ear, but the Fisher Panel found it near the top of the skull. And there were other discrepancies between the two reports: A wound that the autopsy doctors had said was covered by a flap of skin was clearly visible to the Fisher Panel. The throat wound, which the autopsy doctors had claimed was completely obliterated by the tracheotomy, was seen by the Fisher Panel.

The Fisher Panel endorsed the findings of the original autopsy and the Warren Commission's single-bullet theory, yet it never evaluated Connally's wounds, which account for five of the seven wounds supposedly caused by that magic bullet. The Panel also endorsed the autopsy report's location of the back wound at the base of the neck. (The Committee later looked at the photographs and came to different conclusions.) The findings of the Fisher Panel were carefully hedged and often ambiguously phrased, indicating a desire to support and not challenge the autopsy findings and not get too specific.

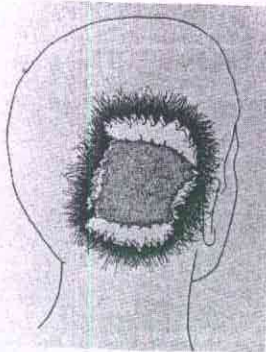
In September 1977 G. Robert Blakey appointed his own panel of nine forensic pathologists, a panel which, according to one Committee source, "seems to have been chosen for its predisposition to the lone-assassin findings of the Warren Commission." Of the nine, only Dr. Cyril Wecht had ever expressed any skepticism about the single-bullet theory or other medical aspects of the case. The associations of most of the other eight members of the panel should have excluded

them from any official examination of the autopsy evidence. Dr. James Weston, for example, had long been an apologist for the original autopsy, writing off inexcusable errors by the autopsy doctors. In 1975 he examined the autopsy material for CBS and wholeheartedly endorsed the original autopsy findings based upon what he saw, ignoring many of the glaring inconsistencies that had also been ignored by the Fisher Panel. Among Weston's close friends and associates are Doctors Pierre Finck and James J. Humes, both members of the original autopsy team. Dr. Charles Petty and Dr. Werner Spitz, are close associates of Dr. Russell Fisher. Both worked under Fisher in the Maryland Medical Examiner's office. Most of the other members of the Assassination Committee's Panel were also closely associated with one another and with Dr. Fisher and other members of the Fisher Panel both fraternally and professionally.

Perhaps the best way to evaluate the work of the autopsy panel and the Assassinations Committee is to examine what they did *not* do. Among the photographs taken during the autopsy of President Kennedy was a set showing the President's chest cavity. These photographs should have revealed a path through the throat if a bullet in fact passed through the President's neck, as the Warren Commission claimed. Those photographs were never examined by the Fisher Panel and are apparently missing. The matter of the massive occipital damage noted by the Parkland doctors, but which is not apparent on the Kennedy X rays, was ignored during the public hearings. The matter of the four-inch discrepancy in the location of the small entry wound in the head was attributed to simple error on the part of the autopsy doctors (though it is hard to understand how the doctors could have mistaken the area above the ear for the top of the head). No explanation was offered of why the



This Warren Commission exhibit depicts President Kennedy's wounds as described by the autopsy doctors. Note the absence of massive damage to the occipital portion of the skull, the location of the small entrance wound "just above the right ear," and the location of the back wound at the base of the neck.



This sketch represents a composite of the head wound described by doctors at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. Note massive damage to the occipital (rear) portion of the skull. As you can see from a comparison of the two above drawings the massive damage originally described at Parkland has been "moved" upward in the Warren Commission Report.



This sketch, based upon an autopsy photograph, depicts a small entrance wound near the midline of the skull, far from the location "above the right ear" identified in the autopsy report.



Jacket worn by President Kennedy on the day of the assassination. Note the location of the bullet hole, approximately six inches below the collar line.



This somewhat ambiguous sketch depicts President Kennedy's back wound, as shown in the autopsy photographs. The wound is clearly well below the shoulder. Compare this with bullet hole in top left drawing.

outlines of the throat wound are clearly visible in the autopsy photographs but were invisible to the autopsy team. Thus, the Assassination Committee's majority panel repeated the sins of the Fisher Panel, evaluating in a vacuum the medical evidence it was shown, and not raising questions about blatant discrepancies or about what it

was not shown. The Panel also refused to recommend that tests be conducted to determine if it was possible for bullet CE 399 to have caused the seven wounds attributed to it and still remain intact.

Efforts to authenticate the autopsy material in view of the enormous discrepancies (not to mention the fact that some



photographs, possibly some X rays, microscopic tissue slides, and the President's brain are all missing) seem woefully inadequate. A dentist confirmed that the teeth correspond with President Kennedy's dental charts, but only three of the X rays showed any teeth, leaving the others unauthenticated. A photographic expert testified that the photographs had not been doctored, but he was not in a position to evaluate whether the person represented in all of the photographs was in fact President Kennedy.

The Committee did attempt, in a gentlemanly way, to determine the chain of possession of the autopsy material, but despite failure to fill in gaps, they did not utilize the contempt and subpoena power available to them. Of the scientific procedures utilized by the Committee for the first time, at least one is worthy of note. The enhancement process utilized to bring out details in the X rays had the interesting effect of eliminating countless dustlike bullet fragments clustered near the front of the President's skull. These fragments have been pointed to as possible evidence of a frangible bullet that may have exploded inside the President's skull, a finding which, if confirmed, would eliminate both Oswald's rifle and ammunition, and would add support to the theory that the shot was fired from the knoll. These "enhanced" X rays were exhibited during the public hearings, but Dr. Michael Baden, speaking for the Panel, neglected to mention fragments eliminated by the enhancement process. Baden did say that there was no evidence of a shot fired from any direction other than above and behind (the direction of the Depository), however.

What is perhaps most startling about the findings of the Committee's autopsy panel is the fact that a major concession was made by the doctors, which should have resulted in a serious challenge to the single-bullet theory. Critics had long contended that the back wound could not be where the autopsy doctors said it was—that it had to be far lower in the back because of the locations of the holes in the clothing and the

eyewitness descriptions. The Fisher Panel had agreed with the location in the autopsy report, but the Assassinations Committee's panel revised the location to a point approximately two inches lower.

The result is that for the first time the official position of the back wound is now lower than the position of the wound in the throat. When one considers the official theory that the bullet came from a point six floors above street level, it is difficult to comprehend how a bullet proceeding on a downward trajectory could exit at a point higher than its entry. This did not dissuade the Committee's panel of experts. "It is our opinion that one bullet—and only one bullet—passed through President Kennedy's neck," Dr. Baden testified. "It is our opinion that one bullet—and only one bullet—went through Governor Connally. And it was the same bullet."

But the ultimate moment arrived when Dr. James J. Humes was called to testify. Here was the opportunity to ascertain why Humes had burned his notes. Here was the opportunity to clarify testimony at the Clay Shaw trial by another one of the autopsy surgeons to the effect that military brass at the autopsy had prevented the surgeons from dissecting the back wound and had otherwise prevented a complete autopsy. Here was the chance to discover how such a major error could have been made in positioning the President's head and back wounds. Here was a chance to ask about FBI reports that a bullet—never again seen—had been recovered during the autopsy. Humes was asked two questions: To the question of burning his notes, he explained that they were bloodstained (so were other autopsy documents that were not burned). He went unchallenged. To the question of a four-inch mistake in locating the head wound, Humes conceded error brought about largely from fatigue. He said the difference was "semantic." After ten minutes of innocuous questioning, Humes was dismissed. Those who were present say Humes seemed greatly relieved at the relative ease of the questioning and was heard to say, "They had their chance and they blew it."

## Dissent Within the Autopsy Panel By Dr. Cyril Wecht

*Dr. Cyril Wecht, past president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and one of the most qualified forensic pathologists in the country (forensic pathology is the study of violent or unexplained death), has for many years been one of the few members of his field to take a strong stand with regard to the Kennedy assassination and the implications of the medical evidence.*

*The associations of several members of the forensic pathology panel selected by the Committee further suggest the Committee's desire to obtain an endorsement of the original findings of the Warren Report. The panel's makeup made it a foregone conclusion that Wecht would be a minority of one. If it was the Committee's plan to discredit Wecht by making it look as if his views were completely out of step with those of the rest of his profession, that plan backfired as a result of his brilliant presentation during the Committee's open hearings.*

*Dr. Wecht shared some of his panel experiences with the Gallery symposium:*

I think it's more important to note that the panel of forensic pathologists convened by the House Select Committee on Assassinations consisted of competent experts from around the country. You might like to know how they were selected. A letter was received by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences from the House Committee requesting the names of "noncontroversial" forensic pathologists. I found that amusing. I guess that eliminated my friend Tom Noguchi from the West Coast, and possibly some others who might have brought some objectivity to the panel. It was not a surprise to me, nor do I believe it was circumstantial, that many of the pathologists who were selected are from the forensic pathology clique of Russell Fisher who headed the 1967 Ramsey Clark [Fisher] Panel and has a vested interest in having the questionable work of that panel endorsed.

One cannot challenge their competence or expertise as forensic pathologists. But one can certainly challenge their objectivity and credibility insofar as their performance in this matter is concerned.

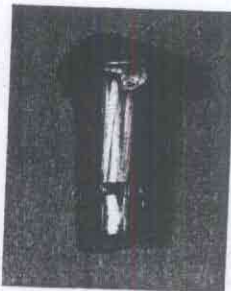
The panel met on several occasions, but one meeting—of which I did not learn until it had already taken place—involved a subgroup of six panelists (those who had not previously viewed the autopsy material) who were permitted a long personal interview with Doctors Humes and Boswell, two of the doctors who were involved in the original autopsy of the President. Ostensibly, the reason for creating the two subgroups was that Dr. Weston, Dr. Spitz, and myself had viewed the material before, while the others had not. But I think the real reason was that they wanted to interview the autopsy doctors without me being present, either because that's just the way they wanted it or because Humes told them that he would not meet with me. Of course, it was no investigative loss for Werner Spitz not to be there, because Spitz is Humes' close friend. In fact, when Spitz was involved in his as yet unresolved Wayne County difficulties relating to professional activities in the Medical Examiner's office, among the major defenders to rush forward in his behalf was Dr. Humes. Similarly, Dr. Weston had no problem, because he's a friend of Humes also. I challenged them at the time. I was extremely indignant that they had done this. I'm not suggesting that I would have been able to break Humes down on cross-examination. I probably would not have been afforded that opportunity even if I had been there.

But I do want to show the bias that that panel began with, the manner with which Professor Blakey handled it. For example, Bob Groden met with our panel one day. I was enraged by the way he was treated by some of the panel members. And I remember very well the difference in attitude on Blakey's part toward me and Bob on the one hand,





Warren Commission Exhibit 399 (CE 399). This nearly pristine bullet is alleged to have struck Kennedy in the back; exited his throat; struck Connally in the back, shattering his rib; exited his chest; passed through his wrist, shattering the radial bone (one of the thickest bones in the body); entered his thigh; and fell out, to be found later in this condition by a hospital orderly.



This is what is left of a bullet fired into a cadaver's wrist by the Warren Commission.



CE 875: This is what is left of a bullet fired into a cadaver's skull by the Warren Commission. The resulting fragments are almost unrecognizable.

and the other members of the panel whom he was also meeting for the first time. Not that I need or desire Mr. Blakey's personal friendship, but the evidence of his preconceived bias is important to note. His response to several comments was quite revealing. Once we had a joint meeting of a few of

the panels. In the course of the discussion, Blakey made the following remark as he sat on an elevated dais in one of those large Congressional rooms: "Gentlemen, we've got to be sure that we come up with the right answer." I immediately challenged him and asked, "Professor Blakey, what is the right answer?" Well, he didn't have a response to that, but he thought about it for about five minutes and later came back and tried to explain what he meant by the statement, "the right answer."

The panel's work can be summarized very quickly: Much of it can be related to the single-bullet theory. The other pathologists would challenge many points as we would move from one piece of evidence to another. Numerous obvious questions would arise, and at times I even had a shade of optimism about picking up an ally or two on some matters. Well, I did on some individual isolated points. But when it came time to put it all together, not being fools and having read all my articles and having heard my discussion and being fully aware of Weston's and Spitz' previous presentations (for CBS and the Rockefeller Commission), they recognized all too well that they had to draw their "Maginot line" at the single-bullet theory.

So when it came time to explain various things that simply did not fit and were not consistent with anything they knew or had ever experienced as forensic pathologists, their answers were simply, "Strange things happen. Bullets do some crazy things. We can't recreate the experiments ... (experiments that in fact were done under the auspices of the Warren Commission at Edgewood Arsenal back in 1964) because we cannot have a totally controlled scientific background, and hence the results might be confusing and even misleading." We cannot again shoot through goat carcasses and human cadavers; we cannot recreate a scene with mannequins in an open limousine, etc. We can't take strings back to the alleged site of Oswald's shooting—sixth floor, southeast corner, Texas School Book Depository Building because we don't really know all

## COMMITTEE SOUGHT "NONCONTROVERSIAL" PATHOLOGISTS

Enter Werner U. Spitz

**P**erhaps the most peculiar choice of "experts" on the House Select Committee's autopsy panel was Dr. Werner U. Spitz, Chief Medical Examiner of Wayne County, Detroit, Mich. Spitz is a longtime friend of Commander James J. Humes, the pathologist who conducted the autopsy on President Kennedy and subsequently burned his notes. When Humes retired from the Navy a few years ago, it was Dr. Spitz who threw a party for him.

Prior to becoming Chief Medical Examiner of Wayne County in 1970, Spitz served as Assistant Chief Medical Examiner for the state of Maryland—under Dr. Russell Fisher, the man who directed the controversial 1968 Panel review.

In 1975 Spitz was selected by the Rockefeller Commission (whose Executive Director, David W. Belin, was a lawyer for the Warren Commission and remains one of its strongest defenders) to examine the Kennedy autopsy photos and X rays. The Rockefeller Commission's panel supported the Warren Commission's lone-assassin conclusions, but some of Spitz's subsequent public descriptions have cast greater doubt than ever upon the authenticity and/or evidentiary value of the material. For example, while defending the autopsy findings, Spitz described the back wound both publicly and privately as being approximately four inches below the shoulder, a location that coincides with many eyewitness descriptions of the wound, but which radically contradicts the original autopsy findings, the findings of the Fisher panel, and even the findings of the current Select Committee Panel, of which he was a part. On one occasion, Spitz, in reply to speculation that the photos and X rays may not be 100 percent genuine, lamented: "The people have lost confidence in what they are told. They have lost confidence in the Government, in the Government's statements. ... Nobody relies on anything anymore."

In 1976 Dr. Spitz was embroiled in one of the most bizarre controversies to face a member of his profession. As a result of newspaper stories implicating him in activities ranging from the entrepreneurial to the macabre, Spitz was the focus of a special criminal investigation set up to determine if his alleged activities conducted in conjunction with his role as Wayne County Medical Examiner were in violation of the law. While recommending against indictment, the task force nevertheless confirmed most of the allegations made against Spitz. Among them:

- While he was Medical Examiner, Spitz set up a private medical institute which operated out of the morgue and utilized county employees and equipment but did not pay rent or reimburse the county for its activities.
- While functioning as Medical Examiner, Spitz routinely removed and sold pituitary glands from bodies autopsied at the morgue, without permission of the next of kin. The considerable proceeds collected from over 7,000 glands disposed of in this manner were shared by morgue personnel and Spitz's institute.
- Samples of blood, urine, and bile taken from automobile fatalities were sold by Spitz to a research institute, proceeds going not to Wayne County, but to Spitz's institute.
- Several brains removed at the morgue were shipped by Spitz to a firm that converted them into laminated medical exhibits and subsequently made a "donation" to Spitz's institute.
- Spitz's institute received over \$25,000 for autopsies conducted in conjunction with a state study of infant crib death, although approximately half of the autopsies were conducted by "regular staff doctors employed by Wayne County, at the morgue, using morgue facilities, equipment, and personnel."
- Spitz conducted personal experiments on "at least four" bodies to determine the effects of various types of ammunition on the human body. The task force found these experiments to be "improper, and far more reprehensible morally. ... Dr. Spitz as Medical Examiner is expected to treat [bodies which come into his possession] with dignity and respect ... We believe that he violated his moral obligation."



these precise measurements, etc. And yet when we read the majority report, you will find that they do not hesitate to conjecture and speculate and arrive at some conclusions and hypotheses that have no basis in fact whatsoever, when it suits their purpose. When it does not suit their purpose, they simply say, "We cannot engage in this kind of scientific speculation because we simply don't know that it is accurate."

I would like you to know—as I stated when I gave my testimony—that on numerous occasions with the entire panel as individuals and as a group, I pleaded, cajoled, provoked, challenged, in every possible way, all of them to come forward with one bullet from any of their vast array of cases that would even begin to simulate the near pristine appearance of CE 399 [the "magic bullet"]. What they like to say—although not too often when I'm around—is, "Well, we don't know that a bullet could not do this." And they will even sometimes say that they have seen bullets like CE 399. It should be clearly, emphatically noted for the record that no such "magic bullet" had ever been produced. I think it was pointed out that the nine of us on the panel had collectively done over 100,000 autopsies. That's an awful lot of postmortem examinations. And I told them, "Fellas, I'm not holding you to 51 percent; not even 1 percent; not even 1/100th of 1 percent. Just bring in one bullet—one bullet that has done what CE 399 is alleged to have done and which emerged in the intact condition of this wondrous missile. You've got all the time in the world. Bring in one documented bullet like the JFK stretcher bullet." Well, as you know, no such bullet has ever been produced. And I think that this, perhaps, is the bottom line. There is no such bullet. There never was and never can be. There will never be experiments repeated under government auspices of the kind that were performed in 1964, because they've already got enough difficulty living with those results. There's no way in the world that they want to account for similar results under an even more controlled background today.

# The Committee's Dilemma: To Make the Evidence Fit the Official Scenario

By Jerry Policoff

**T**he Assassinations Committee had more than autopsy evidence to overcome. A mass of physical evidence exists in the Kennedy case that is subject to scientific testing and analysis.

During its public hearings, the Committee presented a great deal of expert testimony that appeared to bolster the Warren Report. However, the testimony was not as valid as it appeared to be:

## Neutron Activation Analysis

One of the most sophisticated methods by which the single-bullet and lone-assassin theories can be tested involves neutron-activation analysis (NAA) by which analyses of trace elements present in the metals are compared.

The FBI submitted Kennedy ballistics evidence to the Atomic Energy Commission for the purpose of conducting NAA in 1964, however the results of those tests were never made available to the Warren Commission. The Assassinations Committee commissioned Dr. Vincent P. Guinn, an expert in the field of NAA, to conduct tests on the various bullets and fragments in evidence. Guinn compared bullet fragments allegedly taken from President Kennedy's brain with fragments allegedly found in the Presidential limousine. He also compared fragments allegedly from Governor Connally's wrist with CE 399, the alleged single bullet.

Guinn found that it was "highly probable" that the fragments found in the car and brain matched and that the bul-

let fragments taken from Connally's wrist came from CE 399—persuasive evidence in support of the single-bullet theory. Guinn concluded that "there is no evidence for three bullets, four bullets, or anything more than two."

This testimony was the most dramatic evidence yet presented in support of the Warren Commission's lone-assassin findings. Once again, however, the Committee failed to ask the right questions. Fortunately, George Lardner of the *Washington Post* did not. Questioned by Lardner after the Committee session, Guinn conceded that key fragments were missing, and, more important, that the fragments he tested were not the same ones tested by the FBI in 1964. Elaborating, he said that he was given only two fragments from Kennedy's brain, neither of which weighed the same as any of the four brain fragments tested by the FBI. Similarly, neither of the two "Connally wrist fragments" weighed the same as any of the three tested by the FBI.

Where did these fragments come from? Testimony elicited from FBI firearms expert Robert A. Frazier at the Clay Shaw conspiracy trial suggests a sinister possibility. According to the Warren Report, the FBI had removed only a small piece of CE 399's outside jacket for NAA testing. Frazier conceded, however, that a sample was also removed from the bullet's base.

That a piece of CE 399's lead base was removed and is unaccounted for raises grave questions about the origin of fragments tested by Guinn. Why are Guinn's fragments different from those that were tested in 1964? That is a question the Assassinations Committee failed to ask.

Congressman Chris Dodd, the only member of the Assassinations Committee who dissents from the conclusion that the shot from the grassy knoll missed, raised new doubts about the NAA tests. At the closing moments of the Committee's public hearings, Dodd asked Chief Counsel Blakey if, in view of the acoustic evidence, he might be willing to comment upon "a bullet fragment found in the limousine that for some time has not been easily identifiable as a result of neutron activation tests." Blakey, pleading memory lapse, promised Dodd a private briefing later. No clarification about this never-before-mentioned fragment has been forthcoming at this writing.

## Ballistics, Trajectory

The Committee produced many "expert" witnesses who demonstrated a predisposition to the official lone-assassin findings.

Ballistics expert Larry Sturdivan (who had also done work for the Warren Commission) testified that the bullet that hit Governor Connally had probably first passed through President Kennedy. He based this conclusion on the alleged description by Dr. Robert Shaw, Connally's attending physician, of a long, elliptical back wound. Sturdivan said that this could only have been caused by a bullet that had first struck something else and had begun to tumble. In fact, Dr. Shaw has always unequivocally rejected the single-bullet theory and maintains that "the wound of entrance was consistent with a bullet that had not struck anything else" before it struck Governor Connally. Shaw was not called as a witness by the



Assassinations Committee.

To determine the trajectory of the bullet that struck Kennedy in the back, the Committee called upon NASA engineer Tom Canning. Canning's calculations led to the Book Depository as the source of the shot. He conceded, however, that a miscalculation of one inch would convert to a thirty-foot margin for error.

With this large a potential for error, it was obviously essential that Canning accurately determine the location of Kennedy's back wound. He consulted the findings of the Committee's medical panel, which placed the wound a few inches below the shoulder. He then moved the wound up to the base of the neck (to precisely where the original discredited autopsy report had placed it) to allow for the fact that Kennedy's seated posture would have altered the wound location from the point at which it appeared in the autopsy photographs. Canning's arbitrary decision to move the wound up (rather than down, for example, to conform with the holes in Kennedy's shirt and jacket) totally discredited the trajectory analysis. It is interesting to note that Canning did not find it necessary to adjust the location of any of Connally's wounds.

## Failings of the Public Hearings

**T**he public hearings of the Assassinations Committee were designed to be good theater, although spectators characterized them as exceedingly boring, and not to add anything to the public's understanding of John Kennedy's assassination. Many relevant witnesses called to testify might just as well not have been called at all, in view of the treatment they received from the Committee.

Marina Oswald, whose testimony before the Warren Commission was a mass of contradictions and admitted lies, was subjected to little serious cross-examination. Criticized for the mild treatment by Nina Totenberg of National Public Radio, Blakey passed her a note saying, "Would you have us beat up on a widow?"

Former President Gerald Ford was treated with total deference, the Committee going so far as to submit written questions to him in advance of his appearance. He was not pressed about his informant role for the FBI while a member of the Warren Com-

mission or about his failure to respond to Jack Ruby's request of him and Earl Warren that the Warren Commission take him to Washington so that he could "tell the truth."

Former CIA director Richard Helms, while not exactly getting a warm reception, was nevertheless spared questioning about alleged intelligence connections of Oswald, and about Helms' own conduct before the Warren Commission in denying that the CIA had ever even considered debriefing Oswald when he returned from Russia.

In the area of physical evidence, the Committee's failure to call eyewitnesses to the assassination or any of the surgeons who attended to the President in Dallas (not to mention the woefully inadequate questioning of Dr. Humes, the autopsy surgeon) revealed the Committee's reluctance to locate evidence contrary to its intended conclusions.

A major failing of the Committee was its decision not to investigate the Dallas Police Department. Oswald was killed while in Dallas Police custody. The Dallas Police were respon-

sible for the gathering of most of the initial evidence, much of whose legitimacy has been questioned. Ruby had innumerable close acquaintances in the Dallas Police. It is indeed difficult to accept the premise that Ruby gained access to the basement where he killed Oswald without the aid of members of the Department.

The Committee also failed to investigate the killing of Officer Tippit, allegedly by Oswald. Oswald's guilt in that crime is no more firmly established than is his guilt in the assassination.

The Committee's exoneration of the CIA is also difficult to condone, not because there is necessarily evidence that the CIA was involved, but because the Committee never conducted any serious investigation of that Agency. Neither Richard Helms nor CIA officers involved in the investigation of the assassination were questioned until July 1978—barely a month before the Kennedy public hearings began.

Congress set out to answer questions and settle doubts. They ended up by further clouding the already muddy waters.

### SOME WITNESSES THE PUBLIC NEVER SAW

**T**here are literally hundreds of witnesses whose associations and activities before, during, and after the assassination should have made them key witnesses in any thorough investigation of the crime. Not that any of these witnesses could have solved the murder. However, the information they might have provided—when interlaced with other testimony—and then pieced together might have gone a long way in solving the puzzle.

The Committee received hundreds of names in November 1976 when they began their work. These names came from, among other sources, independent researchers, the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, and the Assassination Information Bureau.

**Richard Case Nagell.** Claims to have known the assassination was being planned. Terrified for his own safety, he made sure that he would be in police custody on the day it happened.

**Eugene Hale Brading.** Alleged organized-crime figure who was in Dallas on November 22, 1963 in violation of his parole. Was arrested by Dallas Police and then let go. He was on the second floor of the Dal-Tex Building, claiming to have been there to make a telephone call.

**Luis Kutner.** Go-between for Jack Ruby and Kefauver Crime Committee. Ruby allegedly tried to keep Committee out of Dallas.

**David Belin.** Junior counsel for the Warren Commission and executive director of the Rockefeller Commission. Elicited testimony from Charles Givens that Oswald was on the sixth floor of the Book Depository, although Warren Commission documents reveal that he was aware of Givens' earlier contradictory testimony.

**Pete White.** FBI informant who acted as attorney for Jack Ruby. He was a partner of Marina Oswald's attorney.

**Frank Sturgis.** Convicted Watergate burglar. Allegedly disseminated false stories about Oswald's pro-Castro activity following the assassination. Was one of six anti-Castro leaders warned by Kennedy in September 1963 to cease anti-Castro activity.

**Sylvia Odio.** Was visited by "Oswald" and a group of Cubans who later told her that "Oswald" had threatened to kill the President. Her scheduled public testimony was canceled because of time limitations.

**Peter Gregory.** Member of the Dallas White Russian Community. Had intelligence connections. Friend of Lee and Marina Oswald. Was official translator for Marina after the assassination and allegedly mistranslated several key areas of her testimony.

**Larry Craford.** Oswald lookalike who worked for Ruby and left Dallas immediately after the assassination.

**Ruth Payne.** Helped find Lee Harvey Oswald his job in the Book Depository. Marina Oswald lived with her at the time of the assassination. Ruth Payne's alleged government connections have never been clarified.

**William George Gaudet.** Former CIA agent. Received Mexican visa immediately following the one issued to Lee Harvey Oswald.

**Warren de Brueys.** With New Orleans FBI office during Oswald's residency there. Personally compiled an extensive Oswald file. Later told Warren Commission that Oswald had been of little interest to the New Orleans FBI.

**James Angleton.** Former head of CIA counter-intelligence. Was part of the CIA group that acted as liaison with Warren Commission. Tried to prevent Warren Commission from having its own investigative staff.



# The Many Faces of Lee

Jack White, an art director for a Fort Worth advertising agency, has for several years applied his skills as a photographer to analysis of evidence in the John Kennedy assassination. Primarily through the use of overlays he has argued that backyard photographs of Oswald holding the alleged assassination rifle are forgeries; that comparisons of the photographs of "the rifle" indicate more than one and a possible substitution; and that photographs of the Oswald who returned from Russia are of a different person than the Oswald who "defected."

White served as a consultant to the House Select Committee on Assassinations, and therefore had little reason to suspect the "setup" that awaited him when he was called to testify about the Oswald backyard photos on September 14, 1978. As it turned out, White was subjected to grueling cross-examination that the Committee was to reserve for only one other witness. (The other, Dr. Cyril Wecht, has persuasively argued the case for several years that medical evidence supports the conclusion that more than one gunman fired at President Kennedy and Governor Connally). "It marked the first time in more than a week of public hearing... that any witness was placed in such a trial-like atmosphere," noted one newspaper account of White's testimony.

The Committee's questions of White revolved around his knowledge (or lack of) of sophisticated scientific and computer techniques (i.e. "Did you compute photogrammetrically the effect of tilt?"). Clearly, their intent was to subject White and the critics—and ironically in this case, one of their own consultants—to ridicule.

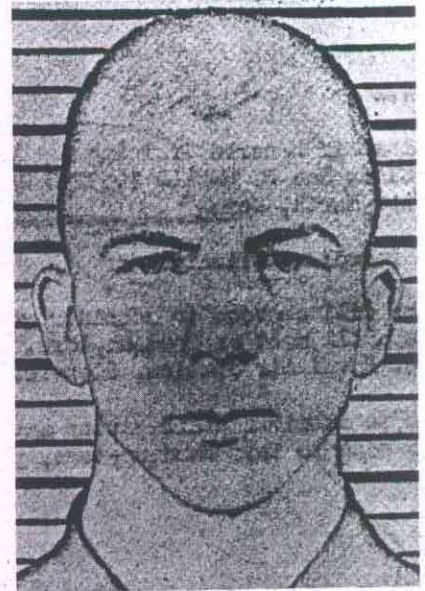
Before presenting the testimony of two scientific experts who were to testify as to the authenticity of the backyard photos (unconvincingly, some thought), Blakey claimed that respected British forensic photography expert Malcolm Thompson, formerly of Scotland Yard, had retracted his

own widely publicized opinion that the photos were fakes as a result of the work done by the Committee's experts. In fact, Thompson, told of the Committee study, had merely deferred his opinion pending study of the Committee's analysis.

Over the last two years I have been studying the face of the person called Lee Harvey Oswald, or what I call "the many faces of Lee Harvey Oswald." I have analyzed these pictures during that period, and they have led me to several conclusions, which I asked the Committee to investigate further. Their reply to me was, "Well, our forensic anthropologists are going to cover that." One of the things I called to their attention, and which they did address, was the picture of Oswald (#1) I've had on my office wall for several years. One night when I was looking at it, I noticed the number of "inch" marks behind the head, and I determined that this picture had a head that was 13 inches long. Then I looked at the New Orleans Police mug shot (#6), again with the inch marks behind the head, and it shows Oswald to have a 9-inch-long head.

Here's what I believe happened. The Lee Harvey Oswald who defected to the Soviet Union was likely an American intelligence agent who was caught and substituted in Russia. In other words, the Lee Harvey Oswald who was arrested in Dallas was not the ex-Marine, but rather a Russian agent. However, this does not mean that the assassination was a Soviet affair. This man did not kill Kennedy. He was framed as the patsy. What better type person could you have as a patsy than a foreign agent? He has no defense.

How I believe the Soviets created the "new" Oswald will become apparent through the following series of pictures. They will also explain why I can state with great assurance that the Dallas Oswald was not the Oswald who joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1956.



#1: This photograph, which I believe to be doctored, shows a 5'9" Oswald with a 13"-long head. Marine Corps records indicate that Oswald was 5'7" when inducted in 1956 at age sixteen. During his term of service, Oswald grew four inches, to 5'11", as documented by his discharge papers.



#5-8: All taken in 1963. #5 is a passport picture taken in New Orleans.



# Harvey Oswald

By Jack White



#2: Picture taken two weeks before leaving the Marine Corps in 1959.



#3 & 4: Photographs taken in Russia.



#6 is New Orleans mug shot taken in August.

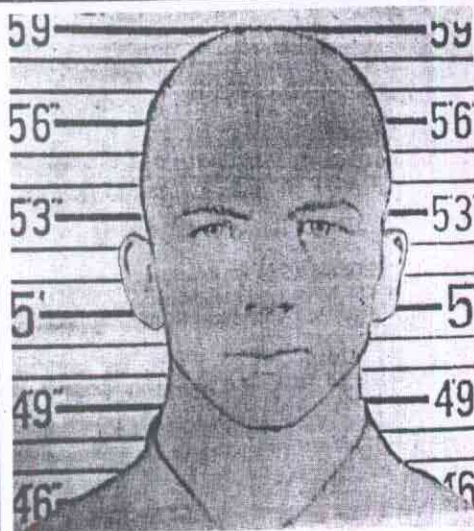


#7 is visa application photo taken in September.



#8 is Dallas Police mug shot taken after assassination.





### Some Fascinating Comparisons

Compare #1 with #6. The 1956 Oswald has a 13"-long head, whereas the 1963 Oswald has a 9"-long head. Photo #2 was taken in August 1959, and I believe that this is Lee Harvey Oswald. But photo #3, taken in Moscow in November 1959, is a very strange photograph. It doesn't look like the Oswald in

Dallas or the Marine Corps Oswald. This Oswald has a very big right shoulder and a small left shoulder. The light source is coming from the upper right, but the shadows fall as if the light source were coming from the upper left. As I examined this photograph more carefully, I saw much apparent retouching. The eyebrows and lips seem painted in. The right side of the lip is much thicker than the left

side. The indentation in the upper lip is off center. There's an unnatural notch in the hairline. So, what I've concluded is that *one half of this face is one person and the other half is another person.* This is a photograph that I believe was fabricated by the Russians, in order to find someone who looked like Lee Harvey Oswald. If this photograph is split down the middle, the two sides look like a com-

pletely different person. Photo #4 is also strange. The notch in the chin is off center, and if you follow that notch up a diagonal line through the left forehead, you detect obvious retouching. Again, I think we have two different people. The real Lee Harvey Oswald is on the left and the Russian substitute on the right. So what we have here is Lee Harvey Oswald substituted for by the Russians.



### How the Russians Created the New Oswald

They took a photograph of the

real Oswald and cut it in half, just as we have done. Then they matched that half against potential substitutes until they found one whose chin, lips, eyes, nose,

and hair reasonably matched. But they had one slight problem. The Oswald who was discharged from the Marine Corps was 5'11" (his official records

indicate that), whereas the Russian substitute was 5'9". The Russian's head was also slightly more elongated than the head of the real Oswald.



# **Split-Face Mirror-Image Analysis**

A split-face analysis further demonstrates that the Russian photographs were composites. No one's face is perfectly symmetrical; however, two right sides of a person's face, when spliced together to create a mirror image, should at least appear similar to two left sides that are spliced together in the same way.

As we can see this is the case with the Lee Harvey Oswald arrested in Dallas (#8). However, when this is done with the Russian "composite," two completely dissimilar figures emerge. I therefore conclude that the person arrested in Dallas for the assassination of President John Kennedy was not Lee Harvey Oswald.





# The Continuing Cover-Up: Four Views Normal Security for the President

By L. Fletcher Prouty

*From 1955 to 1963, Colonel Prouty was the "focal point of" between the Pentagon and the CIA. During 1962 and 1963 he was Director of Special Plans (clandestine operations) in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is the author of numerous articles and of The Secret Team, published by Prentice Hall (1973).*

**P**eople often wonder, "How can you protect a President with airtight certainty?" You can, if you do it right. I have worked with teams who were protecting the President. Suppose you are a Secret Service man assigned to stand in a position where you can observe a lot, and you have a two-way radio. And other men are scattered through the Presidential route area on roofs and in other strategic positions. If a window opens, you can see it. It's not very difficult. Now, this is a normal assignment for the Secret Service. But on the day the President was killed, they didn't do that. We don't know why.

I went with Eisenhower's team to Mexico City when he went there. It's the biggest city in the world. In those days it was about 12 million people. We surveyed every roof, we put men with automatic weapons and two-way radios on roofs all over the city, so that anybody who moved at the time the President was going through was under observation. So, when you consider that the President's path was through the relatively uncrowded Dealey Plaza, it really isn't as difficult as people think. Keep in mind also that special units of the U.S. Army are trained to assist the Secret Service with any number of men needed—5,000; 10,000; 20,000 if needed—to keep the President alive.

You watch the windows, because you seal them. And the Secret Service has the authority to put a seal on doors, so people can't get in them.

None of this happened in Dallas.

Trained U.S. Army intelligence units were told that their assistance was not needed in Dallas during the JFK visit. William McKinney, a former member of the crack 112th Military Intelligence Group at the 4th Army Headquarters, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, revealed that both Col. Maximilian Reich and his deputy, Lt. Col. Joel Cabaza, protested violently when they were told to "stand down" rather than report with their units for duty in augmentation of the Secret Service in Dallas. McKinney said, "All the Secret Service had to do was nod and these units which had been trained at the Army's top intelligence school at Camp Holabird, Maryland would have performed their normal function of protection for the President in Dallas."

The 315th, the Texas unit that would have been involved if its support had not been turned down, had records in its files, according to McKinney, on Lee Harvey Oswald. The 315th had a Dallas office, and its records were up to date.

McKinney added that "highly specialized classes were given at Camp Holabird on the subject of protection. This included training designed to prepare this Army unit to assist the Secret Service. If our support had not been refused, we would have been in Dallas."

**The "201 File"**

I'd also like to discuss the CIA's file on Oswald—what is known as the 201 file. At the beginning of World War II, as we all came into the Army the Army opened up what they called 201 files on us. The CIA, having grown out of the Army, actually, used the same system. Some of the Agency's earlier personnel officers were Army colonels and majors who were familiar with the system, so they also opened up 201 files. So Richard Helms' ob-

fuscation of the meaning of the 201 file is a blatant one. The 201 file is the background file on a man, and the CIA certainly had one on Oswald. He worked at Atsugi. I don't know how many of you have been at Atsugi, but the place is all underground, like Malta. The Japanese gave it to the CIA after the war. Nobody got in there that the Agency didn't have a file on or who wasn't cleared. Oswald left Atsugi in 1958 to go south with the group that was working on the rebellion in Indonesia. It's right in his record. Well, he couldn't have possibly done that without a whole flock of records. They wouldn't have let him in the group that went to Indonesia. But almost everything in Oswald's CIA 201 file is wrong. It's like they're really trying to cover up. They talk about a Lee Henry Oswald—they even got the name wrong. They got the place where he left the United States wrong. We know which FBI documents they were collecting this information from. It is as if they were systematically falsifying the original FBI documents to create a false personality.

It used to be my job to keep these files. We kept three files on every man. We kept a straight military file; we kept a straight Agency file; and we kept a straight civilian file. Now, you could falsify those where it was necessary, but, for instance, if the subject was making monthly payments to an insurance company, he had to be able to give an address and so on, so we had to create this data so that the whole thing would work. But right in our own office in the Pentagon—let alone what the CIA had—now, this is on the Pentagon side, because some of these people had an affiliation with the military, as Oswald did, you see his Marine file was one of three. So when you say, I want this man's file, the

Marines could come forward with a perfectly straight face and say, This is this man's file, knowing damn well that there are two more files back there that you didn't ask for, so you're not going to see them. So of course they're falsified. They're always falsified.

## Oswald and Officer Tippit

By Larry Harris

*Larry Harris is a Dallas resident who has studied the case against Lee Harvey Oswald and the slaying of officer J. D. Tippit, a second slaying allegedly committed by Oswald. Harris is currently working on a book in which he argues that Oswald was framed for both murders. What follows is excerpted from Harris' remarks at the Gallery symposium.*

**D**uring his brief stay as an unwelcome guest of the Dallas Police Department, Lee Oswald maintained emphatically that he was innocent and that he was a patsy. Indeed, much of the evidence that we've seen tonight indicates that unknown persons were seeking to implicate Oswald in the assassination, through the planting of evidence, the suppression of evidence and the manufacturing of evidence. And it pains me, as a lifelong resident of the Dallas area, to say that members of the Dallas Police Department, after the assassination, were instrumental in suppressing evidence or manufacturing evidence. To those of us who have taken the time in the past fifteen years to wade through the ungodly mess that comprises the twenty-six volumes of the Warren Commission's testimony and exhibits, the Warren Report represents nothing less than the systematic framing of an innocent man.



by a powerful authority on the basis of feeble evidence, inventions, distortions, and outright lies. In September 1977 I was among a group of critics invited to Washington by the House Assassinations Committee to meet with the Chief Counsel and their investigators and staff members to discuss the areas of investigation that we felt were important and the unanswered questions which remained. Professor Scott was among those invited. Both Sylvia Meagher—the author of the definitive critique of the Warren Report, *Accessories After the Fact*—and I pleaded with Professor Blakey that one of the most important things that the Committee could do would be to determine, once and for all, what role, if any, Lee Harvey Oswald played in the actual shooting in Dealey Plaza. There is overwhelming evidence in the Warren Commission hearings to indicate that Oswald was, in fact, innocent.

I think most of us at this table are in general agreement that November 22, 1963 was Lee Harvey Oswald's day inside the barrel. Not only was he charged with the assassination of the President, but he was also charged with murdering a Dallas Police officer who was slain forty or forty-five minutes after the assassination in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas.

The only time the Tippit murder came up during the Select Committee hearings was during the appearance of former President and Warren Commission member Gerald Ford. Congressman Sawyer was questioning Mr. Ford about why officer Tippit might have stopped the pedestrian. He voiced his opinion that evidence against Oswald in the Tippit murder was overwhelming, that there was no doubt that Oswald had killed Tippit. This occurred just before Mr. Ford made his notorious attack on the critics, in which he used the Tippit murder as an example of how irresponsible the critics of the Warren Commission are. He said that there are six witnesses who saw Oswald shoot Tippit. Well, Mr. Ford was displaying either ignorance or dishonesty about the case, because there were no six

such witnesses. The Warren Report says that there were three. Well, there weren't three. There were two, and we're not even sure about them. There was only one witness for certain. He was only fifteen feet away at the time of the shooting and he could not identify Oswald as the murderer.

Timing is very important in the Tippit slaying. This is an area where the Warren Commission deliberately misrepresented evidence—in this case moving the time of the Tippit killing back so that Oswald could be implicated.

Oswald left his rooming house at a few minutes after 1 P.M. Several minutes later his landlady claimed to have seen him still standing across the street, apparently waiting for a bus (headed away from the Tippit slaying site). The Warren Report states that Tippit was killed at 1:15 P.M., but it is now established that the shooting took place at approximately 1:10 P.M. perhaps a few minutes earlier. Eighteen blocks separate the Oswald rooming house from the site of the Tippit slaying. Warren Commission lawyer David Belin walked the distance in seventeen minutes forty-five seconds. It is simply out of the question that Oswald could have walked, or even run, 11/10th miles within the time frame that exists.

Descriptions of Tippit's killer do not describe Lee Harvey Oswald. Rather they describe a man with dark hair, quite a bit heavier than Oswald. The bullets from Tippit's body cannot be traced to Oswald's revolver. When former President Ford told the House Select Committee that bullets from Tippit's body had been traced to Oswald's gun, he simply misstated himself. Those bullets were never traced to any gun. The shells discarded at the scene are inconsistent with the brand of bullets removed from Tippit's body. Yet, when I met with Select Committee investigators in October 1977, it was clear then that they had preconceived notions as to Oswald's guilt in the Tippit murder and that they saw their role in Dallas as one of strengthening the case against Oswald

and perhaps providing innocent explanations for the discrepancies and unanswered questions. There are certainly many of those. There are witnesses who indicate that two men may have been involved in the killing, and the ballistics evidence certainly doesn't rule that out. The killer or killers apparently eluded police by ducking into an old church a few blocks away. The police responded to a call and surrounded the building, but before they could enter and search it, they were called away to apprehend a suspect at a library several blocks away. The library call apparently was a false lead.

Then there is the case of Warren Reynolds, a car dealer who saw Tippit's killer flee the scene and followed him for a short distance before he dropped from view behind a service station. When the FBI interviewed Reynolds in January 1964, he could not identify Oswald as the man he had seen. The next day Reynolds was shot through the head as he was closing up his car lot. He was not robbed, just shot. Reynolds miraculously survived, but when he testified before the Warren Commission six months later, his memory had improved and he identified Oswald as the man he had seen fleeing from the site of the Tippit killing. Reynolds also told the Commission, however, that he believed that the assault upon him was associated with what he had seen and that he feared for his own and his family's safety.

## The CIA's Role

By Victor Marchetti

*Though not a student of the Kennedy assassination in the same sense as the other members of the Gallery panel, Victor Marchetti's background as a former high-ranking official of the Central Intelligence Agency places him in a unique position to evaluate alleged intelligence connections of Lee Harvey Oswald. He is also in a position to provide the insight of a former insider to questions of the CIA's role in investigating or covering up the assassination.*

I would like to comment on the CIA's possible role in the cover-up, or the conspiracy to kill President Kennedy. One thing that disturbs me is that we have this ton of photographic evidence that is being analyzed by independent critics and, in some cases, I assume, by outside firms. But as far as I know, one of the groups most qualified to analyze this information has never been called upon. The CIA has under its jurisdiction the National Photographic Interpretation Center. The Center can do computer enhancement and computer analysis; it has the world's best optical equipment and probably the world's greatest photographic experts. The Committee has attacked people like Jack White for his analysis. What really bothers me is that they never really did come back with evidence to counter his analysis or conclusion. But the U.S. government has the capability to analyze all this information. I think about this, and then I start saying to myself, "Well, it's just too obvious to miss." To have this capability and not to have used it. I suspect that it has been used. Maybe that's why they never referred to it, because they would then have to bring forth their analysts for, in essence, cross-examination. The Agency has always tried to give the impression that it was disinterested in the Kennedy assassination: it had no responsibility for it, it accepted the findings of the Warren Commission, and so on. Well, a few years ago, when those photographs of the three tramps arrested in Dealey Plaza surfaced, and some critics were trying to determine who these people were, I gave two researchers—A.J. Webberman and his coauthor Canfield, who were pursuing this problem—the name of the man who is the father of photo interpretation and photo analysis in the CIA and U.S. government, or was, I said get in touch with this person and see if he can't give you some help. Nothing ever happened. The photos were sent to, I believe, *Der Stern* magazine in Germany for analysis. I think they gave it to a Swiss firm or something like that, and the analysis was inconclusive. Well, recently, the CIA has begun to release to me some



documents concerning their spying on me and their surveillance of me. Among these documents that I received is a memo of a conversation by the Inspector General of the CIA, saying that this individual, this former head of the National Photographic and Interpretation Center, called the Deputy Director of the Agency about my concern regarding these three photographs, and that the matter was handed to the Inspector General. There were a lot of deletions, obviously, in this memo, but I could fill in a lot of the blanks. Now, why did they get so damned excited over the fact that two Yippies come up with some photos and I suggest that they go talk to someone? So I think that there is definitely much more knowledge concerning the significance of these photographs than we the public have been told.

I'm building to a point that I will make last. I will put it aside now, and make an observation (and this ties in with a lot of your work, Jack), and that is that Lee Harvey Oswald just doesn't smell right. He never smelled right from the very beginning. I think the first cover-up story we were given was that Lee Harvey Oswald was some wacko Marine who went off the deep end and ran off to Moscow, and, you know, being magnanimous as we are, we let him come back. Then look at what he does. That was the original cover-up, which lasted, I think, for the most part of fifteen years, until experts like yourselves—expert critics—began to tear it apart, and actually came forward with so much information that something else had to be done about Oswald: another story had to be fabricated, another cover story. This one found its way into the public consciousness through a book by Edward J. Epstein, who got virtually all of his information from CIA sources.

They told him that "yes, Oswald went over to the Soviet Union, and he was not just a crazy man. This guy knew a lot about the U-2, because he had been stationed at Atsugi Air Base in Japan—one of the bases the U-2 flew out of—and he gave the Soviets valuable information, which they were able to use to shoot down the U-2. Later he came back, and

the implication is that he might have been a double agent or something. However, right after the assassination, a Soviet agent comes out and denies everything. There are two points. One is that this is just plain bull that Oswald supplied the Soviets with the information to shoot down the U-2. I worked on that program, and that plane was ready to be taken. The Soviets knew about the U-2, and they had been following it. They had been developing boosters for their missiles; they were using zoom tactics with their MIGs, trying to get closer and closer. It was just a matter of time before they picked off somebody, and that somebody happened to be Frank Powers. The point is, they now had a different cover for Oswald, whom they presented in a very interesting way.

It wasn't really important in the Epstein book that Oswald went over there as a spy. What was important in the book was that Nosenko, the Soviet who came here, said, "Oswald was not working for us." That was the important story in the book. And this reflected a fight that is currently going on in intelligence circles—a gutter fight—involving mostly ex-officers. I guess you'd call them the hawks and the doves—this was the hawks getting in their lick. Now, I had some information that suggested that the CIA was going to pull what they call a limited "hangout" in the Committee investigations. They'd admit to a certain number of wrongdoings and then cut it off there, and maybe finger some people. Well, the interesting thing about this is that when the CIA is finally called in—after all, this is an investigation that's been going on for months—what happens? The CIA doesn't even send up a person who is on duty. They send up a former officer—John Hart—who doesn't talk at all about the Kennedy assassination or Oswald or anything, but he talks about the Nosenko case all afternoon long, while these congressmen are sitting up there and looking at each other and saying, "What the hell is he talking about? Who's Nosenko? What does this have to do with Oswald?" But he gets away with it. Now, this is the other side in the Agency

striking back at the people who had fabricated the second published story. But the boys on the inside were smart enough to take advantage of it. "If they have fabricated a story for us, we're going to use it." It'll be our second cover story. And we'll attribute it all to you. Anyway, when people tried to pursue his testimony further, he said he didn't know anything. He'd been out of the Agency for a couple of years, and he was just doing what they'd told him to do—review this one case—and go up and present the evidence. Well, now, isn't that interesting. Here's a man, the equivalent of a three-star general, who was a powerful station chief in many countries, and he just doesn't know anything. And he neglects to tell you that while he, indeed, is retired, he is packing his bags to go to London where his wife is the new station chief for the CIA.

Anyway, when they finally do get around to Helms the next day, Helms is so burned up at everybody about everything, he scares the hell out of the Committee and makes some tough remarks that if he'd known they were going to act this way fifteen years later, he'd have driven up to the Warren Commission with a truck and dumped everything on them. And he bluffs his way right out. Nobody asks any tough questions about Oswald. Or any of the other factors related to it—Clay Shaw, and everything else.

Now, to wind up, and picking up on a point that I think Peter Dale Scott made... Yes, I think the cover-up is the key thing. We're only going to learn as much as the government wants us to learn, officially, and that can only be brought about, I think, by pressure from the outside. I do not share your optimism that if we work hard enough, and the media's with us, the government or the Congress will reinvestigate things. You'll excuse me if I'm a bit cynical, but having been deeply involved in another matter involving a review of the CIA and the intelligence community, that would never have come about if it hadn't been for the power of the press on the one hand, but it was generated by former insiders who were lob-

bing for reform, which coincided with the press' suspicions, and, of course, with public awareness. But even then they tried to stonewall it from the very beginning.

The Rockefeller Commission, when it finally got around to having an investigation, was loaded with establishment guys, and every one of them armed with a bucket of whitewash and a brush. Well, that didn't wash. So we had, as you referred to earlier, the Church Committee hearings and the Pike Committee—we saw what happened to the Pike Committee. Now, I think this issue, the Kennedy assassination cover-up, is far more important to the establishment than the review of the CIA was, so I don't see them budging one darn inch, and the only way short of using dynamite that they're going to be blasted off that position is by independent experts digging up all this stuff, going over it, and putting so much pressure on the media, and building up public opinion, that's the only thing they'll really respond to. And then I think they'll do it in stages. They'll have one drop-back position after another. Maybe someday, in our lifetime, we'll get to know the whole story, but you're in the early years of the fight. You've got fifteen more years to go for sure.

## The Media and the Cover-Up

By Peter Dale Scott

*A former Canadian diplomat with a Ph.D. in political science, he now teaches English at the University of California, Berkeley. Since 1972 he has continued to research and publish on the political context of the Kennedy assassination. He has also produced a widely acclaimed film on that subject for Canadian television.*

It really doesn't take a lot of brains to kill a man, and if you had two maniacs who wanted to kill a President in Dealey Plaza, almost any kind of maniac would



do. But what gives signs that this whole thing is bigger than that is that there is evidence of cover-up. There is evidence of cover-up even in the Oswald career before the assassination. There's a lot of evidence of cover-up at the time of the assassination, and there's evidence of cover-up in 1979. So, this is not just a matter of historical curiosity. This is a problem that should concern every one of us who is living in America today. I quite agree that there was a lot of evidence of cover-up within the Committee. But if this is something that goes back to 1963, we obviously can't blame it all on the Committee. I'd like to remind you of the fate of one other Committee—the House Select Committee on Intelligence, the so-called Pike Committee. A couple of years back it started to look into the CIA and prepared a report which was a good deal more critical than was the more cautious Senate Select Committee—the Church Committee. The Pike Committee, having gone much further in its criticism of the CIA, ended up being the only Congressional committee in the history of this country that wasn't able to publish its own report. The report ended up appearing in *The Village Voice* and, is not even an official document of the House. This is something without any kind of precedent. And I suppose one of the things that constrained the present House Select Committee on assassinations is that it didn't want to end up where the Pike Committee ended up. I think the most obvious example of pressures working here, which are bigger and more ongoing than the actual House Select Committee, is the attitude of the press.

We've had the Committee come out with a finding of a probable conspiracy in the Kennedy assassination, and what has been the editorial reaction of the nation's two largest and "most responsible" newspapers? On the one hand, you've had the *Washington Post*; "Well, so what if two people were shooting at the President," the *Washington Post* speculated on January 6 of this year. "They could have been acting independently." Two men, within a half-second, and here's the *Washington Post*

saying there's no proof of a conspiracy because it could be a coincidence. So that editorial is very soundly saying that it's not worth pursuing. They're really advising the Justice Department not to pursue what they call these "cold leads." And on the other hand, you have *The New York Times*, which is not so foolish, and which says, if you have two people shooting at the President within a half-second, probably they're doing it in concert. And the *Times* concedes that technically, then, you probably have a conspiracy, and that would be the right legal word to use. And having said all of that, *The New York Times* editorial attacks the Committee for having used the word "conspiracy." They said that by using that word, even if it was in fact the correct word, the Committee showed it was interested in inflaming the minds of the American people. They actually attack the good faith of the Committee for using the one word that legally, they concede, is correct. These are the kinds of pressures at work, and if you talk to people in Washington now, they're saying that everybody in Congress is scared to do anything with this material, because of the kind of pressure they will be under if they go forward with it.

The *Times'* solution for this, which in their editorial was to talk about "two maniacs" doing this, won't work at all. I want to point out one or two reasons why. First of all, if you then can stipulate that there was in fact a gunman standing behind the picket fence on the grassy knoll, then a lot of other eyewitness testimony becomes much more important than it has ever been before and deserves much more attention than it was ever given, either by the Warren Commission or by the present House Committee. For instance, the testimony of Lee Bowers.

Lee Bowers was one of the witnesses who died violently (when he was forty-one years old). He was standing in a railway tower behind the picket fence and later testified that he had seen some very strange goings-on there shortly before the assassination: two or three cars cruising around where they should have been denied access at the time. One of the men in

one of the cars was holding something that looked very much like a microphone or a radio. This doesn't sound like the activity of maniacs. He also testified that at the time of the assassination—and he was saying this to the Warren Commission—he saw something very peculiar down there. He said, "At the moment I heard the sound, I was looking directly toward the area. At the time of the shooting, there seemed to be some commotion. I just am unable to describe it other than by saying it was something out of the ordinary, a sort of milling around. But something happened in this particular spot that was out of the ordinary, which attracted my eye for some reason, which I could not identify." The Warren Commission counsel cut him off at that point, but Warren Commission critic Josiah Thompson wanted to know more, and Bowers told him also that he had seen a puff of smoke from that area. So that's one witness who suggests that we're dealing with more than just two maniac gunmen.

But much more serious, from my point of view, is the final report of the Secret Service after the assassination, saying that motorcycles had been deployed to the "side" of the President's car. Now, those of you who have seen the Zapruder film would have noticed that there were no motorcycles deployed at the "side" of the President's car. There were motorcycles deployed at the rear of the President's car. There is absolutely no doubt about this, and this might make the Dallas Police look rather suspicious. But the Dallas Police, who were very sensitive on this point, made a point of testifying to the Warren Commission that they had drawn up orders for the motorcycle men to be deployed to the side of the car (I suppose if you want motorcycle police to protect the President, that's where they ought to be) and that these orders had been changed, and the motorcycles had been redeployed to the rear of the car at the specific command of the Secret Service. Now, I don't know if the Dallas Police are lying, but I certainly know that the Secret Service report is false. And when we are now

talking about a second gunman shooting at the President, planned in advance to shoot at the President from the side, these redeployments become much more serious and again suggest something more than a plot by two maniacs.

But the most serious thing of all is the evidence of cover-up. It's always worth reminding ourselves that many of the people who covered up were not covering up because they were in any way part of an assassination. They were covering up because of their belief in what was in the national interest; or their belief in what was national security. But the fact is, there was a cover-up. And if Oswald was just one lone maniac, joined for a half of a second by another lone maniac, there would be no need for the U.S. government agencies to go through all these various contortions. So I think the editorial of the *Washington Post*, which says it is not worth pursuing the "cold trails" to a second gunman, is looking at this evidence from the wrong direction. It's not the identity of the gunman that particularly concerns us here: it's the reason for the cover-up. And let us take some hope from this and think of the analogy with Watergate: We never really learned what those people were doing in the Democratic National Committee. The crime itself escaped us. But the evidence of the cover-up was something that could be pursued: witnesses could be broken at a lower level, and this could lead to a higher level, and so on. It's not too late for that sort of thing to be done in the Kennedy assassination, because we can start with the autopsy report and the changing of the autopsy findings. We even have one of the autopsy doctors who's testified under oath that he was ordered not to do certain things. But it's still not been determined who was giving those orders. But that is the part which should be pursued. It should go higher and higher up on the level of cover-up until we finally locate people whose motives were not national security, not the interests of the nation, but because they had knowledge that other people did not have of what actually happened on November 22, 1963.



# Where Do We Go From Here?

*Before ending the symposium some of the members commented on the overall work of the House Select Committee and what lies ahead.*  
Fletcher Prouty moderated.

**PROUTY:** Gary, you've got into an area that certainly stunned the Committee because they weren't ready for it. Is there anything you'd like to add?

**MACK:** I would not be surprised, as you mentioned earlier, if another recording turns up. We know of one radio man—Sam Pate of radio station KBOX—who was west of the triple underpass on Stemmons, broadcasting live at the time the shots were fired. He was in his car with his windows rolled up; he had a police radio; he was monitoring Channel Two when he gave his live broadcast. When he opened his microphone, it cut off his AM radio but left the Dallas Police radio on. Sam could not hear the shots; the chances that the shot could have been picked up are remote, but that is a possibility. The Warren Commission had that tape—a tape of the live broadcast on KBOX. It was sent to a professor at Bell Laboratories in New Jersey. But the professor's report and the tape disappeared. The press might still turn one up. I've talked with one newsman who was in the first press bus and definitely remembers a man up at the front of the bus on the driver's side, dictating into some type of tape machine or dictaphone machine when the assassination occurred. His window was open. The shots were fired, and he said "Gunshots!" There was a woman across the aisle who also heard the gunshots. They pleaded with the driver, "Stop, there's gunshots; stop the bus." The driver replied, "I can't stop the bus. My orders are to go on to the Trade Mart." Most of the people on the bus did not hear the shots, but there is that possibility of another recording. The acoustics evidence, because it depends on the physical layout of Dealey Plaza, cannot be faked.

**PROUTY:** It's Dealey Plaza or nothing.

**MACK:** Right. Conclusions can be faked. But because this operation of studying acoustic analysis is cut and dried, any reasonably knowledgeable person can duplicate the study and come to the right conclusion.

**SPRAGUE:** Well, Gary, you must admit, it depends on where the shots are fired from in a test firing.

**MACK:** Well, you know, it wouldn't hurt to go back to Dealey Plaza and fire some shots from other locations to match up the unmatched sounds that are on the tape. There were many impulses—a total of fifteen—that were found initially and that indicated muzzle blasts. That's not counting echoes from these fifteen impulses. Dr. Barger removed six of them as false alarms—ones that he felt could not be definitely identified as gunshots, according to the test. Barger was then left with nine impulses, and what Barger did was establish a confidence level. In other words, a cut-off line. When impulses fell above this cut-off line, he felt comfortable working with them. Those below, of which there were five, he did not feel comfortable working with.

**SCOTT:** Well, I think the really important issue is not the report. The really important issue is, what are they going to do with the information that they have collected? They promised to publish thirty-nine volumes, but as for the material they do not publish—are they going to allow it to be accessible, or are they going to put it under wraps? Now, if you think of the analogy with the Warren Commission, the Warren Report is of no use today. The twenty-six Warren volumes really were of some use and some of them, that are now being called "leads," like Ruby's phone calls with people close to organized crime, all that's there in the published volumes of the Warren Commission, for people who have the patience to go and look for it. And there is the unpublished material that was put, quite properly, into the National Archives. Now this Committee had Bert Griffin, from the staff

of the Warren Commission, testify, and the very first of his recommendations was that the material should be made accessible to the general public. And I'm not going to make a final evaluation of this Committee until I see what they do with that material. The issue now is to make sure that as much as possible of that material is published, and that the rest is not put under lock and key.

**PROUTY:** In other words, you're saying there might be an Achilles' heel there.

**POLICOFF:** Well, I think there are several Achilles' heels, and we have to deal with all of them. We've touched on the press here tonight. The press vacillates. In the early days, when Sprague was there and it seemed that the Committee might come up with a conspiracy theory, the Committee met with a lot of hostile reaction from the press. Then Blakey came, and as it began to look like the Committee was moving back to a more conservative position, the press became more friendly. Now we see an outcry from the press again! "Well, wait a minute, the Committee has gone too far. We have all this evidence that this Committee showed us that there was a lone gunman, and then we get this one little piece of evidence that perhaps there was a shot from the front, which is in contradiction to everything else they've shown us." We really have to take a look at some of this other evidence and the way the Committee dealt with it.

For example, Dr. Wecht, when he testified before the Committee, requested that the Committee put the single-bullet theory to the scientific test. Find out if it's possible. Find out if a bullet could do this. Well, the Committee chose not to do that, because Blakey said you can't come up with conclusive results or proper scientific controls. That's nonsense. You can obtain similar ammunition and simulate skin, tissue, and bone targets. This is an accepted, scientifically valid process. The Warren Commission chose

to disregard its own inadequate tests in this area because they destroyed the single-bullet theory. The Committee chose to do nothing. But, when the Committee was confronted with evidence that two shots were too close together, Blakey tested another rifle, claimed it could be fired in 1.6 seconds, and then claimed that therefore the FBI was mistaken when it concluded that 2.3 seconds were required to fire Oswald's rifle. Well, you can't test one rifle by testing another rifle. The Committee did neutron activation analysis and Dr. Guinn, an eminent expert in the field, testified in public session that the analysis tended to support the single-bullet theory and most of the findings of the Warren Commission. But when Dr. Guinn was questioned outside of the Committee hearings by George Lardner of the *Washington Post*, he conceded, "Well, the weights of the fragments that I have looked at aren't the same as the weights of the fragments that the FBI looked at." Why, he didn't know. He was asked about other evidence he should have tested. The Committee didn't give him that evidence. So, when he was asked the questions by a reporter from the *Washington Post*, questions he should have been asked by members of the Committee, it turns out that neutron activation analysis isn't quite so supportive of the findings of the Warren Commission as the Committee would have us believe they are.

It just goes on and on. We have testimony by several members of the pathology panel that the medical findings support the findings of the Warren Commission. One of the major findings, however, was that the back wound was lower than the autopsy doctors had reported it was. Well, the critics have been saying that all along. And all of a sudden, now, we have a flatter trajectory than we had before. We also have a failure by the Committee to really go back and try, under oath, to ascertain what was the chain of possession of this material. They



failed to properly deal with the forgery question. So the pathological findings aren't as strong as the Committee would have us believe. The neutron activation analysis findings come up weak, and they raise major questions about where this evidence came from. I think we have to deal with all of this and not let the press say, "Well, the bulk of the evidence supports the Warren Report, but we have this one bit of acoustic evidence that says something else, so it must be wrong." We have to subject all of the Committee's scientific findings to very careful scrutiny.

**PROUTY:** Jerry, did you find cases where the Committee used its power to get access to things in the Archives that the rest of us don't ever see?

**POLICOFF:** Yes, I think they did. But the question is how they looked at it. For example, they had these fragments and the autopsy evidence. We researchers do not have access to that material. The Committee did, and they made a great deal of use of it. They submitted the X rays to enhancement. Well, the type of enhancement that they used, ironically, eliminated countless dustlike fragments, bullet fragments, in the President's skull that had shown up on the X rays originally. The type of enhancement that the Committee did, while enhancing certain things, eliminated those dustlike particles. Now, there's a strong feeling among many researchers that those dustlike particles are evidence of a frangible [designed to explode on impact] bullet, that struck the President from the front. So, yes, I think they went out of their way to gain access to the physical evidence they could find, but I don't think they went out of their way to pursue evidence that wasn't readily available to them. I don't think they made a real effort to find the brain. I don't think they made a real effort to find out what the chain of possession was of some of the material. Or to find out where some of the missing material might be, or why the fragments didn't match up. And they didn't ask the right questions. There's a question in my mind that perhaps the fragments that

Guinn found matched the magic bullet might have been removed from that bullet sometime after the assassination and switched with the Connally wrist fragments. That's a valid question, but not one the Committee was prepared to ask.

**GRODEN:** I am in something of a unique position. I was the first consultant the Committee had, and I'm still a consultant for them. I'm still working and I can say that the report, in its entirety, cannot be honest. They've ignored way too much. The Rockefeller Commission was far more blatantly dishonest, and the House Committee simply has ignored too much.

The autopsy photographs, for instance. The only scientific tests ever performed on the autopsy photographs were performed three hours after the Committee formally ended its life. And I was the only person to do them. And our results are that two of those photographs are fakes. When the Rockefeller Commission began, they weren't going to look into the Kennedy assassination, and some of us tried to make them address it, so that just maybe they'd stumble across the truth. Well, we were dealing with the power of David Belin, unfortunately. So, the House Committee was the only show in town. There was no other place to go. There probably will never be another committee to investigate this case formally. They stumbled on a lot; they ignored a hell of a lot.

The autopsy evidence, the medical evidence, to me, now is far more interesting than what I spent the last fifteen years doing—dealing with the photographic evidence. The majority of the evidence, both published and as yet unpublished, would tend to show that another bullet was fired into the President, was recovered during the autopsy, and has never been presented publicly. There is no field of the autopsy, no periphery, that does not indicate this. There are formal reports from doctors, both in Parkland and Bethesda—attorneys, eyewitnesses—reports in some of the most respected publications in the world, both medical and

periodical, indicating this. The medical evidence itself is absolutely undeniable. What Jerry just said about the dust fragments in the President's head is fact, not fiction.

There is a track through the President's head, or an apparent track, although not as apparent as the rear-to-front path. This went front to rear, heading downward, to the point where Dr. Humes originally said the wound was—just above the hairline and to the right of the center, in the occipital area. This is fact.

I can say that there are many members of the House Committee who tried their darnedest to find the truth. And there are many attorneys who, by their training, must go with the "best evidence they've got." The best evidence is the autopsy photographs. They cannot assume the photographs are fake simply because somebody says so. They look with their eyes, and they see something that is very well done, and they assume they're genuine because they must. Well, I'll tell you, after fifteen years of investigating the case and twelve years of photo analysis, I will tell you I have very little question in my mind, if any, that those two key autopsy photographs are fakes. And they were never formally addressed as such. The Committee never seriously considered conspiracy. And there are many honest people on the Committee who will take the position now that Oswald was the lone assassin, simply because they didn't see all of the evidence.

**HARRIS:** My personal motivation in continuing to work on the case has been a firm belief in Oswald's innocence. The new Committee report is an endorsement of a despicable document—the Warren Report—which I earlier described as the systematic framing of an innocent man by a powerful authority, on the basis of feeble evidence, inventions, distortions, and lies.

I don't think we will ever know the individuals who were involved in carrying out the plot which took the President's life. But we can say with almost complete certainty who did not kill John F. Kennedy, and sooner or later the

American people are going to have to be told: Lee Harvey Oswald was innocent.

**MARCHETTI:** Well, I just want to emphasize again how difficult it's going to be to get at the truth with a few quick stories. When I first got interested in this assassination after having left the Agency—while I was in the Agency, I bought the company line—I was paid a visit by a rather scary figure whose name frequently comes up as possibly having had something to do with the actual conspiracy to murder the President. And he just reminded me of his background and how I knew him from Agency days. And the upshot of it all was a message, which went something like: You know, there are an awful lot of people around this country who think they were involved in the Kennedy assassination in some way or other. And when other people start nosing around, they act first and ask questions later. It was pretty clear what I was being told: Mind your own business. In fact, he went on to say, "You can do much more for your country by exposing the CIA, getting them investigated, than becoming interested in this assassination."

I think there are a lot of reputations at stake. I think that every time a reporter, or a congressman, or some official honorably buys the lone-nut theory and no conspiracy, he is then committed to that position—he cannot back off it. And certain reporters, who are nationally known, with some of the big newspapers and some of the big TV networks, I think they're in this bind. They bought a story somewhere along the line, and helped to sell it, and made reputations on it, and now can no longer go back on it. In fact, they have to work along with everyone else in trying to push it. They're not really covering up, but they're pushing the one-man theory. The going is going to be hard, that's the main point I want to emphasize. And I think the real solution is outside, independent experts coming up with the evidence that will turn the public on, which will in turn put pressure on the media, and in turn on Congress and government to be more forthcoming.



# JFK Assassination Chronology

By Jerry Polio

Events that have figured into various conspiracy theories, such as the war against organized crime, the arms race, Vietnam, and Cuba. Not included but relevant are numerous CIA plots against Castro.

1962	March 30. State and Justice Departments announce crackdown on U.S.-based exile attacks on Cuba.
May 19.	Jimmy Hoffa indicted for extortion.
December 23.	Hoffa trial ends in hung jury.
1963	March 30. State and Justice Departments announce crackdown on U.S.-based exile attacks on Cuba.
April 3.	President Kennedy reiterates that exile attacks against Cuba will not be tolerated.
April 30.	U.S. terminates financial aid to the Cuban Revolutionary Council, largest and most active of the Cuban exile groups. Set up by the CIA, the group had been receiving up to \$200,000 per month in CIA funds up to that time.
May 9.	Hoffa indicted for defrauding the Teamster Pension Fund.
June 4.	Hoffa indicted for defrauding the Teamster Pension Fund.
June 10.	In a speech delivered at American University, President Kennedy calls for an end to the Cold War. JFK announces an end to atmospheric testing of atomic weapons by the U.S. Soviet August 5. Nuclear Test Ban Treaty signed between U.S. and Great Britain. Treaty is hotly received by the Soviet Chiefs of Staff.
September.	Attorney General Robert Kennedy announces plans to expand the war against organized crime. Privately singles out Jimmy Hoffa, New Orleans, and Chicago mob chief Sam Giancana.
September 15.	Justice Department warns six prominent Cuban exile leaders of possible criminal prosecution if they persist in their raids on Cuba.
October 24.	Adlai Stevenson is sent upon in Dallas and hit with pocket signs following a speech commemorating UN Day.
October 24.	French journalist Jean Daniel meets with President Kennedy prior to his leaving for Cuba for informal talks with Castro about U.S.-Cuban relations.
October 31.	President Kennedy, at a press conference, confirms U.S. plans to withdraw American troops from Vietnam.
November 18-22.	Jean Daniel meets with Castro to discuss ending of tensions with U.S.
November 20.	President Kennedy announces plans to withdraw between 1,000 and 1,300 troops from Vietnam by year's end.
November 22, 1963 to the Present	
November 22.	President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas. Lee Harvey Oswald, twenty-four-year-old Marine, and ex-dedicator to the Soviet Union, is accused. Claims he is a patsy.
November 24.	Lee Harvey Oswald shot to death by Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub operator, in the basement of the Dallas County Jail.
November 24.	Autopsy surgeon James J. Humes certifies that he has destroyed by burning certain preliminary notes from the autopsy of President Kennedy.
November 29.	President Johnson appoints the Warren Commission to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy.
December 3.	Secret Service conducts on-site tests in Dallas to determine how the President could have sustained an entry wound in the throat from a rifle fired from behind.
December 6.	New York Times reports that Kennedy autopsy surgeons have been ordered to not discuss the autopsy.
1964	June 7. Jack Ruby is interviewed by the Warren Commission in the Dallas County Jail. Among those present are Earl Warren, then Congressman Gerald Ford, and special counsel to Warren Commission, Leon Jaworski. Ruby states he was "committed." "I can tell the truth about my life in Dallas."
September 27.	Warren Report issued. Concludes that both Oswald and Ruby acted alone. Finds no evidence of conspiracy.
November 24.	Twenty-six volumes of testimony and exhibits released.
1965	February 21. Malcolm X assassinated in New York City.
1966	May 28. Washington Post carries eight-column front-page lead story dealing with questions raised by Edward J. Epstein, a New York Times reporter, and Harold Weisberg's Whitewash, both books critical of the Warren Report.
September 11.	New York Times Magazine carries feature article by Henry Farrell suggesting that there was a conspiracy. The does not necessarily mention Theodore Koppelman of New York, who had been conducting his own investigation into the Kennedy assassination.
September 24.	Congress conducts its own investigation into the Kennedy assassination.
October 10.	Jack Ruby's conviction is overturned because of Oswald's public. Ruby is now open for a new trial.
November 13.	Mark Lane's Rush to Judgment, critical of the Warren Report, becomes the number-one book on the New York Times Best-Sellers List.
November 24.	J. Edgar Hoover says there is no evidence of a conspiracy behind the Kennedy assassination.
November 24.	Autopsy surgeon J. Thornton Bassett and James J. Humes examine autopsy photographs taken during JFK autopsy, and now stored in the National Archives. They report that they "clearly show the accuracy of the autopsy report."
November 25.	New York Times editorial concedes "unanswered questions." Calls members of the Warren Commission to provide "reasonable answers." Life magazine, in a cover story, challenges the single-bullet theory. Calls for a new investigation.
October 10.	Jack Ruby is admitted to Parkland Hospital suffering from pneumonia. Doctors discover cancer.
1967	January 3. Jack Ruby dies of cancer.
January 3.	Saturday Evening Post calls for new investigation of the Kennedy assassination.
January 11.	Galling Post shows that 64 percent of the American public is unconvinced that Oswald was the lone assassin.
January 17.	New Orleans States-Item reveals that New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison is investigating possible New Orleans-based conspiracy behind the Kennedy assassination.
March 1.	Garrison arrests New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw, charging him with conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.
March 6.	Harris Post reveals that 59 percent of the public feels there are unanswered questions in the Kennedy assassination. Thirty percent believe the full story is known.
March 8.	Wall Street Journal Observer says Warren Report is "not convincing." Calls for new investigation.
December 20.	Garrison charges California Senator Eugene Bradley with conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy.
1968	February 16.
February 16.	Former CIA director Allen W. Dulles is subpoenaed by Garrison. Refuses to appear.
February 27.	Garrison subpoenas Zapruder film.
April 4.	Marlin Luther King assassinated in Memphis.
June 4.	Robert Kennedy assassinated in Los Angeles.
November 8.	California Governor Ronald Reagan refuses to extradite Edgar Eugene Bradley to New Orleans.
1969	January 16.
January 16.	Justice Department releases report of four medical experts who have examined autopsy photos and X-rays. Release is part of government's effort to block Dr. Basile Fisher of the University of Maryland, appointed to support the lone-assassin findings of the Warren Commission and to buttress the autopsy report.
January 21.	Shaw trial begins.
February 14.	Dr. Cyril Wecht, Chief Medical Examiner for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, testifies on behalf of Garrison's attorney, James H. Moore. Wecht points out major discrepancies between Fisher Panel Report and autopsy report, including a four-inch difference in the location of the bullet wound. Also points out fragments found by Fisher Panel, which are not mentioned in autopsy report, and which appear to contradict the single-bullet theory. Wecht points out further that crucial photographs taken of the chest cavity appear to be missing from the Warren Report.
February 14.	On the basis of Wecht's testimony, Judge Charles W. Smith reverses an earlier decision and orders the National Archives to produce the autopsy material for the Shaw trial. Justice Department announces it will appeal. At the same time, the Department claims appeal process will extend past Shaw trial.
February 24.	Autopsy surgeon Pierre Finck reluctantly testifies to interference by military brass at JFK autopsy. Admits that autopsy was "incomplete."
March 1.	Clay Shaw is acquitted after fifty minutes' deliberation.
1975	January.
January.	Former Warren Commission counsel David W. Belin is appointed executive director of the Rockefeller Commission investigating CIA covert operations.
February 18.	Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez introduces resolution calling for investigation of assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King.
February 28.	David Belin publicly states that "neither the CIA nor anyone else" was involved in the assassination of President Kennedy.
March 6.	Zapruder film gets its first national showing on ABC's 60-60.
March 10.	Congressman Thomas N. Downing introduces a resolution calling for investigation of John Kennedy assassination.
June 6.	Rockefeller Commission Report on CIA released. Charges on Kennedy assassination finds Oswald acted alone.
June 19.	Chicago mobster Sam Giancana is slain. Participated in CIA-Mafia plots against Castro. N. Schwelker calls for a Senate investigation of the JFK assassination.
September 8.	Senate Committee on Government Information and Communications holds hearings on National Archives classification of the JFK assassination. Public favors a new inquiry into both Kennedy assassinations.
October.	House subcommittee on alleged destruction of Kennedy assassination evidence by the FBI.
November.	House subcommittee on Government Information and Communications holds hearings on National Archives classification of the JFK assassination. Public favors a new inquiry into both Kennedy assassinations.
December.	Senate Select Committee on Intelligence sets up subcommittee under Senators Richard Schweiker and Gary Hart to investigate the role of the CIA and FBI in investigating the Kennedy assassination.
1976	June 23.
June 23.	Schwelker/Hart Report is released. Charges CIA and FBI investigation was "deficient" and that facts which might have substantially affected the course of the investigation were not provided the Warren Commission.
August 9.	Murdered body of missing mobster John Roselli is discovered. Had played central role in CIA-Mafia plots.
September 17.	Congress votes by margin of 280 to 65 (with one member voting "present") to establish a select committee to investigate the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King.
October 4.	Richard A. Sarague, the prosecutor who broke the Oswald-Mafia case and got a conviction of United Mafia Worker-President Tony Boyle for the crime, is appointed Chief Counsel to the House Select Committee on Assassinations.
1977	February 10.
February 10.	Chairman of the House Select Committee, Henry B. Gonzalez, dies. Speaker appoints a series of disquieting members to the Committee.
March 2.	Gonzalez is elected to the House as Chairman of the Committee.
March 29.	Gonzalez resigns as Chief Counsel to the Assassinations Committee.
June 20.	Professor G. Robert Dalry of Cornell University is appointed Chief Counsel by new Chairman Louis B. Stokes.
1978	August 20.
August 20.	Committee conducts reassignment of assassination in Dallas for the purpose of obtaining acoustic echo patterns for Dealey Plaza. Committee conducts public hearings. Emphasis is on the assassination of President Kennedy.
September.	Committee conducts public hearings. Emphasis is on the assassination of President Kennedy.
December 28.	Professors Weiss and Aschkenasy of New York's Queens College testify to a 95 percent probability of a fourth shot in Dealey Plaza—the additional one coming from the grassy knoll to the right front of the Presidential limousine. Their findings are based upon comparative acoustic analyses of the Dallas Police tape and the August 20, 1978 reenactment.
December 31.	Assassination Committee issues preliminary report acknowledging a "probable conspiracy in the Kennedy assassination based on acoustic evidence."