210,213

++



News Service 54 Mint Street, No. 510, San Francisco, California 94103 (415) 956-3555

Jon Newhall • Steve Baim • Anne Milner • Marcia Bauman • Scoop Sweeney • Annamarie Faro

PLEASE CREDIT ZODIAC

JULY 1, 1980

FOR THEMS USED (ZNS) THE FORMER CHIEF COUNSEL OF THE HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS COMMITTEE SAYS THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IS DRAGGING ITS HEELS IN GETTING TO THE BOTTOM OF A POSSIBLE CONSPIRACY WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE MURDER OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY LAW PROFESSOR G. ROBERT BLAKEY SAYS THAT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WAS GIVEN A TAPE RECORDING 18-MONTHS AGO-- A TAPE RECORDING WHICH BLAKEY SAYS PROVES THAT TWO ASSASSING FIRED SHOTS AT PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

BLAKEY ALLEGES THAT THE DEPARTMENT HASN'T ANALYZED THE TAPE, PARTLY BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT IS AFRAID IT WILL FIND SOLID EVIDENCE OF A CONSPIRACY.

SAYS BLAKEY -- IN HIS WORDS --"I'VE TALKED WITH PEOPLE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, AND THEY ARE POSTPONING THE ACOUSTICS" ANALWSIS AS LONG AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE THEY KNOW HOW IT'S GOING TO COME OUT -- THAT THERE WERE TWO SHOOTERS."

BLAKEY SAYS THAT ALTHOUGH THE EVIDENCE WAS GIVEN TO THE DEPARTMENT IN JANUARY OF LAST YEAR, JUSTICE OFFICIALS HAVE YET TO TURN THE TAPE OVER TO ACOUSTICAL EXPERTS FOR AN INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS.

BLAKEY SAYS HIS TWO-YEAR INVESTIGATION OF THE KENNEDY CASE CONVINCED HIM THAT J-F-K WAS MURDERED BY ELEMENTS OF ORGANIZED CRIME. -- ZODIAC (7/1/80)

+++

++



JULY 7, 1980

PAGE 6 6 6 6 6 6

(ZNS) THE U-S JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DENIES IT IS DRAGGING ITS HEELS IN REINVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

G. ROBERT BLAKEY, THE FORMER CHIEF COUNSEL OF THE HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS COMMITTEE, CHARGED LAST WEEK THAT JUSTICE OFFICIALS HAD GIVEN THE KENNEDY CASE A "LOW PRIORITY" STATUS. BLAKEY CLAIMS THE DEPARTMENT HAS A TAPE RECORDING IN ITS POSSESSION WHICH PROVES THAT TWO ASSASSINS FIRED SHOTS AT PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

BLAKEY SAYS THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN HOLDING THAT TAPE FOR 17 MONTHS, YET HAS FAILED TO HAVE IT SCIENTIFICALLY ANALYZED.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SPOKESPERSON DEAN ST. DENNIS DENIES BLAKEY'S ALLEGATIONS. ST. DENNIS INSISTS THE KENNEDY CASE IS A "MAJOR PRIORITY" WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND SAYS OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN MOVING WITH WHAT HE TERMS "APPROPRIATE FASHION AND APPROPRIATE SPEED" IN THE CASE.

HOWEVER, ST. DENNIS SAYS THE DEPARTMENT HAS STILL NOT WORKED OUT A PROCEDURE TO MAVE THE ASSASSINATION TAPE ANALYZED BY INDEPENDENT ACOUSTICAL EXPERTS. AND HE REFUSES TO SPECULATE AS TO WHEN THE TESTS WILL BE DONE.

BLAKEY, IN THE MEANTIME, SAYS THE TAPE WILL PROVE THAT TWO SHOOTERS FIRED BULLETS AT PRESIDENT KENNEDY. HE SUGGESTS THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT MAY BE AFRAID TO CONFRONT THIS FINDING. -- ZODIAC (7/7/80)

Note to editors: Blakey can be reached at (607) 256-7590, and St. Dennis at (202)633-2017.