

Letters to the editor
The Washington Post
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8/28/94

Dallas FBI Agent in Charge Oliver "Buck" Revell's belated ^a August 27 "More Un-
Founded Theories About Lee Harvey Oswald" criticism of the ^{August 7} "The Fourth Tramp" Outlook
article ^{by} of the ~~the~~ Ray and Mary La Fontaine includes some but not all of what I told
Outlook about that newest of the JFK assassination mythologies in a letter I wrote
it the day that article appeared and then within a few days in a lengthy, detailed and
documented commentary and analysis receipt of which it has not ~~yet~~ acknowledged.

While Revell's criticism, perhaps assisted by his office's assassination historian,
Farris Rockstool III, who is well aware of my writing, is justified, in his quiet
boasting about his and his FBI's investigatory derring-do he is throwing stones from
inside a glass house.

Revell ^{a/} takes credit for the exposure of the assassination irrelevance of those so-
called "tramp" pictures after he became Dallas SAC in ^{May} 1991. In fact, I forced that
FBI exposure beginning May 3, 1968, by putting the FBI in the position of ^{having to} ~~ordering~~ Dallas
to investigate a then new assassination mythology. Dallas then failed to do what it was
asked to do, learn the "identity" of those tramps. Instead it contented ^{itself} with proving
there was no JFK assassination connection. If Revell's Dallas office had not failed to
do what it was asked to do in 1968 all the mythologies attributed to that pictures ~~would~~
not since they have plagued our history. As Revell himself says, all the FBI had to do
in 1968 was ask the Dallas police for their names. ~~From its own~~ (enclosed) report it did
not. *insert 1A*

Revell also says that "as a Marine officer, I was assigned to assist the FBI while
it was conducting a detailed inquiry into Lee Harvey ~~Os~~ Oswald's military background."

With ^a Revell's assistance the FBI did not discover and report what I first ~~br~~
brought to light in 1967 and his assistant Rockstool knows, that as a Marine Oswald
had CRYPTO and TOP SECRET ^{security} clearances. The FBI has yet to acknowledge that even
though the Warren Commission testimony that I brought to light in 1965 told it that
Oswald's clearances had to be "at least SECRET."

If ~~Paul~~ Revell's Dallas FBI office had done what was asked of it in 1968, all the ^{at once} ~~both~~ exciting and confusing ~~from~~ "tramp" mythologies, from Garrison^{u/} to that of the La Fontaines, would not have existed and the country would have been saved that plague at least.

While the proof of these high ^{Oswald} security clearances does not exist in ^{his} Oswald's Navy personnel records, ~~it~~ it does exist in other Navy records that ~~not~~ not needing the FBI's generous tax-payer funding I got from the Navy under date of July 14, 1977 for \$9.65. it remains officially unacknowledged that That ~~the~~ the only official candidate for Presidential assassin was so trusted in the marines that he had these exceptionally high security clearances ~~is~~ far from the only national scandal for which the FBI is responsible. *A Revell's office in particular.*

The new President directed the FBI to make and report on an exhaustive and definitive investigation of the assassination. ~~That~~ The FBI neither did nor ever intended doing. ^{that} Instead, as I document fully with records I obtained through a dozen FOIA lawsuits ^{mostly} against the FBI in my coming book, NEVER AGAIN! publication of which is now scheduled for ^{March} 1999, Director Hoover ordained the exact opposite the evening of the day ~~of~~ the assassination and nobody in the FBI or elsewhere in the government dared do what Hoover did not want done. It made a large pretense but it never actually investigated the crime itself.

When he was interviewed by William Manchester on June 4, 1964, Hoover stated, in the words of his note-taker, Cartha ~~DeLoach~~ Leach, that in "the President's call at 7:25 p.m. he gave specific instructions that the FBI do everything possible to thoroughly investigate this case." (FBI File 62-109060 Not Recorded, copy on request, 8 pp.)

But Hoover did not await ^{Johnson's} that phone call: "The Director told Manchester that the FBI immediately entered the case despite non-jurisdiction." ^(Emphasis added) "This is to say illegally, and to be able to control the ^{case} case, which is what the FBI did beginning then.

Hoover also made it clear to Manchester that he knew immediately, before going "all out" in response to Johnson's directive that Oswald was the ~~the~~ lone assassin.

This certainty, without any investigation, so permeated the FBI that as Revell will find in his own ^(89-43-483 sub 518) Dallas files when Dallas Eastman Kodak showed two of the then Dallas agents ^{pictures} amateur ~~movies~~ of the President actually being killed ("did depict the President's car at the precise time shots were fired"), those agents not only declined free copies of those ^{pictures} movies, it did not even notify Headquarters of their existence.

and they remained a secret until I forexed their disgorging in C.A. 78-0322.) *34 here*

As I wrote and the Post published during the controversy about the Oliver Stone ~~is~~ movie, JFK, I am "the lonely man in the middle" with conspiracy theories on one side of me and non-conspiracies ^{theories} on the other side.

In deploring "More Unfounded Theories About Lee Harvey Oswald" Revell fails to acknowledge the fact that the very first theory, of Oswald as the lone assassin, was made up by his own FBI before it made what it calls an investigation, which it never was.

That "all out" report the FBI prepared at the new President's order is no more than a four-volume diatribe against Oswald. ^(All five are "CD1" in the Commission's files.) ~~(Its fifth volume is on Jack Ruby.)~~ The FBI's own index of it makes ^{this} clear and that it was labelling him "red" despite his clear record I have from the FBI's own files that he was strongly anti-Communist and daring of foolhardy enough to be that within the USSR.

While this report oozes with such political poison, it does not, unbelievable as it may seem, even account for ^{of} the shots that were fired in the crime and in all those pages ^{it} does not even give the Cause of death!

In all four volumes ^{the FBI} it has but two sentences on the shooting. I reproduced them in ~~fax~~ facsimile in my first book (Whitewash: The Report on the Warren Report, p. 194) ^{in April of 1966.} Prior to publication I took copies of those pages to Al Freidly and Ben Bradlee. They ^{of} professed excitement and seemed to be impressed but the Post did not publish it.

With the passing of more than 30 years, with Hoover gone to his reward and no longer able to banish special agents to Butte, it is past time for the FBI, among others and on all sides of this lingering contrivery, to start to try to be honest first with themselves and then with the people.

In the most important job it ever had the FBI failed and it failed because it was its own director's decision to wipe the case out by making the safely-dead Oswald the lone assassin before anything like an investigation could have been or was made.

By its leaking of the first of those five volumes the FBI boxed the Warren Commission in. It dared not confront Hoover, knowing full well that nobody ever did and survived that politically. As it confessed in its emergency executive session of January 22, 1964,

The reason for not ~~accp~~ accepting free copies of ^{clear Leica pictures} ~~movies~~ of the President being killed ^{is} ~~if~~ they could "not" be used for identification purpose." That is, they did not show Oswald with a smoking gun. They could be used for identifying at least 50 witnesses to the assassination.

Similarly, when a nearby police department phoned the Dallas FBI the afternoon of the assassination, before that office had Oswald's name, and suggested that the FBI consider a man who, along with the groups of which he was part, had often threatened the President, the FBI supervisor wrote on this lead sheet - which also was not sent to Headquarters - "not necessary to cover as true subject located." (89-~~43~~ 43-84)

who are quite clear in them.

They also had the great importance in any real investigation of clearly showing the positions and the attitudes of the bodies ~~of~~ all in the Presidential limousine at precise and identifiable instants during the assassination.

~~another~~ TOP SECRET ~~Secret~~

that I also rescued from oblivion via FOIA, the Commission understood, in the words of its ~~ge~~^{general} counsel, J. Lee Rankin, "They would like to have us fold up and ~~quit~~^w."

Commission Member Hale Boggs then interjected, "This closes the ~~case~~, you see, don't you?"

Commissioner and former CIA director Allen Dulles ac~~k~~nowledged, "Yes, I see that."

Rankin then ~~wrapped~~ it up in these words, "They found the man. There is nothing for ~~me~~^{us} to do. The Commission supports their conclusion, and we can go home and that is the end of it."

Although the Commission had decided that it would ~~pr~~^oserve a stenographic transcript of all its secret ~~sess~~ions for posterity, ~~that~~ that one, on Dulles' motion, they decided to destroy it. (See Post Mortem, pages 475ff)

The steno~~typ~~ist's tape was overlooked.

~~When I located the undestroyed steno~~typ~~ist's ~~tape~~~~ I compelled its transcription and disclosure to me. Months before I published it, ~~myself~~ in facsimile, I gave copies to the press. Bill ~~Val~~^{Laibson} ~~borne~~ of the Post did write a story about it ~~and~~ since then it has all been forgotten.

With the passing of more than 30 years, with ~~H~~^Hoover long gone to his reward and no longer able to banish his agents to Butte, with more than enough blame to go around on all sides of this lingering ~~controve~~^sy that is so painful to ~~us~~ so many people and remains such a cause for disen~~ch~~antment with the government, it is ~~well~~^w past the time for the beginning of an effort to be honest, with themselves for the parties involved and with the people for all parties.

While criticism of the mythologiz~~ers~~^{ers} like the LaFontaines is more than justified, and I beat Revell to that and did it in much more detail, Revell and his FBI have earned more ~~&~~ criticism than all other official agencies combined. From ~~the~~^{its} relatively minor failure to learn who those irrelevant ~~t~~ ramps were and instead ~~boasting~~^{boasting} that he exposed that fiction 25 years after I compelled that, to never investigating the crime itself, as among thousands of illustrations, ~~in 'its~~ refusal to accept free pictures of the President being killed, Revell's office, as the "office of origin" ~~the~~^{or} the office in immediate charge of the investigation, failed more than all others outside of FBI headquarters.

When he criticizes others for their failures, which he is entitled to do, he does

not do that with clean hands without full and public admissions of his own and his office's failures.

~~That~~ The La Fontaine fiction from overactive imaginations that typify the minds and approaches of those ~~those~~ who theorize ^{assassination} conspiracies without proving them, is to be a book, Oswald Talked, ^{This} says all that need be said about the greed of publishers overcoming their common sense and the responsibilities of those who undertake to give the people what they claim is not fiction, ^{what they represent} (is the ~~the~~ truth about this most terrible of crimes and its investigations.

Also typical of this dominating greed is the current paperback republication of ~~what~~ what I described as the most intendedly dishonest of all the assassination works of sycophancy, Gerald Posner's knowingly mistitled Case Closed.

More than four months before this reprint appeared, in my Case Open, which has yet to be mentioned by or reviewed in the papers, including the Post, I refer to Posner, using his own publisher's, Random House's, definitions of the words, as a "shyster,"

as a "plagiarizer," as a determined "liar" who has "who has trouble telling the truth even by accident" and with many other of the most serious and forthright criticisms, all documented. To this day he has not ^{given} ~~fixed~~ any ^{com} complaint or denial and, given the opportunity, indeed, the need in a lawsuit against it ^{where} ~~when~~ my book was the basis of an affidavit, Random House remains mute.

That this happens in our country disgraces us all.

It is, I believe, well past the time for all ^{or} exploitations and commercializations of all sides to end, for some concern for honesty to manifest itself so that we can recover some of the self-respect we all lost and begin to examine the failures so that, the reason for the title of my long-delayed book, in this country it can happen NEVER AGAIN!

##

More Unfounded Theories About Lee Harvey Oswald

10 Pub 8/27/94

After reading your Aug. 7 article "The Fourth Tramp: Oswald's Lost Cellmate and the Gunrunners of Dallas" [Outlook], in which my name is mentioned, I found it to be a case of déjà vu. I have been involved in the Kennedy assassination investigation since its inception. First, as a Marine officer, I was assigned to assist the FBI while it was conducting a detailed inquiry into Lee Harvey Oswald's military background at the Marine Corps Air Facility, New River, N.C.

Many years later, as FBI assistant director in charge of criminal investigations, it was my responsibility to follow up and take appropriate action on the findings and recommendations of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. I recommended to then-Director William Webster and the Department of Justice that we seek a third opinion from the National Academy of Sciences regarding the disputed acoustical evidence of an alleged fourth shot. The National Academy of Sciences' study concurred with the findings of the FBI's technical staff that there was no fourth shot recorded in the questioned Dallas Police Department radio tape.

Since May 1991, I have been the special agent in charge of the FBI's Dallas division, and it has been my responsibility to conduct any additional investigation warranted in the Kennedy case, as alleged evidence or new documents have been brought to light. For instance, when the Dallas Police Department records were moved from police headquarters to the Dallas City Archives, arrest records on "the three tramps" were discovered. I ordered a search for these three individuals. We found and interviewed two of the men and verified the death of the third. Our investigation showed no link between "the three tramps" and the Kennedy assassination. We also inter-

viewed Dr. Charles Crenshaw, co-author of the book "PK—Conspiracy of Silence," published in 1992, and found that he had a minuscule role in the treatment of President Kennedy at Parkland Hospital and had no pertinent facts to add in the case.

Much of what Ray and Mary La Fontaine report never occurred. A review of public documents easily refutes many key aspects of their story.

The La Fontaines quote John Elrod in their article as saying he had a brief conversation with Lee Harvey Oswald in the Dallas City Jail late on the afternoon of Nov. 22, 1963. According to the La Fontaines, Elrod told the same story to the FBI 30 years ago, in August 1964.

But it was a different story he told the FBI eight months after the Kennedy assassination. At the time Elrod was incarcerated in a Tennessee jail, a sergeant in the Memphis sheriff's office wrote the FBI that Elrod had come to his office claiming that he had information about the assassination, but when the FBI interviewed Elrod, his story was vague and contradictory.

Elrod, a self-professed alcoholic, told the FBI that he had been troubled by the events that occurred after the Kennedy assassination. Elrod recounted being arrested by the Dallas Police Department shortly after the assassination and placed in cell 10 in the Dallas City Jail with a cellmate whose name he could not recall. Elrod told the agents that his cellmate saw and recognized another inmate in the jail hallway. The inmate whom Elrod's cellmate recognized was someone the cellmate had met at a meeting at a motel. According to Elrod's 1964 account, his cellmate had witnessed, at that motel meeting, several men receiving money, and one of the men was driving a Thunderbird filled

with guns. The inmate in the jail hallway was that man. Elrod also vaguely recalled the cellmate mentioning, sometime during their time together, that one of the men at the motel meeting was Jack Ruby. But he couldn't identify his cellmate, and he told FBI agents he couldn't remember much because of his excessive use of alcohol. Miraculously, 30 years later, he now can identify his mystery cellmate as Lee Harvey Oswald.

The new Elrod story, as told by the La Fontaines, is inaccurate. Had the La Fontaines examined public documents, they would have found that Oswald was never placed in the general jail population. Oswald was placed in cell number F-2, one of three maximum security cells, at approximately 12:20 a.m. on Nov. 23, 1963. More important, one of Oswald's ever-present police escorts while in the Dallas City Jail has recently confirmed that he was under strict orders to see that Oswald was never placed in a cell with any other prisoners. Prisoner telephone records during Oswald's stay in the Dallas City Jail also confirm F-2 as Oswald's cell. Therefore, it is clear that Elrod, in cell 10, was not in a cell with Oswald and certainly not on the afternoon of Nov. 22, 1963.

Most misleading is the La Fontaines' question, "Is it possible that Lee Oswald was the informant who tipped off the FBI about the gun deal on Nov. 18, 1963?" There is no evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald was an informant for the FBI, nor is there any evidence that Oswald knew anything about a gunrunning operation in Dallas during that time.

—Oliver "Buck" Revell
The writer is special agent in charge of the Dallas Division of the FBI

5/3/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, DALLAS
FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (44-669)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed for Dallas is photo of newspaper artist's sketch of KING's assassin and photo of UNSUB lookalike.

The enclosed photographs were obtained from ROBERT HARPER, City Editor, Frederick Post and had been given to him by HAROLD WEISBERG, Route 8, Old Receiver Road, Frederick, Maryland.

Mr. WEISBERG in discussing the above photographs stated that the photo of the sketch appeared in the newspaper and allegedly represents a composite sketch of the assassin of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He said the photo of the other individual was taken from a group photograph of individuals who were waiting by a police car after the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY in Dallas and was apparently the photograph of a group of persons being taken into custody by the Dallas, Texas PD for questioning just after the assassination of the President occurred. The group photo from which the individual blow-up was taken, was allegedly made by WILLIAM ALLEN, a photographer for one of the Dallas newspapers.


It is to be noted that HAROLD WEISBERG is the author of the books, "Whitewash" and "Whitewash Number 2" which are critical of the Warren Commission Report and of the investigation conducted into the assassination of President KENNEDY.

2 - Dallas (Enc. 2) (REGISTERED MAIL)
1 - Memphis (REGISTERED MAIL)
1 - Baltimore
JJG:jtk
(4)

44-1987-Sub-B-56

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY - 6 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester



BA 44-669

The Dallas Office will, through inquiry at the Dallas, Texas PD, attempt to ascertain the identity of the individual who was allegedly photographed in Dallas on the date of KENNEDY's assassination.

SAC, BALTIMORE (44-869)

8/21/68

SAC, DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)

MURKIN

OO: MEMPHIS

Re Baltimore airtel to Dallas dated 5/3/68.

Enclosed herewith for Memphis and Baltimore is one copy of Dallas teletype to Oklahoma City dated 4/24/68.

The following investigation was conducted by SA BARDWELL D. ODUM:

AT DALLAS, TEXAS

Do we have these?

On 5/14/68, FELIX MC KNIGHT^D, co-publisher of "The Dallas Times Herald", advised that it appeared to him that the alleged newspaper artist's sketch appeared to have been made by someone who was looking at the photo of the unknown lookalike, both photos furnished by the Baltimore office of the FBI. He advised that BILL ALLEN is now employed by the API at Little Rock, Arkansas. He produced the negative from which the close-up was taken. It shows a Dallas Police Officer leading three men followed by another Police Officer away from the front of the Texas School Book Depository.

On 5/15/68, BILL BASS, Identification Division, Dallas PD, identified the officer leading these three men as himself, and stated that on 11/22/63, the date the photo was taken, he, ROY VAUGHN, and MARVIN WISE had found three men in a boxcar about a mile from the Texas School Book Depository down the railroad tracks. They brought them to the Dallas County SO and turned them over to an unknown Deputy Sheriff. He did not know the names of these individuals and did not know if they were booked.

On 5/15/68, officers MARVIN WISE and ROY VAUGHN advised that they could add nothing to the information furnished by BASS, confirmed what he had furnished and advised

- 2 - Baltimore (Enc. 1) (RM) *W*
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1) (RM)
- 3 - Dallas (1 - 44-2649) (1 - 105-815)
- (1 - 89-43)

BDO:jsd
(7)

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44-1987-Sub-E-1011
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Hester *JD*

they did not know the identity of the Deputy Sheriff or the three men they brought in.

On 5/16/68, JAMES D. KITCHING, Dallas County SO, advised that he is in charge of the Identification Division, and that he had personally looked up the jacket and photo of each person booked on 11/22/63, and did not find anyone who bears a resemblance to the persons appearing in the photo with Dallas policeman BILL BASS. He advised that this indicates that these persons were not booked but they may have been interviewed. He advised that a sort of screening office was operated by the Dallas County SO on 11/22/63, and numerous persons were interviewed. He advised that without the names of the persons it would be almost impossible to develop the name of the persons in the photo.

On 5/17/68, Sheriff BILL DECKER, Dallas County, advised that he does not know who the men are in the photo taken by BILL ALLEN, but that recently this same photo had been shown to him by someone representing JIM AGARRISON, DA, New Orleans, Louisiana. He stated he did not know the significance.

On 5/17/68, FELIX MC KNIGHT advised that he had received a telephonic inquiry from the head of the Associated Press in New York, New York, apparently inquiring about this same photo. The AP information had originated from a press release by TRENT GOUGH, a Canadian actor who says he is connected with the Citizens Committee of Inquiry and the Kennedy Assassination Inquiry Committee, 243 West 54th Street, New York.

For the information of Memphis and Baltimore, a photo of the same close-up as that submitted by Baltimore was furnished to SA CHARLES A. BLOSSFIELD on 4/23/68, by AL CHAPMAN, member of the Ku Klux Klan, Dallas, Texas. He declined to say where he got this photo. (See enclosed teletype.)

Memphis note that instant photo has been given considerable widespread distribution. No further investigation is being conducted re same, in absence of specific instructions from OO.