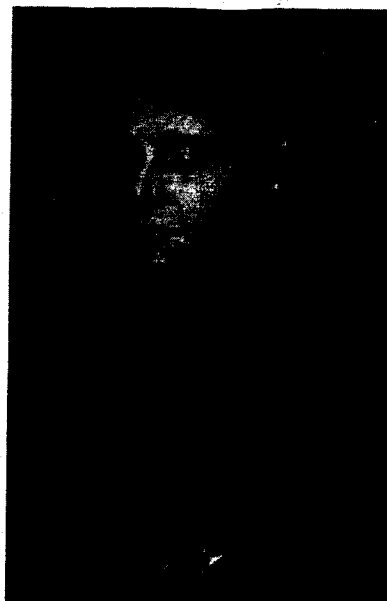




James D. Wilson—Newsweek

Lawyer Stoen: Secret bank accounts



Tony Korody—Newsweek

Former cultist Buford: The key figure?

Jim Jones's Legacy

The evidence is stacked high in a room at the headquarters of Guyana's Criminal Investigations Department (CID) in Georgetown. There are piles of video cassettes, letters, legal documents and tape recordings—all of them reclaimed from the rubble of the Jonestown commune by U.S. and Guyanese authorities. Last week, investigators were plowing through the mass of material. Their search has already turned up a 45-minute tape recording of the mass poisoning, with children screaming and Jim Jones exhorting his followers to kill themselves (opposite page). But it could be many months before the strange history and tragic end of the Peoples Temple are fully documented. "We're not only dealing with mass suicide, we're dealing with mass murder," says CID chief Cecil Roberts, "and we'll have to sift through everything before we get a better picture."

Reenactment: Four FBI agents have flown to Guyana, primarily to investigate the airstrip murder of Congressman Leo Ryan. Their first concern was to determine whether any of the Temple members who took part in the shooting were still at large. Larry Layton, 32, is now being held in Georgetown for the murder of Ryan and four others. But it wasn't until late last week that the bodies of the eight remaining suspects were positively identified by morgue officials in Dover, Del. Last week, to pin down the details of Ryan's murder, FBI agents questioned local villagers who witnessed the shooting at the Port Kaituma airport—and then used some of them as stand-ins to stage a reenactment of the murders. One agent pored over 500 pictures shot by CID photographers at Port Kaituma and Jonestown.

The FBI was also pursuing the case back in the U.S. West Coast agents last week informed a number of political leaders—including Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan—that their names had been mentioned in connection with a Temple assassination plot. Several journalists were also on the list—as well as slain San Francisco Mayor George Moscone. And in New York, a horde of FBI and Secret Service men descended on seventeen Temple survivors who arrived at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

The survivors, including two of Jones's adopted sons, were whisked off to an airport hangar where seventeen rented Winnebago trailers were parked. Agents then grilled each person individually in the Winnebagos for several hours. Said survivor Laura Johnston, 31: "The questions got very pointed. They obviously knew what they were talking about—more than I did." After the questioning, agents handed everyone in the group subpoenas to appear before a San Francisco grand jury now hearing evidence in the Ryan murder.

Business Affairs: The key figure in the investigation could be Terri Buford, 26, who was among Jones's top lieutenants at the commune. A native of Pennsylvania who studied journalism at Berkeley, Buford managed the commune's money—an estimated \$8 million in foreign banks and \$3 million more in cash found at Jonestown. She returned to the U.S. in September, ostensibly to handle some of the commune's business affairs. But a month later, she contacted lawyer Mark Lane (following story), who says she told him she was planning to defect. Lane took her under his wing, allowing her to live at his homes in Memphis and Wash-

ington. Buford was at Lane's Washington home when last month's Jonestown massacre took place.

Last week, Lane and Buford flew to San Jose, Calif., where they were hustled off by four FBI agents who met their plane. For five hours, Lane and Buford were holed up in a San Jose hotel room with the FBI, Secret Service and U.S. District Attorney William Hunter, the man in charge of the grand jury investigation. Lane denied press reports that the trip was designed to obtain a grant of immunity for both him and Buford, and he refused to reveal what information had been passed to the government. Publicly, however, Lane claims that Jones had ordered a hit squad to assassinate the cult's enemies in the U.S., and that Buford, as one of Jones's closest aides, might be able to shed light on any such plot.

Assets: Buford may also be able to explain what happened to the Jonestown money. Lane claims that all the assets were signed over to a 77-year-old woman cult member in September. He said that the woman died at Jonestown last month and that her heir, a 55-year-old San Francisco janitor, now plans to turn over the funds to survivors of the slaughter and relatives of dead Temple members.

But Tim Stoen, a San Francisco lawyer who once held a high legal and financial post in the Temple, doesn't believe Lane's story. First of all, he doubts that Buford really decided to defect from the Jonestown commune. And he questions the funds-transfer scheme. "Any self-respecting lawyer knows that tax-exempt funds belonging to charitable organizations cannot be given over to a private individual," says Stoen, 40. Stoen, who dropped out of the Temple last year and later fought in vain to regain custody of his 6-year-old son, set up some of the cult's secret overseas bank accounts in



Survivor Julius Evans returns home

Newsweek