"Oswald was in the bus station the day of the assassination waiting for me to carry him to Mexico City, and [J. Edgar] Hoover told me not to show up (because the Cubans) were going to kill me and Oswald"—Robert Easterling, right, to Johann Rush on the grounds of the state mental hospital in Whitfield, Mississippi, April 3, 1986.

REASONABLE DOUBT ABOUT HENRY HURT

As related last issue, Hattiesburg, Mississippi television reporter/photographer Johann Rush has continued, on his own, to dig into the incredible story of Robert "Cowboy Bob" Easterling that he participated in a plot to kill President Kennedy. Easterling's "confession" is a prominent chapter in the book Reasonable Doubt by Reader's Digest writer Henry Hurt.

Evidence uncovered by Rush strikes directly at the credibility and honesty of both the book and author, for at least one event not only didn't happen, it couldn't have, and Hurt must have known it.

While Hurt admits he cannot vouch for the truthfulness of Robert Easterling, his acceptance of the story as something worth investigating is truly astonishing. Had the Warren Commission bought the Easterling "confession," early critics would have picked it clean before the ink dried; but today, some reviewers and researchers are saying Hurt's book is OK except for the Easterling chapter.

But the book is not OK. As you are about to learn, the author's integrity is now open to serious question; his analyses and presentations must, therefore, be suspect. Here, in edited form, is some of what Rush has found:

September 11, 1986

Dear Gary,

While Hurt makes it clear in Reasonable Doubt that Robert Easterling is from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and that Hurt came here often to interview Easterling, it is significant that Hurt failed to mention his attendance at the University of Mississippi from the fall of 1964 to early 1966 and his graduation with a BA degree in English. Nor did he mention that one of his first writing jobs was as a reporter for the Jackson Daily News (JDN) in Jackson, Mississippi, about 90 miles north of Hattiesburg. This information was only recently revealed when a few newspaper reviewers asked about his educational background.

Hurt also failed to point out that JDN reporters often take trips to the Hattiesburg area to cover news stories, and Easterling was living here at the time. It occurs to me that since Easterling has been telling his bizarre story for a long, long time, Hurt could have learned of it many years ago and just recently decided to use it; or, Easterling may have remembered Hurt's byline and chose to tell his story to a former Mississippian. It is intriguing that while Hurt claims to have never heard of Easterling prior to September 1981, he avoided mentioning the years when he and Cowboy Bob lived only 90 miles apart.

I have just recently located a former FBI agent, now retired here in Hattiesburg, who says he was asked by the Bureau as early as 1972 or '73 to investigate Easterling. This former agent, J. L. Martin, tells me that Easterling had telephoned the Justice Department and tried to tell his wild story to one of their attorneys. The information was turned over to the FBI and Martin was assigned to interview Easterling and question local law enforcement people about him. Martin concluded the story was a hoax and says he sent a teletype to the Bureau the next day saying so. In fact, Martin thinks he may be the FBI agent who told Easterling's sister her brother should be "in an asylum" (see page 350 of Reasonable Doubt).

Forrest County Sheriff Gene Walters, whose office is in Hattiesburg, has known Easterling since 1959 and says he has been telling tall tales at least since then. During his newspaper days, Hurt should have made numerous news contacts in both Hattiesburg and Mississippi; they, in turn, could have assisted in ascertaining the truthfulness of Easterling. No such sources are mentioned in Reasonable
Doubt with one important exception: Sheriff Walters told me that he warned Hurt the story was a hoax, but Hurt chose not to quote or even mention Walters by name.

Even more significant is the fact that J. L. Martin’s son Terry was working in Sheriff Walter’s office at the time Hurt was interviewing Easterling in Hattiesburg in 1981 and ‘82. It was Terry, who is thoroughly familiar with the Easterling hoax, who introduced me to his father.

Hurt’s Easterling chapter is loaded with people whose names are either not given or changed, but Hurt probably didn’t realize that Easterling had told me their real names during our interviews from 1981 through 1986. I managed to locate and interview five of those people.

Easterling’s mother is extremely embarrassed by the whole affair, and his sister is very upset. She said Hurt had promised that Easterling’s name would not be used in the book and that he would not even refer to her or her mother. The sister is a respected local businesswoman who readily agrees that many portions of her brother’s story are “not true.”

I also tracked down Easterling’s first wife and talked extensively with her current husband. He calls the “confession” a bunch of “s---” and says Henry Hurt should be in the Mississippi state mental hospital along with Robert Easterling.

Other characters mentioned but not named in that chapter include a “company owner” (for whom Easterling worked in 1963) and a “wealthy New Orleans businessman” (who, according to Easterling, is supposed to be one of the conspirators.)

In 1963 Easterling worked as a diesel mechanic for an oil company on the west bank of the Mississippi, across from New Orleans. Henry Hurt’s account of that employment, as told on page 352 of his book, came, according to footnote 17, from an “Interview with company owner, June 1982.”

Hurt’s book also tells of a “wealthy New Orleans businessman” whom Easterling says laundered a $100,000 payoff, delivered by Jack Ruby, from a Dallas oil man who supposedly bankrolled the assassination. Hurt’s brief description of the “businessman’s” background is on page 362 and comes, according to footnote 43, from an “Interview with businessman, June 1982.”

The reader will likely think these are two different people, but in reality they are the same man! The company owner was also the businessman and he is J. D. Ward, who confirmed to me Easterling’s employment and repeated his emphatic denial of any such payoff. It was Henry Hurt, not Robert Easterling, who decided to split this one man into two separate people. In my talks with Easterling he made no attempt to imply that the “company owner” and the “businessman” were different people. Why, then, did Hurt go to such extremes to hide the truth about Ward?

Mr. J. D. Ward was listed on page 356 of the 1963 New Orleans telephone directory, and his company was listed as “Ward Drilling Co” on that same page.

Ward also fired Easterling in 1963 for constantly being drunk on the job, but that fact is not mentioned in Reasonable Doubt. It is fair to wonder if the firing may have been a motive for Easterling to link his former boss to a sensational murder plot.

Hurt’s lack of candor went even further when he told a complete falsehood about Ward. On page 369 Hurt claims that Ward’s name was listed twice in the 1963 directory, once as himself and again with the designation Captain and an address at a Navy base near New Orleans. The apparent implication seems to be that Ward had some type of secret affiliation with the U. S. Navy.

Here is a copy of page 556 of the 1963 New Orleans telephone directory showing the Ward listing. There is no Captain listed and Henry Hurt must have known it! To confirm that this is the correct page, anyone may contact Collin Hamer, Historical Librarian at the New Orleans Public Library, and ask him to look it up in their copy. One may also contact the Bell South telephone company archives in Birmingham, Alabama and ask for the same information.

Where did Hurt get the phony Captain story? A Captain Ward did appear in New Orleans many years later and was stationed at the Navy base in the late 1970’s, but he was in no way related to Mr. Ward the businessman or to the Easterling “confession.” After spending many hours of research at the New Orleans Public Library, I was not able to find both Wards listed in any New Orleans phone book at the same time.

Hurt apparently did not try to locate Captain Ward, but I did. He moved away from New Orleans in 1984 and was amazed at the entire story. He said he had never heard of Henry Hurt, Robert Easterling, or the other Ward. He added that he did not even move to New Orleans until 1975 and could not possibly have been listed in the 1963 New Orleans directory as Henry Hurt claims.

By 1982, Captain Ward was retired from the Navy and working as Director of the Greater Jefferson Port Commission located across the river from New Orleans. But by then, businessman Ward had moved away from the New Orleans area; however, he still maintained a small office on the west bank staffed with a single secretary.

On page 1130 of the 1982 issue of Polk’s New Orleans Suburban City Directory—the one Hurt must have looked through during his 1982 research—are listings for “Ward Drilling Co” and J. D. Ward, port dir.” A simple phone call to both offices would have told Hurt that both men were different people.

Mr. Hurt told me that when Hurt found him in 1982, it was the first he had heard of Easterling’s wild story about the $100,000 payoff. He said that at first he refused to grant Hurt an interview, but he got so mad at Easterling’s allegations he finally consented. The interview was to be conducted at his attorney’s office and he would record the conversation. Ward has just recently found the old tape and is storing it in a safe place.

He says that while Hurt was trying to get his permission to use his name in the book, Hurt assured him he could never get into any real trouble with law enforcement...
authorities because Easterling's story was so outrageous it wouldn't stand up "one New York minute" in a court of law (he was quoting Hurt.) Ward denied permission to use his name and threatened to sue Hurt and the Reader's Digest if his name was published in connection with Easterling's ridiculous "confession."

I found Mr. Ward to be quite friendly and eager to talk about his past experiences with Easterling and Hurt. I am convinced that Ward had nothing to do with any conspiracy or plot, just as I am convinced that Captain Ward was not involved with Mr. Ward or Robert Easterling in any way.

Mr. Ward told me that Hurt asked him, in 1982, what names the J.D. initials stood for. He told Hurt they did not represent a first and middle name and even mentioned his former Army record during World War 2 which referred to him as 'J (only) D (only) Ward!' Captain Ward told me his initials do stand for first and middle names and he once checked Navy records to be sure that he could use only the initials. Just as businessman Ward said there was no other J. D. Ward in the U.S. Army during World War 2, Captain Ward told me there was no other J. D. Ward in the U. S. Navy during his tenure!

So, in this open letter for publication, I say to Henry Hurt, if you are an honest journalist, produce the 1963 New Orleans telephone directory and prove both Wards are listed together. And tell why you hid the true identity of the "wealthy New Orleans businessman" and his relationship with Easterling. You have a lot of explaining to do.

In his book, The Oswald File, Eddowes contended that Oswald, who had defected to the Soviet Union in 1959, was replaced by a Russian agent who shot President John F. Kennedy in 1963 and was later shot and killed by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

Eddowes paid for the exhumation and autopsy, which cost an estimated $12,000. In an additional effort to squash speculation, Mrs. Porter hired Hall to videotape and photograph the procedures.

Hall ran a small newspaper in Rockwall, The Lakeside News, at the time, Stodghill said.

"There wasn't a written contract," Stodghill said Tuesday. "The question was whether he was making the videotapes for her. His contention was that he was allowed in as a member of the press.

Cullum's attorney, Ben Zollner, said his client had nothing to do with the videotaping of the exhumation. Zollner said he doesn't know why Collins was named in the suit.

After the autopsy — which identified the body of the former husband Mrs. Porter said she intended to destroy the tapes. She alleged in her lawsuit that the tapes were never turned over to her and that her privacy would be violated if the the videotapes were distributed by Hall and Cullum.

In depositions, Eddowes said he wanted to review the tapes to verify that the body had no problems with the exhumation and autopsy.

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Last-Ditch Hunt Appeal

By Walter Borges

Staff Writer of The News

A British author and the widow of Lee Harvey Oswald have reached an out-of-court settlement with two Rockwall men who they said videotaped and photographed the 1963 exhumation and autopsy of the body of the assassinated presidential as-

Michael H.B. Eddowes and Ma-

raine Oswald Porter filed suit against Hamp Hall and John Norm-

man Collins, both of Rockwall, in February 1984 to gain possession of photos by the exhumation videota-

pes taken by Hall at Mrs. Porter's request. According to terms of the settle-

ment reached Monday, Eddowes and Mrs. Porter will gain the real name of the tapes and photos, but agreed to pay the two defendants $750.

Hall's attorney, Don Stodghill of Rockwall, said Tuesday.

Mrs. Porter and Eddowes could not be reached for comment.

Mrs. Porter requested the exhumation and autopsy of the body from its grave in Fort Worth's Rose Hill Cemetery to counter Eddowes' theory that a Soviet spy was buried in Oswald's grave.

Buckley's countersuit, however, was permitted to remain standing, thereby making Liberty Lobby (in which Unabomber plotters (if the defendant in the suit the populist institution itself had initiated, an unlikely turn of events, to say the least.

Buckley ran up legal bills amounting to over $200,000 in his fruitless effort to pursue a libel victory against The SPOTLIGHT, suffering—like his friend Hunt—what can only be described as an embarrassing rebuke.

"Buckley was forced to endure two full days of tough grilling on the witness stand under the skilled questioning of Liberty Lobby counsel Mark Lane," said Mrs. Petersen. "He was clearly rattled by the experience and was certainly none too happy with the final results.

"Neither he nor his CIA pal Hunt was able to shut down The SPOTLIGHT—which, of course, was the real purpose of their lawsuits in the first place."

"After all, Liberty Lobby, through theegis of The SPOTLIGHT, had taken on the Establishment, including the CIA, twice and time again," she noted. "Now it looks as though these CIA characters are trying to take their charade one step further by trying to have our court victory dislodged."

According to Mrs. Petersen, Liberty Lobby counsel Mark Lane is currently in the process of preparing a response to the Hunt appeal. "We have been very pleased with Mark Lane's work on our behalf in the past. We are hopeful and confident that he'll do a good job in the future.

Mrs. Petersen issued a special thank you to the members of Liberty Lobby and the readers of The SPOTLIGHT who provided Liberty Lobby much needed moral and financial support during the efforts to fend off Hunt's libel action.

"Without our supporters, we could have never won in the first place," she said.
Oswald’s widow still troubled

By LORRAINE IANNELLO
Staff writer

Twenty-three years after authorities branded Lee Harvey Oswald the assassin of President John Kennedy, his widow is still hemmed in by questions about the events of Nov. 22, 1963.

Marina Oswald Porter, says she is "more confused right now than I ever was" about Oswald’s role in the infamous attack in Dealey Plaza. "When it first happened, I truly believed the Warren Commission report (naming Oswald as the sole assassin)," she said Wednesday in a telephone interview from her 17-acre farm in Rockwall, Texas.

But Porter says she has made her peace. "I used to think anybody who wore a three-piece suit had to be an honorable person," she said. "But I know now that’s not true. People in three-piece suits lie too."

Porter, 45, was back in the news this week with the settlement of a lawsuit stemming from the 1963 autopsy on her late husband’s body.

She agreed to pay $750 to settle a tape taken when her husband’s body was exhumed to disprove a British author’s conspiracy theory. Michael H.B. Eddowes had insisted the body in Fort Worth’s Rose Hill Cemetery was not that of Oswald, but that of a Soviet spy. Although Porter did not believe Eddowes, she agreed to the exhumation to dispel any doubts, and an autopsy confirmed that the body was Oswald’s.

The lawsuit marked one of the few times since 1963 that Porter — or her second husband, Ken Porter, a self-employed carpenter. "But she still struggles privately with the lingering questions about the assassination. "Lots of people come with their theories, come with their speculations, but never put their money where their mouth is," Porter said. "I am grateful to Mr. Eddowes" because he paid the costs associated with the exhumation and the legal fees to resolve the dispute, Porter said her interest in the tape was heightened by the comments several years ago of a federal exami- ner who prepared Oswald for burial. The Fort Worth medical examiner claimed that Oswald had a scar in his skull that was not vis-

August 7, 1986

ble during the second autopsy, Porter said. "Maybe it is a mistake, but I have to know for sure," Porter said.

For years after the president’s death, Porter apologized for being Oswald’s wife, accepted official accounts of what occurred and delved little into conspiracy theories.

Porter, a young mother at 22 when Kennedy was slain, recalled the pain of public criticism. "For so many years I had to live under the shadow of my husband who did such a horrible thing," Porter said. "I apologized to people who didn’t deserve it. Little by little, I’m gaining confidence in myself. After meeting so many scroungers in my life, I think, ‘Hey, I’m not so bad.’"

Porter, who works once a week cleaning the home of a friend for "play money," previously worked as a file clerk at Richland Community College and as a cake decorator at Town East Mall. She and her husband enjoy more leisure time now that their youngest of five children has moved out of the house.

(The issuing skull scar was, of course, to mortician Paul Groody and Alan Barmgarten to researcher Jack White nearly 5 years ago — the two prepared Oswald’s body. "Arina has still not been given the photos and video tapes.

The Dallas Morning News
July 24, 1986

If you call the Dallas County medical examiner’s office and find out Dr. Charles Petty is on the scene, it’s not what you think.

He is in London, where he is filming his role in "The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald," a cable television miniseries scheduled to premiere Nov. 22. Petty plays naturally, a medical examiner.

His administrative assistant, Millie Odel, says Petty will return to Dallas July 28. "They’re filming through the 25th," Ms. Odel says. "But they moved them (Dr. and Mrs. Petty) from their hotel in the heart of London to a hotel across the river where they could get to the studio and not be tied up in all that." All that was the royal wedding.

Petty previously has been in- volved in taping over the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy. In 1979 and 1980, Petty joined with British lawyer Michael Eddowes, who wrote The Oswald File, to seek exhumation of Oswald from a Fort Worth cemetery. Eddowes claimed the dead man was a Russian agent who resembled Oswald’s remains from a Fort Worth cemetery. Eddowes claimed the dead man was a Russian agent who resembled Oswald’s remains.

Petty has been involved in litigation over the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy. In 1979 and 1980, Petty joined with British lawyer Michael Eddowes, who wrote The Oswald File, to seek exhumation of Oswald from a Fort Worth cemetery. Eddowes claimed the dead man was a Russian agent who resembled Oswald. Petty said he just wanted to end speculation. The autopsy, performed in 1960, showed the body was that of Oswald.

Oswald to stand mock trial for TV

Associated Press

ODESSA — Lee Harvey Oswald, who was killed before he could be tried for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, will be the defendant in a televised mock trial being produced by a British company.

You have got to realize that this event will take place almost 23 years after Lee Harvey Oswald was killed. There are people who are married and have children who were not even alive at the time of the assassination. I just think it is good for history buffs, U.S. District Judge Lucius D. Bunton, who will play the judge in the trial, told the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

Bunton said Tuesday that he did not expect the trial to be especially challenging and said the event would give history buffs a chance to take a second look at the 1963 assassination in Dallas.

London Weekend Television officials announced Wednesday that they are negotiating with witnesses who testified before the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination. "It’s an incredible challenge," said Bunton, who will play the judge in the trial, told the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

"I don’t think it hurts us to look at events that created huge changes in our history and try to make that determination (about the presidential assassination) in our minds," he told the Midland newspaper.

An official with the London television company said Oswald will be represented by an empty chair. Oswald never was tried, having been shot to death two days after his arrest while being moved from one jail to another.

The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald was Kennedy’s lone assassin.

Bunton, 61, said the prosecutor will be Vincent Bugliosi, the man who prosecuted Charles Manson. The defense attorney will be Gerry Spence of Jackson, Wyo., the judge said.

Bunton said the filmed event is a semidocumentary. He said the producers asked a federal appeals judge to preside at the trial, but when he could not make the trial because of previous commitments, Bunton was asked to step in. "I would tell you it is a pleasure to try a case with good lawyers," said Bunton, who was appointed to the judgeship in 1979. "You do not have that nitpicking stuff that doesn’t amount to a hill of beans.

He said the trial offers a good chance to reconsider a historic event.

Bunton said in 1983 there was no federal law applying to presidential assassinations. "The case would have been tried in state court. But he said the producers decided to follow modern law making assassination a federal crime.

Officials said the program will be on the 25th-anniversary of the company’s recent mock trial of England’s King Richard III. Bunton is expected of ordering the murder of his young relative, Richard III, in the 15th century.

Bunton is the beginning of the late President Lyndon Johnson, said filming begins July 21 in London, and the news conference was broadcast in Britain and the United States on Nov. 22, the 23rd anniversary of Kennedy’s death.

Oswald case goes to trial’ on Showtime

By BOB BROCK

Broadcast editor

HISTORY MAY already have delivered its verdict on Lee Harvey Os- wald, but that hasn’t stopped cable television from trying to resolve the trial that never was.

"On Trial: Lee Harvey Oswald" will be shown on the pay cable station Showtime beginning Nov. 21. The four- to five-hour drama will conclude Nov. 22, the 23rd an- niversary of the death in Dallas of President Kennedy.

Jurors from Dallas will hand up a verdict to a U.S. district judge from Midland in the British TV production that is closed in secrecy.

"For the first time ever," says a Showtime announcement of the program, "actual witnesses, along with evidence that con- victed Lee Harvey Oswald in the opinion of the Warren Commission, will be subject- ed to the scrutiny of cross-examination and a jury of peers.

One of the witnesses is former Times Herald photographer Bob Jackson, whose photo of nightclub owner Jack Ruby killing Oswald won a Pulitzer Prize.

Jackson, now a staff photographer for the Colorado Springs (Colo.) Gazette-Telegraph, said in a phone interview that he and his wife spent eight days in London for “my short time on camera.”

"I was pretty nervous and con- centrated on answering the ques- tions put to me by the attorneys," Jackson said.

Jackson said that he did not meet any other witnesses at the trial taping and signed a contract with the producers saying that he would not talk about any specifics of the program until it had been televised.

"I’ve already offered a lot of money by the National Enquirer to tell them what I know about the trial. It’s obviously they want to break a big story about every- thing.”

Jackson declined to reveal the specifics of the Enquirer offer.

"On Trial" was taped in London in July and is being produced for Showtime by London Weekend Television, an independent British commercial channel.

U.S. District Judge Lucius Bun- ton of Midland presided at the "tri- al." Oswald was "prosecuted" by Vincent Bugliosi and "defended" by Gerry Spence, the so-called "maverick" chief prosecutor in the Manson family trials and writer of "Helter Skelter," a best seller that made his name.

Spence is a noted criminal defense attorney who represented the family of Karen Silkwood in its case against Kerr-McGee and is author of "Trial by Fire.”

The twelve jurors from the Del-
Radio whiz McLendon dead at 65

From Staff and Wire Reports

DALLAS — Gordon B. McLendon, "The Old Scotcharman" who captivated radio audiences with his studio recreations of sports events, is dead at 65 after a long illness.

Bart McLendon said his father died at 9:15 p.m. Sunday at his North Texas ranch. The elder McLendon had suffered from cancer of the esophagus in recent years.

In 1964, McLendon made an unsuccessful foray into politics, losing to U.S. Sen. Ralph Yarborough in the Texas Democratic primary.

McLendon’s family owned drive-in movie theaters and McLendon, a friend of actor John Wayne, produced several movies. He was executive producer of the 1981 release "V Elephant," directed by John Huston and starring Sylvester Stallone.

McLendon’s 200-acre ranch was his home and the production facility for his early movies, including "The Killer Shrews," "The Giant Gila Monster" and "Hop Top."

Survivors include a sister, Marie Wheeler and four children — Bart McLendon of Dallas, Jan Moss and Kristen McLendon of Newport Beach, Calif., and Dr. Anna Gray McLendon of Corpus Christi.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday at the City-Ciio Ranch at Lake Dallas, Bart McLendon said.

The family requested that donations he made to a favorite charity or the Girl’s Club of Dallas.

DTH 9-15-86

Air patrol co-founder Byrd dies

By GARY SCHULTZ

Staff writer

Dallas philanthropist D. Harold Byrd, a co-founder of the Civil Air Patrol, who made his fortune in the East Texas oilfields and helped finance the exploration of Antarctica, died at his home on Sunday after a short illness. He was 86.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Sparkman-Hillcrest-Funeral Home in North Dallas. Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas. Interment will be at Hillcrest cemetery.

Known to Civil Air Patrol acquaintances as Col. Byrd, D. Harold Byrd was born on Sept. 8, 1900, in Detroit, Texas, the youngest of eight children. On June 8, 1932, Byrd married Marilyn Matthews, a descendant of a pioneer Dallas family. She died in 1972. Two years later, Byrd married Davis Hewitt, a former U.S. ambassador to Sweden.

Byrd attended Trinity University and the University of Texas at Austin, where he studied geology.

A gregarious man with an indomitable sense of optimism, Byrd was a cousin and close friend of Antarctic explorer Adm. Richard E. Byrd, who died in 1959.

Byrd funded some of Adm. Byrd’s Antarctic explorations during the 1920s and 1930s, and as a result, the Harold Byrd Mountains of Antarctica were named in his honor.

A geologist by training, Byrd used his oil profits to build a financial empire that included recreational facilities, manufacturing, real estate, commercial and industrial ventures and farming and ranching enterprises.

He was closely identified with the Civil Air Patrol, which he and a small group of civilians founded in Washington, D.C.

"Gen. Byrd was a substantial friend of mine. We became firm friends through our mutual interest in aviation during its years of infancy," said retired Gen. James H. Douglas, a former Commander of the Eighth Air Force in England during World War II.

After the Pearl Harbor attack, Byrd was appointed commander of the Texas wing of the Civil Air Patrol from 1941 to 1948 and was Southwest regional commander from 1948 to 1953.

Byrd also was co-founder and director of Dallas area aircraft companies including Temco Aircraft Corp. and Executive Flyers Inc. In 1937, he organized and became chairman of the board of Texas Orange, based in Garland, which manufactured propulsion and ground test equipment for jet engines and aerospace ground support equipment.

Byrd is survived by his wife and two sons, D. Harold Byrd Jr. and Caruth Clark Byrd.

Mark Austin contributed to this story.

(Re-read the last paragraph of the AP story: the judge is a cousin of LB1. So much for objectivity. Other witnesses include Ruth Paine, one of the TRBD employees under the window (John Jarman or Harold Nor- man) and one of the Country Club regulars who witnessed the assassination.)
Documents Contend Oswald Was Soviet KGB Agent

BY ROBERT S. ALLEN
and PAUL SCOTT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24—Students of history are going to find the Warren commission's report on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy as fascinating for what it doesn't include as for what it contains.

Before sending their historic document to President Johnson this week, four of the commission's seven members voted secretly to send to the National Archives—several documents charging that Lee Harvey Oswald, the suspected assassin, was a Soviet KGB agent.

Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican of Michigan, one of the four congressional members, sought unsuccessfully to include these papers, including a letter from Rep. John Pillsen, Republican of New York, in the commission's official report to the President.

However, when Ford's motion to include these documents was offered, it was blocked when the other four commission members present at the meeting remained silent.

None of these members, including Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman, would second the motion by Ford, who also serves on the House appropriations committee's CIA watchdog subcommittee.

Instead, the commission members led by Warren ordered the documents delivered to the archives, where they will be available—"if they don't disappear— to researchers, future investigators and students of history who Oswald...

THE ONSWALD MYSTERY—Of the documents kept out of the report and sent to the archives, the (Sept. 18) letter from Pillsen is one of the most explosive.

It flatly challenged the commission's conclusion that Oswald was not directed or instigated by any known or secret Communist agency, or that his "Marxist" association, beliefs, affiliations and alliances were not related to his assassination of Kennedy.

"If this is a fairly accurate summary of the evidence received in the commission's report," Pillsen wrote, "this report will have reached an in-quamation, and the commission's conclusion in failing to establish the true and ultimate motivating factors which caused Lee Oswald to assassinate President Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963."

Pillsen, whose offer to testify was rejected by the commission, said that the commission's conclusions were contrary to the evidence, stating:

"These findings are contrary to the known facts. They contradict our experience with, and our knowledge of, the secret terroristic operations of the Soviet Secret Police (KGb) and the thousands of subsidiary organizations throughout the world, coordinated and concentrated in the same, disrupt and destroy all non-Communist political orders."

"To ignore the decisive influence of Communist ideology, Communist agents and associations over Lee Oswald is perpetrating this crime with a gross deception upon the American public and world opinion."

RETRACING ONSWALD'S TRACKS—Pillsen traced Oswald's activities in the Soviet Union, his close association with the KGB, his marriage and life of a lieutenant colonel of the Soviet MVD, and his later visits to Mexico City, reporting:

"Immediately upon his arrival in the Soviet Union, Oswald voluntarily became associated with the Soviet Secret Police, known as the KGB. The KGB has the responsibility for the intelligence, infiltration and terrorist operations of the Soviet Union and its allied Communist network around the world.

"The recruiting and training of agents for sabotage, assassination, incitements of riots and all types of terror and violence is carried out by the KGB.

"Following Oswald's arrival in Moscow, the KGB arranged for one of its agents, and Oswald's Russian girlfriend, to aid the KGB in its efforts. Shortly thereafter, the KGB provided a job for him in the steel mills as a radio factory in Kirov. Oswald was recruited as a steel metal worker. His job was a clerical job of 'checker.' This was a slavish, routine job."

"Oswald was given a 750 ruble bonus upon payment to going to Mihr. Thereafter, he received 750 rubles per month and an additional 750 rubles for meals from the KGB. The 750 ruble payment from the KGB was falsely represented as assassination aide to the Soviet Red Cross."

"The 1,495 rubles monthly because of Oswald was unaccountable to the salary of the general manager of the factory, where he was allegedly employed in the KGB's labor capacity. The KGB provided Oswald with a scarce and comparatively luxurious apartment in Mihr for a period of more than two years."

"Oswald married a member of the Young Communist Party, known as KOMDIOMOL. His mother was the wife of a Lieutenant colonel in the MVD (now known as the KGB)."

THE EXIT VISA—"The grant of an exit visa to Oswald and to his wife, Marina, is an extraordinary Soviet act. Oswald knew more than a month before that he and his wife would receive permission to leave the Soviet Union. There can be no question but that Oswald and Marina were considered by the KGB to be potential agents for either espionage or future assignments."

"The KGB arranged to allow Oswald to engage in large practice shooting during his more than two years stay in Mihr. The use of a rifle and practice privileges is absolutely prohibited to foreigners in the Soviet Union."

"From about June 1963, when Oswald returned to the United States until his arrest for the murder of President Kennedy on November 22, 1963, he was completely preoccupied with communism. His efforts to earn a living for his family were only incidental."

"Oswald subscribed to, and avidly read such Communist, Marx-Leninist revolutionary publications as the "Liber," "Military," and "Daily Worker."

"Oswald participated in the Communist pro-Castro movement in New Orleans. He made a number of trips to Mexico, where he consorted with Communists in Mexico City for many years. He has been the headquarters and center for Communist propaganda, subversion, and terrorism on the American hemisphere."

"Nothing is of greater significance regarding Oswald's background than that he gravitated precariously to Mexico, once, but on several occasions."

"It is immaterial whether Oswald was specifically assigned to assassinate President Kennedy. The fact remains that his entire Communist background and training had conditioned him to kill."

The other documents sent to the National Archives by the commission involve classified information relating to Oswald's contacts with CIA officials in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.
Marilyn Monroe's Romances With John and Bobby Kennedy Were Secretly Tape-Recorded

By Anthony Summers

Marilyn Monroe's romantic encounters with John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy were secretly tape-recorded — and for the first time ever, those involved in the bugging have revealed what was on the tapes.

John Danoff, a technician working for Hollywood detective Fred Otash, said he listened in on John Kennedy's rendezvous with Marilyn at the Justice Department. "Marilyn was almost always agitated on these calls... she was acting like a betrayed woman." 

Otash and a new source — whose identity cannot be revealed here — admit that they listened to some of the tapes. "There were more tapes made on Robert Kennedy and Monroe than there had been on Marilyn and the President," said Detective Otash, who admits he provided personnel to help place the bugs. The tapes contained the sounds of passion, and of quarrels, Otash told me. "On one tape I heard, (Marilyn) was screaming, just screaming on and on at him (Robert Kennedy). Because, according to her, he had promised to get divorced and marry her. She kept bringing that up, and it led to fights."

A key man in the Monroe bugging operation was East Coast wiretap expert Bernard Spindel, who reportedly had been hired to "get the goods" on the Kennedys. It is not entirely clear who hired him in this case, but his regular employer was Teamsters leader Jimmy Hoffa. He also worked for mobster Sam Giancana. Retired Army Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Seeman, R.J. Stevens, and of a barbiturate overdose later that night. And two of Bernard Spindel's associates, Fables executive Richard Butterfield and his wife, say Spindel told them that Robert Kennedy was "with her when she died."

BUGGED: Wiretop expert Bernard Spindel (left) was hired to get the Kennedys. Hidden microphones in Monroe's phones and bedroom recorded her quarrels with Bobby. "We have to know. It's important to the family." Apparently he was still looking for the recording device. Kennedy was again screeching, and Lawford was saying, "Calm down, calm down... Monroe was screaming at them, ordering them out."

The next part of the recording was described as containing "thumping noises, then muffled, calming sounds. It sounded as though she was being put on the bed."

Marilyn Monroe was found dead of a barbiturate overdose later that night. And two of Bernard Spindel's associates, Fables executive Richard Butterfield and his wife, say Spindel told them that Robert Kennedy was "with her when she died."

Next Week

Marilyn Dreams of Marrying a Kennedy

From the forthcoming book GOSPEL This Secret Diaries of a Modern Mystic by Eugene, Florida, CUBA's WANTED: ARMED GUARDIAN OF A FUTURE CONGRESSMAN

seem that R.J. Stevens was put on a public re HW in Cola Park, 4000 McKinley, the evening of June 23 and made a physical advance to the officer.

July 10, 1973

Jack Ruby was concerned that the name of a gunrunner for anti-Castro Cubans might come up during the trial. The Dallas News has learned that the name of the gunrunner, Thomas E. Davis Jr., didn't surface during the trial. Ruby's attorney, Tom Howard, was prepared if he had a friend of Howard's. Howard, who was Ruby's first choice as an attorney, died in early 1965.

July 9, 1976

Retired Army Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker, well-publicized spokesman for extreme conservatism during the early 1960s, faced charges of public misconduct for allegedly making an advance to a police officer last month. Court records show Thursday, Walker, 66, of 4011 Turtle Creek Blvd., was free on $500 bond on the June 23 lewdness charge. A misdemeanor carrying a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a $1,000 fine. Police reports alleged that Walker followed undercover park police.

One of Otash's colleagues still active in surveillance operations says Marilyn even called the White House, trying to reach the President. The colleague quotes her as saying, "You brother away from me — he's just using me."

A completely new contact, traced in the past few months, offers the first "earwitness" testimony on what the bugging equipment picked up on the day Marilyn died. In 1967, Spindel — who died in 1971 — was employed for the contact... hired him in this case, but his regular employer was Teamsters leader Jimmy Hoffa. He also worked for mobster Sam Giancana. Retired Army Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Seeman, R.J. Stevens, and of a barbiturate overdose later that night. And two of Bernard Spindel's associates, Fables executive Richard Butterfield and his wife, say Spindel told them that Robert Kennedy was "with her when she died."

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"Grassy Knoll Disputed - Texas pride draws legions of tourists to this spot, sometimes called the "perfect site for a mystery.""