

Von Hoffman

DEC 7 1975

The Best

Washington

I ASKED Hugh McDonald how we were supposed to know he wasn't just looned out. The press release on his book about JFK's murder said he was Chief of Detectives in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department when he retired, that he'd been a part-time spook for the CIA for 20 years, that he'd written three textbooks used in police academies, but even if it is true, he could still be looned out.



Nicholas Von Hoffman

He doesn't look like a nutcake, or at least he doesn't look like what we used to think nutcakes look like. The hair is short, the suit is pressed, the shoes are shined, the socks are white and the general manner is one of an amiable, college-educated flat-foot. The only trouble he says he's had high tea in London with the man who murdered John Kennedy and the guy's name wasn't Lee Harvey Oswald.

These days we've learned the more proper the credentials, the more imposing the title, the more responsible the story, the better the chance the guy's lying. The most compelling part of McDonald's story is that it's so fantastic.

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BRIEFLY, HE says that one day he was in the office of his CIA "mentor," a certainerman Kimsey, now deceased, when a third man came in the room, kicking up a fuss about something or other. When the man left, this Kimsey told McDonald the chap in

... who...
... of America...
... tell him...
... McDonald reported...

According to McDonald, the CIA was not involved in the assassination of Kennedy. He says he was in the Texas Book Depository in Dallas on the day of the shooting. He says he saw Mr. X, the world's greatest marksman, shooting ahead from the building. McDonald also says he was told by a CIA agent that Mr. X, which our death squad...

He found him in a London hotel and the putative killer was looking for a name. He said yes, I did it. He had a bow and arrow for a name, which even by 1963 prices doesn't seem like a lot of money. X, who McDonald says has a kind of Ukrainian accent, said he was hired in Guatemala at a CIA training camp for some kind of monkeyshines by a CIA agent named "Troit." This Troit is only mentioned as an American and an industrialist.

He also says, "I don't say the CIA officially ordered the assassination of Kennedy, but somebody in that organization was in on it. Maybe he was a rogue. But somebody in that Agency had to do it, and I was in the Agency."

Given the Agency's record of killing Castro, it would be logical to think of him as a suspect. On the other hand, it is possible that even a CIA agent will shoot a man if he shoots often enough.

FOR WHATEVER reason, McDonald's believability, he was the chief of security in 1964 — and he confirms it — but that matter has been going somebody to snap out of the case and reopen the investigation. The assassination of Martin Luther King is so ridiculous to rest that case on an investigation conducted by an agency that was supposed to drive the victim to commit suicide.

Nobody believes the official investigation for these murders and the longest and most credible investigation is done. The people think it was our government that did it.