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21 March 74

Dear Mr Weisberg,

Please send me, by air mail postage:

PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH	...	\$4.95
WHITEWASH (Dell edition)	...	.95
WHITEWASH II (DELL)	...	.95
		<hr/>
		\$ 6.85
<u>And</u> the "POST MORTEM" series	...	?

Attached is a cheque for \$ 16.33. If the costs involved, including air postage, exceed this figure, please bill me.

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Attached is a recent article that I wrote for the Australian "Nation Review", part of a small series. My greatest problem has been getting information. The only books released here were those that conformed to the conclusion of the Warren Commission or dwelt, spuriously perhaps, on second Oswalds et al.

I recently obtained from Penn Jones Jnr a copy of the Zapruder film. After viewing this movie it is instantly obvious that at least one shot came from the vicinity of the grassy knoll area. The greatest shock (apart from the sheer horror of seeing JFK's murder in such detail) is that the film was in the possession of the Warren Commission during its deliberations! Watergate is only a minor scandal compared to what appears to be the collusion of many agencies, a chief justice, and a man who is now vice president.

I praise your courage in continuing to probe the mystery of JFK's demise.

Thanking you in advance,

Kind regards,  
Yours sincerely,

*Ian MacFarlane*

Ian MacFarlane

PS. If you want photocopies of my other articles, I would be pleased to send them...

# This was the most unkindest cut of all

IAN MacFARLANE

THE FILM *Executive action*, which cost a mere \$500,000 to make, may cost its producers and co-authors a further \$3 million if a recently filed libel suit is successful. If the suit is lost, however, the result could be a scandal dwarfing Watergate.

The film, whose producers described as "fiction based on fact", promotes the theory that a conspiracy was responsible for the assassination of President John Kennedy — and not Lee Oswald acting alone.

A Dallas policeman, Roy E. Vaughn, has filed the suit. Vaughn was guarding the entrance to the basement of Dallas police headquarters at the time Jack Ruby entered and shot Oswald. He charges that the movie falsely depicts him as a participant in "a criminal conspiracy to murder Lee Harvey Oswald and president John F. Kennedy".

Defendants in the suit are National General Pictures Corporation, General Cinema Corp, Mark Lane and Penn Jones Jr.

Vaughn alleges that portions of the film depict him as having knowingly permitted Ruby to enter the basement and shoot Oswald. The suit claims that the defendants were "grossly negligent" in seeking the truth and published statements with reckless disregard and carelessness for the truth.

Vaughn states that a written statement, captioned *Facts behind the making of this film*, identified him by name. The eight page document was distributed to viewers of the film and was the subject of

considerable comment by newspapers and radio and TV stations, the suit contends.

The relevant part of the document reads: "Daniels saw officer Vaughn acknowledge a man and allow him to pass into the basement without stopping him or asking for his credentials. This man appeared to Daniels to be holding a hard object like a gun, in his pocket, yet Vaughn did not stop him."

Daniels, a former police officer, had stated that the man Vaughn allowed to pass was Ruby, the document alleged.

*Executive action*, released last november in the United States, has already been shown in Australia. *Nation review*, in its review, stated that "anyone familiar with the extensive literature about the Kennedy assassination would be able to fit names to the action".

Using a group of "fictional conspirators" against a factual background, the makers of the film insist that they did not promote any particular conspiracy theory. Director David Miller said recently: "The only thing we are trying to prove is that one man alone could not have accomplished this feat."

It is likely, however, that the writers associated with the film became overzealous. Mark Lane's *Rush to judgment*, a critique of the Warren report, became a bestseller eight years ago. Penn Jones' three volume *Forgive my grief* cites details of the strange deaths of 68 people who either witnessed the assassination and its aftermath, or who were involved in some way with the subsequent investigation.

If there was a conspiracy, Vaughn's libel action is a further

threat to the security of any conspirators. In 1968, during the hearing of Louisiana v Clay Shaw (an alleged conspirator, later released),

## FILMS

the New Orleans district attorney, Jim Garrison, obtained by court order a copy of the legendary Zapruder film of the assassination.

This amateur film shows Kennedy's murder in graphic detail. It was bought by *Life* magazine, perhaps for as much as \$1 million, and was never publicly shown. Garrison, however, showed it nine times during the trial, convincing newsmen that Kennedy was also shot from in front as well as from behind.

The looming court battle could prove just as embarrassing to the conspirators. Even in the last few months amazing new photographic and testimonial evidence — now held by Mark Lane and Penn Jones — has come to light. The National Committee to Investigate Assassinations, in Washington, is also reported to have uncovered further evidence of conspiracy.

Many of the 512 known photos and individual films taken in Dealey plaza at the time of the murder and immediately afterward have never been seen again; they were handed to FBI investigators and never returned. Some of them have recently been "found", including spare prints that were not handed over, and reprinted in a few newspapers and magazines.

Included among these are photographs of:

- Four of the ten people known to have been arrested in Dealey plaza just after JFK's murder. Police files show no record of these arrests.
- A man (wearing a distinctive hat, like the one Burt Lancaster wore in *Executive action*) who had a radio transmitter in his rear pocket with the aerial dangling down.
- A Dallas "policeman" wearing non regulation gun and shoes. The police were unable to identify this man. He is wearing what appears to be a radio earphone.
- Dallas police cars parked on a section of sidewalk covering a gouge in the concrete that witnesses thought to be a bullet mark.
- A series of photos showing a motorcycle policeman carefully parking his bike over a gutter opening, and people standing on a manhole cover. A witness said that a puff of smoke issued from this opening during the shooting.
- A series of a man with an umbrella acting strangely while Kennedy was shot. Some believe that this man may have been the visual coordinator for teams of gunmen present at the site.
- Objects like a railway wagon near the Texas Book Depository that were airbrushed out of existence in photographs released by the FBI. Three men were arrested in this



In *Executive action*, a sniper training for the assassination

wagon, witnesses allege.

Among the many witnesses that the Warren commission did not question was deputy sheriff Harry Weatherford, who was assigned to the top of the Dallas county jail, which overlooks Dealey plaza. Weatherford, a crack shot with a rifle, was armed and in a perfect position to tell investigators whether he had seen anything unusual in the grassy knoll area, or elsewhere.

Weatherford did not proffer any opinion about what he must have witnessed. Until five years ago it was not known that he was atop the jail building.

He was "dobbed in" by a former colleague who later became a corporation court judge. According to the judge, Weatherford rang him soon afterwards saying: "If you ever try to arraign me there will be a goddamned gunbattle."

It is a matter of record that some witnesses in Dealey plaza at

the time of the assassination stated that at least one of the shots came from the top of the jail. Their testimony was recorded in 1963 and 1964.

With this and a welter of other evidence, a growing band of independent investigators and organisations are keen to at least have their material considered before a court — even a civil court. Civil actions of the sort contemplated by Vaughn have previously upset verdicts on a related crime.

If the new evidence is admitted to the Vaughn hearing (and it is certain that it will be proffered as a defence), one of the happiest spectators will be author Joachim Joesten, who has written five books about the Kennedy murder.

In two of them Joesten dared certain highranking Dallas policemen to sue him, alleging that they were part of the conspiracy. They declined to accept his invitation.

## CHESS

THE SHORTEST game from the recent Australian championship (not counting Hay's forfeit to Sulk) was a 16 move brevity between Stern and Renic. Renic played a complicated line in the Sicilian defence, the so called accelerated dragon, but he came unstuck as soon as Stern decided to vary from the "book". Stern actually discovered a beautiful new opening trap, which merits inclusion in any future book on opening traps and pitfalls. The trap netted him a bishop for a pawn, quite enough to win with, but lo and behold, three moves later Renic was again ensnared, this time at the price of a queen!

COOMA 1974

White: A. Stern (NSW).  
Black: B. Renic (Vic).  
Sicilian defence.

1. P-K4, P-QB4; 2. N-KB3, N-QB3; 3. P-Q4, P-R4; 4. NXP, P-RN3; 5. N-QB3, B-N2; 6. B-K3, N-B3;

The dragon variation (black's fianchettoing of his K-bishop) is being accelerated by the omission of 6... P-Q3. The purpose of P-Q3 is to control the e5 square, preventing white's P-K5.

7. N-KN, N-PN; 8. P-K5, N-N1.  
Another possibility is 8... N-Q4, 9. N-KN, P-KN; 10. QxP, R-QN1; and black has good play for the sacrificed pawn.

9. B-Q4, P-QB4; 10. BxP, Q-B2.  
(10... BxP is answered by 11. Q-Q5.)

11. B-Q4, BxP; 12. N-N5.  
Something new for the books. Usual here is 12. B-K2 or 12. P-B4!

12... Q-R4ch?  
Loans a piece, because the Queen is now decoyed away from the defence of the bishop. The only move was 12... Q-N1, with about equal chances.

13. P-QN4!, QxPch; 14. P-QB3, Q-R4;

15. BxR, P-B2; 16. B-B7.  
Black resigns, for the Queen is also lost. If he tries 16... Q-R3; 17. N-Q6ch, P-KN; 18. BxQ.  
This catastrophe occurred on Jan 4, 1974, just when Kaboutek was at its closest. Hmm.



After 12. N-N5.

FRED FLATOW

## THE EXORCIST