

7/8/70

Dear Gris,

If a priest hadn't spent most of the day here, I might have had more time for response to your undated letter, which arrived today.

I know I still have a copy of the first part of COUP. I may have both. I'll try and get it/them wrapped and in the mail in the a.m. I have to leave for town in a few moments, so I won't have time to even check now. Remember, they/it will go fourth class, which costs little but takes much longer.

I think there is a simpler explanation on Warren. I doubt if any man or woman will satisfy any of us, but I'm inclined to take a much less conspiratorial view. He was boxed in by the staff and they by the FBI. All should have known better and undoubtedly some (esp. Rankin, Redlich, Specter, Lieber and others) fit your father's story. He and his activity and decisions, bad as they were, may still have been exaggerated and misrepresented. For example, he directed Rankin to have a member of the staff and a doctor examine some of the autopsy pics, and Rankin arranged that it not be done. And the X-rays were examined, in spite of everything we have been told.

Where I know the civil-rights thing did figure is with Russell, who devoutly believes LBJ appointed him to the Commission to keep him out of the anti-civil-rights fight. Russell thereupon ignored his Commission assignment and led the resistance. I think this is tragic for all of us and cannot now tell you why, but his questioning of Marine 9/6/64, which I go into in some detail in WW, is one indication. He was and remains convinced there was a conspiracy, despite what the Report says. He happens to think it was Red and LBJ was part of it, but the fact remains he was in this fundamental disagreement with the Report. I think he was not alone. There are those in Dallas with pretty much the same view, to my knowledge.

It is possible to give LBJ too little credit for the wisdom with which he selected his Commission and the brutality with which he over-rode their refusals, including Warren's initial one. With Russell, he just went ahead and announced it after Russell had refused and was under the impression it ended with his refusal.... And we now know that despite the Report and his own ~~own~~ later public statements, LBJ also didn't believe his own Commission.

Sorry about the haste. Best to you all.

Sincerely,

Griscom Morgan

Rt. 1, Box 275
Yellow Springs,
Ohio 45387

Harold Weisberg
Dear Hal:

I have gotten to the point that I am ready to read the Coup d'etat book if you can send it. Pressing work has been cleared away so that I ought to be able to get through it without too much delay.

As the case appears to me there seems to be a major problem as to Justice Warren's role. Vince thinks I am wrong about this, but it appears that most people cannot conceive of Justice Warren being party to such a great deception as allowing the reactionaries to get away with the assassination. I believe this question in their minds can be simply resolved. That is by the hypothesis that Justice Warren agreed to go along with the conspiracy's interpretation of the assassination on condition that the Establishment -- including the Southern forces in Congress -- pass Kennedy's civil rights legislation. I believe that nothing less than this can explain Warren's role, and that it also requires his insistence that the FBI get at the root of the killing of the civil rights workers. This was not Johnson's doing. He in the recent television address specifically said that he had passed Kennedy's civil rights legislation. Its passage at the time seemed like a miracle, and the FBI's moving into action in the civil rights workers murder was not in character with what J. Edgar Hoover had previously done in the South. Johnson did not at all follow Kennedy's foreign policy as in Viet Nam, so Johnson's sentimental reference to his carrying out Kennedy's will was not representative of Johnson's deference to Kennedy. Hoover's reported cynical disregard for Bobby Kennedy's authority as soon as his brother was killed also shows that Hoover was not following though by a line of authority. The only way one can make sense of all this is to posit that the price these people had to pay for Warren's concurrence with the Warren Report was the passage of what to Warren must have seemed like a real and stiff price from these guilty parties. The fact that dishonesty and complicity in such a great crime could not ~~justify~~ be justified by that price would not be within the competence of Warren, especially when one considers the price he felt the nation might be faced with in Warren's refusal to whitewash the CIA. This is reminiscent of the time when the British cabinet was planning to devalue the pound, and word of this got out, leading to profiteering trading. The only man in the British cabinet with enough public reputation for honesty for him to be believed was Sir Stafford Cripps. So Cripps told the public that on his honor the cabinet had no intention to devalue the pound. So then the act could be carried through safely. My father calls this devaluing the moral currency, to save the fiscal currency. Warren devalued America's moral currency for sake of the immediate prospect of civil order and world opinion of American democracy. The fact that he asked a stiff price (if that is indeed the case) does not keep the long-term consequences of such dishonesty and betrayal from being far more terrible than the trouble he thought to avoid.

This is the speculation I have been thinking of in connection with the assassination. Best wishes, *Gris* Griscom Morgan

A Resume of the evidence on the Kennedy assassination,
The Warren Report, and the work of its critics.

by Griscom Morgan

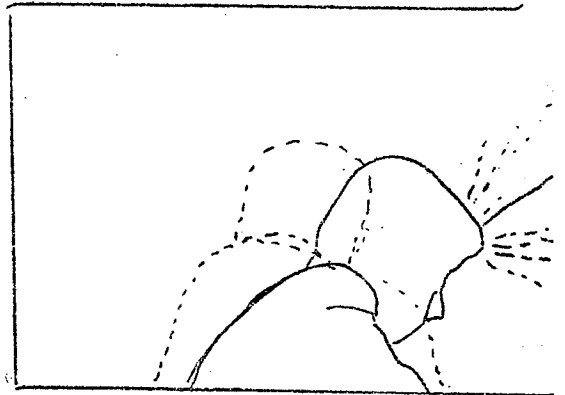
The evidence for and against the Warren Report is so detailed and extensive that most articles and books have left a cumbersome and cloudy picture of the case as a whole, one not easily followed by the casual reader. To avoid this difficulty we here undertake to deal with only a few high spots in the case definitively in such a way that there should be no question with regard to crucial aspects of the case upon which the Warren Report must stand or fall.

In his widely reprinted attack on critics of the Warren report, The Scavengers, Richard Warren Lewis dealt with one of the crucial bits of evidence upon which the Warren Report must stand or fall, which was the motion of President Kennedy's head immediately following the impact of the fatal bullet. Mr. Lewis writes, "Vincent Salandria, . . . by superimposing critical frames of the moving picture on each other . . . suggests that the President's head lurched backward and to the left. Such conclusions would clearly suggest the presence of a second assassin. But Salandria, like most skeptics, overlooks the forward rush of the motorcade following the impact of the fatal bullet -- a movement which clearly destroys his supposition." This is a clear issue of fact that can be confirmed or disproved by consideration of the evidence.

We show here the diagram that was drawn from Vincent Salandria's study of the motion picture evidence.

In the words of Castano Nensi, the reporter who reported this study, "With the excellent cooperation of the National Archives staff, two slide projectors (were) set up and, from one, frame 313 projected on a screen. From the other, frames 314, 315 and 316 can be individually superimposed over the image of 313. (Each frame represents a time lapse of only about 1/18th of a second) It then becomes clearly evident that the hit produced no

forward motion of the head or body at all. Kennedy's head flew back and to the left, his shoulders and torso spun to the left, the top-right part of his head was blown apart." As the appended diagram shows, Kennedy's head spun around, and within the very brief period of one sixth of a second. The motion of the forehead was approximately one foot. We suggest to the reader that he move his head in a similar motion even within a period of one second. The conclusion should be obvious that no forward motion of the presidential limousine could have caused this motion of the head. And obviously a shot from the rear could not have caused it. As further evidence of a shot from the right



WFO
none

also
back
front

forward, the brain matter that was blasted from Kennedy's head was thrown in the left rearward direction, spattering the two motorcycle escorts riding abreast at the left rear of the presidential limousine. As yet further evidence of this motion not being the backward motion that could have been caused by forward motion of the limousine, Life magazine placed a caption under one of these pictures with the words, "causing a massive wound and snapping his head to one side."

The evidence we have just surveyed disproves the Warren Report and substantiates the testimony of a majority of the witnesses that they heard, saw or smelled gunfire or/and smoke from the area of the wooded knoll to the front right of the presidential limousine. The discounting of such evidence by the FBI and the Warren Commission was part of deliberate design, and was just as definite as is this case of Richard Warren Lewis giving a very misleading report of the facts in his book The Scavengers.

Next in our list of the crucial evidence is the story of the Altman photograph which shows what appears to be Lee Harvey Oswald in the doorway of the Depository Building at the time of the assassination of President Kennedy. The FBI and the Warren Commission staff used fraudulent means to discount this evidence, means that its authors must have known were fraudulent. If fraud was required to make the case against Oswald, Oswald cannot be presumed to be guilty. The evidence is as follows:

Various observers thought they recognized Lee Oswald in the Associated Press print of a photograph by photographer Altgens showing the presidential limousine moments after the first shot. If this was Oswald, it would have definitely eliminated him from suspicion as an assassin. In response to inquiries about this photograph, the FBI asserted that the individual observed there had been a fellow employee in the Building, named Billy Lovelady. The FBI produced a picture of Lovelady standing in a similar pose with his shirt unbuttoned in a manner similar to that of the man in the doorway. But according to the FBI's picture of Lovelady wearing the same shirt he had worn on that day, this shirt was a broad red and white striped short sleeved shirt which Lovelady had testified he had worn buttoned up to his neck on that day. The man who looks like Oswald in the doorway is clearly wearing a strikingly different shirt, one that appears to be identical to that which is shown on Oswald on the day of the assassination. This was a long-sleeved light flecked dark shirt whose upper buttons were missing so that there is clear view of the undershirt.

The importance of this identification of the man shown in the doorway of the Depository Building is evidenced by the fact that it was J. Edgar Hoover himself that answered an inquiry about comparison of shirts in relation to this photograph when the General Counsel directing the Warren Commission's investigation raised the question. The evasive, misleading answer to Counsel Rankin's phony question was substantially that Lee Oswald was wearing his own shirt on the day of the assassination. (documentation in Photographic Whitewash by Harold Weisberg--in full photostatic ~~form~~)

To suggest that the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was involved in suppression of evidence with regard to the assassination of a president is so fantastic as to be inconceivable by many people. It so happens, however, that there have been highly qualified journalists who had early suspected this to be the case. Among these, a leading Scripps-Howard editor is outstanding. Richard Starnes had been assistant managing editor of the Scripps-Howard Washington paper and subsequently became managing editor of the New York World-Telegram. Thus he knew his way around Washington. In a column he had written, "Can we expect the FBI to explain why Oswald was not under surveillance that day in Dallas when the President's widely-heralded visit was scheduled?" He also wrote, "The commission will be almost wholly dependant upon the facts made available to it by the Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Dallas Police Department."

"In a sense, of course, the special commission is investigating the role played by each of these agencies, and it is manifestly naive to expect these cops to bear witness against themselves, or, indeed, each other. . .

"If you believe the Dallas police will ever give up the truth about how Kubaenstein got a clear shot at Oswald you will believe anything. . ."

The entire Warren Report, with most of its work done by the FBI, is full of conclusions based on evidence that had been warped and twisted by the investigators. For example, not only does the Altgens photograph appear to show that Oswald was near the front door of the Depository Building at the time of the assassination, but a fellow employee testified that Lovelsky had been sitting down at his feet at the time, and the Altgens photograph shows a man sitting there, his head barely showing. Furthermore, another employee testified that she had caught a glimpse of Oswald as she was leaving the building about this time. She did not retract this testimony on cross examination, but the Warren Commission staff got around it by using her statement that she did not see Lee Oswald after she left the building to infer contradiction in her testimony.

It was essential to the Warren Report to conclude that only three shots had been fired, and that all had been fired from the far sixth floor window to the east of the Depository Building. Yet a number of witnesses independantly stated that they saw a bullet hit the pavement to the left and rear of the presidential limousine, one of them saying that sparks flew up from this spot -- at the time of the first shot. One observer who saw only the television picture of this pressed the Commission about it, and the FBI then located a spot in apparently the area the direct witnesses indicated, where the pavement had been gouged out as if from a bullet. This was described by the FBI report as "an approximately four inches long by one-half inch wide dug-out scar, which could possibly have been made by some blunt-end instrument or projectile. It is noted that this scar lies in such a direction that if it had been a bullet, it could not have

come from the direction of the window the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy has public stated was used by Lee Harvey Oswald when firing his assassination bullets at the late president.

"This particular scar is in line with the western end of the . . . Depository Building, that is, the opposite end of the building from where Oswald was shooting at the late President."

This testimony and evidence is of particular significance because it points up a clear misstatement of fact in the Warren Report and to another chain of misrepresentation of evidence.

Among the many occasions in which the Warren Commission falsified or misrepresented evidence to make its case, its dealing with the testimony of Arnold Rowland is most glaring. The detailed procedure by which the Commission's key investigator Arlen Specter set about discrediting Arnold Rowland's testimony must be read at length to be appreciated. For that reason it is appended with this brief survey.

Arnold Rowland was a major obstacle to the Warren Commission's conclusions because he steadfastly asserted that he had observed a rifleman at the western end of the sixth floor of the Depository Building. Moreover, he was the only witness who had noted the presence of a telescopic sight to the rifle. To seemingly disprove this the Commission asserted in its report that "the far east corner of the sixth floor of the Depository (had) the only open window on that floor." Yet photographs taken at the time of the assassination show the far west window to have been wide open just as Arnold Rowland said it was. All the arguments tending to show that Rowland was an inaccurate and undependable witness have been fully disproved (as shown in the appended discussion and repetition of testimony), so now we have no reason for disregarding the evidence of witnesses of a bullet hitting the pavement to the left rear of the Presidential limousine, and gauging a mark that leads to the opposite window from that at which Oswald was presumed to have been aiming at the President. It is ironic that Harland Manchester in his Death of a President credits Rowland with being a good witness, but ignores the fact that Rowland undermined the whole thesis of the Warren Report.

~~Not only do we have evidence that the first shot in the assassination ~~took~~ came from another window than that in which Lee Oswald was presumed to be shooting, but~~

~~like the evidence we have already mentioned, this evidence, too was knowingly misrepresented by the FBI.~~

the witness, sending a cloud of dust and sparks which were observed by other witnesses over

On January 20, 1964 J. Edgar Hoover listed photographs "which are available of the assassination", and among them he listed an "8 millimeter color" movie of the "Presidential motorcade proceeding east on Main Street, north on Houston street and left on Elm Street directly in front of Texas School Book Depository Building, submitted by Robert J. Hughes of Dallas." In submitting this film to the FBI its agent Robert E. Barrett had noted that the "front of the Texas School Book Depository Building is shown in full in the photographs." In the twenty-six volumes of the Commission's hearings, a small portion of one of the frames of this movie is shown with the caption "enlarged print from 8mm film of window from which shots were fired. Picture was taken moments before assassination." Actually, this picture must have been taken but a few seconds before the first shot was fired -- especially in view of evidence developed by Harold Weisberg and CBS broadcasting Co. that the first shot was fired several seconds earlier than the Warren Commission had determined.

Thus we have here a moving picture taken of the very window at which the shooting of President Kennedy was supposed to have taken place -- up to the time of the shooting. What does it show? The way the Warren Report deals with this picture reveals the whole pattern of the Warren Commission's dealing with its subject. The only reference to this evidence in the Warren Report is the following:

"Speculation.-- An amateur 8-millimeter photograph taken at 12:20 p.m., 10 minutes before the assassination of President Kennedy, showed two silhouettes at the sixth floor window of the Depository.

"Commission findings-- a film taken by an amateur photographer, Robert J.E. Hughes, just before the assassination, shows a shadow in the southeast corner window of the sixth floor. This has been determined after examination by the FBI and the U.S. Navy Photographic Interpretation Center to be the shadow from the cartons near the window."

This was the window at which an assassin would have had to be in pretty clear view because of the distance of the presidential limousine. This was not true of the window at the opposite end of the building which was closer, and the window was wide open instead of being open only about a foot and a half. Not only does this prove that an assassin could not have been prepared for the first shot at the far window, but it proves that both the FBI (which made a similar statement in its report) and the Warren Commission fudged drastically in its dealing with crucial evidence in the reports to the American people.

We are now able to reconstruct the Kennedy assassination with a fairly complete chain of evidence, giving the names of at least some of the assassins, proving their motives (as was never done with Lee Oswald) and showing why the FBI and Warren Commission engaged in the cover-up of the identity of the real assassins. For the sake of brevity we will limit ourselves to basic and essential documentation.

Lee Oswald had not been a particularly good rifle shot even when he was in practice in the marines, and there is no evidence that he had kept up his practice. Furthermore, there are ~~several~~ clear instances in which Oswald was reported to think well of President Kennedy and his civil rights program -- in striking contrast to many people in Dallas. But there was a man who looked very much like Lee Oswald who not only was an extremely good shot, and had been in the Dallas area about the time of the assassination, but he had clearly reported motive for the assassination. At the Sports Dome rifle range near Dallas this man with two spanish-looking companions had shot with spectacular accuracy, and his similarity to Lee Oswald was so great that among other witnesses a doctor and his son when they saw a TV picture of Lee Oswald after the assassination each independently was convinced that he was the man they had seen at the rifle range. Similarly in Dallas a responsible Cuban exile, Silvia Odio, and her friends who had been visited by an essentially similar assortment of men, were convinced that Lee Oswald was the same person as they had been introduced to as the "Leon Oswald" who had visited them in company with two latin-american looking men. But since Lee Oswald at this time was known to be on his way to Mexico City, the Warren Commission concluded that this "Leon Oswald" was not connected with the assassination.

Silvia Odio had been told by a companion of "Leon Oswald" that "he was an excellent shot, and that (he) said the Cubans don't have any guts . . . because President Kennedy should have been assassinated after the Bay of Pigs. . . because he was the one that was holding the freedom of Cuba."

We have already shown evidence that Lee Oswald was on the first floor of the Depository building at the time of the assassination. He left very shortly afterward; it is presumed by some that he left to report in his capacity of informer to some governmental agency. Some time later, about the time that restrictions were dropped limiting entrance and exit from the Depository building, deputy sheriff Roger D. Craig saw a man (he subsequently identified, from seeing him in police custody as Lee Oswald) run from the area of the Depository Building to an automobile with a latin-american appearing driver that had driven slowly in front of the building to pick him up. Since the Deputy Sheriff was sure this was the same as Oswald, yet Oswald had been proved to be elsewhere, he was discredited in his testimony. Now we assert that this testimony places William Seymour, alias Leon Oswald near the Depository building shortly after the assassination. As the Warren Report puts it (pl 301) "Seymour is similar in appearance to Lee Harvey Oswald".

One of the most valuable items in Rogere's brief is the account of the photograph showing Roger Craig in the room with Oswald and Fritz ~~previously~~ identifying Oswald in his company that Fritz ~~previously~~ had seen in seeing that Craig

Oswald's relationship with officer Tippit cannot be avoided in a discussion of the Kennedy assassination. There is much detailed evidence that would tend to clear Oswald of the Tippit killing; too lengthy to go into here, but one element of evidence entirely misrepresented in the Warren Report casts Oswald's relationship to the Tippit killing in a very different light. Harold Weisberg has shown that whereas Lee Oswald's landlady had testified that a police car had stopped and beeped its horn several times in front of his rooming house when he had stopped there after the assassination, the Warren Report had stated that "investigation has not produced any evidence that there was a police vehicle in that area." Yet the Warren Commission had clear evidence that officer Tippit's police car was in that area at the time -- the only car in the Dallas force that was. Moreover, Tippit's car was the only one whose license nearly coincided with the number that Mrs. Roberts, the landlady, with poor eyesight, had thought it -- 106 or 107 as contrasted with Tippit's 10. An additional figure could easily have been assumed from what followed on the license. This fits in with extensive evidence that Lee Oswald understood his role to be that of an informer, such as assistant district attorney Bill Alexander thought him to be ~~before the assassination~~ testified his information in a secret session of the Warren Commission.

The most ominous speculation about the Kennedy assassination is that it might involve not only anti Castro fighters who had once been on CIA pay, but also people higher up in the CIA organization. Evidence of this and of the motive for such involvement is centered in reports that a prominent military affairs specialist who had occasionally been employed by the CIA (as Jim Garrison tells it in his Playboy interview) "Several days after the president's assassination appeared at the home of friends in New Jersey badly shaken, and charged that Kennedy was killed by a small group within the CIA" -- the Far Eastern Division. --Garrison went on to say "He told his friends he believed his life was in danger. We can't learn more from Underhill, I'm afraid, because shortly afterward he was found shot to death in his Washington apartment."

The rationale on the part of a group in the CIA would be clear: Kennedy had become disillusioned with the Vietnam conflict and had appointed ambassador Galbraith to study the Vietnam problem. The CIA was clearly faced with the likelihood of Kennedy's bowing out on its Vietnam management as he had done with its planned invasion of Cuba, and the whole free-wheeling CIA organization was in peril. Just after the appointment of ex-CIA chief Allen Dulles to the Warren Commission, Scripps-Coward columnist Richard Starnes had pronounced "Dulles is shadow of inquiry", and went on to quote a prominent American official in the war just as saying "I seriously question if President Kennedy himself has any effective control over this monstrous bureaucracy." Perhaps the assassination was the necessary confirmation of this doubt.