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House panel hears new evidence on JFK shooting

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WASHINGTON — Researchers studying freshly released documents held secret for 30 years laid out several new narratives yesterday of events surrounding the 1963 assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Some headlines from the 485 cubic feet of documents on the Dallas killing that have been turned over to the National Archives since August:

■ The CIA, despite withholding it from the Warren Commission, was shadowing a Cuban-born American named Gilberto Lopez, whom they

suspected of being a hit man for Fidel Castro.

■ Examination of original X-rays taken at the JFK autopsy and recently made available led at least one researcher to conclude that Kennedy took two bullets in the head, one from the back, as the Warren Report said, and one from the front, which would mean a conspiracy.

■ Dallas police records show an alcoholic hobo named John Franklin Elrod was picked up Nov. 22, 1963, along the railroad tracks behind Dealey Plaza where JFK was shot, and later that day was tossed into a cell next to Lee Harvey Oswald, the

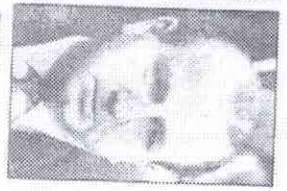
assassin. Elrod told Dallas authorities that Oswald openly recognized another prisoner, Lawrence Miller, as a fellow participant in a meeting between Oswald, Miller and Jack Ruby, the strip club proprietor who two days later killed Oswald. The FBI has denied Elrod was in the jail at the time.

The significance is an implied conspiracy in which Oswald and his killer, Ruby, may have been involved — something the government has denied for 30 years.

The witness who described them at a hearing of the House National Security subcommittee — Army Maj.



Oswald



Ruby

John M. Newman, a veteran JFK author and researcher — said, "The greater the evidence of Oswald's contacts with intelligence agencies and underworld figures, the more difficult it becomes . . . to sustain the 'lone nut' hypothesis."

Washington lawyer James Johnston, former counsel to the Senate Intelligence Committee, noted the CIA turned its leads on Gilberto Lopez over to the FBI, but the new records show the bureau did not investigate thoroughly.

The documents, said Johnston, show the CIA became "immediately suspicious since the Cuban government appeared too eager to get Lopez out of Mexico."

"It cut through red tape and gave Lopez a Cuban courtesy visa, ignoring the fact that his U. S. passport had expired. Moreover, Lopez was the only passenger on the flight, which had a crew of nine."