

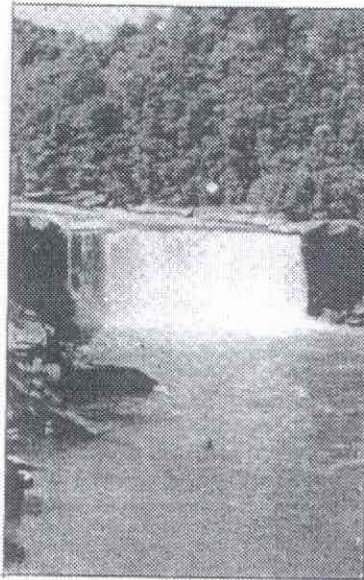
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*"I have been young, and
now am old; yet have I not
seen the righteous forsaken,
nor his seed begging bread."
(Psalms 37:25)*

Thirty years is too long to keep secrets hidden

John F. Kennedy passed away more than 30 years ago, but at the rate the government's going, it will be at least another 30 before the story dies.

This week came another trickle of documents from the National Archives — gruesome photos of the blood-stained, flower-strewn interior of the car Kennedy rode in that day, diagrams of bullet fragments and autopsy X-rays.

But that's still not all. At least 100,000 CIA documents and more than 100 boxes of FBI material remain under seal, being reviewed by officials at those agencies before their release. It's all so unnecessary.

There is absolutely no reason the American public has had to sit around and wonder for three decades what really happened, dreaming up its own conspiracy theories because any real information remained hidden far from view.

If there's any lingering lesson we can draw from the Kennedy assassination, it's that no good comes from a government hiding information from its citizens.

This could all have been over before the 1960s ended. Instead, the investigating body met in private and the documents remained closed. All because of a few people's secrecy fetishes.

Heaven forbid there be a next time. If there is, let's hope those in charge opt to end the investigation as quickly and as openly as possible.

Thirty years is a little long to keep digging into the same grave.