

ernment is over," all his proposals involve government action. After 55 hours of non-responsive

arship for good students and denial of federal contracts to companies that hire illegal immi-

Dole was going to speak from his hometown of Russell, Kan. That was discarded in favor of a ster-

ing Clinton's willing down government at the debt rather than well as his ability to sage to the public. The Republican kind of government even more clearly does. But today, the active means of getting that is an immense the president.

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Truth and the assassination of JFK

By BILL NEICHTER

Oliver Stone's new movie "Nixon" has revived the controversy surrounding the murder of President John F. Kennedy. In this movie, Stone implies that Nixon in some way had something to do with the assassination of Kennedy. In his earlier movie, "JFK," Stone managed to implicate Lyndon Johnson, the Mafia, Lee Harvey Oswald, the CIA and the military industrial establishment in some kind of grand conspiracy. These views are not considered to be the truth by historians who have studied the subject.

When the Warren Report was released, it concluded that three shots had been fired by Lee Harvey Oswald. One bullet missed the car entirely, one caused all the nonfatal wounds to President Kennedy and Gov. Connally, and one killed the president, hitting him in the head. However, what is not common knowledge is that three of the members of the commission did not agree with this conclusion. Kentucky Sen. John Sherman Cooper, Georgia Sen. Richard Russell and Louisiana Congressman Hale Boggs (ABC's Cokie Roberts' father) all had serious doubts about the so-called single bullet theory, that one bullet had passed through Kennedy and wounded Connally, then emerged nearly undamaged and discovered under a mattress on a gurney at Parkland Hospital. One of the most amazing facts and loose ends concerning the investigation is that the single bullet, also known as the magic bullet, was not found on the stretcher of the president or the governor, but on a completely different one.

Sen. Russell, in fact, did not even agree that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. In an interview discovered at the University of Georgia, Russell stated that while he thought Oswald was somehow involved, he was convinced that there were others involved, and that the assassination was in fact a conspiracy. These disagreements with the Warren Report did not come to light for several years, but are well documented by historians, including this writer.

When the exhibits and interviews of the Warren Commission

were released almost three months after the report, doubts about the conclusions of the commission began to surface. One could say that the dirty little secret of the Warren Commission is that the exhibits and interviews of those present at Dealey Plaza contradict the conclusions. For example, several witnesses stated that they heard or even saw more than three bullets fired at the motorcade. Abraham Zapruder, who was standing on the famous grassy knoll taking pictures of the president, testified that he heard shots come from behind him. Other witnesses stated they saw shots hit the street in front of the president's car. But the report concluded that three bullets were fired, and three empty shells were found in the Texas School Book Depository building where Oswald worked.

Oswald was a strange man. A former Marine who had moved to the Soviet Union, he married Marina, had a child, moved back to the United States and had another child. However, no fingerprints of Oswald's were found on the alleged murder rifle. Oswald denied he killed Kennedy, and one of the most interesting interviews by the Warren Commission staff was with a friend of Oswald's who claimed that Oswald actually liked the president and had never said a word against him. Sen. Russell later said that the commission was not told the whole truth about Oswald, and later revelations proved him correct.

Many people think Oswald's murder by Jack Ruby was part of a conspiracy. However, this is probably not true. In fact, Ruby was an extremely mentally disturbed man, who was allowed to hang around the police station because he had befriended some of the cops. He apparently shot Oswald because he thought Oswald was guilty and he would administer some frontier justice. In prison, Ruby became psychotic and suffered delusions that can only be described as pathetic ravings of a lunatic.

There are many questions about the Kennedy assassination that will probably forever go unanswered. But one can make an educated guess about what

revelations may eventually be learned. For example, how did a high school dropout like Oswald learn to speak and read fluent Russian? Was he taught in the Marines? And what relationship did Oswald have with the FBI and the CIA? The FBI claims that Oswald was a subject of concern as a suspicious person, but he was not suspicious enough for the FBI to keep an eye on him Nov. 22, 1963. In addition, there have always been questions about the reports of someone impersonating Oswald or even using his name in both Dallas and New Orleans.

There are hundreds of books that have been written on the subject of the assassination. Four of those currently in print are considered accurate by historians. The late Sylvia Meagher's excellent books, "Accessories After the Fact," is available in reprint. Harold Weisberg, dean of assassination researchers, now has three books in print. "Selections from Whitewash," a compilation of his ground-breaking Whitewash series, can be purchased locally. "Case Open," his rejoinder to the flawed book "Case Closed," is a good book. His newest, "Never Again!," is an extensive treatment of the assassination, quite controversial but considered very accurate by historians such as Dr. David Wrono of Wisconsin. Wrono is considered the leading academic expert on the subject of President Kennedy's murder. At one time, Wrono had read every book written on the assassination, in English, Russian and French.

Both Weisberg and Wrono are featured in the fascinating "Reasonable Doubt." Chip Selby, a leading authority on the Warren Report, won awards and widespread acclaim for this effort, which has been shown on the Arts and Entertainment Network. It is also available at some area video stores.

The whole truth may never be known about those events of 1963, but it does appear clear that some type of conspiracy may have been in place. It probably took at least two shooters to fire that many times, and it is very possible that Oswald was not one of them. The movies may not be the best place to look for historical accuracy, but the works mentioned above are today used in history courses in colleges. If you are interested in learning more about the crime of the century, check them out.

Editor's Note: Bill Neichter is a Louisville attorney and historian. He has done extensive research on the JFK assassination, specializing in Kentucky's Sen. John Sherman Cooper, the Republican U.S. senator who was a close friend of the president's and a member of the Warren Commission.



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