

Confidential - H.W.F.B. REC

# OPEN SECRETS

Vol. I, #2

All the Truth That's Fit to Release

January, 1995

## First Annual National Conference Held in Washington

"Some people may feel that there is no purpose in working on murders that date back twenty-five or thirty years, but we know there is no time limit on the truth and no statute of limitations in a murder case. Until we face the truth about the assassinations of our political leaders, we cannot hope to move toward a viable democracy in this country."

*Dr. Cyril Wecht, Coalition Chair*

### Three Decades of Doubt

by Dan Alcorn, Conference Co-Chair

From the viewpoint of a co-chair of the "Three Decades of Doubt" conference, the event was quite a success. Every comment directed my way was favorable, even from those who had been doubters initially, or are generally negative about the research community.

Among the reasons cited for the positive reviews were: that the conference was a professionally arranged and presented event; that the presentations were informative and moved the case forward in the minds of participants; and that inclusion on the program of the Review Board Chairman and Executive Director gave weight to the gathering.

Let me add my own reason for believing that the conference was successful. On October 30, 1994 author Kevin Phillips appeared on the CBS Sunday public affairs show "Face the Nation" to discuss his new book *Arrogant Capital*. The graph I used as a visual aid at the opening of the conference, tracking the decline of trust in the federal government came from this book.

Kevin Phillips on this national network show, dated the decline in trust in government in America to November 22, 1963, and explicitly

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### Assassination Records Review Board

#### Open Hearings Held Congress Renews Funds and Life

"One of our first and most important tasks is to arrive at a definition of an assassination record."

*John R. Tunheim, ARRB Chairman*

The scope of the definition of an "assassination-related record" will determine the number and type of records sought for release. As part of their effort to seek public ideas and comments regarding this issue, the ARRB announced and held two open hearings, taking testimony from researchers and interested citizens.

The first was held on October 11, in conjunction with the national conference of the Coalition on Political Assassinations. The Auditorium at the National Archives main building in Washington, D.C. was the site for the hearing, attended by media representatives and hundreds of others. The event was videotaped by the Coalition, and transcribed by ARRB for the official record. The full Board attended the meeting, with the Executive Director and staff present.

In preparation for testimony, ARRB Chairman John R. Tunheim, and the newly appointed Executive Director David G. Marwell addressed the Three Decades of Doubt conference participants, inviting their assistance and assuring them of his commitment to full disclosure of the existing records. This marks an unprecedented effort in cooperation between public interest groups, citizens and a federal agency concerning release of classified files.

Written testimony was accepted for possible oral presentation up to one week before the hearings, and additional presentations were allowed the day of the hearings, following cancellations by some scheduled speakers.

#### Washington

Testimony in Washington centered on the need for a broad definition of "assassina-

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The Assassination Records Review Board (ARRB) has been granted funding and an extended life by technical amendments and appropriations passed in September by Congress. The Assassination Archives and Research Center (AARC), a member group of the Coalition, assisted in the drafting of legislative language that would ensure an extended life for the ARRB, and our Coalition tracked the progress of these amendments through the House and Senate.

The Coalition on Political Assassinations played a major role in alerting the research community to the crisis that faced the newly-appointed Board, whose original legislative life would have ended in 1995. Our Washington office generated calls, letters and faxes to the Congressional oversight committees headed by Rep. John Conyers and Sen. John Glenn, and to the membership of the appropriations committees voting on funding.

Due to pressure generated by Coalition members, and by ARRB Chairman John Tunheim, the White House agreed to provide \$250,000 in "discretionary funds," as authorized in the Records Collection Act, to allow the ARRB to meet and operate until funding could be provided by Congress at the start of the fiscal year, in October.

Senator Glenn intervened with Sen. DeConcini's appropriations subcommittee, which had threatened to cut funding to all White House advisory groups, including the ARRB. The response of concerned researchers was so great that DeConcini's subcommittee staff threatened to change their fax number, claiming that they could no longer use their machine for other business.

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# In Government We Don't Trust

by Gaeton Fonzi

They come now with such periodic frequency that most Americans just shrug and flip the page. I'm talking about those polls reporting our lack of trust in our government and institutions. Recently, an Associated Press poll indicated that a minuscule two percent of Americans trusted Congress to do what is right almost always, and only 12 percent trust lawmakers most of the time.

## So what's new?

Pick any criteria — from people's belief in the honesty of their elected officials to their attitude about whether or not their vote makes a difference — and polls reveal the trend is obvious: Americans simply don't have the kind of unquestioning trust in their government they once had.

## That's news?

No, of course not, and that's the point. It's now a given that Americans have become cynical, imbued with a deep frustration and a sense of alienation from those they have chosen to run their government for them. They no longer accept as totally truthful what anyone says in Washington D.C. or, for that matter, in state and local governments.

Now this may shock you Generation X'ers: There was a time when the people *did*! They did believe what the government said. They *did* believe what their elected officials told them. They *did* accept as truthful all the public declarations and reports and official documents Washington issued.

## What happened?

We are reminded, this past November marked the 30th anniversary of the issuance of the Warren Commission Report.

History pundits have proffered one, or a combination of events as seminal to the growth of distrust of our government, from the assassination of President Kennedy to Vietnam to Watergate to Iran-Contra and beyond. But I suggest it was the Warren Commission Report — a weighty tome produced by an elite group, among them the most distinguished and respected men in all America — that planted the tumor of distrust.

The American people expected the Warren Commission to put closure to the most tragic and traumatic event they had ever collectively endured. Most who experienced the chill-

ing shock of Kennedy's death still shiver at the remembrance of it — *still feel it*, an incredible 30 years later. We expected the Warren Commission to give us a foundation on which to rebuild our faith in our government's integrity and in the validity of our democracy. Our elected leader was gone but our government was still solid and honest and functioning upright. That's what the American people expected of the Warren Commission, not simply in terms of its conclusions, but by the way it honored its mandate. History tells us — shouts at us — that it failed those expectations. Now, polls say, as many as 85 percent of Americans don't believe the Warren Commission told us the truth about the assassination of President Kennedy.

By Executive Order No. 11130, on November 29, 1963, President Lyndon Johnson directed the Commission to "evaluate all the facts and circumstances surrounding the assassination." The Commission didn't do that. Deliberately didn't do that. Despite its legal mandate, the Commission didn't make it a priority to evaluate — and thereby reveal to the public — all the facts. It deemed it had a more important mission, conveyed by President Johnson when he pressured a reluctant Justice Warren to accept the chairmanship. The country, said Johnson, had to be assured there was no conspiracy, especially a foreign conspiracy that might ignite the American people's desire for revenge and trigger a nuclear war. Years later, Johnson would tell reporter David Wise that he told Warren he knew Warren had been a first lieutenant in a World War, and that he knew Warren would walk across the Atlantic Ocean to save the lives of three Americans. Now, Johnson said he told Warren, "possibly a hundred million lives are at stake here."

And so, the Warren Commission set out to determine how Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed President Kennedy. In structuring its staff teams and their areas of investigation, four out of six dealt with Lee Harvey Oswald: How he did it, his background, his associations, his death at the hands of Jack Ruby. And because of the pressure put on by Johnson to release the Report prior to the elections that next November, the Commission had to rush through its job quickly, forcing its staff to ignore or bury evidence that might contradict its foregone conclusions. The result was a Report that looked impressive in its bulk and weight, but was loaded with conclusions not supported by the evidence and even, in many instances, blatantly contradicted by it.

That's not the speculation of a "conspiracy buff". That was the determination in 1978 of

the House Select Committee on Assassinations, for which I was a staff investigator. By then, the very need to form that Select Committee indicated how discredited the Warren Commission Report had become. That lack of belief in the Report slowly began to creep into the American psyche and encompass other aspects of the government, its agencies and institutions. Thus, when the House Select Committee was formed in 1976, it had the opportunity to restore at least a measure of the American people's trust in government by conducting, as its Congressional mandate dictated, "a full and complete investigation." After the failure of the Warren Commission to do that, the American people deserved no less.

But public distrust was not allayed when Americans watched as the first six months of the new House Committee's life was spent not in investigating but in political lobbying to keep the Committee alive and funded. The first chief counsel was forced to resign when he insisted that certain government agencies, including those such as the FBI and the CIA, which had been less than honest with the Warren Commission, be included as targets of the investigation.

The chief counsel who replaced him was a veteran of Congressional committees and knew what the politicians wanted. He structured an investigation that looked good on paper but was, in fact, impossible to complete within any set time or limited budget. Still, I remember thinking, Congress wouldn't in the end permit something as important as a true investigation into President Kennedy's assassination to be limited in any way, not from what we knew about the Warren Commission's failures. I learned how wrong I was when the new chief counsel called his first staff meeting and revealed the Committee's priority. He said nothing about conducting our mandated "full and complete investigation." He said our priority was to get a report done within what was left of the Committee's limited time and budget. I remember asking, "What about finding out who killed President Kennedy?" I was dismissed with a wave of the hand. "Oh, we'll do that too."

We didn't of course. What we did was to again deceive the American people and add enriching manure to the ever blooming distrust in government planted by the Warren Commission Report. **Happy 30th anniversary!**

*Gaeton Fonzi, a native Philadelphian, is a national award-winning journalist and author of "The Last Investigation" [Thunder's Mouth Press, NY], a chronicle of his experiences on the U.S. House Select Committee probing the assassination of President Kennedy. He is on the Governing Board of the Coalition. ■*

# The Assassination Records Review Board:

## *An Update for the Research Community*

by John R. Tunheim, Chair, ARRB

As Chair of the Assassination Records Review Board, I am pleased to have this opportunity to communicate directly with members of the research community about the activities of the Board. There have been several positive recent developments relative to the Board about which the research community will be pleased. In recent months:

- The Board has received funding for fiscal year 1995;
- Technical amendments have been signed into law extending the life of the Board;
- Senior staff members have joined the Board; and
- As this is being written, the Board has already held one public hearing in Washington, D.C., and has a second one scheduled for Dallas, Texas.

In addition, I had the pleasure of addressing the Coalition on Political Assassinations' Conference in Washington, D.C. on October 10, 1994. This was an important opportunity for me to speak directly with members of the research community and answer questions. It is precisely this type of open dialogue which the other Board members and I consider to be important as we undertake our responsibilities.

The Board is taking an aggressive approach to fulfilling our mandate to identify all records relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and review postponed records and information for public release. With funding for fiscal year 1995, and passage of the technical amendments to The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992, which extend the life of the Board until October 1, 1996 (plus an additional year at the Board's discretion), the Board has been able to take action on several fronts.

First, the Board conducted its first public hearing in Washington, D.C. on October 11, 1994. The focus of this hearing was to gain public input as the Board works to further define the term "assassination records." The JFK Assassination Records Collection Act provided a brief definition of "assassination records," but the Congress did not more specifically define the term because it believed

that such specificity was premature to this process. It left to the Board the challenge of defining the term. The Board heard some valuable testimony, and we have a goal of issuing interpretive regulations on the subject of what is an "assassination record" soon.

The Board's second public hearing was scheduled for Dallas, Texas, on November 18, 1994. The Board believes strongly that it was important to schedule a public hearing in Dallas to allow members of the public and the research community who live in that area to have the opportunity to address the Board. The hearing focused on gathering additional information relative to the existence and location of assassination records.

One of the most positive and significant developments for the Board has been the hiring of the Board's senior staff. The Board is extremely pleased that we have succeeded in hiring an experienced and professional senior staff that will play a critical role as we seek to fulfill our mandate to oversee the identification and release of all Kennedy assassination records. The Board has appointed the following senior staff members:

*T. Jeremy Gunn, Esq.* will coordinate records research and review. *Thomas E. Samoluk, Esq.* will oversee media relations and public affairs. *Tracy J. Shycoff* will be responsible for administrative and financial affairs. *Sberyl L. Walter, Esq.* will be the Board General Counsel. *David G. Marwell* was appointed Executive Director of the Board in July 1994.

As the Board continues its work, we hope that we can maintain a regular dialogue with members of the research community who possess so much knowledge about the assassination of President Kennedy. The Board wants to keep you informed and would also like to hear from you. We urge anyone who has information relative to assassination records to contact the Board at (202) 724-0088, fax to (202) 724-0457, or write us at:

Assassination Records Review Board  
600 E Street, NW  
Suite 208, Washington, D.C. 20530 ■

# ARRB Meeting Discusses Future Plans

On December 14, the Assassination Records Review Board held a public meeting concerning the definition of assassination-related records, and their schedule for the first quarter of the coming year. All but one of these executive meetings have been public, with the full Board present, and advance notice is being sent out under the Sunshine Act.

## An Object Lesson

Trudy Hruskamp Peterson, Acting Archivist of the United States, and Mike Reynolds, head of the Textual Reference Division at the Archives, presented an argument to the ARRB that the JFK "assassination-related records" should not be defined to include "artifacts and objects" in the Warren Commission collection, or under their care from other sources. These "assassinated-related" objects include the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle alleged to be the assassination weapon, bullet fragments, the limousine windshield, the Book Depository window, Kennedy's shirt and jacket and other key pieces of ballistic and criminal evidence collected by the Warren Commission, and are currently part of the National Archives collection.

Ms. Peterson contended that transfer of these objects to the new JFK Records Collection would open them to unlimited scrutiny under the legal provisions of the JFK Records Act, and might endanger their preservation. In the past, the unstated policy of the Archives had been to allow visual examination, but not handling of these objects by anyone who requested it. Since the mid-'80s a new policy has restricted direct access to only a few each year, who must seek prior permission from the Archives staff. All objects have been photographed and described in writing, and copies of these materials will be included in the JFK collection. Those currently wishing further inspection must make clear their purpose (beyond curiosity or prurient interest), and demonstrate why photographs are insufficient. Only selected Archives staff are allowed to handle the items during examination.

In addition to this, the Archives staff felt that including artifacts and objects under the definition of "records" would set a dangerous precedent for other agencies and legal decisions. The wording of the JFK Act and the

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Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is virtually the same in defining "records" to include "other documentary material regardless of its physical forms and characteristics." However, two federal court cases over the last few decades have ruled that, under the FOIA, "objects" are not "records". This was despite the legal language, which refers to information stored in any media, or retrievable by machine. Although held to have "informational value," these artifacts should not be considered as records, Peterson argued. In her previous position at the Justice Department's Office of Information and Privacy, she claimed, a similar distinction was made with regard to evidentiary items.

Members of the Review Board, including Kermit Hall and John Tunheim repeatedly asked the Archivist to clarify these distinctions. They agreed that preservation was an issue, but felt that the current staff and policies would remain intact in either case. If these artifacts are not records, one Board member asked, why are they at the National Archives, the federal record depository, and not the Smithsonian museum? Peterson also pointed out that the JFK Act allows citizens to make a copy of all records in the collection, and noted that it is impossible to make a copy of such objects. There was mention of plans to display the windshield inside a caged area in the reference stacks at Archives II, and the Board asked about the possibility of cased displays of other items as well.

Some Board members expressed concern that a complete and coherent collection of JFK assassination records would demand inclusion of these items. Others noted that the Warren Commission collection is designated by the JFK Act to the new archives. Chairman Tunheim asked for a catalog of the known artifacts. Their final decision will be part of the definition of assassination-related records to be published in the Federal Register on January 25 or 26, allowing one month's public comment.

### What's New?

Archivist Steve Tilly, in charge of the JFK collection at Archives II, and the Board's liaison to the National Archives, presented information on additions and changes to the records since the Board met in July.

- Nearly 44,000 pages of FBI field office records on the assassination from offices other than Dallas and New Orleans (which were already sent), along with FBI reports from the HSCA, and the Pike and Church Committees.
- Eleven boxes of new Church Commit-

tee records brings the total to 38, and includes interesting closed session testimony from Edward Lansdale, Maxwell Taylor, William Colby, Richard Helms, Dean Rusk, Fletcher Prouty, CIA agent O'Connell and others.

- The CIA has opened a significant part of their "segregated collection" on JFK, that had been sent to the HSCA for viewing. Originally stored on microfilm, 70,000 pages have been transferred to paper. This includes files on individuals tied to Oswald, the Warren Commission investigation, the Garrison probe, the Cuban exile groups, and other conspiracy theories, including new information on Oswald in Mexico City. Almost two thirds of these records were new, not duplicates of other files.
- Three boxes of Pike Committee records were transferred on December 14, following a review by the House Intelligence Subcommittee.
- Rockefeller Committee and White House records stored at the Gerald R. Ford library are being reviewed for transfer by CIA employees currently. One third of the collection has been opened, and many records will be released after coordination with the FBI and NSA.

In addition, the Archives' index database software has been changed, allowing searches in 5 seconds that earlier took 20 minutes. This will make the database much more useful to the public. A computer server has been purchased by the Archives that will soon allow public access to computer terminals for index searches on site. Finally, the software and database, when completed, will be put on Internet to allow national access.

ARRB members were concerned with agency compliance, both in terms of records and the indexing database disks they are required to provide with the documents they send. Tilly noted that the FBI provides disks some time after documents arrive, and that the CIA has yet to send any indexing information. This has forced the Archives staff to create a finding guide to allow search and access to CIA records released so far. The Church Committee records came without disks as well.

Tilly indicated that the level of written inquiries has remained high over the last 16-18 months, and that researchers visit the collection regularly. He noted that those seeking records had usually "done their homework," and knew what they were looking for. One person came in to check references in one

chapter of a recently written book. Most written queries require more than a reply form, and are expected to total nearly 900 this year.

William Joyce asked whether any government agencies had yet to comply with the Act. Tilly noted substantial compliance by FBI and CIA, but said that the Immigration and Naturalization Service ("We know they have some records") had sent nothing to date. Also, the U.S. Army indicated some time ago that they had located approximately 5 cubic feet of records. A database disk was sent to them in September, but nothing has been transferred yet. Tilly indicated that his role was to advise and assist these agencies, but that the Board must take on the role of urging compliance.

There are now over 3 million pages in the collection, representing the "major portion" of the files, according to Tilly. Many pages have portions deleted, or in some cases pages may be missing from documents.

### What's Next?

John Tunheim said the Board will post a proposed definition of assassination records in the Federal Register in late January. He noted that the Board's review work will begin in late February or early March, once the definition has been resolved. Their first priority, under the law, will be records already subject to FOIA release requests, and they are cataloging those now. He asked researchers to let them know about such record groups. This schedule will also assist agencies with outstanding requests. The Board plans an open house at their offices when security construction is completed. They are currently planning another public hearing in early '95, considering four locations — Boston, New Orleans, Miami or Los Angeles. ■

### This is your newsletter.

We need your active participation and input. We welcome articles and works in progress from researchers and authors. We need updates from our Working Panels. We count on members to send news clippings, graphics, editorials and suggestions. A special thanks to those who have already contributed. Please send your items to *Open Secrets*, Coalition on Political Assassinations, P.O. Box 772, Washington, DC 20044.

## Assassination Update

### Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

(from materials supplied by Wallace Milam)

In the Spring of 1994 Judge Joe Brown of Memphis granted what amounted to an evidentiary hearing for James Earl Ray, King's alleged assassin. (Ray had pleaded "technically" guilty — allegedly under duress — to killing King. However, Ray has never been permitted to argue his claim of innocence in a court of law). Judge Brown's ruling granted a petition by Ray's lawyers permitting him to call witnesses before the grand jury; to test-fire the alleged murder weapon; and to conduct scientific tests, including neutron activation analysis, on the slug removed from King and on bullets found near the crime scene.

Testing was to begin last June, however at the last minute District Attorney John Pierotti intervened, claiming the tests would "irreparably damage" the evidence. On his orders, the Criminal Court clerk's office refused to turn over the test materials. The testing was delayed for one week.

Hours before the re-scheduled tests were to take place a stay was obtained from Judge Summers of the Tennessee Court of Appeals based on a formal motion by Pierotti to block the testing. The Court of Appeals later met and made the stay permanent. Judge Brown's entire ruling is now being delayed.

Judge Brown's initial ruling was widely reported in the national media (with some derision by *The New York Times*, which seems to have forgotten that it originally labeled the non-trial that accompanied Ray's original guilty plea a case of "Tongue-Tied Justice"). Curiously, there has been virtually no national coverage of the events that have transpired since that ruling. It appeared last Spring that Ray's lawyers would finally have a chance to present a case for their client's innocence in a court of law, and to subject the State of Tennessee's case for Ray's guilt to cross-examination for the first time in an official courtroom setting. It now appears questionable whether those hearings will ever take place.

This is particularly ironic given "admissions" made by one Lloyd Jowers on national television last spring, implicating himself and others in a conspiracy to murder Dr. King. One could argue that the need for taking a fresh look at the evidence has never been greater. ■

## Working Panels Report

Sixteen Working Panels were created at the Coalition organizing conference in April, and met again at the October national conference. These panels are designed to carry out the numerous tasks that face the Coalition, including administrative work, public education, political action and lobbying, and ongoing research. The work of these panels often overlaps, and members are encouraged to join and work with panels that can benefit from their interest and their skills.

Each panel has a chair, approved by the Governing Board, who is in charge of reports, communications, proposals to the broader Coalition, and accepting membership. Where possible, a member of the Governing Board will join to serve as a liaison. Working Panels meet at every major gathering of the Coalition, but can also arrange to meet separately.

New research findings, ideas for political action or public outreach, organizational liaisons, and other proposals that have the consensus of the panels, will be submitted by the chairs to the Governing Board for adoption by the whole body, or public disclosure. Reports on projects and activities by the working panels will be reported in this newsletter.

There is a special need right now for assistance in the administrative areas, especially computer-related skills, accounting and fundraising expertise. Please contact our office if you are willing to be a member of these groups or to volunteer your time and knowledge.

**Other Assassinations** *Philip Melanson, Chair, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts, North Dartmouth, MA 02747.* Melanson reports that approximately 35 people attended this panel at the national conference and discussed the relationship of the murders of John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., noting similarities and differences. The shootings of George Wallace, Malcolm X and Ronald Reagan were also discussed. The group passed two motions unanimously for consideration by the Governing Board:

- The Coalition should formally adopt a resolution stating that the House Select Committee on Assassination files on Martin Luther King should be released.
- The Coalition newsletters should include updates and events regarding the King

and Robert Kennedy cases, and information "about other cases of political assassinations as items are deemed significant by the newsletter editors."

**Grassroots/Education** *John Judge, Chair P.O. Box 772, Washington, DC 20044.*

This workshop, attended by ten people, explored ideas for campaigns and public education efforts that would help build the grassroots base for the Coalition. Some expressed frustration with the lack of activism in the research community. Others suggested organizing models used by other successful campaigns that might be adopted by the Coalition:

- Petitions are a simple method of public education and building contact lists, and a national petition concerning release of the King files distributed by the Committee for an Open Archives was considered for adoption.
- Educational "house parties," using conference or documentary videotapes, are good for recruiting new members, raising funds and continuing parties held by those attending. These could be arranged in advance with the national office, which can alert local contacts to the event, and provide literature, materials and videotapes, as well as knowledgeable local members or researchers

**Speaker's Bureau** *Jim DiEugenio, Chair, 12955 Riverside Drive, #111, Sberman Oaks, CA 91423.*

Coalition members and leaders include the most knowledgeable researchers, investigators and authors on the topic of political assassinations. They are available for public appearances across the country at events designed to support the Coalition as well as their own work. Coalition members are encouraged to explore community and college forums that can provide honoraria for these speakers, and to help build such events. Funds will be split between the speaker and the Coalition, and Coalition literature and materials will be provided for handout and sale. Also, local public access television stations can be used to show Conference videotapes which advertise the Coalition's address. Tapes of the speaker's appearances can be used in this way. Contact the Coalition office to make arrangements. ■

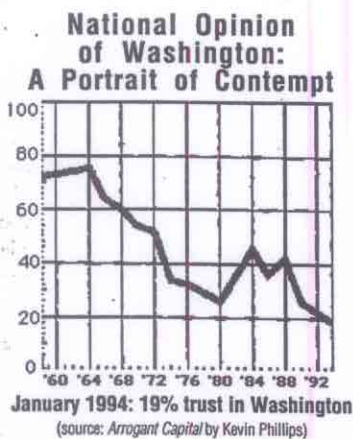
## Three Decades

Continued from page 1

stated that the assassination was the breakpoint for public confidence in government.

I hasten to add that I have never spoken to Kevin Phillips. What his comment shows is that opinion molders are talking about the assassination as a seminal event in modern American history with relevance to today's most prominent national problem — decline of trust in government.

This discussion is a very positive development for us, because it makes resolution of the assassination mystery necessary and relevant for today's government officials. My highest hope for the conference was that we could begin the process of healing America by bringing the assassination issue towards resolution. I believe this process is now underway, for the benefit of our nation, and I will work to put this challenge before our public officials.



### Highlights

by John Judge

The first annual national conference of the Coalition on Political Assassinations was held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel in the nation's capitol from October 7-10. It was followed on October 11 by public hearings of the newly formed Assassination Records Review Board, whose chairman, John R. Tunheim and executive director, David Marwell addressed the Conference on October 10.

Sponsored by the member groups of the Coalition, the meeting drew over 300 participants, and heard from over 50 medical, ballistic, photographic and forensic experts, scholars, researchers and authors who have studied the hard evidence in the murders of John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Conference attendees visited Congressional offices to lobby for full disclosure. Others were provided with transportation to visit the new National Archives II in College Park, Maryland, which houses the JFK Assassination Records Collection. Press conferences were held in advance and at the conference, and releases were faxed to major wire and media services during the events. The meeting got national and local coverage through wire stories, CNN and media talk shows. Numerous alternative publications were present as well.

Coalition Governing Board members provided the conference welcome, following a keynote by Dr. Cyril Wecht, our chairman and author of the recent book *Cause of Death*, concerning some of the controversial autopsies and postmortem investigations he has performed.

Three special presentations were included. Jim Marrs and John Armstrong explored new evidence for a second Oswald that suggests two separate individuals were using the same name, creating a false history that later confused the Warren Commission and the critics. Drs. David Mantik and Randy Robertson, both radiologists, spoke on their findings concerning the JFK autopsy X-rays, suggesting a second gunman and official duplicity. On the last day of the Conference, John Tunheim spoke to hundreds of researchers, as chairman of the Review Board, confirming his commitment to full disclosure.

Current books and videotapes, as well as computer software related to the investigation were provided by various vendors in a special area. Travel and hotel discounts were arranged, as well as special early bird and member discounts. Conference fees were set as low as possible, and broken into day and session fees to encourage participation. Abstracts of the presentations were provided without additional cost to attendees. Conference evaluation forms indicated a high level of interest and approval, and all participants expressed interest in our next conference, to be held in October, 1995.

This event was unprecedented in terms of participation, expertise, breaking evidence, and the involvement of an executive branch advisory group. For the first time, the critical community is being taken seriously by elements of the national media and the government. Public interest and support has never been so great, and many new allies are visible to help build the Coalition.

The conference also managed to provide some additional funding for the ongoing work of the Coalition. Dozens of new members were recruited, and the organization became visible to the general public.

Conference co-chairs John Newman and Dan Alcorn assisted in the involvement of the ARRB and the press impact. Dr. Gary Aguilar, serving as Program chair, arranged for evaluation of abstracts and conference schedules. Coalition board members Dr. Cyril Wecht, Janette Rainwater, John Judge assisted with arrangements. Other coalition members volunteered their time to promote the event, moderate the panels and share their information.

### Researchers Reveal New Information from Released JFK Files

by John Judge and Dr. Gary Aguilar

This is a brief summary of events at the Three Decades of Doubt national conference.

On the first day, a series of informational panels, with audiovisual displays, covered an historical overview, previous investigations, medical and forensic evidence, ballistics and photographic analysis in the JFK case, presenting papers from abstracts that had been submitted in advance for peer review and approval. A second series continued the following day, covering media and fairness, the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, full disclosure of records, and new information from the files.

In addition, these large meetings were interspersed with meetings of the various Working Panels of the Coalition, and special investigative leads workshops, where researchers presented their work in progress to others. These focused on the JFK murder, the patsy, suspicious deaths, other assassinations, the cover-up, the files, motives and suspects. Smaller topical meetings were accommodated with sign up sheets and announced meeting places. Each evening current videotape film and slide projections were available for viewing.

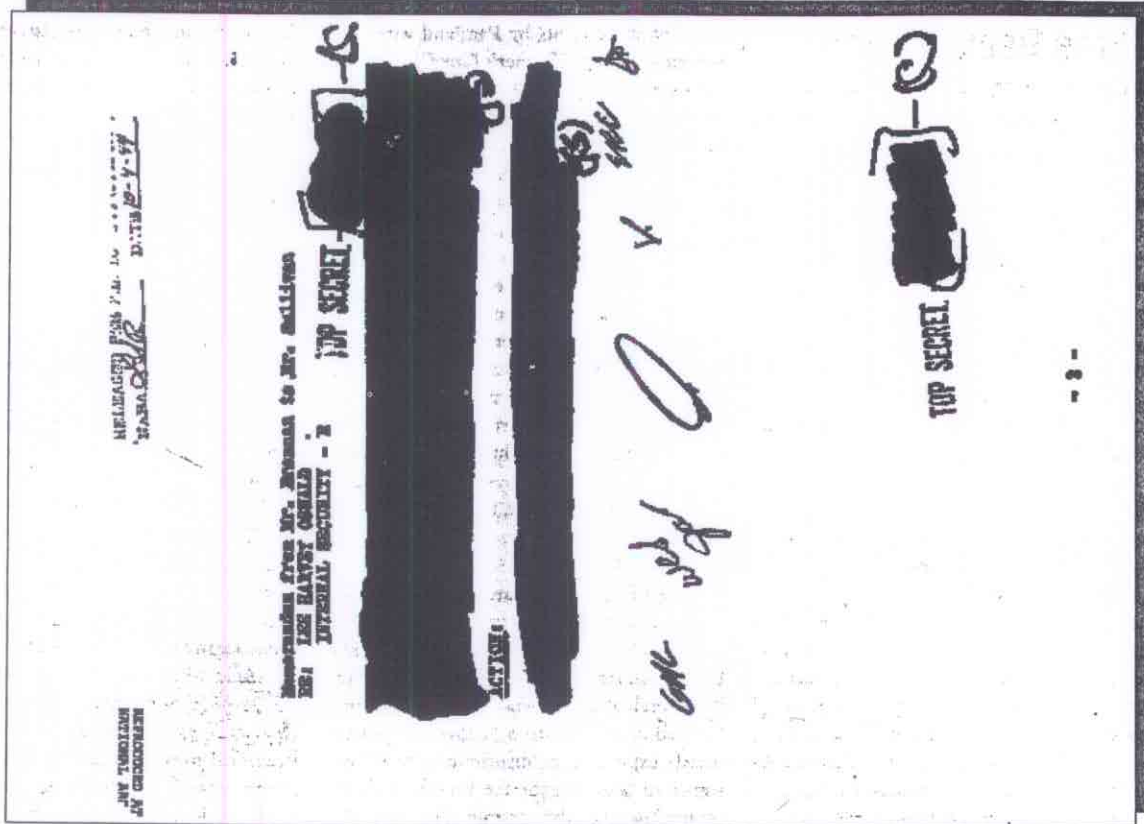
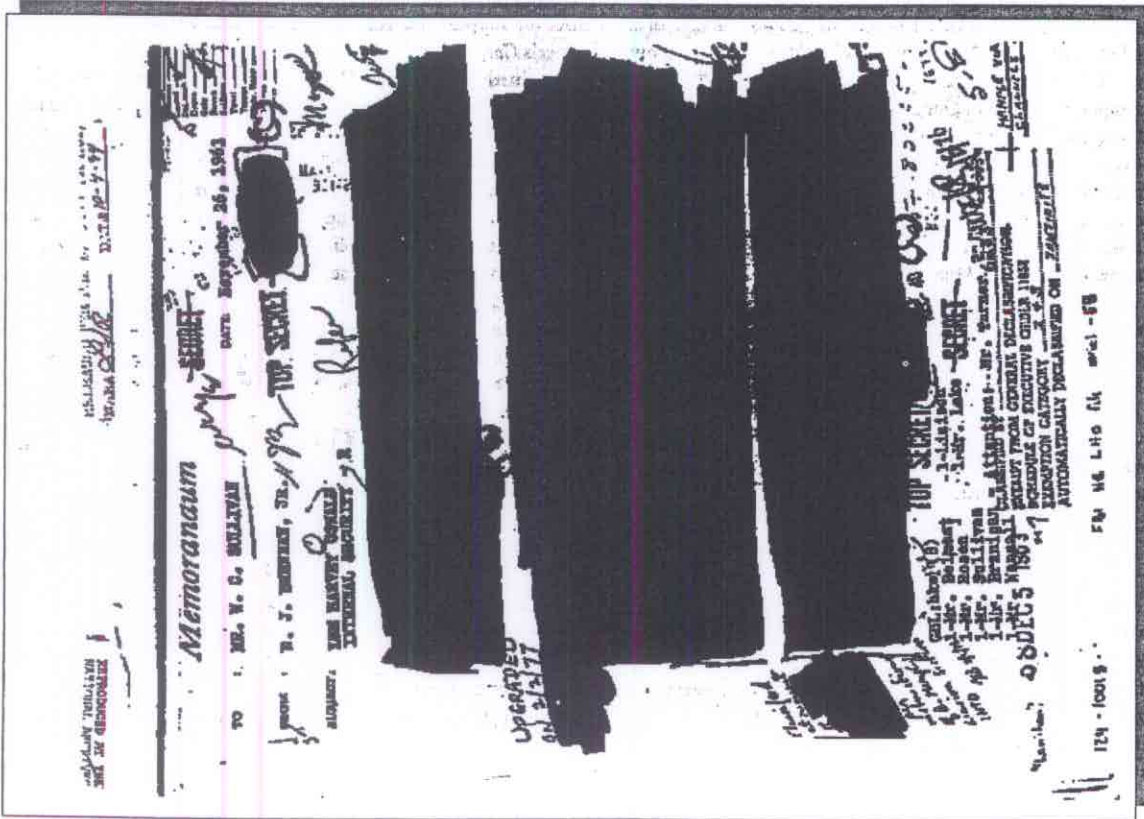
### Medical, Forensic and Autopsy Evidence

Andy Purdy, formerly the attorney in charge of the HSCA panel on medical evidence, did not discount the possibility of a conspiracy to murder JFK, but claimed that the medical evidence could not be used to prove any additional gunmen, any shot from the front, or alteration of the body, photos or X-rays. Having once been convinced, he claimed, of such conclusions, he found the evidence wanting when the HSCA viewed it. He urged participants to look outside the medical evidence for proof strong enough to reopen any official investigation.

Continued on page 8

# New Documents

This document, "declassified" this past September by the FBI, brings a whole new meaning to "full disclosure." Our thanks to Peter Dale Scott for supplying it to us. We encourage contributions from other researchers.



## Three Decades

Continued from page 6

In contradiction to this view, all the other panel members developed hard evidence to show that the HSCA investigation was as flawed as the earlier one, and that the medical evidence points directly to multiple gunmen.

Kathleen Cunningham, RN, presented serious flaws in the autopsy protocol resulting from "non-medical, military intervention," although the HSCA blamed solely the pathologists present. Critical wounds and bullet paths were never properly examined at Bethesda.

Charles Wilbur, Ph.D., Director of the Forensic Science Laboratory at Colorado State University could not attend, but submitted an abstract that compared the discrepancies between the reliable early testimony of medical witnesses in Dallas and Bethesda, and their subsequent versions concerning the location of head and back wounds in President Kennedy's body. The failure of the Bethesda autopsists to follow their own "tri-service manual" regulations, and many unanswered questions "require clarification," Wilbur noted.

Dr. Randy Robertson, the first board-certified radiologist not connected to the U.S. government who was allowed to view the autopsy X-rays, noticed intersecting lines in the skull fractures that he believes suggest that two bullets struck President Kennedy's head.

Wallace Milam presented a devastating critique of Vincent P. Guinn, Ph.D.'s Neutron Activation Analysis work, in which he demonstrated simply and convincingly that Guinn's findings did not at all prove that the recovered fragments could be traced to "only two bullets." In fact, Guinn's results prove precisely the opposite, according to Milam.

Dr. Gary Aguilar presented evidence showing the autopsy photographic inventory is at least incomplete, and may well have been tampered with. He also played a tape recording of JFK autopsy doctor Boswell denying, twice, having ever spoken with Gerald Posner, despite Posner's testimony before the House of Representatives to the contrary.

Aguilar also presented previously undisclosed, recent conversations with other Parkland Hospital witnesses, neurosurgery professor, Kemp Clark, M.D. (who spoke with David Naro in 1993) and Ronald Jones, M.D. (interviewed by Brad Parker in 1992). These witnesses, perhaps the most important of all at Parkland, maintain to this day that JFK had a rear skull defect they believed was an exit wound.

Recent accounts by Parkland witnesses, reported in Gerald Posner's *Case Closed* and in JAMA, reveal that some of them had backed down on their own Warren Commission testimonies about a rear defect. They now seemingly embrace a more forward defect, one more consistent with the official position. That Clark, the neurosurgeon who pronounced JFK dead after examining the skull wound, has not "adjusted" his recollection to suit Warren apologists is very significant.

In his special presentation, Dr. David Mantik revealed his conclusion, using "optical densitometry" studies of the official JFK autopsy skull X-rays, that visibly missing brain matter in the lower right cerebellum (rear) does not match the autopsy photographs showing brain matter intact in that area.

### Ballistics Evidence

George Michael Evica argued that 130 eye, ear and nose witnesses to the first "sudden, sharp, shattering sound" in Dealey Plaza, and the flash of light and smoke seen and smelled by several of them, were not reacting to a "missed shot," but to a "deliberately-detonated" explosion, a "disorienting blast" designed to "slow or stop the Presidential limousine," so that the assassins could murder Kennedy. Milicent Cranor blew apart the house of cards used to support the ballistic arguments of Posner's *Case Closed*, by pointing out serious flaws in the writings of Dr. John Lattimer, a Warren Commission apologist. Dr. Wecht similarly demolished the credibility and importance of an alleged "lapel bulge," visible on Connally's jacket at Zapruder frame 224, as evidence supporting an earlier timing of his wounds and, by implication, the "single-bullet" solution to the case.

**Assassination Records Review Board**  
John Tunheim, chairman of the new ARRB, and assistant attorney general for Minnesota was joined by ARRB's newly-appointed executive director, David G. Marwell, who previously worked to organize and index the massive files on the Nazi Party stored at the Berlin Documentation Center. Their comments were welcomed by researchers, and they made an impression on otherwise cynical critics that they intended to work towards full disclosure of the JFK files. They also demonstrated an eagerness to hear from the researchers concerning the possible existence and location of critical record groups or photographic evidence, and invited them to join in testimony the following day at the specially-arranged public hearings (see related article).

These and other members of the Review Board joined the Governing Board and interested members of the Coalition for a special luncheon, allowing a lively and interesting exchange of views about our mutual purposes and concerns.

As at other conferences, unscheduled and informal gatherings of researchers were part of the exchange of information and networking so critical to our goals. We look forward to future regional conferences, including next year's national conference in Washington, scheduled for October 20-22 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. Contact the Coalition for further details soon.

A full outline of speaker's comments, including many items not presented, is available in a booklet of "Conference Abstracts," or full presentations can be viewed on videotapes, available from the Coalition. At some point, a book may be compiled using completed conference papers. ■

— This article will continue in the next issue of *Open Secrets*.

**Don't Miss**  
**The 1995 Annual Conference**  
at the Omni Shoreham Hotel,  
Washington, DC  
October 20-22  
Details on Registration and  
Presentations will be in the next issue.



## Hearings

Continued from page 1

tion-related" records in order to renew public trust in government, drawing from legal precedents as well as the legislative history and intent of the Assassination Records Collection Act. Representatives from two member groups of the Coalition testified, the Assassination Archives and Research Center (AARC) and the Committee for an Open Archives (COA).

Page Putnam Miller, Director of the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History, representing fifty historical and archival organizations across the country spoke to the significance of the JFK act for historians, and the new model of involving citizen specialists in the oversight role on declassification issues. She called for a "broad definition," challenging the Board to "actively pursue records" agencies may not have labelled as related. She also recognized the "importance of providing forums for researchers to have ongoing input" into the work of the ARRB.

The JFK Act defines a "record" as information in any medium (book, map, photo, recording, digitized), and specifies records created, used, obtained or possessed by the various official investigative bodies (Warren and Rockefeller Commissions, Pike and Church Committees, and the HSCA) and federal agencies (Library of Congress, National Archives, Presidential Libraries, Executive and independent), or any federal office. Local and state law enforcement offices that assisted Federal inquiries are also included. The Senate Report exhorts the Board to "go beyond" these records as well, recognizing the "political constraints and prejudices of past inquiries," and expects the Board to "consider whether records are reasonably related to the history surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy."

Attorney Jim Lesar, director of the AARC, testified that this definition "goes to the heart of the [ARRB's] capacity to restore the confidence of the American people that they have a right to know their own history." "Justifications for withholding of facts," he noted, "pale in comparison with the need to end the corrosive decline in trust spawned by secrets, deceit, obfuscation, rumor and innuendo...over the past three decades." He contended that the law requires a broad definition, including records that relate to different, even conflicting theories of who was behind the assassination. Investigative records made available to the official bodies must be included as well (e.g. 300,000 pages of FBI records on organized crime shown to the HSCA).

Lesar pointed out that assassination is a political crime, so the definition should include records that may shed light on the politics of the murder, on domestic and foreign policies at the time of death, especially on Cuba, Vietnam, Soviet Union and organized crime. He said the Board must be "flexible in re-defining the term as new ideas and information emerges" as well.

Lesar presented a "tentative definition", including record groups beyond those specified in the law. The core of his definition is "any record which would tend to assist a researcher or member of the public in understanding and evaluating any aspect of the controversy surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy." Using this criteria he listed records regarding medical, autopsy and ballistic evidence; persons or groups who were subjects, witnesses, or sources of official investigations; threats on the Kennedy family (Protective Research Service of Secret Service); surveillance, profiles or dossiers on JFK; Presidential travel logs and plans; plots to assassinate or overthrow Castro, Diem or other leaders; foreign government files on Oswald and others, or U.S. covert plots; efforts to counter the critics of the investigations or to assist selected agencies or news media through disclosure; Freedom of Information and Privacy Act files on efforts to release information; agency organizational charts concerning foreign policy implementation from 1954 to 1974; covert operations involving any persons who figure in the investigations; the CIA mail intercept program HTLINGUAL; and any relationship between intelligence agencies and organized crime.

The JFK Act specifically excludes from release "autopsy records donated by the Kennedy family to the National Archives...or copies and reproductions made from such records." Lesar noted the "stunning irony" that the law "expressly excludes the evidence most directly pertinent to the question of whether or not there was a conspiracy to kill the President." He urged the board to "request additional legislation by Congress," as they are authorized to do under the JFK Act, to amend the law and include the x-rays and autopsy photographs for public release.

John Judge and Bill Kelly from the Committee for an Open Archives urged the board to pursue records not yet released by many government agencies, courts, subcontracting corporations, and individuals' private collections, and to use the "broadest possible application of freedom of information" in fulfilling the JFK

Act's "presumption of release" mandate. The Committee also offered to submit numerous responses from researchers concerning which record groups or individual and organizational files should be sought. John Judge expressed dismay that the original 300-day limit for release of federal documents had passed without full compliance or the possibility of active enforcement by the then non-existent ARRB. Many government agencies have yet to release a single document, and the Board was urged to look "beyond the bureaucratic imagination of the agencies involved" in their search for related records. Only an open and thorough search will satisfy the public's need for disclosure, Judge contended.

The board was called on to establish a standard of "reasonable relation" to the case, but Judge cautioned them not to rule out theories merely because they did not accept them. Kermit Hall was concerned that the Board might be put in the position of choosing between various researchers' conclusions.

The Committee also urged the board to be alert for evidence of obstruction of justice or tampering and destruction of records by any public employee, and to use their considerable subpoena powers to uncover pertinent leads and secure documents. John Judge noted that some "routinely destroyed" records may be located elsewhere or with other agencies, and that the search index provided by the National Archives to the agencies might not be as thorough as those compiled by the research community over the years.

John Newman and Peter Dale Scott, who have been working on the CIA's Oswald files, raised the idea of a process by which certain releases would identify the need for additional documents in "the next square on the chessboard." Dr. Scott characterized these as "documents which help establish coherence between various independent lines of inquiry already established...[by] successful earlier investigations." ARRB members had clearly given some thought as to whether the process should follow a "research-driven" model, or a top-down search for all agencies' documents.

Dr. Newman suggested that "internal message and document handling procedures of the various government organizations...be released." He also offered results of his own polling of the research community for examples of records groups still withheld, part of his work as chair of the Coalition's Review Board and Records Working Panel. Dr. Scott noted that "the quality of being 'assassination-related'"

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may not be inherent in the document...[but] may have to be established contextually, by the document's location in a larger frame of structure of investigation and evidence."

Other Coalition leaders and members gave written or oral testimony, much of it focused on their particular areas of interest in the files, including physical and ballistic evidence, such as the limousine windshield and bullet fragments. John Newman was clearly interested in "Cold War policy documents pertaining to the Soviet Union, Cuba, Vietnam and arms control." Coalition general counsel Dan Alcorn urged release of files on "the milieu of Mafia and organized crime personalities, Cuban exiles and CIA operations in Florida and other Gulf Coast states...in that the three became intertwined...and were operating together in 1963," and also CIA files on Oswald maintained prior to the opening of the "file they told

the Warren Commission was the file on Lee Harvey Oswald."

Attorney Carol Hewett focused on her current interest in gun-runner John Thomas Masen, arrested on the eve of the assassination, and his associates "who had known contacts to Jack Ruby." ATF Agent Frank Ellsworth testified that Dallas was to be "the assembly point for weapons for the impending November invasion against Cuba," which would cast JFK's murder "in a different light." HSCA files concerning this operation are still classified.

A schedule for additional public hearings will be announced early next year. The written comments submitted and transcriptions of the testimony to date are being compiled and will be made available to the public soon. John Tunheim wrote to express thanks for Coalition "assistance in defining an 'assassination-related' record."

It is critical for citizens and researchers to take part in the records review and release

process, and to assist the ARRB in locating specific records not yet made public. Compilation of missing record groups, and strategic targeting of specific documents is being handled by our Records and Review Board Working Panel, chaired by Dr. John Newman. Comments can be sent to the Coalition, and will be forwarded to him. Please let us know about documents you believe are still being withheld.

A final draft of the Board's definition of an "assassination-related record" will be published in the Federal Register before the end of January, with a period of at least 30 days for public comment before adoption. Review Board decisions on release or postponement of specific records, and future meetings will be posted in the Federal Register as well. The Coalition will make this information available to members through our newsletter. ■

*A report on additional hearings in Dallas on November 18 will appear in the next Open Secrets*

## ARRB Renewed

### Continued from page 1

DeConcini's panel voted to fund the Review Board, but at a level below the \$2.4 million annual amount proposed by the Congressional Budget Office this year. Eventually, HR 4539 passed both House and Senate, and approved "necessary expenses to carry out the John F. Kennedy Records Collection Act of 1992, \$2,150,000, to remain available until expended." This cut will mean several less staff members working on an already immense task, and it may result in a \$3/4 million cut over the life of the Board. Future funding will be set annually by the newly elected Republican Congress.

Technical amendments were drafted by both sides of Congress, following hearings held by Rep. John Conyer's Legislation and National Security Subcommittee of the House on the "effectiveness of Public Law 102-526, the Records Collection Act", but Senate and House versions differed in significant ways. The Senate version threatened to cut short the operations of the ARRB in 1995. The House version (HR 4569) prevailed in joint session and passed this fall. Under the current law, the ARRB "shall terminate on September 30, 1996, except the Review Board may, by majority vote, extend its term for an additional 1-year period if it has not completed its work within such period."

This means the Board can decide to continue operations until September 30, 1997, and that Congress could decide to extend opera-

tions beyond that date if necessary. This is a victory for the Coalition and the research community, which is working closely with the ARRB to ensure release of millions of government documents still withheld, or pending release decisions by the Board.

Additional language in the amendments allows the Review Board to make use of federal supply, printing and mail services, to approve conditional staffing hiring before final security clearances are granted, to hire current U.S. government employees (which had been prohibited) for administrative functions only, to ignore civil service laws regarding hiring and firing of personnel, and to increase pay for an Executive Director up to Executive level 5, and for other staff as necessary. Many of these changes, and the renewed life and funding of the Review Board came as a result of the efforts of the Coalition.

Recent changes in Congress may affect the success of the ARRB. Democratic Rep. John Conyers and Senators Glenn and Boren, whose Government Operations and Intelligence oversight panels initiated the JFK Act, are being replaced by Republicans. Rep. William F. Clinger, Jr. (R-PA), seen as a "moderate", will now head the new Government Reform and Oversight Committee in the House, and Senator William Roth (R-DE) is replacing Senator Glenn as chair of Governmental Affairs. Senator Arlen "Single-Bullet" Specter (R-PA) and Rep. Larry Combest (R-TX) have been named to head the Senate and House Intelligence Committees.

We hope that these new chairs will continue to support the goal of full disclosure, and the continuing funding of the ARRB through its three-year life span. One positive change is the replacement of Senator DeConcini, who threatened to cut all funds to the ARRB, by Senator Mark Hatfield (R-OR) as chair of the Appropriations Committee that will ultimately decide on the Review Board's annual budgets.

The Coalition has established good working relations with the Review Board since its beginning, and has assisted the research community in efforts to identify and define "assassination-related" records, many of which have yet to be released. We also presented and coordinated testimony at the recent public hearings set up by the Review Board. We have made the working press aware of the problems the ARRB has been facing, and intend to keep the process open to public scrutiny and input.

The ARRB has named archivist David G. Marwell, who directed the recent reorganization and computerization of the Berlin Documentation Center files on Nazi-era party members, as the Executive Director of the Review Board. Marwell was previously in charge of locating files on Nazi war criminals Klaus Barbie and Josef Mengele and their possible connections to U.S. government or intelligence agencies for the Office of Special Investigations at the Justice Department. Under his direction, ARRB offices have been established in Washington, and staff is being sought and hired for the work ahead.

Though many deadlines set up in the Record Act have necessarily been ignored due to the long delay by the Clinton administration in appointing the Review Board, that body is now ready to move forward.

The first step taken by the ARRB has been to seek and evaluate input from the assassination research community. The board called for written testimony to be submitted, focused on defining which records should be sought or considered as related to the JFK assassination.

The definition adopted by the Review Board concerning which records are related to the murder will determine the scope and the nature of their efforts, the extent to which a "presumption of release" required by law will be applied to government agency records, and eventually the public acceptance and trust in the process and adequacy of disclosure. Such a definition may either include or ignore records by historical dates (prior to, during or post assassination), by legal standards of direct or indirect connection to the actual crime, by the completeness of the search base of names and organizations used by various agency personnel, or by the willingness of the Review Board to credit various requests and theories from researchers as "reasonable" directions in pursuit for records.

The nature of the release will also be directly affected by the scope of the number of local, corporate, court and federal agencies and foreign governments contacted during the process for compliance, and by the persistence of the Executive Director in demanding complete transfer of records from the agencies, and from individuals who may be in possession of such records. In addition, the willingness of the Board to use its important powers of subpoena for documents and testimony will determine the extent to which any obstruction of justice, illegal destruction or alteration of documents or evidence, or the existence of any directed cover-up by local or federal agencies will be exposed. And while the Board has no mandate to sit in judgement of the facts of the case, or to reexamine or investigate the crime itself, the integrity of its efforts to secure full release of these files may also serve to reveal the outlines of a solution to the "crime of the century," and a historical resolution to this murder. The success of this process, and the expected restoration of public faith, may also lead to the demand for a similar process of scrutiny and release of documents in other crimes or issues that trouble the American people, such as the murders of Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. ■

Open Secrets

## Off the Press

### Case Reopened

*Vanity Fair* magazine scored modest headlines with its December '94 feature article, "The Ghosts of November," by Anthony and Robbyn Summers — though news coverage was slim when measured against the article's considerable number of revelations. Among them...

- Robert Kennedy told an aide only days before his own assassination that he would "reopen the Warren Commission" if elected President.
- A newly declassified FBI report reveals that a 38-caliber revolver was discovered "in the immediate vicinity" of the JFK assassination the morning after the event.
- John Martino, a CIA operative active in anti-Castro operations during the early 60s (and the subject of a chapter in Gaeton Fonzi's *The Last Investigation*) is reported to have confessed to a role in the assassination of President Kennedy prior to his own death in 1975. The confessions were made to his wife and also to a reporter friend.
- Reporter Priscilla Johnson McMillan — a journalist who interviewed Lee Harvey Oswald in Moscow following his defection, who later wrote extensively in support of the Warren Report, and co-authored *Marina and Lee* with Oswald's widow — is identified in recently declassified CIA documents as a "witting collaborator" of the agency. An FBI document cites a State Department security officer as saying that McMillan's contact with Oswald in Moscow had been "official business."

Summer's research relied in large part on the recent work of Coalition members, such as John Newman, Dan Alcorn, Bill Kelly, and others who presented information at the "Three Decades of Doubt" conference. While some aspects require further research, this article is highly recommended reading, not only for the veteran researcher, but for the newly initiated or simply curious as well. It is an excellent primer.

### Ink Smears

Max Holland, author of fill-tempered attacks in *The Nation* and *Historical Review* against John and Robert Kennedy, reviewed the Coalition's proceedings in Ben Franklin's *Washington Spectator* (11/15), painting a patronizing and unflattering picture. Franklin's earlier attacks on

the critics led to extensive reader response opposing his views. Holland ends by providing an address for the Review Board and the Coalition, "for those most interested — and our mail suggests there are many." Too bad the readers aren't providing copy.

Cartoonist Gary Trudeau, once critical of the press bludgeoning of Oliver Stone's *JFK*, has done a series of cartoon strips this year mocking the "computer nerds" who obsessively link JFK's murder to current events (O.J. Simpson!). He calls us "professional conspiracy theorists" and "Gassy Knot-Heads," and implies that we must also believe in space aliens. He recommends a "reality check" and "common sense" as the cure. We might recommend an "evidence check" instead, and some discussion with serious researchers.

### Father and Son

The November issue of *Texas Monthly* has an extensive article about the Harrelson family. Actor Woody Harrelson ("Cheers" and "White Men Don't Jump") says his father, Charles, convicted murderer of Texas Judge Woods, did not get a fair trial. William Sessions was the judge in the trial, prior to becoming director of the FBI. Charles Harrelson's repeated bragging about having been involved in killing President Kennedy is dismissed in the article, but his "coincidental resemblance" to the tallest of the three "tramps" arrested in Dealey Plaza following the murder is admitted, and demonstrated by the exceptionally clear photographs in the article. Oliver Stone, who directed Woody Harrelson's leading role in "Natural Born Killer," suggested that Woody think about his father while portraying a mass murderer.

### Page Turners

A number of new books are in print, or about to be released authored by members of the Coalition.

Cyril Wecht, MD, JD, began his career as a coroner's pathologist the same year John Kennedy died, and has since then performed and reviewed more than 38,000 autopsies. His work on this case, and other nationally known deaths, including Robert Kennedy and Mary Joe Kopechne, is described in his new book, *Cause of Death*. "It was deliberately mishandled," he said of the Bethesda autopsy, "They called in two naval pathologists who had never done a medicolegal autopsy in their entire lives." He is currently working on a new book, *Expert Witness*, which will cover more recent forensic mysteries.

John Davis, author of numerous books on the Mafia's role in Kennedy's death, has pro-

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duced *Mob Lawyer*, covering the possible involvement of RFK's targets, Jimmy Hoffa, Carlos Marcello and Santos Trafficante, based on revelations from their legal advisor Frank Ragano.

Professor John Newman, working with Peter Dale Scott, continues his extensive discoveries concerning Lee Harvey Oswald from documents released under the JFK Act. Due in March, *Oswald and the CIA* relies on primary sources, and Newman's expertise as an intelligence analyst, to document the creation and falsification of the fascinating interactions between U.S. intelligence and the alleged assassin. The trail leads him through the most sensitive operations of the Cold War, including the Soviet Russia Division, Counter-Intelligence, and Special Affairs' anti-Cuban activities.

Professor Donald Gibson has written *Battling Wall Street*. The book, published by Sheridan Square Press, argues against current critiques, using the words of President Kennedy and his enemies to show that he was always on the side of economic, political and social progress. Kennedy created powerful enemies among the entrenched wealth with his democratic economic policies. Congressman Henry Gonzales, once in charge of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, notes that Gibson "not only sets the historical record straight, but his work speaks volumes against today's burgeoning cynicism."

Harold Weisberg's long out-of-print *Frame-Up* has been re-released in paper by Carroll and Graf as *Martin Luther King: The Assassination*, with an articulate postscript by James Earl Ray. Two other interesting paperbacks are Michael Benson's *Who's Who in the JFK Assassination: An A-Z Encyclopedia* from Citadel, a quick reference guide to 1,400 suspects, victims, witnesses, investigators and law enforcement officials, thoroughly sourced for follow-up research, and *Mortal Presidency* from Basic Books, Robert Gilbert's review of concealed debilitating illnesses that have plagued White House residents in recent history, including seven chapters on Kennedy's back problems and Addison's disease.

**ZR RIFLE: *The Plot to Kill Kennedy and Castro***, written by Brazilian journalist and documentary film-maker Claudia Furiati, brings to light for the first time the conclusions of the Cuban government regarding who killed JFK. Furiati relied on extensive study of U.S. investigations, and interviews with General Fabian Escalante, head of Cuban State Security Department (G2), and the director of counterintelligence units that monitored anti-Castro

exiles in 1963. She opens the Cuban files on a conjunction of Cuban exiles, Mafia figures and CIA and Pentagon operatives who reportedly moved from attempting to kill Fidel Castro to the Dallas murder. She argues that Oswald, set up to take the blame for the murder by these conspirators, was also positioned to throw blame on Castro for the assassination, and to set the stage for a full-scale U.S. invasion of Cuba.

**ZR RIFLE** lays out an absorbing history of both infamous and little-known operations against Castro, and points the finger at many people well known to researchers, as well as some less familiar suspects. Oliver Stone has called the book "an important contribution" which "adds pieces to the puzzle." Available from Talman Company in New York, call (800) 537-8894. An English-language version of the Cuban television documentary based on the book is also available on videotape from Last Hurrah Books 937 Memorial Ave., Williamsport, PA 17701.

### Click and Dagger

The CIA has joined the Internet. On World Wide Web, their home page is available at <http://www.ic.gov>. However, little is available beyond already public documents, like the World Factbook and Factbook on Intelligence. The Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) collects global radio, television and electronic media sources for the CIA, but that information is only available from the National Technical Information Service, and most of it is copyrighted. When the address was made public, the log-ons went up by a factor of eight. For researchers, the Web and Internet now carry online editions of the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Examiner* dailies, as well as the *Virginian-Pilot*, *Raleigh News & Observer* and the *San Jose Mercury (WP)*, 11/10, 17).

Multi-media compact disks (CD's) are now available on the JFK case. Researchers Jane Rusconi and Bob Harris have compiled the "Encyclopedia of the JFK Assassination" on CD, available from ZCI Publishing, 1950 Stemmons, Ste. 6048, Dallas, TX 75207-3109. Also contact Medio Multimedia, Redmond, WA 98052-5515 for "JFK Assassination: A Visual Investigation," which allows users to view animated events from multiple locations in Dealey Plaza.

Reasonably priced CD and floppy disk versions for DOS and Windows computer systems now contain the 12-volume HSCA Report and exhibits, and the Warren Report. Work continues on a CD version of the Warren Commission's 26-volume Hearings and

Exhibits that was the corpus of all early critics. Digitization of these records allows quick relational search and investigation for current detectives. Call LMP Systems at (214) 343-8338.

### Not Post-Literate?

Despite Allen Dulles, some of us still read. For those seeking information and resources beyond the latest "best-seller" lists, several periodicals are recommended:

*Surveillant* is the publication/catalog of the National Intelligence Book Center, Lock Box 18757, Washington, DC 20036, and is an excellent review of the growing literature on "intelligence."

*Unclassified* is the magazine of the Association of National Security Alumni, a group of ex-spooks disabused of the notion that "national security" results from covert operations. ANSA, 2001 S Street, NW, Ste. 740, Washington, DC 20009.

*Steamshovel Press* continues to print the latest research in political conspiracies, and interviews with key researchers. Back issues and subscriptions from P.O. Box 23715, St. Louis, MO 63121.

*Lies of Our Times* carries regular items on Oswald and Kennedy, as well as other glaring omissions, obfuscations and outright lies by the *New York Times*. LOOT, 145 West 4th Street, New York, NY 10012.

### Audio/Visual

Peter Dale Scott has released the first in a series of videotapes on "Deep Politics in the United States", giving historical and rare footage documentation on covert political activities carried out by "the shadowy, subterranean world of American political life." In the first tape, *The Banana Connection*, Scott unearths the unholy alliance of American fruit companies, unions, organized crime and the CIA behind the 1954 coup in Guatemala that "laid the foundation...for the Bay of Pigs fiasco, and other events leading up to the JFK assassination." He traces the continuing involvement of Cuban exile figures in later political scandals, including Watergate and the Iran Contra Affair, and the influential role of Allen Dulles in these operations, and on the Warren Commission. \$34.95 from Cinema Guild, 1697 Broadway, Ste. 506, New York, NY 10019-5904. ■

# Additional Clues

by Jerry Policoff and John Judge

## Where They Met

Mary Perot Nichols, Adjunct Professor of Social Sciences at New York University, relates a fascinating anecdote concerning Priscilla Johnson McMillan and her late husband George McMillan. Like his wife, George was an advocate of the "lone-assassin" theory of history, having authored *The Making of An Assassin* — a book that named James Earl Ray as Martin Luther King's lone assassin. [McMillan once told the *New York Times* that he never considered any aspect of conspiracy while researching his book, leaving him free to concentrate on Ray's biography].

Nichols, a student of the John Kennedy assassination who has twice given New York University courses on the case, has had a long-standing curiosity about Priscilla Johnson McMillan. In March 1977 a mutual friend arranged for Ms. Nichols to be invited to dinner at the home of George and Priscilla. They knew nothing of her interest in political assassinations or in the McMillans.

As fate would have it, the dinner engagement coincided with the death, apparently by suicide, of George DeMohrenschildt, the wealthy White Russian with a myriad of mysterious connections, who had befriended Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas. DeMohrenschildt died, an apparent suicide, on the eve of a scheduled interview with Gaeton Fonzi, then an investigator with the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Nichols relates that George and Priscilla were watching the evening news when she arrived for dinner. They seemed amused by the death of DeMohrenschildt and were laughing and joking about it. "Did you know him?" Nichols asked. "Oh yes," responded George McMillan, "I met him in Papa Doc's compound in Haiti."

## Deadlines

Father Time continues to claim potential witnesses to any future inquiry into the Kennedy assassination. Dr. Marion Thomas Jenkins, present during resuscitation attempts on both President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, died of stomach cancer on November 21, 1994 at the age of 77.

## Cuba Offers to Open Files to Coalition

Coalition Advisory Board member Wayne Smith met with high-level representatives of the Cuban Government during a visit there in

May. Smith raised the possibility of a meeting between Coalition members and appropriate Cuban Government officials to discuss information on the Kennedy assassination that might be in Cuban Government files. The response was entirely positive. The Cubans want to have some kind of meeting, or seminar, and promise that General Fabian Escalante of Cuban State Security will participate.

Cuban officials, including General Escalante, recently cooperated in a Brazilian documentary, "ZR-RIFLE," and a subsequent book of the same title, alleging a JFK murder plot that included members of the American intelligence community, Mafia figures, and anti-Castro Cubans.

## One Shot at the Presidency

Senator Arlen Specter's decision to seek the Republican presidential nomination in 1996 offers renewed opportunities to remind the American public that it was Specter, then a junior counsel for the Warren Commission, who authored the flawed and fabled "single-bullet theory" which theorizes that a single, nearly unscathed bullet inflicted seven wounds on President Kennedy and Texas Governor Connally, and was later found on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital. The Coalition sent out a press release indicating his special disqualifications to restore public trust.

One political cartoonist has already begun poking fun with a caricature of Specter and a caption reading: "As the radical religious right fires upon the separation of church and state — shooting itself in the foot, I am propelled toward the center, darting to the left of Dole and Gramm, I then take a sharp right turn and with my running mate, Paula Jones, speed past the fallen Clintons passing cleanly through the memory of Anita Hill and Clarence Thomas, entering the White House through the back door where I come to rest in the Oval Office, then..." (*Pittsburgh Business Times*, November 28-December 5, 1994).

## National Insecurity

WNBC-TV in New York broadcast the results of a "Flash Poll" taken on November 16, 1994 following the network airing of Oliver Stone's *JFK*. The question: "Should all classified Government files dealing with the Kennedy assassination be opened?" The results:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| RELEASE THE FILES:   | 83% |
| DON'T RELEASE FILES: | 13% |
| NO OPINION:          | 4%  |

## Two Dead Kings

Joseph Davis, the chief medical examiner for Dade County, Florida, has been hired by the Tennessee Department of Health to determine whether Jerry Francisco, the medical examiner who signed Elvis Presley's death certificate, lied about the cause of death. Francisco stated that Elvis died of heart disease, leading to accusations that he deliberately suppressed the role of drugs in Presley's death, according to a wire story reported in the *Washington Post* (8/24). Francisco was also the medical examiner in Memphis who handled the postmortem on Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968, and who refused to do autopsy surgery that would have revealed the path and direction of the fatal bullet. He claimed that such mutilation of King's body would offend his family. Questions linger concerning the direction and source of the shots that killed Dr. King, and some evidence points away from the alleged assassin's lair in a nearby rooming house window.

Another controversy has erupted concerning the rulings of Fairfax County, Virginia coroner, and state medical examiner Dr. James Beyer. Several "suicide" rulings have been challenged, including that of White House aide Vincent Foster, and at least one overturned (*Washington Times*, 11/11). An earlier letter appeared in his defense, calling him "one of the finest forensic pathologists," and noted that Beyer had "been a consultant to CBS News on the John F. Kennedy assassination" (*Washington Times*, 3/10).

## Hawks and Doves

United States Army Intelligence spied on the family of Martin Luther King, Jr. for three generations, according to a *Scripps Howard* item printed in the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* (3/93). The Army was focused for 75 years on Black ministers in the South, and the civil rights movements that emerged from them. They used local informants, "infiltrators, wiretaps and aerial photography by U-2 spy planes," fearing "subversion." When civil rights and anti-war movements merged in the late '60s, Army units supplied local police with sniper rifles and weapons of war against "rebellion."

The 113th Military Intelligence Group at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois, supplied a right-wing group, the "Legion of Justice" with funds and equipment to harass anti-war groups in February, '68, following Army warnings about Martin Luther King, Jr. The 525th Military Intelligence Group in Vietnam reported that "Negro troops are unsettled," by King's speeches,

Continued on the next page

Continued from the previous page

reprinted in *Pacific Stars and Stripes*. Following the 1968 riots in Detroit, the Army Psychological Operations Group, disguised as civilians, used the Behavior Research Institute to survey local Black males arrested for firing on troops. The majority named Martin Luther King, Jr. as their "favorite Negro leader," a fact used to show he was a great "danger...to national security."

Pentagon Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Maj. Gen. William P. Yarborough, and Maj. Gen. William Blakefield, chief of U.S. Army Intelligence Command, feared King's potential as "the messiah for his people, his own personal qualities notwithstanding". Yarborough noted that Army officers take an oath to "protect the country against all enemies, foreign and domestic," and he used the "largest domestic spy network ever assembled in a free country" to watch King.

As early as 1917, the War Department's Military Intelligence Division (MID) began spying on Rev. A.D. Williams, King's grandfather, and first director of Atlanta's NAACP. U-2 spy planes, from the supersecret "Site 98" outside Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, were used to spy on riots in Birmingham in 1963, and in dozens of later operations, which also used the SR71 Blackbird surveillance planes.

Army documents show they were disturbed by Martin Luther King's plans for a Poor People's March on Washington, and reported that it's "sole purpose is to shut down the United States government." King was accused of being a "Negro who repeatedly has preached the message of Hanoi and Peking," and the Pentagon warned officers about "King's plans to ignite violence and mayhem" in April. But there was frustration at the meetings, Gen. Yarborough recalled, because "We had all these West Point geniuses who could lead divisions. But when it came to stopping Dr. King, they didn't have a clue."

Surveillance increased in late 1963, and Green Beret teams drew up maps, sniper sites and riot troop landing zones for 39 racially troubled cities. These same military intelligence units and Green Beret troops were present in Memphis, Tennessee, near the Lorraine Motel when Dr. King was murdered by sniper fire. ■

## Law and Justice

by Jerry Policoff

Two law suits are in progress against Gerald Posner, author of *Case Closed*, and his publisher, Random House for an August, 1993 pre-publication ad that appeared twice in *The New York Times*. The ad depicted six critics of the Warren Commission in a rogue's gallery layout headlined: "Guilty of Misleading the American Public."

Mark Lane, one of the critics depicted in the ad, has sued for defamation in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Lane has buttressed his case with an affidavit from Roger L. McCarthy, CEO of Failure Analysis, Inc. (FaAA).

In 1992 FaAA ran computer analysis of some of the JFK assassination evidence for a mock trial of Lee Harvey Oswald conducted by the American Bar Association. FaAA assigned separate teams to assist both the defense and prosecution. The trial ended in a hung jury. In *Case Closed*, Posner utilized only the prosecution material. Posner's readers were left with the false impression that he had commissioned FaAA to study the evidence and that their conclusions supported the Warren Report.

McCarthy's affidavit states "While Posner acknowledges in the book the material from Failure Analysis Associates he does not mention or acknowledge the ABA, or mention or acknowledge that there was additional material prepared by FaAA for the defense. Incredibly, Mr. Posner makes no mention of the fact that the mock jury, that heard and saw the technical material that he believes so persuasive and "closed" the case, but which also saw the FaAA material prepared for the defense, could not reach a verdict. In early televised interviews of Mr. Posner that were witnessed by FaAA staff, Mr. Posner made no attempt to correct any supposition by a questioner that FaAA analytical work was performed at his request for him, and certainly left quite the opposite impression."

So much for Posner's charge that it is the critics of the Warren Commission who "mislead the American public."

Also suing Posner over the *Times* ad is critic Robert Groden. His suit was filed in Federal court in Manhattan earlier this year. The judge in the case has dismissed the suit, however Groden and his attorney Roger Feinman have begun an appeal process. According to Feinman, his follow-up motion represents the first evidentiary presentation to a court of law in over 25 years that there was a conspiracy to assassi-

nate President Kennedy. "We offered to prove to a jury through medical, scientific, photographic, and eye-witness evidence, that JFK was shot twice in the head. The judge still hasn't addressed the evidence, but it's part of the record for Groden's appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit."

Feinman and Groden have submitted affidavits from Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, radiologist Dr. Randolph H. Robertson, and Harold Weisberg as well as newly released documents and a videotape of 22 exhibits — including a computer enhancement of the Zapruder film — to support their claim that President Kennedy was shot by more than one gunman, and that the advertisement was false. [Those wishing to assist in what promises to be expensive litigation can contact Roger Bruce Feinman, Esq., 237 Park Avenue, 21st floor, New York, N.Y. 10017].

An agreement was recently reached to settle Dr. Charles Crenshaw's law suit against the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA), *The Dallas Morning News*, et al in a way that provides complete vindication to Dr. Crenshaw. Co-plaintiffs Crenshaw and Gary Shaw received an undisclosed financial settlement described by their attorney, Bradley Kizzia, as "a substantial sum." *The Dallas Morning News* and JAMA also agreed to print rebuttal articles by the plaintiffs, which they had previously refused to publish.

The law suit was brought in response to articles in these publications that had sought to refute Dr. Crenshaw's throat wound descriptions depicted in his book, *Conspiracy of Silence*. JAMA falsely suggested that Crenshaw's observations were worthless, since he was not even present in Trauma Room One at Parkland Hospital, where JFK was treated. In fact, Crenshaw's presence is attested to by at least five witnesses who so testified before the Warren Commission.

JAMA editor Dr. Charles Lundberg, a close friend of long standing to Bethesda Naval Hospital autopsy surgeon Commander James J. Humes, had sought to impugn Crenshaw's book, describing it as "a sad fabrication based on unsubstantiated allegations" due to Crenshaw's descriptions of Kennedy's wounds, which suggested a shot from the front. Both publications also derided Crenshaw's claim that he'd picked up a call from Lyndon Johnson while caring for the mortally wounded Lee Oswald, even though others present also recall that call. The editors had steadfastly refused to retract their errors or to publish a response, thus precipitating Crenshaw's suit. ■

## Unclassifieds

Coalition members can communicate with each other concerning projects, resources and research in this column. Please keep submissions under 100 words.

Author Philip Melanson, Ph.D., has produced "A Report on the Robert Kennedy Case: Research, Revelations and Reopening in the 1990's," a 49-page paper based on his fascinating abstracted comments at Three Decades of Doubt. It will be included in an upcoming collection of complete papers from the conference produced by the Coalition. In the meantime, copies are available for \$4.50 from him. — Philip H. Melanson, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, North Dartmouth, MA 02747

A national directory of researchers, including a topics-of-interest index is available for those who list in it (\$5.00 for previously listed, \$2 for new, \$6 Canadians, \$10 Australians and Antarcticans). The deadline is February for submissions, don't miss it since this may not come out again for some time. — Gordon Winslow, 3900 SW Second Terrace, Miami, FL 33134

I want to find out more about Les Nordin. He claimed to have known "James Hepburn," author of *Farewell America*, and described him as a covert member of British intelligence. He claimed to have gotten his copy of the book from "Hepburn", and then passed it on to a Quaker friend, telling her to keep it hidden. Nordin confided to her his connection with the CIA. He lived in Minnesota in the '60s and '70s, and then disappeared into Canada. I thought that "Hepburn" was a pseudonym for several authors. Does anyone know more about "Hepburn" or Nordin? — Roger Peterson, 3090 Union St., Rocklin, CA 95677-1837

Seeking professional writer to collaborate on a book about George deMohrenschildt, Oswald's "closest friend" in Dallas. Over two years research and four chapters completed. Send inquiries and resume. — Bruce Campbell Adamson, P.O. Box 91, Aptos, CA 95001-0091

Now that CompuServe JFK Assassination Forum has closed, there is an alternative place to pursue your research online. Please consider using my BBS, the Puzzle Palace, in operation since November 22, '91. The service is free on

any modem up to 14.4K BPS speed, but donations are welcome. We have NameBase Online, a name and bibliography database. My BBS is part of FIDO's message echo, "JFK\_ASSN", on the backbone. My FIDO node is 1:101/505 for messages (down 4-7 am and pm). Call Puzzle Palace BBS at (617) 625-2815 in Boston. — Anthony Marsh, SYSOP

Ronan O'Rahilly, who worked with Anthony Summers and other investigators in Europe, is producing a film, *King Kennedy: The Ultimate Treason*, composed of archived international footage demonstrating who was behind three famous political assassinations. O'Rahilly was the founder of Radio Caroline, the first commercial free radio station in the United Kingdom, named after President Kennedy's daughter. The film has interested an American distributor. The project is seeking investors in the United States. — Howard Goldstein, Casablanca Productions, PLC, 25 Harley Street, London, England WIN 2BR, Call (011) 071-637-8555 ■

## Coalition Organizations

### AARC

The Assassination Archives and Research Center (AARC) continues to accumulate new records released under the Freedom of Information Act and the JFK Records Act almost every week. It has now received nearly 250,000 pages of CIA records which were made available to the House Select Committee on Assassinations; it has also begun to receive some of the 350,000 pages the FBI provided to that committee, and it expects to begin receiving many more FBI records shortly.

The AARC has established a good working relationship with the Assassination Records Review Board. Several staff members of the Board have been in touch with AARC President Jim Lesar, and the AARC is supplying the Board with information, records and advice quite frequently.

### Literature

*Mexico City Report* This long awaited 400+ page report from the HSCA details Oswald's alleged travels, activities and

possible impersonators. **\$45/\$30.00\***  
*The LBJ Transcripts* 275 conversations during November and December, 1963 involving Johnson and others discussing the aftermath. **\$70/\$55.00\***

\*(special rate for Coalition members, other items as marked or 10¢/page)

*JFK Act, 1992 Legislation*, with Congressional statements. **\$15.00**

*JFK Act Hearings* Testimony of Lesar, Newman, Posner to Congress. **\$20.00**

*Review Board Members*  
Biographical information and confirmation. **\$10.00**

*Oswald's Marine Corps File* 364 pages, military records. **\$40.00**

*Nosenko* Two CIA studies, 689 pages, Oswald's case officer. **\$75.00**

Annual membership to AARC \$25.00. Call for additional items available or visit AARC, 918 F Street, NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC, (202) 393-1917 or 393-7310 (fax).

### CTKA

Citizens for Truth About the Kennedy Assassination (CTKA) continues to work for a legal review and resolution of the murder. Their

publication, *Probe*, is available for \$25 annually. Contact CTKA, 2139 North Vine Street, Hollywood, CA 90068, (213) 463-6792.

### COA

Committee for an Open Archives (COA) has devoted most of its resources in the last year to building the Coalition. Their role as watchdog and monitor in Washington continues, as do efforts to release the files in other assassinations. On January 15 and April 4 this year they call for local activities and petitioning regarding Martin Luther King, Jr.'s murder and continuing cover-up. Their newsletter, *Prologue*, will resume publication this year. National petitions to free the MLK files are available on request. COA, P.O. Box 6008, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 310-1858.

### Expansion

The Coalition seeks additional member organizations who are concerned with political assassinations, government secrecy and justice in the murders of the Kennedy brothers, Rev. King, and others. If you belong to an organization that might be interested, or could be encouraged to join, please contact their representatives and the Coalition. ■

# Three Decades of Doubt October 7-10, 1994 Washington, DC

## Videotapes

"The best JFK conference ever" can now be viewed in your own home, or shown to friends and relatives.

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
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