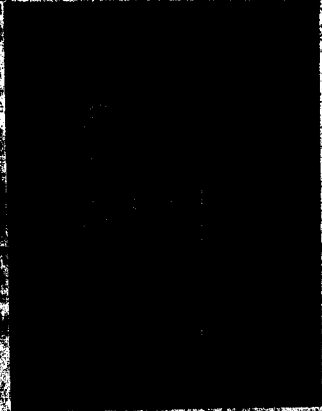


Added reflections on the assassination of John F. Kennedy

'Cuban connection' given credence

BY MAX LERNER

New York — John Roswell — the man whose decomposed corpse surfaced recently in the waters around Miami, enclosed in an oil drum — is speaking to us from his lawyer and chief associates from the Senate Intelligence Committee reports — what he knew about the CIA plots under JOHN F. Kennedy to overthrow Cuba's Premier Fidel Castro, and about Castro's part in the assassination of Kennedy.



In every investigation of a political assassination, the key question is always whether the assassin played it alone or was part of a conspiracy.

When we got more news about Lee Harvey Oswald and his lonely, involuted anguish, most of us shifted to the view that the killing was the work of this left-wing fanatic alone, inflamed by a distorted ideological hatred. The Warren Commission Report confirmed that view.

that time between the writers who held to a conspiracy theory and the rest of us. The conspiracy people were usually hard-core liberals and left-wingers who suspected a plot involving the CIA and FBI and some big-money Asian groups. The supporters of the Warren Commission view thought the conspiracy theories were part of the climate of paranoia of the time (the middle '60s), and regarded the "lone" theory as being less divisive socially, as well as fitting the known facts better.

There was one investigator who caught my curiosity for a time. He was Jim Garrison, the petty, swash-buckling district attorney of New Orleans, who had a theory all his own — that Oswald was the dupe of a mastermind in New Orleans who both identified with President Kennedy and hated him, that the CIA and FBI were knee-deep in the plot and had therefore kept crucial documents from the Warren Commission. One afternoon we talked for hours while he laid out for me "dovetailing pieces" of the conspiracy with the

There was a rough political split at

## by CIA plots on the life of Castro

Kennedy's life, but in several unsuccessful attempts on the life of Fidel Castro. Presumably Helms felt he had to keep these plots, and their documentation, from the Warren Commission. It would have given away intolerable high state secrets.

Yet what would be more central to the Warren Commission's business than the fact that there had been American assassination plans against Castro? It would have cut through many of the cobwebs that entangled the commission, while raising a hypothesis — that Castro answered the unsuccessful plots with a successful one of his own — which would have startled the nation and the world. Once informed of it, the Warren Commission could scarcely have kept it a secret. Yet if it were divulged it could have heightened the hysteria that already was tense enough after Kennedy's killing.

Lee Harvey Oswald must have been involved with Castro. His knowledge and approval as it must have been, how do you account for something so foolhardy?

John F. Kennedy lived dangerously. He was the real of a man who had found the key to doomsday.

I decided to go to the fountainhead, and got an interview with the head of the CIA, Richard Helms. I confronted him with the Garrison material and asked about the missing CIA documentary links. I was pretty naive to think that Helms would tell me what he hadn't told the Warren Commission.

As it now turns out, the CIA was involved, not in a plot against President

John Roselli, having been part of the CIA intrigues, knew what had happened on the American side. He also knew that Castro was involved with Oswald. At some point Lyndon Johnson was told about it, and he in turn hinted at the "truth" in some talks with several newsmen. The great enigma remains the mind of John Kennedy. If the CIA was involved in the anti-Castro plotting with

A possible answer of John Kennedy's romantic self-image about living dangerously in global politics and taking whatever personal risks resultant from it. When the shots hit him in Dallas, did he surmise — in that critical interval of conscious thought — that he was being repaid for the dangers he had risked?