

JFK 11-15  
 ADV FOR 630 PM EST  
 NIGHT LD  
 BY JANE DENISON

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- A PRIVATE RESEARCHER SAID SATURDAY THAT EVIDENCE PRIED LOOSE FROM A RELUCTANT GOVERNMENT PROVES INVESTIGATORS BOTCHED THE INQUIRY INTO PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION AND THEN CONSPIRED TO COVER UP THEIR MISHANDLING OF THE CASE.

THE RESEARCHER, HAROLD WEISBERG, OFFERED TO GO BEFORE A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH THAT "A LONG LIST OF PEOPLE" COMMITTED PERJURY IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE PEOPLE BELIEVE LEE HARVEY OSWALD ACTED ALONE WHEN HE SHOT KENNEDY IN DALLAS ON NOV. 22, 1963. HE CHALLENGED THESE PEOPLE -- WHOM HE DID NOT NAME -- TO "GO HEAD TO HEAD" WITH HIM UNDER OATH SO THAT "THE TRUTH, SO LONG SUPPRESSED," WILL AT LAST COME OUT.

SEN. RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER, R-PA., WHO IS TAKING A NEW LOOK AT THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION, TOLD UPI IT MAY BE DECIDED WITHIN A MONTH WHETHER TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS BUT IT IS TOO SOON TO SAY WHETHER WEISBERG WOULD TESTIFY.

"THE GOVERNMENT NEVER REALLY INTENDED TO INVESTIGATE THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, AND IT NEVER DID," WEISBERG SAID IN HIS SIXTH BOOK ON THE MURDER, PUBLISHED THIS WEEK. "INDEED, THERE NEVER WAS WHAT REASONABLE MEN CAN CALL AN INQUIRY, A DECENT PRETENSE EVEN OF AN INVESTIGATION."

AT A NEWS CONFERENCE CALLED TO ELABORATE ON THE BOOK, WEISBERG SAID THE ENTIRE INVESTIGATION -- FROM MOMENTS AFTER KENNEDY WAS KILLED UNTIL PUBLICATION OF THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT NEARLY A YEAR LATER -- WAS "TAINTED BY CORRUPTION AND PERJURY."

HE SAID THE WARREN COMMISSION, APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON, MERELY RUBBER-STAMPED THE PRECONCEIVED NOTION OF FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER THAT OSWALD WAS THE LONE ASSASSIN. HE SAID EVIDENCE HINTING OTHERWISE WAS IGNORED, SUPPRESSED OR DESTROYED.

EARLIER, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH UPI AT HIS FREDERICK, MD., HOME, WEISBERG SAID, "I HAVE NO IDEA WHO KILLED HIM (KENNEDY). BUT I KNOW OSWALD COULD NOT HAVE."

ON THE WALL HANGS A LARGE PHOTO POSTER OF THE NOW-FAMOUS POSE OF THE ASSASSIN CRADLING A RIFLE IN HIS ARMS. BUT JOHNSON'S FACE HAS BEEN SUPERIMPOSED FOR OSWALD'S.

ASKED IF HE BELIEVES JOHNSON WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLING, WEISBERG ANSWERED: "I DON'T THINK LYNDON JOHNSON WAS AN ASSASSIN OR INVOLVED IN ANY WAY. BUT HE WANTED TO PRESERVE PEACE AND TRANQUILITY; HE WANTED THE WHOLE THING HUSHED UP AND TO GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNTRY."

WEISBERG HAS SPENT THE LAST 11 YEARS INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATION, AMASSING A LARGE VOLUME OF DOCUMENTS AND PICTURES -- OFTEN AFTER BITTER COURT BATTLES WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES. MANY OF THEM ARE REPRINTED IN HIS NEW BOOK, "POST MORTEM," WHICH WEISBERG HAD PRINTED PRIVATELY AFTER COMMERCIAL PUBLISHERS REJECTED IT.

"THE COVER-UP REALLY DID INVOLVE LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE -- PROBABLY 100 FBI AGENTS ALONE," HE SAID.

ASKED WHY, IF THERE WERE SUCH A MASSIVE CONSPIRACY, NO ONE HAS BROKEN SILENCE IN 12 YEARS, HE REPLIED: "WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF ONE HAD OPENED HIS YAP? HE WOULD HAVE LOST HIS JOB AND NEVER GOTTEN ANOTHER ONE."

THE WARREN COMMISSION, HE SAID, HELD A "LIVING TERROR OF HOOVER" AND REALIZED THEY WERE SO "BOXED IN" A FULL INVESTIGATION WOULD BE FRUITLESS.

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