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Harold Weisberg
Hyattstown, Md. 20734
301 WA 6-2034, TR 4-4246

WHITEWASH II - NEW ASSASSINATION - WARREN REPORT BOOK

Whitewashing what happened in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was an official act of government on the operating level, according to a new book released today by the author of the first of the books dealing with the official investigation.

In WHITEWASH II: THE FBI-SECRET SERVICE COVER-UP, Harold Weisberg, of Hyattstown, Md., publishes the first book coming from that part of the files of the President's Commission not still held secret by various government agencies. It contains pictures and facsimiles of FBI and Secret Service data contrary to the official version of the assassination.

As he did in WHITEWASH: THE REPORT ON THE WARREN REPORT, Weisberg concludes that "according to the best evidence, Oswald could have killed nobody". On facing pages of WHITEWASH II, he reproduces an enlargement of a man standing in the doorway of the Texas School Book Depository Building while the shots were being fired, an FBI picture of Oswald in the shirt in which he was arrested, the official FBI photographs of Billy Lovelady, the man the Commission said was the man in the picture, and the secret FBI report showing that Lovelady could not have been that man.

Oswald's long-sleeved shirt matches in pattern, style and visible defects the shirt of the man in the doorway.

Lovelady's shirt was short-sleeved and with a very broad stripe. It could not possibly be the shirt on the man in the doorway. Lovelady told the FBI he was wearing this striped shirt the day of the assassination.

Painstakingly tracing the photographic evidence, Weisberg reproduces an unretouched photograph taken by AP photographer James W. Altgens about halfway through the assassination, shows what parts were always eliminated in the various edited versions used as Commission exhibits, and with the cropped parts shows:

The President was shot before the government says he was, hence could not have been shot from that sixth-floor window, by Oswald or anyone else;

That the FBI was in error in locating the President at the time of the first shot; and

That mysterious and unexplained things were taking place in the building across the street from the TSBD.

"No official explanation has been offered for the tampering with the photographic evidence exposed in WHITEWASH," he says. "WHITEWASH II tells that story, too."

Weisberg also uses other Commission evidence to show the same thing, including a photograph by a Phillip L. Willis, taken after the President was hit for the first time. This picture also positions the President at that time at a point inaccessible to a shot from that sixth-floor window.

The FBI-Commission staff re-enactment of the crime, Weisberg says, was knowingly wrong and designed to make it seem that Oswald could have been the assassin. The most important single item of evidence, he says, was the amateur motion picture of the entire assassination taken by Abraham Zapruder and sold to LIFE magazine.

In using the same camera during the staged re-enactment the FBI said the speed at which it was then exposing film was 18.3 frames per second (normal is 16 frames per second). The resultant re-enactment, according to FBI testimony, was about 30% in error. Weisberg first theorized this difference, ignored by the FBI and the Commission, was accounted for by the setting of the camera to run at fast speed. He then located the FBI report in which Zapruder is quoted as having told the FBI that during the assassination his camera ran at 24 frames per second rather than the customary 16.

Oswald was "all right" to the FBI before the assassination, according to a Dallas police report Weisberg found in the Commission's files. Wesley J. Liebeler, Commission assistant counsel, did not question this witness, who told police he had been concerned about Oswald and had checked with the FBI. This seeming FBI official endorsement of Oswald is ignored in both the Report and the evidence.

WHITEWASH II draws heavily on other FBI reports to show that J. Edgar Hoover "boobytrapped" the Commission in his account of a person or persons counterfeiting Oswald and discovered by Weisberg in the evidence and labeled "The False Oswald" in his first book. In reporting on this duplicating of the then insignificant Oswald immediately before the assassination, Hoover told the Commission the man represented as Oswald and resembling him was William Seymour.

Other FBI reports and investigations prior to the issuance of the Report show the FBI knew Seymour had an alibi for that particular time but his associates, not named as "The False Oswald", were, in fact, then in Dallas. Hoover did not correct his information to the Commission until after the Report was published, Weisberg says.

All of these mysterious men had seeming CIA connections, training Cuban refugees to invade their homeland, transporting arms, and arranging for ships and shipping. Weisberg traces the story through a series of FBI reports in the possession of the Commission staff but not included in its printed evidence. He shows that some of these men were arrested in Dallas right before the assassination on a serious charge, released with the involvement of District Attorney Henry Wade, and their arrest record was in the Dallas FBI files during the course of the official investigation of the assassination, but was not reported to the Commission.

With the receipts and original documents, Weisberg traces the gutting of the official autopsy file, showing that parts of it described as included in Exhibit 397 are not and do not now exist in duplicate file copies of the exhibit. These include all of the notes made during the autopsy.

"The President got an autopsy unworthy of a Bowery bum," Weisberg charges.

"Despite contrary pretenses," he says, "I am the only author criticizing the Commission who does not assault the personal integrity of its members. My two books, beginning with the Introduction to the first, show how these eminent men could have placed their names to such a fraudulent document as the Report."

WHITEWASH II is a private printing. WHITEWASH, declined by more than 100 publishers through the world, many of whom predicted it would be a best-seller, actually has 22,500 copies in print and a paperback edition soon due. One European publisher who declined WHITEWASH in June 1965, outbid two others and is now publishing it. After offering the second book to a major publisher and having it declined, Weisberg decided "the content cannot wait". He reports another publisher, having read the manuscript, encouraged him to rush the private printing rather than take the time, usually six months or more, for normal book publishing. This publisher says he will bid for hardback publication rights.

Weisberg says he wants normal publication but believes that the proof the official investigation and "solution" of the assassination were wrong is evidence that must be immediately available in the detail he has amassed from the official documents.

"This involves the integrity of government and the viability of our society," he says, "and that, I believe, just cannot wait."

(Press copies available at Cosmopolitan News, 603 - 15th St., N.W.; Discount Book Shop, 1340 Connecticut Avenue; and Globe Book Store, 1706 Eye St., N.W. Reproductions of part of the photographic appendix available in Room 906 Dupont Circle Bldg.)