

## Act of Conspiracy.

### President John F. Kennedy's Nonfatal Wounds

Should you say this  
in your sentence?  
So far?

do we shall  
see?

On November 22, 1963, a conspiracy assassinated President John F. Kennedy.

On September 24, 1964, the Warren Commission reported to President Lyndon B. Johnson and the nation the findings of its nine month investigation that there had been no conspiracy.<sup>1</sup> The Commission had found that Lee Harvey Oswald alone, unaided, and for purely personal reasons shot JFK from the easternmost window of the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository. This body of seven illustrious Americans, men of honor and respect, made this unequivocal statement contrary to its own evidence, both published and unpublished, but in harmony with the same conclusion it had reached before beginning its work and before it had looked at the first piece of evidence.<sup>2</sup>

In assessing such weighty matters it is helpful, if not really essential, to heed the advice of the Medieval Philosopher William of Occam, to keep an explanation on an important and complicated subject simple.<sup>3</sup>

Of the many ways we have to show that the Commission knew there had been a conspiracy, perhaps the simplest one is the justification the Chairman of the President's Commission on the Assassination, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Earl Warren, put forward

<sup>1</sup>Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy. (Washington: GPO, 1964). Cited as the Warren Report.

This article largely rests on the files of Harold Weisberg, critic, in Frederick, Maryland; interviews with him over the course of several years; and records he obtained through FOIA suits.

<sup>2</sup>For references see the works of Harold Weisberg, especially *Whitewash*. (Hyattstown, MD: by the author, 1965); Sylvia Meagher, *Accessories After The Fact*. (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1967); Howard Roffman, *Presumed Guilty* (New Brunswick: Associated University Presses, 1975).

<sup>3</sup>William of Occam, "doctor, singularis et invincibilis", died in 1349. His famous principle or razor was *Entia non sunt multiplicanda praeter necessitatem*, roughly meaning "in confronting the complex if you can go with the simple, go with the simple for that will be the right one."

O.P. but  
it is not  
written for  
readers