

Unlock the Dallas Secrets

As it has a way of doing from time to time, the Kennedy assassination has crawled out from under the Warren Commission Report and back into the news. Sherman Skolnick, a legal researcher in Chicago, filed suit last week in an effort to unlock secret information salted away in the National Archives until the year 2039. Skolnick says he has evidence that President John Kennedy was killed by a conspiracy and not by a mentally unstable individual acting alone, as the Warren Report contends.

Specifically, he is tracking a man named Thomas Arthur Vallee, "a double for Lee Harvey Oswald," and one of five conspirators who allegedly planned to kill the President at the Army-Air Force football game in Chicago on November 2, 1963. The lawsuit states that after Kennedy canceled his Chicago appearance at the last minute because of a cold, the assassination attempt was rescheduled for Dallas. The suit cites a recently declassified Warren document that discloses an FBI freeze on all information regarding Vallee's automobile registration.

Regardless of the merits of Skolnick's case, at least his theory about an assassination conspiracy is not without some substantiation. Richard Russell, a member of the Warren Commission and one of the most respected men in the U.S. Senate, said in a rare television interview earlier this year that he never has believed Oswald planned the assassination alone. Because of his doubts, Senator Russell said he insisted on a disclaimer sentence in the final Warren Report before he would sign it.

Six and a half years after the assassination, the FBI still is trying to unravel a number of mysteries surrounding the activities and affiliations of Oswald. As Columnist Paul Scott

has pointed out, one of the most baffling questions concerns a letter Oswald wrote to the Soviet Embassy in Washington on November 12, 1963 — only ten days before the Dallas tragedy. Mrs. Ruth Paine, with whom Oswald's Russian wife, Marina, was staying, told the Warren Commission that she managed to copy the letter during the weekend of November 9; she turned it over to the FBI the day after the assassination.

In this letter, Oswald asked for another Soviet visa and referred to the then unannounced recall of Eusebio Azque, a Cuban Embassy official in Mexico City with whom he had dealt during his visit there two months earlier. Oswald's mention of "Comrade Kostin" confirmed a CIA report that he also had met with Valeriy Vladimirovich Kostikov, a Soviet consular officer and one of the top KGB officers in the Western Hemisphere. What baffles the FBI is how Oswald came by inside information about the Cuban Consul's recall some time before the transfer took place on November 18, 1963, just four days before the President was murdered. Among the documents ordered sealed by the Warren Commission are reports about this letter and about Oswald's contacts with various Soviet and Cuban officials in Mexico City.

If "people in high places" are suppressing facts about President Kennedy's death, as the assassin's assassin Jack Ruby alleged, one wonders just what is being kept from the American people and why. This question should be answered once and for all by the Nixon Administration. According to the Justice Department, the President is now free, under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1966, to make public all documents sealed by the Warren Commission. This he should do without further delay.

RICHMOND (VA) NEWS-LEADER

Back to politics for LBJ

CHICAGO TODAY 5/1/70 PAGES

BY LEONARD ARONSON

FORMER PRESIDENT Johnson took second billing to the visit by the Apollo 13 astronauts and the controversy over President Nixon's address on Cambodia.

But the spotlight will shift to Johnson when he arrives late today in Chicago to make his first formal speech since leaving the White House 2 years ago.

The parallels between Johnson's departure from office after being unable to end the war in Viet Nam, and Nixon's decision to expand that war into Cambodia, are clearly drawn.

Political analysts were interested in hearing Johnson's analysis of the current administration's decision to move in the same direction which ultimately caused enough national divisiveness to force him from office.

Johnson was to speak at a \$100-a-plate dinner sponsored by the Cook county Democratic party and attended by the county slate. Some 5,000 guests were expected at the Conrad Hilton hotel.

As political ghosts always seem to find a way back to haunt us, Johnson's visit sparked another round in one of the grimmer episodes in recent American history.

The former President was expected to be served with a subpoena to appear before federal District Judge Hubert Will to answer questions about the assassination of President Kennedy.

THE SUBPENA, requested by legal researcher Sherman Skolnick and issued yesterday by the clerk of federal District court, is part of a suit charging that an assassination plot against Kennedy in Chicago was suppressed.

The subpoena calls for Johnson to produce "notes, memoranda, and statements regarding a film interview between [him] and CBS-TV correspondent Walter Cronkite without any parts . . . being deleted, altered or removed."

Skolnick also requested a similar subpoena be issued to John Lane, manager of the Chicago CBS bureau at 630 N. McClurg st.

The interview with Cronkite, made in September, 1969, will be aired for the first time at 6:30 tomorrow evening.

Earlier this month, the Washington Post published a story saying they learned that parts of the interview, critical of the Warren commission's report, were later deleted at Johnson's request.

RICHARD S. SALANT, president of CBS news, later admitted that certain material had been deleted from the broadcast at Johnson's bidding, but would not say whether they related to the Warren report.

Johnson allegedly requested the deletions on the grounds of national security, Salant said.

John C. Meiszner, the United States Marshal here, said he will have to assign a deputy to serve the subpoena to Johnson unless a court order quashing the subpoena is issued. Johnson will be ordered to appear in Judge Will's courtroom 10 a. m., May 11.

United States Atty. Thomas A. Foran said "we have no plans to go into court today" to ask the subpoena be quashed. "It would be questionable whether one could really quash service of a subpoena."

Foran said the deputy marshal does not have to personally hand the subpoena to Johnson. "The subpoena could be considered served if a duly qualified representative of Johnson accepts it," Foran said.

The subpoenas are part of Skolnick's suit against the National Archives and Records service, in which he claims information about the alleged Chicago plot against Kennedy was suppressed.