

# People and the PURSUIT of Truth

Vol. 3, No. 9

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### THE SUNSET LAW AND THE TASKS OF "PURSUIT"

by Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor

The subject of the editorials in the last two issues has been: "Should not "PURSUIT" stop before too long? fade away into the sunset?"

The answer is now clearly NO. The number of paid 3rd year subscriptions is now 349, an increase of 22; several contributions have been received equivalent to about 10 more 3rd year subscriptions. Encouragements considerably outweigh discouragements.

Many useful comments have come from letters received from our devoted subscribers. Many of these letters are published in this issue (see p. 6). Here I have put down some answers to these comments:

1. *Researching the Assassinations.* This magazine is eager to publish significant research. But the amount of research needed to be done now as to how the assassinations were accomplished, and by whom, is probably less than 2 percent of the amount of research that has been done in the past. The central problem is now quite different.

2. *Identifying the Power Control Group.* The central problem now is satisfaction of the 80 percent of the

people of the United States who have become convinced that (1) conspiracies produced the assassinations, and (2) continuing powerful coverups exist. So long as the House Assassinations Committee maintains zero publicity, there is little solid fact.

The satisfaction that I want to have is the day when all the leading newspapers of the United States (the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, etc.) have headlines like: "CONSPIRACIES PROVED AND ADMITTED IN THE POLITICAL ASSASSINATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1963 to 1970. The persons who conspired were Allen Dulles, J. Edgar Hoover, Lyndon B. Johnson,.... Persons who knew of the conspiracies and who lied were Earl Warren, Lyndon B. Johnson, J. Edgar Hoover,...."

That will be a great day. Of course, it may not happen for 75 years, measured from the day in 1964 when President Lyndon B. Johnson applied secrecy of 75 years to hundreds of documents of the Warren Commission at the time they were transferred and stored in the National Archives of the United States. (President Jimmy Carter has done nothing about rescinding President Johnson's action, which was probably illegal and certainly contrary to the interests of the people of the United States.)

3. *Applying the Pursuit of Truth more Widely.* There are many very important issues where vast power weighs

(Please turn to page 8)

Editor: Edmund C. Berkeley, Berkeley Enterprises, Inc.

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This magazine is devoted to:

- facts, information, truth, and unanswered questions that are important to people, widely suppressed, and not adequately covered in the usual American press; and also to
- solutions to great problems that are functioning well in some countries or places, yet are almost never talked about in the usual American press.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

# Assassination Coverups: The Power Control Group as of November 15, 1977 and the Media

Richard E. Sprague  
Hartsdale, N.Y. 10530

As the time approaches for the Select Committee on Assassinations to ask the House of Representatives for its 1978 budget, it is of interest to once again examine the control over the American news media and the Congress, wielded by the Power Control Group (PCG) /1/. To those who observe the assassination scene with blinders removed, it seems patently obvious that the December 1977 date for the Select Committee's budget approval has been a target for the PCG to attempt a final defeat of the Committee's efforts to get at the truth of the John Kennedy and Martin Luther King assassinations and the coverup crimes associated with them.

An all-out effort has been mounted by the PCG to influence the thinking of citizens, and the votes of the members of the House, toward ending the life of the Committee with a negative vote as soon as possible. This effort has manifested itself in the major news media, including the usual controls over the three TV networks, the "New York Times," "Washington Post," "Newsweek," "Time," book publishers, book reviewers, TV talk shows, etc.

As we take inventory of this massive campaign, it would be useful to test the validity of contentions made by this author and others in 1976 and 1977, concerning the relationships between the Power Control Group and the American news media, as revealed in the continuing coverups of the domestic assassinations, and the efforts to destroy the reputations of assassination researchers and the two official investigations of the John Kennedy assassination /2/3/.

New evidence has surfaced in 1977 to support these contentions in the form of a CIA document released under the Freedom of Information Act and an article by a new potential ally for assassination truth seekers, Carl Bernstein. Both of these documents were provided to the author by Ted Gandolfo in New York, who now has his own weekly cable TV show on Friday nights on Manhattan TV, titled, "Assassination USA."

## The Contentions About the CIA, the PCG and Assassinations

A simplified listing of contentions by the author is as follows:

1) Each political assassination or attempt (JFK, RFK, MLK, Wallace, and MJK) was essentially an intelligence type of operation using various patsies — Oswald, Sirhan, Ray, Bremer, and Ted Kennedy.

2) Each political assassination has been covered up by the PCG, with the CIA, FBI and Secret Team leading the way.

3) The PCG has gone to extreme lengths to discredit men like Jim Garrison, Henry Gonzalez, Walter Fauntroy and Richard A. Sprague, who had some power to expose the truth.

4) The PCG has controlled and guided the media in the coverup projects through influence from the very top of each media organization.

5) The PCG will continue to use the media and other means at their disposal to murder, to block and to discontinue congressional or private efforts to discover and expose the truth about the assassinations and the coverups. A peak of such activity developed around the December 1977 Select Committee budget vote.

## Evidence of Media Control by the CIA

Carl Bernstein /4/ wrote an article exposing the CIA's methods of controlling the news media. The basic techniques have been to plant a Secret Team member right at the top of each major media organization, or else obtain tacit agreement from the top man to use reporters working for the CIA or to use CIA people, stories, and policies on the inside of the organization. Bernstein goes this author one better by naming men above this level as CIA people in certain organizations. For example, this author's claim was that Harding Bancroft, Jr. has been the CIA control point at the "New York Times" /5/. Bernstein names Arthur Hays Sulzberger, the owner of the "Times" and Bancroft's boss, as the CIA's man at the "Times." At CBS, this author named Richard Salant. Bernstein names William S. Paley. At the "Washington Post" and "Newsweek," Bernstein names Philip Graham, Katherine Graham's husband, former owner of the "Post" and "Newsweek." By inference, Mrs. Graham must be the current CIA order giver, after her husband's death. This author named Ben Bradlee. Bernstein's information confirms this author's contention that the CIA controls the 15 major news media organizations in the U.S.

The other CIA top level individuals named by Bernstein are as follows:

"Louisville Courier Journal" — Barry Bingham, Sr.

NBC — Richard Wald  
ABC — Sam Jaffee

Time, Inc. — Henry Luce  
Copley News Service — James Copley  
Hearst — Seymour Freiden

Thus, contention number 4 of this author has been substantiated by Bernstein's research /6/: The PCG, through their prime intelligence members, are today still controlling what the media do and say about the subject of assassinations and the Select Committee on Assassinations. They do this through influence with the heads of each organization, those who issue orders downward, laying down media and editorial policies that are carried out by their subordinates. In some cases, lower level people are also planted as reporters, editors, producers or whatever, to execute the policies, write the stories, produce the programs, review the books, or write or publish the books. The CIA also owns and/or controls many publishing houses, free lance writers and reviewers who can also be used in this massive campaign.

However, the reader should not immediately jump to the conclusion that all media people knowingly continue to cover up assassination conspiracies. It is only necessary that they actually believe the CIA's stories and positions against conspiracies, and for lone nut assassins. For example, Anthony Lewis at the "New York Times" participates in this entire fraud, actually believing that Oswald was the lone nut assassin.

It is inconceivable, however, that men intelligent enough to rise to the top of CBS, NBC, ABC, the "New York Times," et al., could really still believe that Oswald was the lone assassin. Some of them, or most of them, must be cooperating fully in the PCG coverup efforts.

#### Proof of CIA Efforts to Discredit Researchers

A recently released CIA document /7/ proves beyond any doubt that contention number 3 is true. This document was a dispatch issued from CIA headquarters in April 1967 to certain bases and stations to mount a big campaign through media contacts (called assets) against certain assassination researchers. The targets included Mark Lane, Joachim Joesten, Penn Jones, Edward Epstein, and Bertrand Russell. The CIA preferred to call them critics, kooks, buffs, nuts, weirdos and other names.

The document describes a whole program to be used to discredit the "critics," and to support the Warren Commission. Many of the exact expressions that were used by the media controlled by the CIA, to attack the researchers, can be found in this document. One example is:

"Conspiracy on the large scale often suggested (by critics) would be impossible to conceal in the United States, especially since informants could expect to receive large royalties, etc."

Another argument suggested is:

"Note that Robert Kennedy, Attorney General at the time and John F. Kennedy's brother, would be the last man to overlook or conceal any conspiracy."

How many times did we hear that one from 1967 to 1969?

The document also suggests using an article by Fletcher Knebel to attack Ed Epstein's book and to prefer attacks on it rather than Mark Lane's book because, "Lane's book is much more difficult to answer as a whole, as one becomes lost in a morass of unrelated details."

The timing of this document is particularly important. April 1, 1967 was approximately two months after Jim Garrison's investigation surfaced, and only shortly after Garrison found David Ferrie murdered in his own apartment and arrested Clay Shaw. Since we now know that both men were contract agents for the CIA and that the CIA went to great lengths under Richard Helms' directions to protect Shaw and to keep his true identity from being revealed, the chances are good that this document was triggered by Garrison's actions even though it does not mention him.

The names of the authors of the document have been blacked out of the copy that was released. Further research may reveal who actually wrote it and "pulled it together," as a note in hand print at the top states.

#### The Massive 1977 Campaign

The 1977 campaign of the PCG had a number of components that included:

- 1) A book by Bud Fensterwald
- 2) A TV special by ABC
- 3) A TV special by NBC
- 4) A TV special by CBS
- 5) A book by Patricia McMillan
- 6) A series of TV appearances by Marina Oswald and Patricia McMillan
- 7) A book review of Patricia McMillan's book by the "New York Times"
- 8) The murder of George de Mohrenschildt
- 9) The discrediting of NOS Dutch TV and reporter Willem Oltmans from the Netherlands
- 10) The probable murder of General Donald Donaldson
- 11) A predictable attack on the Select Committee and the fueling of arguments by representatives in the House who are PCG members

#### "The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald"

The media control from the top is demonstrated by the ABC-TV program, "The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald," whose co-director, Lawrence Schiller, had to have been selected at the suggestion of the PCG. Schiller is one of the most notorious people in the PCG's stable of free lancers. He is best known for his book supporting the Warren Commission and attacking the researchers, called "The Scavengers" /8/.

Schiller is perhaps one of the biggest scavengers ever born. He obtained a supposed deathbed statement from Jack Ruby by illegally and unethically sneaking a tape recorder into his hospital room. He then parlayed this into a wide-selling record with distasteful and untruthful propaganda. More recently, he seized the opportunity to interview Gary Gilmore before his execution, practically holding a mike to his mouth while the juice was being turned on.

Schiller is a con artist, a crook and a liar. How, the reader may ask, can a guy like that become a co-producer of a major ABC television show? The answer

is simple. He is available to the PCG for attacking the assassination researchers and ridiculing them, while reinforcing the no-conspiracy idea.

The ABC production crew had the full cooperation of the Dallas police in reenacting the assassination event in Dealey Plaza. There is no way that could have happened without PCG influence. The Dallas police, being quite guilty of coverup in the case and having some individual members on the assassination team, would not permit anyone to film a reenactment of the assassination showing conspiracy or the truth. The PCG had to assure them that the program's editorial position would be against conspiracy or Dallas police involvement.

"The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald" was ballyhooed and given extensive publicity on TV, in magazines, in newspapers, and even in England, where a special article about it appeared in the Sunday magazine section of a London newspaper complete with photos from the shooting sequence as filmed /9/. The PCG spent an enormous amount of money on the program and a publicity campaign. There is no way ABC-TV could have done that on their own. More than 80% of the people of the United States believe there was a conspiracy. Why wouldn't ABC go along with the 80% of their audience and portray the truth? The answer again is simple: ABC is controlled from the very top, probably from much higher than the Sam Jaffe level, by the PCG and the CIA.

#### Other TV Shows

Both NBC and CBS are planning major TV specials on the assassinations. CBS is planning a show on Oswald and Ruby. The theme will be that the Warren Commission was right and that both Oswald and Ruby were lone nuts. Mr. Paley and Mr. Salant are the PCG people calling the shots.

NBC is planning a program on Martin Luther King which will have a section on his assassination. Even though Abbey Mann is directing the show and might like to bring out some of the facts, it is certain that the PCG members of NBC, Richard Wald and others, will not permit any conclusions about Ray's innocence, or permit any information about "Frenchy-Raoul" or Jack Youngblood (the real assassins) to be included.

#### Patricia McMillan - CIA Agent

One of the more remarkable things about the massive 1977 campaign of the CIA and the PCG is their blatant use of free lance writers or news reporters, well-known to be CIA agents by nearly anyone who has taken the time to pay attention. Three of these agents are Patricia McMillan and her husband George McMillan, and Jeremiah O'Leary of the "Washington Star." Patricia, in particular, is such an obvious agent that even Dick Cavett indirectly accused her of being one, when she appeared on his show with Marina Oswald to plug her new book /10/.

The CIA decided that now would be a perfect time to have Patricia publish her book, which she said had been completed several years ago. The publisher, being under CIA control, was selected; the book was published in time for a committee budget vote, and the CIA lined up Marina to appear with Patricia on several national TV shows. Patricia had Marina well-rehearsed for these shows even to the point of retelling the old lies about Oswald shooting at General

Walker. Of course, the commentators selected to interview both ladies, including Dick Cavett, David Hartmann (ABC) and Tom Snyder (NBC), had their restricted orders to deal delicately with them, and not to ask any embarrassing questions. Cavett came closest with his essentially accusatory question about whether Patricia was a CIA agent.

No one asked Marina what would have been the most embarrassing question and the one she would have had the greatest difficulty answering. The question would have been, "You testified that you took this photograph of your husband. (Flashing on the screen Commission Exhibit 133A, the picture of Oswald holding the rifle and a communist newspaper) How was it possible for you to have taken a photo that has been demonstrated to be a composite of three photos, with your husband's head attached to someone else's body at the chin line? (Flashing on the screen screen Fred Newcomb's slide showing the chin level discontinuity)" Cavett actually did flash the fake photo on the screen at the beginning of his show, but never mentioned it.

This monumental PCG effort, involving control over at least the three TV networks, a CIA publisher, Marina Oswald, a CIA agent, Patricia McMillan, an enormous amount of time and money, and including a special book review by the "New York Times" /11/, demonstrates how much power the PCG has.

Some of those people who watched "Good Morning, America," the "Tomorrow" show and "The Dick Cavett Show" (three different types of viewing audiences, all on a national scale) had their impressions of the lone nut assassin and the correct findings of the Warren Commission again reinforced by Patricia and Marina. The book will no doubt turn into a best seller with the advertising campaign now begun by the PCG. Major ads have appeared in the "Times" and elsewhere. It is wise for researchers, the Select Committee on Assassinations, and others who know what is really going on not to underestimate the power of the PCG.

#### Fensterwald's Book

A book by Bud Fensterwald appeared in 1977 under the sponsorship of the PCG /12/. This was a clever effort on the part of one of the CIA's best agents; it was designed to throw people who have a somewhat deeper interest in the JFK assassination off the track. It was meant to divert attention away from the CIA by omitting at least twelve of the CIA-type conspirators and hangers-on who were in the files of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations (CTIA) co-founded by Fensterwald and this author in 1968.

No excuse of lack of knowledge can be given for leaving all these key people out of the book, because the CTIA had extensive files on most of them. Bud Fensterwald even had personal correspondence with the key informant of the group, Richard Case Nagell. The twelve are: William Seymour, Emilio Santana, Manuel Garcia Gonzalez, Guy Gabaldin, Mary Hope, Richard Case Nagell, Harry Dean, Ronald Augustino, Thomas Beckham, Fred Lee Crisman, "Frenchy," and Jack Lawrence. All of them were included in a description of the details of the assassination team in an article and book by this author /13/.

Zebra Books, the publisher of Fensterwald's book, is a CIA-controlled organization, which has also

published another disinformation book, "Appointment in Dallas," by Hugh McDonald /14/. In both cases, the PCG intent appears to be to misdirect attention, directing it away from the CIA participants, while at the same time admitting conspiracy. There is no way that Sol's story in McDonald's book can be true. It retains Oswald's firing, or at least planning to fire from the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository. As all responsible researchers know, the photographs taken that day of the window, inside and outside, demonstrate that there was no one firing from that window that day.

#### The de Mohrenschildt Murder

The "Murder, Inc." branch of the PCG killed George de Mohrenschildt when he became too dangerous for them. The media branch of the PCG then undertook another big campaign to discredit Willem Oltmans and NOS-TV from Holland, who happen to be in possession of a series of video and audio tapes of de Mohrenschildt that are very damaging to the PCG.

The de Mohrenschildt murder has so far been concealed by the PCG with the help of the media, and portrayed as the suicide of a man who had become insane. As Willem Oltman's book clearly demonstrates /15/, de Mohrenschildt was quite sane at the time of his disappearance from Belgium, and was in the process of giving Ed Epstein a story about his involvement in the JFK assassination when he was murdered in Florida.

#### Donald Donaldson's Disappearance

General Donald Donaldson, alias Dimitri Dimitrov, alias Jim Adams, was intimately acquainted with the CIA people who planned JFK's assassination. He showed up in Holland to tell his story to NOS-TV and Willem Oltmans. He told Oltmans that Allen Dulles was the key CIA man in planning JFK's assassination. Donaldson had been brought to the U.S. as a double agent during World War II by Franklin Roosevelt. He held back his knowledge of the assassination conspiracy until the Church Committee was formed. He took his information to Church, who brought him to President Ford rather than having him questioned by the Church or Schweiker committee or subcommittee. Ford, Church and Donaldson had a meeting in which Ford talked both of them into keeping Donaldson's information under wraps.

When de Mohrenschildt was killed, Donaldson decided it was time to make his information public and to offer it to the Select Committee. He approached Oltmans asking that his identity be kept secret, told NOS his story, and then remained in Holland while Oltmans attempted to tell the story to President Carter. Oltmans revealed Donaldson's identity on American TV and to the Select Committee when Carter refused to listen to the story. Donaldson then moved to England and subsequently disappeared from a London hotel, leaving large unpaid bills at both the London and Amsterdam hotels where he had been staying. The possibility is very good that he has gone the same route as de Mohrenschildt, murdered by the PCG. The episode is strongly reminiscent of the de Mohrenschildt affair.

#### Attacks on the Select Committee

A series of attacks on the Select Committee in November and December of 1977 can be forecast, lead-

ing up to the vote on the 1978 budget. One of these has already taken place in the form of an article by probable CIA agent, George Lardner, Jr., one of the Select Committee's biggest enemies, and one of the PCG's stable of reporters. Lardner wrote an article for the "Sunday Washington Post" on November 6, portraying the Committee as engaging in more or less random, uncoordinated activity, interrogating witnesses from the Garrison investigation, which Lardner labelled "the zany Garrison investigation," and "the fruitless investigation." The "New York Times," "Washington Star" and other media can be expected to open up all barrels under PCG direction. The general theme will very likely be that the Committee has done nothing at all in 1977, that Oswald committed the assassination alone, and that the House should promptly vote to discontinue the Committee.

If counsel Blakey or chairman Stokes, or JFK subcommittee chairman Preyer try to respond to these attacks, they are likely to be ripped to shreds by the PCG's media people. As this author pointed out in an article earlier this year /16/, the one reasonable chance the Committee and the House have to keep the investigation going is to expose the PCG and their media control, from the top down. Otherwise, it seems that the Committee can not win the battle.

#### References

- /1/ Power Control Group (PCG). Defined in prior articles and in one book by this author as follows:

The PCG includes all organizations and individuals who knowingly participated in any of the domestic political assassinations or attempted assassinations, or in any of the efforts to cover up the truth about those assassinations. The truth includes a large number of murders of witnesses and participants. The assassinations and attempted assassinations involved include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: John Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, George Wallace, and Mary Jo Kopechne. The PCG is a much larger group than just the clandestine parts of the CIA and the FBI, or the Secret Team as defined by L. Fletcher Prouty. It would, however, include all those members of the Secret Team of the CIA or the FBI falling under the definition.

- /2/ This author's contentions about media control by the PCG have appeared in one self-published book and several articles:

- a. Book: "The Taking of America 1-2-3," R.E. Sprague, self-published. Hartsdale, NY. 1976.
- b. Articles: "The American News Media and the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: Accessories After the Fact," R.E. Sprague, "Computers and Automation," June and July, 1973; "The Central Intelligence Agency and the 'New York Times,'" R.E. Sprague (using pseudonym Samuel F. Thurston), "Computers and Automation," July, 1971 — republished in "People and the PURSUIT of Truth," August, 1977; "Congressional Investigation of Political Assassinations in the United States: The Two Approaches: From the Bottom Up vs. From the Top Down," R.E. Sprague, "People and the PURSUIT

(Please turn to page 8)

# Applying the Sunset Law to "PURSUIT": For and Against

## - Part 2 -

From Martin Shimek  
W163 N8513 Arthur Ave.  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

My response to your question: I think "PURSUIT" should continue. I enclose another paid subscription for the third year, May 1977 to April 1978, as encouragement. Thank you.

From Mrs. Ruth S. Matthews  
1025 Fifth Ave.  
New York, NY 10028

It is important to keep publishing "People and the PURSUIT of Truth". I enclose my check for a subscription for ... (address enclosed). If you could mail the publication in an envelope [Note by Editor: Certainly we can, by special request] I would take a subscription for ... (address forthcoming).

From William Clyde  
137 Bell St.  
East Preston 3072  
Melbourne, Australia

I think "PURSUIT" should continue. An international money order for the next year's subscription will be available at the "Washington Post" office soon. The number is 00305892.

Subscriptions to "PURSUIT" may have fallen, but we must remember one important thing: it's better to have a small voice than have no voice at all.

From Debby Gregg  
1478 N. Angelus  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

I think "PURSUIT" should continue. I enclose another paid subscription for a third year.

I enjoy the magazine and would miss the information if you should stop.

From Mrs. T.B. Brown, Jr.  
Dingletown Rd.  
Greenwich, CT 06830

Most certainly I think you should continue the publication of "PURSUIT". It has contained much information not available elsewhere.

I found out about "PURSUIT" by the merest chance. If you would make the public aware of it

by advertising and other means, I think you would find many more subscribers.

Please continue with it and good luck.

From Grace M. Viscuso  
409 Phillipa Hill Rd.  
New City, NY 10956

I think "PURSUIT" should continue. I enclose another paid subscription for the third year (\$9.50).

"This magazine is devoted to facts, information, truth and unanswered questions that are important to people, widely suppressed and not adequately covered in the usual American Press." (Yours)

"This information is needed now more than ever." (Mine)

From Neil W. O'Rourke (1)  
6485 La Jolla Scenic Dr. S.  
La Jolla, CA 92037

Enclosed please find a postal money order in the amount of fifty dollars for a contribution to your magazine "PURSUIT." I am presently a subscriber, and intend to renew my subscription when it runs out.

From Neil W. O'Rourke (2)  
6485 La Jolla Scenic Dr. S.  
La Jolla, CA 92037

I was sorry to read in your November issue that you are considering stopping publication of "People and the PURSUIT of Truth". I enclose eighteen dollars (postal money order) for a two year subscription. However, I don't feel free to take a position on continuance since I have only a peripheral knowledge of the situation. I support whatever decision you make, and appreciate your efforts of the past. If you decide to stop publication, please use the enclosed amount for whatever purpose you choose.

From Jeffrey P. Hoyle  
37 Farnham St.  
Fall River, MA 02720

In re: your editorial in the November issue of "PURSUIT": it is my opinion that the newsletter should continue.

There is a definite market for such material as seems evident from the other newsletters, ("Clandes-

tine America," "Continuing Inquiry," and the "Grassy Knoll Gazette," etc.) as well as the 220 plus books the Library of Congress has listed in its main catalog. The LOC even hesitates to estimate the number of books published on the subject due to the fact that that to tabulate the number of books would be a long difficult task which would probably be outdated prior to completion.

The problem seems to be not one of a lack of market, but that "PURSUIT" is not reaching that part of the public that is buying up all the JFK books, magazines ("Argosy," "Newsreal," "Skeptic," etc.) and other newsletters, as well as certain issues of the tabloid press.

Granted, "PURSUIT" should plan to stop before too long, but it should go out fighting, printing stories on the major assassinations and other stories the general media skips.

Last March, I sent you a letter suggesting ways I felt the number of subscriptions to "PURSUIT" could be increased. Such a simple thing like an increase in the number of pages, or more public exposure in the press (both tabloid and conventional), may be all that is needed. Or maybe more stories on the basic evidence involved in the assassinations, or more reader input in the form of a letter column, etc.

"PURSUIT" does have a definite lack of exposure. The only place I have ever seen it mentioned is in Tom Miller's "Assassination Please Almanac."

The public needs more of a chance to see what is being offered before we can say it is voting with its dollars against "PURSUIT."

Whatever happens, I wish to thank you for publishing a few of my articles, and I'll look forward to your decision on the fate of "PURSUIT."

You have done many readers a service by publishing things we may never have had a chance to read otherwise.

*From David Truby  
Box 172-C, RD 5  
Indiana, PA 15701*

Please don't give up the ship! I am certain the loss of subscriptions is a financial drag, but perhaps you have a smaller, tighter group of activist readers, i.e., 327 activist readers is better than 855 apathetic ones.

Personally (and selfishly), I want you to continue. We need more "media" voices to act as a watchdog. Indeed, right now I am starting to work on a book about the media coverage of the JFK murder/coverup, and the background work so far shows how much public education is needed. The folks are not getting truth from the major media, so newsletters are important. I use your newsletter as a primary source for many of the leads I follow. In fact, I will soon be writing you, I suspect, to ask permission to use and quote from various articles in my book. So, from the standpoint of giving information to those of us journalists who will print the truth, please don't quit.

And, to make my ballot count even more, I enclose my check to cover a year's subscription.

*From Christopher B. Sharrett  
120 East State St.  
Doylestown, PA 18901*

I don't feel we can adhere to the Sunset Law in all instances, particularly at a time when our democratic system is so severely threatened; indeed, our democratic republic itself may go down with such a "sunset".

Despite the obvious cutback in subscriptions, I feel "PURSUIT" should continue. There are very few independent journals dealing in a responsible way with clandestine politics in America and even a small periodical such as "PURSUIT" would be greatly missed. Moreover, "PURSUIT" and "Computers and Automation" have established a reputation for pioneering work in this area and there is still ground to be broken — it would be a tragedy for this contribution to end so suddenly. Admittedly, the public interest in the political assassinations and related matters is again on the wane; this is precisely what the Power Control Group is counting on and is ready to exploit by producing a quantity of propaganda aimed at nullifying the work of many researchers over the past few years.

I think "PURSUIT" can help to rekindle public awareness by staying in circulation and by soliciting the ideas of writers, researchers, and concerned citizens on how to reach a broader cross-section of the population. "PURSUIT" could be improved in a few ways, particularly by discontinuing the publication of articles already printed in other sources — although such material is often interesting and vital (such as the recent piece on Carter, the CFR, etc.), most interested readers have already located these articles before their publication in "PURSUIT." In my opinion "PURSUIT" should circulate original ideas and research of its own readership and should solicit original writings from various sources. Your magazine should attempt to break into other areas of research and should encourage cooperation between people of various political persuasions (the "New Left" bent of the AIB has never been especially useful to educating people to clandestine politics in America). Dick Sprague, Bob Cutler, Gary Shaw and many, many other researchers have unpublished articles, letters, etc., which would certainly be of interest to readers and could not be found in other sources.

*From J.W. Burke, Jr.  
Editor  
"The Grassy Knoll Gazette"  
Intrepid Sports  
903 West Grace St., #2  
Richmond, VA 23220*

I can well understand your dismay and frustration at "PURSUIT's" plummeting subscription figures. I hated to hear it, but I had a feeling it was coming. Issues were coming later and later, and I thought you might be having problems. Still, troubles are relative — I'd be happy to have that many subscribers to "The Grassy Knoll Gazette." I'll send my renewal in early if I can scrape up the money. I hope you are able to continue, even under different circumstances: you could cut the number of pages, or go bi-monthly, etc. If you do have to throw in the towel, I hope you'll seriously consider resuming the articles in "Computers and People," eh? Good Luck. I vote for you to continue, but I can't send the money just now.

From Raymond E. Ritchie  
5 Belmont Ave.  
Randolph, ME 04345

I think "PURSUIT" should stop before too long.

I believe the handwriting has been on the wall for quite a while. I have faithfully paid for a subscription for the past 3 years, but I have no intention (at this time, anyway) to renew. This decision is based upon the articles which have consistently appeared. The quality has slipped drastically when compared with those which appeared in "Computers and Automation."

No longer are we getting "hard fact" articles which open up new territory. Instead, we get political science and theory which is of doubtful validity. When you consider that in all of 31 issues, there were about 8 articles that were of lasting importance, it is not very impressive.

I currently subscribe to both Penn Jones' "TCI" and the AIB's "Clandestine America." The articles in "TCI" show considerable research; "Clandestine America" will contain a mini-bibliography. I respectfully suggest that it would be best if you researched and allowed your work to appear in either "TCI" or "Clandestine America." That would be the best of both worlds. Good luck.

From Edmund C. Berkeley, Editor

We are delighted to have these many expressions of views from our readers.

Point 1: "Issues are coming later and later."  
The usual schedule of "PURSUIT" is "Send to the printer on the 4th of each month. Receive back from the printer in 2 weeks. Then send via first class mail." BUT, if an article comes to us that is exceedingly important and is long, then we print the current issue and the next issue together, and send both issues out together.

Point 2: Increase of Subscriptions: What we asked asked for was NOT a renewal at this time of "PURSUIT." This really solves no problems of increased circulation at all. Instead, it detracts from income later. What we asked for was a SECOND THIRD YEAR SUBSCRIPTION. This subscription could be one coming to the subscriber himself; he might give the second copy to some friend to interest him. Or, this subscription could be entered in the name of a friend or acquaintance. This could become a real expansion of circulation. □

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against the interests of common people. An example is the interest of "big oil" against solar energy. We all of us must become much more aware of the way establishments behave, to distort truth, tell lies, and infest the democratic liberties of the people of the U.S. and of the world. "What we do depends on what we think." If we the people of the U.S. and of the world are denied facts to start with, and logic to go ahead with, how can we behave sensibly?

Tasks such as these are the mission of "PURSUIT." Clearly we must find ways to continue publication. □

Sprague - Continued from page 5

- of Truth," May, 1977.
- /3/ The two official investigations of the Kennedy assassination referred to here are: the investigation by the office of the district attorney of Orleans Parish, New Orleans, LA, 1966 to 1969 (Jim Garrison), and the investigation by the Select Committee on Assassinations of the U.S. House of Representatives, 1976-1977. The investigations by the Schweiker-Hart subcommittee of the Church committee and by the Erwin Watergate committee were never really officially approved by Congress, and so lacked the power and influence to become a threat to the PCG.
  - /4/ "The CIA and the Press," by Carl Bernstein, published by "Rolling Stone," October 4, 1977. A copy of the full unedited manuscript of this article was also made available to the author. The "Rolling Stone" version had selected names omitted.
  - /5/ "The Central Intelligence Agency and the 'New York Times,'" by R.E. Sprague (using pseudonym Samuel F. Thurston), published by "Computers and Automation," July, 1971. Republished by "People and the PURSUIT of Truth," August, 1977.
  - /6/ Bernstein's article also describes the CIA influence over several other media organizations without naming the top executives. These are: the "New York Herald Tribune," the "Saturday Evening Post," Scripps Howard Newspapers, Associated Press, United Press International, Reuters News Service, and the "Miami Herald." A CIA officer told Bernstein, "that's just a small part of the list."
  - /7/ The CIA document was obtained by Harold Weisberg under the Freedom of Information Act. It is dated 4/1/67 and is labelled "Dispatch to Chiefs, Certain Stations and Bases. Document Number 1035-960 for FOAI Review on September 1976. Object: Countering Criticism of the Warren Report."
  - /8/ "The Scavengers and Critics of the Warren Report," by Lawrence Schiller, published by Dell Publishing Co., New York, 1967.
  - /9/ "The Big If," in the "London Sunday Times," September, 18, 1977.
  - /10/ "Marina and Lee," by Marina Oswald and Patricia McMillan, published by Harper and Row, New York, 1977.
  - /11/ A review of the McMillan book appeared in the Sunday "New York Times Book Review," on November 6, 1977. It praised the book to the skies, backed up the Warren Commission, and severely attacked the researchers and the Select Committee.
  - /12/ "Coincidence or Conspiracy," by Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., as told to Michael Ewing, published by Zebra Books, New York, 1977.
  - /13/ "The Taking of America, 1-2-3," by R.E. Sprague, self-published, Hartsdale, NY, 1973; "The Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: The Involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency in the Plans and the Coverup," by R.E. Sprague, published in "People and the PURSUIT of Truth," May, 1975.
  - /14/ "Appointment in Dallas," by Hugh C. McDonald, published by Zebra Books, New York, 1975.
  - /15/ "George de Mohrenschildt," by Willem Oltmans published in the Netherlands, unpublished in the United States.
  - /16/ "Congressional Investigation of Political Assassinations in the United States: The Two Approaches: From the Bottom Up vs. From the Top Down," by R.E. Sprague, published in "People and the PURSUIT of Truth," May, 1977. □