

JFK files should be opened

A fog of disinformation is being put out to counter Oliver Stone's *J.F.K.* movie.

Last week, on CBS-TV's *48 Hours*, Dan Rather glossed over the 1977-79 House Assassinations Committee findings that President Kennedy was "probably assassinated as a result of a conspiracy" and instead Rather endorsed the 1964 Warren Commission report — lone gunman, magic-bullet theory and all.

This, at a time when Rep. Louis Stokes, former chairman of the House Assassinations Committee, has announced he is seeking congressional approval to unseal commission and committee files currently barred from release till the year 2029.

The House committee found the Secret Service "deficient in the performance of its duties," the FBI "failed to investigate adequately the possibility of a conspiracy to assassinate the president," and the Central Intelligence Agency was "deficient in its collection and sharing of information both prior to and subsequent to the assassination." The House report also cited deficiencies in the Warren Commission investigation which claimed only Oswald, a "lone nut," fired from the rear.

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If so, how could a motorcycle cop to the rear of the presidential limosine have been splattered with JFK's blood and brains?

Why do we see in the Zapruder film Jacqueline Kennedy crawling back on the limo trunk to retrieve part of JFK's skull?

Why did a multitude of doctors and medical staff at Dallas' Parkland Hospital and Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland testify to a gaping exit wound in the right rear of the president's head?

Last week, Dan Rather dismissed the persistence of conspiracy theories as if simply some quixotic human impulse to explain the inexplicable. I find it inexplicable that *newsmen* are putting out this aw-shucks myth of unknowable secrets. If there was a conspiracy, as the House committee suggests, and a cover-up, as numerous dogged investigators allege, it means the other assassin(s) and higher-ups got away with removing a president and may still be practicing secret government today.

But don't take my word or Rather's or Stone's or the outside investigators'. Make up your own

mind. Rent David Lifton's *Best Evidence* video and ask how JFK's body left Dallas without an autopsy yet arrived at the official Bethesda autopsy with brain missing. Read Lifton's book or Robert J. Groden and Harrison Edward Livingstone's *High Treason* or scores of others not so much for their interpretations but for the evidence they found.

On *48 Hours*, Rather insisted on "credible evidence." Is the magic-bullet theory credible? Make up your own mind. See if you think the "official" autopsy photos and X-rays are credible. Is it credible accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald was jailed 48 hours without a note taken or recording made? Is it credible Oswald taught himself Russian in idle moments as a Marine stationed in Japan?

And how did Allen Dulles, mastermind of the Cold War CIA and the CIA director fired by JFK, get appointed to the Warren Commission charged with investigating JFK's murder? How could so much vital recorded evidence disappear or be destroyed? If there was a conspiracy/cover-up, who benefits most from keeping files secret?

Unsealing the files in the National Archives would be only a start. We owe it to Jack Kennedy and ourselves to pursue this investigation and banish the cult of "classified" Cold War government secrecy. Open government is our best protection.

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