

# 'JFK' director says Ford,

David Belin and former President Gerald Ford are the last of a dying breed: Warren Commission apologists.

Today, not even the government contends the Warren Commission investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy was an adequate one.

The 1976-79 House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded that the CIA, the FBI and military intelligence withheld information from the Warren Commission, and these agencies and the commission never thoroughly investigated even the possibility of conspiracy.

Belin, former counsel for the commission, and Ford make their case by using a combination of ignorance of new evidence and a selective presentation of Warren Commission material.

**Belin and Ford:** Nineteen medical experts have examined the autopsy photographs and X-rays of President Kennedy and concluded that all the shots struck Kennedy from the rear.

**Evidence:** While the "official" autopsy photos and X-rays do show that all shots came from the rear, the 26 trained medical personnel — doctors, nurses, technicians — who treated the president at Parkland Hospital testified to the Warren Commission that they saw an exit-type wound in the back of the head, a wound that is inconsistent with the photos and X-rays.

Neither the Warren Commission nor the House Select Committee showed the photos and X-rays to the Dallas doctors. Until this happens, the medical evidence proves absolutely nothing.

**Belin and Ford:** Unequivocal ballistics evidence shows that the bullet that struck the president in the head and the bullet that passed through President Kennedy's neck and struck Texas Gov.

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## OLIVER STONE

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John Connally were fired from Oswald's rifle.

**Evidence:** The evidence is far from unequivocal. The Warren Commission tests reported "minor variations" in the various bullet fragments, making the results at best inconclusive.

Belin still believes (as of his 1988 book, "Final Disclosure") that Kennedy was shot in the back of the neck. The autopsy photographs show that the wound was in his *upper back*. Belin and Ford are obviously unaware of the declassified FBI document stating the bullet in the back penetrated only about two inches and did not exit — proving the "single bullet" scenario could not have happened at all.

**Belin and Ford:** A "massive neuromuscular reaction" caused the president's head to move backward when struck from the rear.

**Evidence:** According to the Warren Commission and the House Select Committee, the head shot damaged the right cerebral hemisphere of Kennedy's brain — not a nerve coordination center, not capable of causing a "massive neuromuscular reaction."

**Belin and Ford:** Postal Inspector Holmes delayed Oswald's transfer, thus proving Ruby was not part of any conspiracy.

**Evidence:** If Ruby was part of a conspiracy and Ruby was allowed into the police station by a contact there, then the Holmes excuse is nonsense: The conspirators would make sure Ruby was there for the transfer. Ford and Belin argue that no would-be hit man would kill his target in a police station. No, of course not,



**Gerald Ford**

His actions questioned

unless he had help.

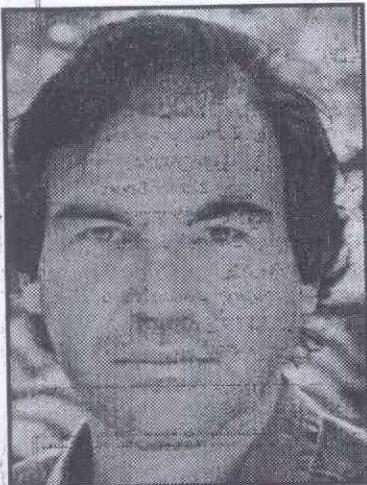
**Belin and Ford:** Rabbi Hillel Silverman said he is convinced Ruby was telling him the truth when he says he wasn't conspiratorially involved.

**Evidence:** Ruby told the Warren Commission he couldn't tell the truth in Dallas and begged to be taken to Washington. He also gave press conferences in 1966 saying he would like to tell the truth. By then Ruby was no longer in contact with Silverman. The rabbi left the Dallas area in 1965. Why Belin thinks we should take Silverman's word over Ruby's is unclear.

**Belin and Ford:** Ballistics evidence proved that Oswald's revolver was the Tippit murder weapon.

**Evidence:** There is no chain of evidence for the four cartridge cases found at the scene. Both policemen who handled them marked them with their initials, but neither could identify the cases as the ones they turned in when they testified to the Warren Commission — they couldn't find

# Belin ignore evidence



**Oliver Stone**  
'They ignored evidence'

their initials.

Furthermore, the cartridge cases — two Western-Winchester and two Remington-Peters — don't match the bullets — three Western-Winchester, one Remington-Peters — recovered from Tippit's body.

**Belin and Ford:** Those of us who served on the Warren Commission and its staff know it to be the truth — beyond a reasonable doubt — that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone gunman who killed President Kennedy and Officer Tippit.

**Evidence:** Apparently Ford and Belin didn't keep in touch with their colleagues. Commissioners Hale Boggs, Richard Russell and John Sherman Cooper had grave doubts from the start about the "single bullet" theory.

In later years they went public with dissatisfaction with the commission's finding. "I had strong doubts," Boggs said. Cooper was "unconvinced" by the single-bullet theory.

In a 1970 Washington Post article, Russell said he believed President Kennedy was killed as the result of a criminal conspiracy and joined forces with researcher Harold Weisberg in an effort to declassify commission transcripts.

Conveniently, Ford and Belin wrap up their presentation by referring to the "other massive body of evidence which conclusively proves beyond a reasonable doubt that Oswald was the lone gunman." They decline to present this massive body of evidence to the readers. Should we take these men at their word? Probably not.

Former President Ford's actions have been called into question more than once in the JFK case. For example, Ford seems to have reported on the Warren Commission to the FBI. A Dec. 12, 1963, internal FBI memo from J. Edgar Hoover aide Cartha DeLoach noted:

"Ford indicated he would keep me thoroughly advised as to the activities of the commission. He stated this would have to be done on a confidential basis, however, he thought it had to be done. He also asked if he could call me from time to time and straighten out questions in his mind concerning our investigation."

With regard to Belin, there is overwhelming evidence that he was less than truthful in taking Charles Givens' testimony for the Warren Commission. Givens, a co-worker of Oswald's at the Book Depository, originally told Dallas police he saw Oswald on the first floor shortly before noon the day of the assassination.

Later, he told the Warren Commission he had seen Oswald alone on the sixth floor at that same time. In a memo written before he spoke to Givens, Belin made note of the first statement, yet he did not mention it when Givens told

him the new "sixth-floor" version.

An FBI document found at the National Archives — available to the commission — put Givens' credibility in doubt. The document quoted Dallas policeman Jack Revill as saying Givens "would probably change his testimony for money."

In his books and articles, Belin champions Givens as the man who placed Oswald on the sixth floor shortly before the shooting. Researchers have asked Belin about this on many occasions; he has yet to provide an answer.

In earlier tandem performance, Belin appeared as Ford's counsel when the former president testified before the House Select Committee. During a break in a hearing, Ford, obviously thinking the microphones were turned off, leaned over to Belin and asked, "Have I compromised anything yet?" — a rather curious statement under the circumstances.

All of Ford and Belin's "evidence" comes from the commission volumes and report — they ignore all of the Commission Documents (not published within the volumes), all of the evidence turned up by the Jim Garrison investigation, the 1975 Senate Intelligence (Church) Committee hearings, the House Select Committee on Assassinations investigation and all of the evidence brought to light over the years by private researchers and scholars through Freedom of Information Act suits and rigorous document analysis.

The reason is simple: None of this evidence strengthens their dog-eared conclusions. Most of it contradicts them.

(Oliver Stone directed the movie "JFK" and was co-writer of its screenplay/special to The Washington Post/distributed by LA Times-Washington Post News Service.)