

Chief Counsel N

NAMES ASSASSINATIONS

'They Killed My President'

24 JUL 80
RALPH G.
SPECTATOR

COPYRIGHT, 1980
SPECTATOR PUBLICATIONS, INC.

BY GROVER B. PROCTOR JR.

"Do I think I know what happened to the President—not simply in the Plaza but who was responsible for it?" asked G. Robert Blakey. "The answer to that is yes. I think I do. As a matter of historical truth, I think I know who killed him and why." In an hour and a half interview with the Spectator, the Cornell University law professor, who served as Chief Counsel and Director of the House Select Committee on Assassinations (which concluded in 1979 that a conspiracy was responsible for the assassination of John F. Kennedy) detailed his special "insider's" knowledge and his conclusions on who killed John F. Kennedy.

Blakey, whose twenty years as an investigator have been highlighted by his work with Robert Kennedy's Justice Department as well as the House Committee, has no doubt about the status of the investigation to date. "Our duty now is to come to grips with the evidence," he said. In doing so, he is confident that the historical truth has been established.

There comes a point in any investigation, reported Blakey, where the investigator knows what happened, but cannot prove it in a court of law: "For historical purposes, I think we now know the Mob killed Kennedy. You give me 25 FBI agents, five investigative prosecutors, and six months in the field, and I will tell you whether this case will be brought to a successful conclusion."

Blakey, long recognized as one of the country's leading experts on the Mafia, expressed doubt that the investigation would result in a successful criminal prosecution. "And this is not because it's 17 years," he said. "Because, in fact, the people who would have been responsible for the President's death are, on the whole, still on the street. The problem is that the intermediate people may not be and that any number of the witnesses have since either died natural deaths or otherwise."

Blakey keys in on three elements of the plot: those in the Mob who were ultimately responsible for planning the murder, the "second gunman" on the Grassy Knoll, and Lee Harvey Oswald. By limiting any future investigation to just the Mob, Blakey has drawn criticism from researchers such as Victor Marchetti (see box) and author Anthony Summers, who find

evidence pointing toward the involvement of some elements of the American Intelligence community.

Blakey defends his assertions by saying it's "an area where the suspicions simply don't firm up in such a way that merits more attention." A central focus of the House Assassination Committee's work, Blakey said, was a possible involvement of the Federal Government. The result of that part of the investigation, Blakey explained, showed that "this case simply does not point toward the intelligence community."

Anthony Summers, whose new book, *Conspiracy*, was reviewed in last week's Spectator, was singled out for criticism by Blakey. "The problem I have with Tony's book, and I know it very well, is his perspective is slightly left of center, as a European intellectual." (Meaning he is looking for official involvement.) Though he admits Summers' book makes "an effort" to evaluate and balance, Blakey maintains that Summers' "preferences were to find an Agency involvement." Blakey insisted that only when one looks at the evidence "from the inside, from the kind of perspective Summers couldn't get," as Blakey claims to have done from his vantage as Chief Counsel to the House Committee, does one learn that the Intelligence angle "does not merit such attention."

Blakey said the bottom line is that "once I have a coherent theory of the assassination — that is, the Mob — the burden of proof is on you to complicate that. The Mob didn't need the American Intelligence community to kill the President." He continued by saying that even if they were involved in some way, their presence was "not significant."

The general principle Blakey uses in the JFK investigation, he said, is the Medieval philosophy of parsimony — that is, that you don't "make unnecessarily complex an explanation of phenomena. You keep the explanation as simple as possible based on the evidence you have." To Blakey, the simplest explanation does not need Intelligence agents to make it work.

"I know — and this is the order in which I know it — that Lee Harvey Oswald was killed by Jack Ruby. Number two, there were two shooters in the Plaza. And only three do I come up with Lee Harvey Oswald shot the President. I know that Jack Ruby shot Oswald a lot stronger than I know that Oswald shot the President. I know that there were two shooters in the Plaza more than I know who either of them were." From these facts, Blakey deduces that Jack Ruby is the key to the mystery.

"The next thing I want to do is

(Continued on page 7)

Blakey

(Continued from page 5)

analyze, who is Jack Ruby? And who is Lee Harvey Oswald? Are there any common things in their lives. When I make a careful analysis of Jack Ruby, it's the Mob pure and simple." Blakey claims this is the link that brought both men to the basement of the Dallas jail on November 24, 1963. Blakey further argues that the Warren Commission reasoned backwards, starting with Oswald killing the President and then Jack Ruby killing Oswald. He maintains that this reasoning does not get at the truth because it inverts the proportional relevance of the key factors.

Of the Mob bosses to whom the House report ascribed "motive, means and opportunity" to kill the President, Carlos Marcello of New Orleans and Santos Trafficante of Tampa, Blakey had little further to say. In fact, though he does not publicly doubt the Mob's ultimate culpability, he maintains that it was even possible that their subordinates executed the plot for them. Just as Henry II called out for some knight to "rid the king of a meddling bishop," Blakey said, so, too could Marcello's reported Sicilian curse to the Kennedy's, "Let this stone be taken from my shoe" have been the basis for underlings to plot the assassination. "Carlos Marcello himself may be perfectly innocent, but then people who worked for him did it on their own." Blakey is searching for this group of intermediaries.

Conversely, of the "second gunman" the House Assassinations Committee proved to have been firing from the famed Grassy Knoll in front of the President's motorcade, Blakey is much more verbal, "I can tell you an awful lot about him. First of all, I can tell you he was male. Of all of Oswald's companions, none have been suggested to be female. They also are not old men and they're not young men. They're 25 to 35. All of the people Oswald was seen with tend to be Cuban in character. So, the people who were involved in the assassination effort with Oswald in all likelihood were of Cuban derivation. I can probably give you a general notion of address, in the sense that in all likelihood he was Cuban, which would mean his address would be either New Orleans or Miami."

Blakey maintains that to this day the second gunman probably thinks he killed Kennedy. And assuming he was not eliminated as was Oswald after the assassination, he has secluded himself in fear of his life. The final shot fired from behind the President and the one the second gunman fired occurred within 0.7 second of each other. Blakey said the gunman heard his own shot, saw the President's head explode, and assumed he did it. Though the forensic evidence demonstrates quite clearly, maintains Blakey, that the fatal shot came from behind, the second gunman believes otherwise and fears for his life from authorities and from his Mob employers. Asked if he has any reasonable expectations that we will ever know who the second gunman was, Blakey confidently said, "Oh, sure."

Finally, of the guilt of Lee Harvey

Oswald, Blakey does not equivocate. "The evidence is simply overwhelming that Oswald did it. Oswald is guilty beyond all reasonable doubt." Not all investigators agree.

Anthony Summers quotes eye-witnesses and plots the timing of Oswald's known movements to come to the conclusion that Oswald could not have been in the sixth-floor sniper's nest at the time the shots were fired. Commenting on Summers' reasoning, Blakey was adamant. "That's foolishness. Why Tony (Summers) would take that position I find very troublesome. In fact, it's almost to the point where it makes me tend to question his judgment."

Blakey quickly listed the evidence against Oswald that makes him certain of guilt: it was his rifle, with which he was photographed and on which were found his fingerprints; the photos were signed on the back by Oswald; he was seen on the sixth floor about 45 minutes before the shooting at which time he indicated he would not be going downstairs for lunch; his fingerprints were found on a carton that formed part of the sniper's nest and on the bag that may have been the vehicle for bringing the rifle into the building. And most telling, said Blakey, were his actions of fleeing the building, shooting a policeman, and when caught, not screaming *Frame* vehemently.

Blakey describes Oswald as "a loner type, a misfit," who, while not formally well educated, "and thus having the defects of a person who has not been to college and studied systematically," was a prime target to be absorbed into the plot. "That organized crime figures would see in him someone to enlist in an effort to kill Kennedy seems to me perfectly obvious," Blakey said. He was asked if he thought this had been done through Carlos Marcello's lieutenant and Oswald's long-time acquaintance David Ferrie, and he replied, "Absolutely. That's hard evidence."

Why continue the investigation, 17 years later? "They killed my President and got away with it!" said Blakey, whose own book on the assassination will be published in November. Though he believes in Oswald's guilt, he says it is irrelevant now. "I don't care whether he did it or not. The only issue that's outstanding in this case, in my judgement, is in behalf of whom did the person behind the fence act." Finding these intermediate plotters and hence a "final truth" about the JFK murder, Blakey maintains, is well within our grasp if we will pursue it.

\$500 NEW (120) SHOW
of the technology
respected separates,
more power and
features than anythin
price range.

Like a switchable
control that lets you
characteristics to v