

Dear Mr. Retro,

9/7/00

It is impossible for me to respond fully to your 8/29 and enclosures because in a week I'll be hospitalized for arterial surgery. I do not know how long it will be before I'll be able to work fully at what keeps me more than busy.

You ask about Exhibits 133A and B. I've had doubts about them and I do not trust the HSCA's experts, so I don't really know.

On th "tramp" sketch: that is not the one prepared in Memphis. It was prepared a little later in Mexico City, by an artist, so it is not "the Martin Luther King composite drawing." There also are several others prepared by the FBI from witness descriptions of various people.

The paper from the Grassy Knoll Gazette of 7/4/00 refers to and quote Guinn. On p. 9 he is quoted as having said in 8/64 that "I cannot say what he found out about Oswald..." (emphasis added) until the ME was out. If you can provide a copy of that story I'd appreciate it because it does indicate that he was in on the files and all my information, from many records and depending Gallagher and others, is that he not only was not in on them but was not trusted by the FBI.

If you have spare copies of the Nichols photos to which you refer I'd appreciate copies on the possibility of using them in litigation. Guinn's speculations about the custodians are not valid. Byzantine as it may appear, there is little doubt that it was pitched before the FBI dug it up and "tested" it.

The Springfield FBI stonewalled you. If you want to follow that further I suggest that you ask them to respond from their records, your request, not what was released by FBIHQ and that if the response is not satisfactory to appeal that to Abaa again, with copies of the request(s) and response(s).

If you want to butt against the CIA stonewall again you might tell them that they, supposedly, are processing all JFK assassination records and that what you asked for should be included in them, that these requests are at least 5 years old, etc., and that there is considerable public interest in knowing whether the arms were made for the CIA, as the FBI hints, or whether the FBI was up to its usual trick of trying to put the rat on the CIA. (It did this with other matters, as I have turned over to a reporter, and I'll provide him with copies, asking him to withhold your name.) Tell them you are not asking them to do research but to either provide existing records or notify you that no pertinent record exist after a search made in good faith and with due diligence.

Blasdere is no longer FBI FOIA chief and the SA who wrote that letter, Martin Wood, has been reassigned, but the replacements are experienced stonewallers. What they sent you is from FBIHQ records only. However, I don't know what else can be in Springfield unless you do not trust the "Lin letters."

Thanks and best wishes,

8/29/80

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I HOPE YOU ARE WELL. IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME SINCE I CONTACTED YOU SO I THOUGHT I'D SEND ALONG SOME MATERIAL, SOME OF WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO YOU.

ENCLOSED -

- 1) TWO ARTICLES BY ME IN THE JFK - ASSASSINATION FORUM REGARDING THE HSCA
- 2) ONE ARTICLE ABOUT ME IN THE QUINCY SUN
- 3) ONE ARTICLE BY ME IN THE GRASSY KNOLL GAZETTE REGARDING N.A.A. (EXCUSE THE EDITOR - HE "THINKS" HE HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR).
- 4) A LETTER FROM PETER ERBE AND QUESTIONNAIRE FILLED OUT BY NURSE AUDREY BELL (THIS SHOULD INTEREST YOU).
- 5) MY CORRESPONDENCE, TO DATE, IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SOURCE OF THE AMMUNITION
 - a) WARREN REPORT - AMMO "RECENTLY MADE"
 - b) OLIN LETTER TO MARK LANE - AMMO = 1944
 - c) FBI DOCUMENT RELEASED IN 1977 WITH 80,000 OTHER PAGES - AMMO = 1954 PURCHASE = USMC
FBI SPECULATES CIA (I SENT THIS TO YOU PRIOR).

(2)

1) 1978 OLIN - AMMO = 1954, NOT 1944. I BELIEVE THE TYPO ERROR WAS A CONSISTENTLY MADE ONE. OTHER RESEARCHERS, EARLY ON, GOT A 1944 ANSWER TOO, TRUE? ALSO BY 1954, THE M-1 WAS BEING PRODUCED, TRUE?

2) 1980 OLIN - PURCHASE NOT BY USMC OR CIA (WHICH CONTRADICTS FBI MEMO).

b) CIA WILL SEARCH - I HAVE NOT FOLLOWED UP ON THIS. SHOULD I DO SO?

g) FBI - THE TWO SHIPMENT PAGES - NO INDICES, LETTERHEADS - NO TO WHOM, FROM WHOM, OR SPECIFICATION OF WHAT IS BEING SENT. WHEW!

h) REP. PREYER - PASS THE BUCK. I WROTE TO 5 OTHER HSCA REPS WHO IGNORED ME.

i) JUSTICE DEPT - NO HELP; THEY SAY I HAVE ALL THERE IS.

j) FBI-SPRINGFIELD - AS YOU CAN SEE, I MUST GO THERE. I WROTE BACK ASKING THE COST FOR ALL OF THEIR DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THIS CASE. NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED.

k) ARMY - MISSOURI - I HAVE NOT HEARD FROM THE PENTAGON YET.

I HAVE WRITTEN TO OLIN AGAIN FOR COPIES OF THEIR RECORDS.

③

ANY SUGGESTIONS ON YOUR PART AS TO
HOW I SHOULD PROCEED WILL BE APPRECIATED.
SHOULD I WRITE TO THE USMC?

I HAVE TWO QUESTIONS (IF YOU HAVE TIME):

1) DO YOU ACCEPT THE HSCA EXPERTS' OPINIONS THAT
THE NOTORIOUS OSWALD PHOTOS (CE 133A+B) ARE GENUINE?

2) YEARS AGO, YOU WROTE TO ME THAT YOU HAD
FOUND OUT THE STORY BEHIND OR AN EXPLANATION
FOR THE UNCANNY RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN
THE FIRST TRAMP AND THE MARTIN LUTHER
KING COMPOSITE DRAWING, BUT YOU NEVER TOLD ME
WHAT YOU DISCOVERED. I AM EAGER TO KNOW.

I WILL KEEP YOU POSTED ON ANYTHING
ELSE THAT COMES UP. I HOPE TO HEAR FROM
YOU SOON.

Sincerely,
Edgar F. Tatro

EDGAR F. TATRO

51 EDGEHONT RD.

BRAINTREE, MASS.
02184

Kennedy 'victim of gangsters'

PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S assassination was probably the result of a conspiracy involving organized crime, according to a leaked version of a report by the Assassinations Committee of the American House of Representatives.

The committee's report is not due out until next month, but, according to NBC News, a final draft "does not prove, but discusses in great detail, how and why individual members of organized crime could have arranged the murder."

"The committee will say President Kennedy was probably assassinated as a result of a conspiracy," NBC said. "It will explain its conclusions that an acoustic analysis of the sound of the shots makes it highly probable two gunmen were shooting—even though three of the committee's 12 members questioned the acoustics evidence."

STRONGEST EFFORT

The network said the final report would say that organized crime's battle with John Kennedy and his brother Robert dated back to the McClellan anti-rackets hearings of the 1950s. Later, the Kennedy administration, with Robert as Attorney General, brought about the strongest effort ever against organized crime.

"The report names Carlos Marcello and Santo Trafficante as the most likely organized crime bosses to have been involved," NBC said. "It provides evidence, some of it inconclusive, that they and Teamster leader Jimmy Hoffa threatened John Kennedy, Robert Kennedy or both."

"Further, it suggests associations through which they could have influenced accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald or Oswald's killer, Jack Ruby."

Both Marcello, underworld boss in New Orleans and Dallas, and Trafficante, one-time underworld boss in Cuba, denied involvement. NBC said.—UPI

With sincere apologies to patient subscribers, here - at last - is a belated Issue No. 34. Sorry to have taken so long to re-appear after the February publication but we can blame the apparent lack of news and developments as related to the JFK case, and the empty promises of the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Their interim Final Report of 2 January 1979 stated that it was anticipated that their entire Final Report would be published by 30 March 1979. It was therefore decided to defer our next issue to fully cover this momentous publication but that date, and another deadline, 1 May 1979, passed by without any tangible result. As the short "leaked" article, which appeared in the (London) Sunday Telegraph for 3 June 1979 would suggest that we will, in fact, have to wait until July for the HSCA's verdict this issue of JFK.AF will be rushed out to prove that it is still in existence! It will include "bits and pieces" of information gleaned over the last few months, but is generally devoted to the printed word with information of books and articles etc which you may have missed and not be aware of. Hopefully, next month, it will be "business as usual" with reactions to the news from Washington?

Since the muted cries of "conspiracy!" at the end of 1978 comparatively little has been heard from Messrs Blakey, Stokes & Co. We are therefore indebted to our fellow-researcher, Edgar Tatro, for this account of Louis Stokes in action in Boston:

"On Monday, 19 March 1979, Representative Louis Stokes, the Chairman of the HSCA, lectured at Boston University and it is clear that his greatest blunder was allowing a question and answer period. Although I could not attend since, ironically, I teach a course on the JFK assassination Monday nights, I did send a former student, Jim Coughlin, to get the lowdown and according to him, the method of avoiding pertinent questions by means of side stepping gobbledeygook, is still alive and well and living in Washington.

Apparently Mr Stokes' favourite pastime was a feeble attempt to assure the audience that most of the questions that he couldn't answer himself would be answered in the Final Report by a horde of nameless, faceless experts and scientists.

Despite this convenient way to hide his ignorance, Stokes did manage to put his foot (at least, up to his knee) in his mouth on several occasions. He informed his captives that CE 133 A+B, the notorious yard photographs of Oswald, were legitimate pictures, and that again, it was the

sensitivity of the Kennedy family which prevented the Autopsy photos from being released. However, this was trivial pabulum of what was to follow.

Stokes, as expected, resurrected the stench of CE 399, the magic bullet, but he added a new wrinkle. He explained that CE 399 was pristine in shape because "it only hit soft tissue". This incredible remark indicates more than ignorance; it exposes blatant dishonesty and sheer stupidity. When Mr Coughlin appropriately pointed out that CE 399 is credited with shattering John Connally's fifth rib and traversing his right wrist, Mr Stokes then suggested that the scientists knew more about this subject than he did. Frankly, how could they know less! Keep in mind that Officer Charles Harbison and Nurse Audrey Bell had testified before the HSCA that a number of fragments had allegedly been removed from Connally's wrist.

Stokes was also asked about Emilio Santana's testimony before a New Orleans Grand Jury in which he confessed firing two shots at President Kennedy from the Dal-Tex building on November 22, 1963. Stokes had no knowledge of this material at all. Santana's veracity is not the issue, but Stokes' ignorance of a well-known character in this scenario is amazing.

Alas, we come to grips with the comment of all comments. Mr Stokes claimed that there were no ties between Jack Ruby and the Mafia. According to Stokes, Ruby was a "buffoon". I guess Al Capone, Paul Dorfman, Paul Rowland Jones, Paul "Needlenose" Labriola, Jim Weinberg, Dave Yaras, Lenny Patrick, Barney Baker, Dusty Miller, Irwin Weiner, among others, should be considered no more than circus clowns!

I think it is dramatically obvious who deserves the epithet of "buffoon". "

In reaction to our inclusion in Issue No. 33 of Blakey's "freudian slip" it was suggested from a certain quarter that the "blacking out" of the details of the addressee was the bad sight of the month.

There was no nefarious reason on our part - it was merely because of the fact that we didn't have the time to obtain Jeff Hoyle's permission to reprint and it was not our intention to cause him any embarrassment.

Here, therefore, is an unexpurgated re-run - with his blessing!!

We only aim to please.....

LOCKWOOD CIRCLE, SWANSEA, MASSACHUSETTS
G. ROBERT BLAKEY, JR.
CHIEF COUNSEL AND DIRECTOR
1978-1979

Select Committee on Assassinations
U.S. House of Representatives
1000 POLICE OFFICE BUILDING, JENNIFER
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20519

November 21, 1978

Mr. Jeffrey P. Hoyle
56 Lockwood Circle
Swansea, MA 02777

Dear Mr. Hoyle:

Thank you for your letter of October 17, 1978, and for your interest in the work of the Select Committee on Assassinations.

Let me assure you that the comments raised in your letter have been brought to the attention of those people directly involved in the assassination of President Kennedy for their use.

Since the Committee's inception, the comments and suggestions of concerned citizens such as yourself who have taken the time to write have been appreciated and given us interesting issues to study.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

G. Robert Blakey
G. Robert Blakey
Chief Counsel and Director

GRB:11

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JFK Assassination FORUM

Number 32
January 1979

If the two photographs below, which were published in the 15 January 1979 issue of Newsweek, depict Messrs Blakey and Stokes as somewhat dumbfounded and nonplussed, it is probably because they were as surprised as the rest of us, including the critical and research community, were, when the House Committee announced a conspiracy verdict in their Interim Report on the JFK and Martin Luther King assassinations!

Blakey, Stokes: A case for conspiracy



At this stage we cannot comment too much on this bombshell and must await the Final Report. The 600-page Report and up to 40(!) volumes of evidence, exhibits and scientific analysis is due to be published about 30 March. We will include all details, ordering information and costs etc. just as soon as we are advised.

It is impossible to believe that last-minute evidence by acoustic experts Weiss and Aschkenasy turned the Committee around. We were informed by reliable sources that, even as late as mid-

December that they were headed towards a lone-assassin conclusion to their two-year probe and that massive segments of their Final Report had, in fact even been written BEFORE their Public Hearings into the JFK assassination commenced last September. What changed their minds to such a radical extent?

Ed Tatro's following article is an excellent examination but bear in mind two important points before becoming too estatic at the recent news. (1) The Committee have recommended that the inquiry into the true facts behind the Dallas murder now be handed over to the U.S. Justice Department for their action. If Robert Blakey is "rewarded" for his recent efforts as Chief Counsel to HSCA as the successor to Griffin Bell as Attorney-General he will AGAIN be in charge of any new official investigation. How about that?? (2) As the Committee have seemingly cleared of implication in the JFK assassination, any government agencies, the Soviet and Cuban governments, Organized Crime and anti-Castro Cuban groups, just who does that leave as the possible assassins?

Of course, as Richardson Preyer (Chairman of the JFK Subcommittee) and the (London) Observer columnist Laurence Marks have pointed out - the Dealey Plaza ambush could "be a conspiracy of two lone nuts."

Enough said - for the moment!!

AN OVERVIEW OF THE HSCA PUBLIC HEARINGS

by Edgar F. Tatro

Although my occupation has not allowed me to keep as vigilant a watch on the House Select Committee on Assassinations as I would have liked,

I saw, heard, and read enough to obtain an overview of what took place and I didn't like it. If it were not for the diligent and meticulous acoustical experts, Dr Weiss, Ernest Aschkenasy and Dr Barger, and their efforts, the Warren Commission would have been almost totally reincarnated, give or take a few lies. At any rate, all members of the "critics", big and small contributors, deserve an apology from the government, the media and all those closed-minded, allegedly patriotic, but actually gullible and blind individuals who derided us and threatened us by various means for years. Since little has been truly developed that various critics hadn't already determined before, I, for one, wouldn't accept it anyway, but out of a burning, self-righteous pride, I'd like to hear a mass apology.

Where to begin a diatribe directed at the HSCA is difficult, since there is so much to criticize (even before their report is published). The cursory examination of Commander James J. Humes, who conducted a medical "fiasco" which was politely termed an "autopsy" and the lack of extensive ballistics tests to demonstrate that CE399, the magic bullet of the even more mythical and absurd single bullet theory, was even remotely possible, is absolutely inexcusable and unforgivable for all time.

The friendly treatment of Commander Humes was an indication of another Warren Commission trend into which HSCA would trap itself. As its predecessor, the Congressional investigators, whether conscious of it or not, divided witnesses into friendly and unfriendly camps. Humes was merely toyed with for ten minutes whereas individuals such as Dr Cyril Wecht and Dr Mark Weiss, whose testimony indicated conspiracy, were relentlessly interrogated for hours. Dr Wecht, who in my opinion was treated more like a criminal than a Forensic Pathologist, didn't crack under the pressure, so he was merely ignored. Instead of allowing logic and common sense to prevail over the medical evidence, a popularity vote of eight to one decided the issue for the Committee. The Acoustical experts, fortunately, couldn't be ignored or dismissed, although a Chicago firm gave it their best effort to challenge those findings, but failed to do so.

On the other hand, "The Umbrella Man" - allegedly, L. Stephen Witt - was trusted beyond belief. The Committee believed, in fact, that he was "The Umbrella Man", believed that the umbrella he presented to them was the same one in question, and believed his far-fetched, albeit possible explanation for his actions apparently without any substantiation to support any of his contentions. Now, I have no opinion as to the guilt or innocence of "The Umbrella Man", but I do not appreciate the superficial manner with which he was treated. I found Representative Stokes' feeble attempt at humour when he suggested that the umbrella be pointed away from himself when it was opened for display as distasteful. If Witt had employed an umbrella gun on November 22, 1963, would he have been stupid enough to bring it with him to Washington? If the umbrella was a visual coordination signal to others, what would opening it now prove? This was intended to be a mature investigation into the assassination of the President of the United States, not a cartoon carnival.

If the parading of the alleged "Umbrella Man" before the public was an attempt to "get the critics", such a practice is also distasteful, and downright disgraceful. Robert Cutler, key author of the umbrella research, has steadfastly analyzed and researched this case for many years. The "critical community" should be applauded for turning over every rock and inspecting every scintilla of evidence, not ridiculed if one concept does not hit paydirt. Would it have been wise to ignore the possible ramifications of such an odd character with an umbrella in 65° weather on a sunny day? Finally, I vehemently deplored Stokes' praising of Witt as if he had performed a great duty for his country and contributed to the investigation when just minutes before he had candidly admitted that he would not have voluntarily stepped forward even if he had known they were

looking for him. Stokes' praising of a man for obeying a legal subpoena can only be compared to the plastic compliments dished out every day on Hollywood's bland TV talk shows.

The one aspect of the "Umbrella Man" scenario of which I did approve was his photograph being published by the mass media as a last ditch effort to identify and subsequently subpoena him. As a rule of thumb, such a method might be dangerous, but fifteen years have passed us by so it was a "nothing ventured, nothing gained" proposal. I don't understand why photos of other potentially key unidentified figures were not published for the same purpose. Why weren't all the unknown mystery men, some arrested, some not, of that day, published along with the "Umbrella Man's" photo? Unless there are some solid leads privately available - (I do know of two such cases!) - I can't comprehend why only the "Umbrella Man" along with another photo and one composite drawing were isolated. Was that just a propaganda game?

There are many other things that puzzle me about this Congressional Investigation. I don't understand how the eight forensic pathologists who essentially support the Warren Report were selected and how they could legitimately support those conclusions. I do know that some of these men have close associations with previous government panel medical judges. Regardless of their motives, Dr Cyril Wecht made a shambles of the single bullet theory and properly chastised the Committee for the absence of new ballistics tests, properly performed this time. I don't understand how forensic pathologists, Dr John Nichols and Dr Charles Wilber, who have both published irrefutable medical evidence citing conspiracy, cover-up and possible fabrication of medical materials, could be ignored.

Likewise I question why I should trust the ballistics experts brought in, when I know other experts, who are equally qualified, who adamantly disagree with these officials who were allowed to testify. I question the validity of the Neutron Activation Analysis by Dr Vincent Guinn. Harold Weisberg's criticisms of Guinn's previous connection to the original investigation are sound. I also question if it is convenient that the Tague curb scar, which has long been suspected as another assassin's responsibility, no longer possesses sufficient metal for testing. It appears that the old ploy of stacking the deck was displayed in full force again.

I am curious to know why Sylvia Duran, the key witness as to whether Oswald ever visited the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City, did not testify. We now know that the Mexico City phone tape was NOT Oswald's voice. We have known since the beginning that the Mexico City photos were NOT Oswald's mug, but the face of a still-unidentified man. Critics have reasonably questioned the possibility of an Oswald impersonator or impersonators. The fingerprint, body scars and height discrepancies, and even Hoover's documented suspicion mandate that Sylvia Duran be heard. Can any of us be sure that Oswald is in Oswald's grave? I figure he is there, but wouldn't it be nice to know and not assume?

I can't believe that the HSCA can rule out any organization as conspiring to kill President Kennedy, particularly since they can't name another gunman. Such reasoning is absurd. The intricate labyrinth of names and associations pertaining to this case and other political crimes exposed by Peter Dale Scott, George M. Evica, Robert Sam Anson and others is overwhelming. How could any committee make such a naive statement and consider itself honest and rational? Stokes admits that the CIA, the FBI and the Secret Service did a lousy job, but that there was no deliberate cover-up. Will someone please define "deliberate" for me? Orwell's "two plus two is five" has come home to roost!

A few other points of wonder come to mind. I wonder why the Committee

felt the motorcyclist "accidentally" left on his Channel One button. I wonder if the wayward Police motorcyclist who left the motorcade route has been ignored. I found Chief Counsel Blakey's hypothetical conclusion, based upon not even a shred of evidence or testimony, that Robert Kennedy destroyed his brother's brain and brain tissue slides, absolutely incredible. It's amazing how these people only accuse the dead!

I wonder how any sane member of that Committee thinks they have satisfactorily answered all the questions pertaining to all the untimely deaths of the last decade and a half by showing that the 100,000 trillion to one odds that these deaths were of an innocent nature was an inaccurate compilation. That was the greatest piece of statistical gobbledegook I have ever heard in my lifetime. Either investigate the particular murders in question or just plain shut up. Numerical fallacious arguments prove nothing and waste valuable time, money and manpower.

I wonder if all the materials submitted to either Representative Gonzalez and/or former Chief Counsel Richard A. Sprague, who both resigned, made it to the appropriate hands when Blakey took command, assuming one might call him "appropriate". I wonder if Image Enhancement was performed on the photo and blow-ups showing a man-like figure holding a rifle-like object on the grassy knoll south, the knoll across from the famous one, which I twice sent to the Committee. The figure was discovered by diligent researcher Emory Brown. I wonder how the Committee can still justify their case against Lee Harvey Oswald, if they have carefully inspected the palmprint, the paperbag, the curtain rods photos, the perch photos, the ammunition source, the postal receipt discrepancies, the Givens' story, the Riva modification rifle source, the notorious Oswald photos, ad nauseum. Was the dedicated and prolific work of Harold Weisberg, Sylvia Meagher, Mark Lane, Josiah Thompson, Fred Newcomb and others simply buried at the outset?

I realise that government cannot investigate the government. Leon Jaworski is three times losing proof of that. However, I shiver at the possible depths of this committee's conflict of interest. Mark Lane recently stated on Radio that Representative Dodd was a law partner of the former FBI Head, L. Patrick Gray, of notorious Watergate fame. I have read published reports that G. Robert Blakey had previous legal associations not only with Louis Nizer, the Warren Report preface writer, but also with Moe Dalitz who is reputed to be the Head of the Syndicate in Cleveland. Carl Oglesby reminds us that a Dalitz associate's name was discovered in Jack Ruby's address book. If true, what a mess!

Maybe much of what I have written will be easily dismissed when the HSCA Final Report is published, but I seriously doubt it. I hope that they will make everything available to those of us concerned, but I doubt that too. There is something quite twisted in the fact that we have to pay out money to purchase reports and documents which show that we have been diddled with again. I have little faith that much will be accomplished by the Justice Department and the FBI with the material which ends up in their hands. After all, they are part of the disease, not the cure! Justice Department spokesmen have already expressed publicly their lack of desire to pursue the case. Thus the killers and those who covered up can smile once again, as if they had ever stopped smiling.

However, one good thing came out of all of this. The old rogues are retiring or dying off, or in some cases, being picked off. Their replacements are filing in. At least we will know who the new creeps are to whom we will need to devote our attention.

.....

QJC Teacher Convinced 3 Gunmen In

By JONATHAN BURAK

When Lee Harvey Oswald was killed, Edgar Tatro, a teenager at the time, jumped up and down for joy.

He was thoroughly convinced that what he was being told on the television was the truth.

"My country, right or wrong, I had no reason to doubt anything about this country and its institutions whatever," he recalls.

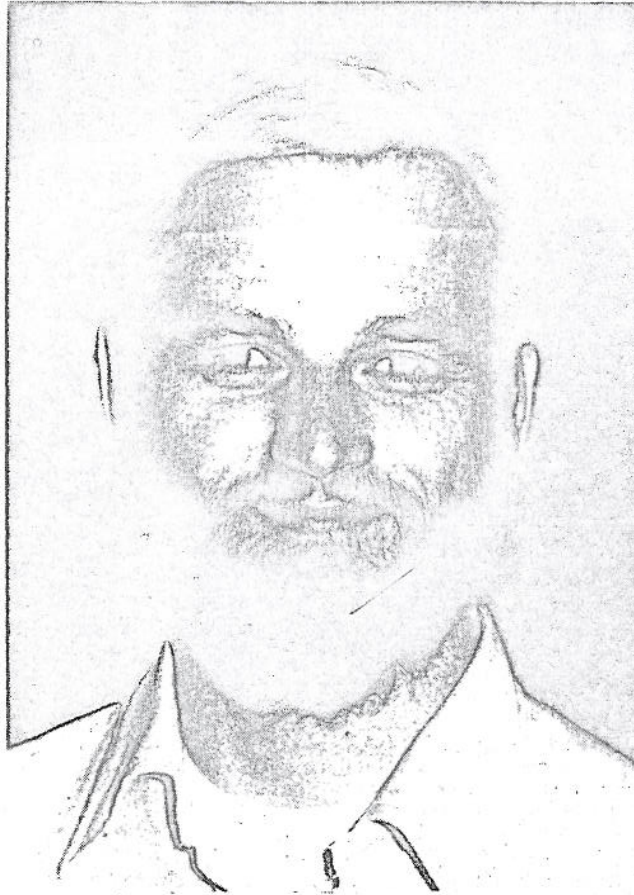
But later, when his father came home, and in a happy voice he told him Oswald had been shot, his father replied, "Did you ever think that the man who shot him, shot him to shut him up, that there is more to this than just one man killing one man, and then another man killing another man?"

That started him on his way.

Edgar Tatro teaches "The Kennedy Assassination," a non-credit course offered by Quincy Junior College's Division of Continuing Education. He has been conducting his own intensive research into the assassination since 1966. He has become a most knowledgeable source on the subject. His research has been published internationally, and his findings have been footnoted in several of the major texts on the topic. He has been asked to lecture at Harvard, B. U., Boston State College, and Suffolk University. He presently teaches English at Quincy High School. He has a masters degree in education, and is currently doing advanced graduate work at Boston State College.

Tatro has shaped his course not only as a study of the facts surrounding the assassination, but as a study about the intelligence agencies and what their function is, police techniques, medicine, forensic pathology, ballistics, and other diversified fields. Above all, it is a study of logic and critical thinking.

"People usually jump the gun, they make hasty generalizations; they fall into all kinds of fallacious



EDGAR TATRO (Jonathan Burak Photo)

arguments," he says. "And by looking at this material, it makes people not only think twice, it makes them think four or five times; to not accept something because someone famous said so; to not accept something because a source of 'unquestionable honesty' said so; or because it looks like that is the way it happened. Most things in life are not black and white - they're gray, and you've got to look at all the angles."

Tatro, when asked, has tried to briefly synopsize some of the massive amount of material involved in looking at the case for

its conspiratorial aspects:

"The House Committee on Assassinations has concluded that there was a conspiracy, and the major reason was the acoustics tests. There was a tape inadvertently made of the shots in Dealey Plaza, when a motorcycle patrolman left the microphone on his radio locked on, and from the tape, experts in the field of acoustics have proven that there were four shots fired, as opposed to the three shots the Warren Commission said there were. And they proved that the third shot came from the front, the opposite direction of Oswald, who was allegedly situated to the rear of

the President's car. This proved that there was a second gunman.

"In addition, my main contention is that there were three gunmen to the rear of President Kennedy, as well as a gunman from the front. The acoustics tests proved that the difference in time between the first two shots, both from the rear, is only 1.6 seconds. The FBI had concluded in 1964 that Oswald's rifle would take at least 2.3 seconds to fire consecutive shots. The House congressional committee's attempt to fire two shots in allotted 1.6 seconds time failed miserably. Only by firing the rifle without aiming it, were they able to duplicate the required time. Since Oswald's alleged perch was situated at an awkward angle with a tree partially blocking view and the car moving away from the time, I am convinced that there is strong evidence of two gunmen firing two separate shots from the rear.

"The areas of concern are endless, but in a nutshell, these are some of the major points:

- "Jack Ruby's extensive connections to organized crime.
- "Lee Harvey Oswald's numerous associations to the intelligence agencies of this country.
- "The dozens of mysterious deaths of key witnesses throughout the years.
- "The lack of thorough investigations into the backgrounds of other arrested suspects of that day.
- "The disappearance of crucial documents and photographs from the National Archives, including the President's brain tissue slides and x-rays.
- "The sloppiness of the autopsy which was never properly completed.
- "The refusal of the Warren Commission to conduct ballistics tests to substantiate that the single bullet theory is possible.
- "The failure of the assassination committee to check

Convinced 3 Gunmen In JFK Assassination



(Jonathan Burak Photo)

conspiratorial aspects: The House Committee on assassinations has concluded there was a conspiracy, and major reason was the acoustics: There was a tape, inadvertently made of the shots in Dealey Plaza, when a motorcycle policeman left the microphone on radio locked on, and from the experts in the field of acoustics have proven that there were four shots fired, as opposed to the three shots the Warren Commission said there were. And it proved that the third shot came from the front, the opposite direction of Oswald, who was allegedly situated to the rear of

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- "The sloppiness of the autopsy which was never properly completed.
- "The refusal of the new assassinations committee to conduct ballistics tests to substantiate that the single bullet theory is possible.
- "The failure of the assassinations committee to closely

... I think most of the problems we have today result from the day Kennedy was shot. I think we've gone down the tubes since that day ...'

scrutinize all of the physical evidence used to incriminate Oswald, several pieces of which are highly questionable.

• "And the failure to delve into the very real possibility that Oswald was not Oswald, but an imposter, as suggested by the discrepancies of Oswald's body scars, fingerprint cards, and even governmental documents."

Given his pro-conspiracy personal viewpoint, Tatro notes he has to concentrate on teaching the course in an objective manner.

"Nobody is totally objective. Maybe Mr. Spock from Star Trek; he's probably the only one. But in the classroom I try as much as is humanly possible to present the facts as they are. If something is an absolute scientific fact, then I state it as such. If something is my opinion, I will state it as my opinion and try to explain why I feel that way."

Tatro has mixed feelings about the House Committee on Assassination's conclusions this past year.

"In certain areas I think they did a very thorough job. But the problem comes down to - Can the Government investigate the Government? Can we trust these men? The assassination committee continues to accept the single bullet theory, that one bullet went through both President Kennedy and Governor Connally, and I still have questions and reservations... The House Committee spent six million dollars proving there was a conspiracy, instead of taking the six million dollars, accepting the fact that there was a conspiracy, and going after the people who killed him."

Even now, Tatro believes that it is remotely possible that there

could be arrests and convictions for the murder of President Kennedy, if the Justice Department were to pursue the case with all its resources.

Tatro would like to see his course become accredited by Quincy Junior College, because it would bring in a more diversified group of students. The Kennedy Assassination is already being taught as an accredited course in several colleges throughout the country.

"Quincy is a very conservative community, and it's a very controversial subject," he says. "Quincy Junior College is a city school. There may be some concern that such a subject can not be dealt with totally objectively. They don't want someone to use the public forum to give their own private views, and I think that's a very valuable point: Private universities, like B. U., don't have to worry about public opinion, whereas a public school does. I think I could do it objectively."

"No one individual can change the world. You can only put a dent into it. I figure people like me keep certain people in government a little more honest, and a scintilla of honesty is better than nothing, because I think most of the problems we have today result from the day Kennedy was killed. I think we've gone down the tubes since that day, and most of our problems, either directly or indirectly, relate to that day."

Tatro will continue in his research, and in teaching the subject which holds much meaning to him. Says he:

"Freedom causes abuse of freedom, and that's why you have to keep questioning, because if you don't, you will lose it all."