

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Don Cannon Show

WBBM Radio

February 1, 1968 - 3:00 PM

Chicago

INTERVIEW HAROLD WEISBERG

GUESTS: Harold Weisberg, author, "Whitewash I,II,III" and "Oswald in New Orleans".

Professor James Thompson, Northwestern University.

DON CANNON: ...YOU had no presumptions before you began investigating as to who did anything?

HAROLD WEISBERG: THAT's correct.

CANNON: YOU used the inductive method.

WEISBERG: Let me give it to you in terms of the conclusion of Whitewash, my first book, which was the first book on this subject. It was finished the middle of February '65. It was first published in August of 1965 and it covers pretty much the whole field. The conclusion was, "The expected job has not been done and must be, entirely in public and preferably by Congress."

In the course of reaching this conclusion, I think that I utterly destroyed every one of the Commission's major conclusions.

JAMES THOMPSON: What beliefs did you develop then about what went on -- what actually happened.

WEISBERG: The very first thing I wrote on this subject was a lead in summary for my agent for a magazine article. I had an agent then. This is what cost me my agent. That lead in summary began by saying, "Lee harvey Oswald could not have been persona non grata to the FBI." That was the first week of the assassination. It was clear to me that this had to be true. Without any Warren Commission. Just on the basis of what was known.

CANNON: That he worked for the FBI?

WEISBERG: No, that he couldn't have been persona non grata to the FBI. My belief immediately were that his connections were with the CIA. I see nothing except what fortifies this belief.

THOMPSON: Do you have any belief as to who did kill Kennedy and Tippitt.

WEISBERG: I can't give you really a definitive answer on Tippitt except that to say it was not and could not have been Lee Harvey Oswald.

THOMPSON: How about Kennedy.

WEISBERG: Kennedy, yes. Cuban refugees -- to, in words that came out in the testimony because the Commission reached the conclusion they couldn't stifle it any longer, over the Bay of Pigs. Now, I think ...

THOMPSON: First of all, are there more than one man in the conspiracy?

WEISBERG: Inevitably. More than one man. I think also, so that people won't get the wrong idea, I am not saying Cuban generally, I am not saying Cuban Organizations generally. I am saying only those most emotional and most irresponsible, and a very small percentage because most of the Cubans are very good people. They're very happy to be in this country.

THOMPSON: What evidence is there to support that belief?

WEISBERG: Um. I take it -- I can't give you a short answer on that, but let me tell you this...

CANNON: Can you backtrack Harold and link Lee Harvey Oswald with the CIA.

WEISBERG: That's what...

CANNON: It seems to me that this is the basis -- the foundation for that charge.

WEISBERG: As you realize, it's the subtitle of my current book, "Oswald in New Orleans". The subtitle, "Case for Conspiracy with the CIA." It began as Oswald in New Orleans, CIA Whitewash. Now I'd like to explain to you that my books are really a part of one. And the subtitles are the story. Whitewash has the subtitle, "The Report on the Warren Report." It's my report on the Warren Report. The subtitle of Whitewash II is, "The FBI Secret Service Coverup." And I specifically charge they were covering up and I show how they covered up and what. With their own evidence. With Oswald in New Orleans, I am saying what they covered up. And that is Oswald's connections with the CIA. This is what attracted me to it immediately. It was inevitable that Oswald had to have had some such connection. Now, everybody knows

that Oswald was supposed to have been the Chairman for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans. ONLY there was none. Oswald sent...

CANNON: Wait a minute. Where did the signs come from. I saw Oswald carrying Fair Play signs...

WEISBERG: Oh, Yeah. Don't let me forget that. I'd like to tell this more logical.

CANNON: OK.

WEISBERG: Oswald sent \$5.00 to New York and became a member of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee - a national organization at that time.

He pawns himself off -- he represented himself in one-sided correspondence, as the Chairman of the Local Chapter. Which doesn't exist. He went -- well, I can't say "he". I'm falling into the error of the report. Because the Commission tells this lie. The Commission says, "Lee Harvey Oswald, using the name Osborne, had leaflets saying, 'Hands off Cuba', printed at the JONES Printing Company, 422 Virage (?) Street, New Orleans." And the Commission cites an FBI document, and I'll give it to you to read, Don.

=

*

*

CANNON: Harold, I have here a report which says, 'Fair Play for Cuba,' New Orleans. Now is this an FBI report?

WEISBERG: And while you're looking at that, may I hand Professor Thompson the rest of that file, it's exhibit 1410. What I've just given the professor is the Zapruder job sheet on it and the hand written copy of the leaflet that Oswald gave out.

CANNON: Well, let me ask you something Harold, why would Oswald change his name? If he wanted to flaunt himself as a Fair Play for Cuba chairman, why would he change his name to Oswald. If he had to make himself a front?

WEISBERG: I can't understand it either, but, he did it.

CANNON: I mean he should have made himself, it would seem to me, as conspicuous as possible.

WEISBERG: That's exactly what I said.

CANNON: When does one become conspicuous by changing ones name?

WEISBERG: You're anticipating me, Don. The third paragraph said what you said, that Oswald using the name ~~Oswald~~ had the leaflets printed. Now, if you'll turn to the next document, you'll find that it is an FBI report of the interview with Mrs. Douglas JONES, of the Jones Printing Company and I've marked ~~in~~ red how Jones told the FBI that Oswald using the name Osborn, but Jones said that it wasn't Oswald. And in the next document, the other

person who knew about it, a Mrs. Myra Silvers, the secretary of the corporation. She also says that it wasn't Oswald.

THOMPSON: Where does the CIA come into all of this?

WEISBERG: Well, if you're expecting me to say professor, that I have Lee Harvey Oswald's payroll records from the CIA, I'm going to tell you right now, I don't have them.

THOMPSON: No, I'm expecting you to answer the question that I thought you were going to answer as to what the connection was between Oswald and the CIA.

WEISBERG: Well, will you bear with me for a few minutes so I can tell the story logically. So here you have the FBI firstline to the Commission and the Commission retelling in this report and I'm saying it's a lie....

CANNON: We're talking with Harold Weisberg, author of, 'Oswald in New Orleans,' his newest book, case for conspiracy with the CIA, and Professor James Thompson from Northwestern University law school. A little bit later, we'll be opening our phones at MO4-9000. The area code is 312. Now--

WEISBERG: Oswald is arrested. Then the offender pleads innocent. Oswald agrees to his innocence but, pleads guilty. He pays a ten dollar fine and there's a lot of publicity. Which includes an arrangement whereby he gets on radio and tv and in the papers. He stayed in New Orleans long enough to harvest this crop of publicity and with it in his pocket, his press in his pocket. He sends Marina back to Dallas with Ruth Payne and goes to Mexico.

And he goes to the Cuban Consulate and he says, 'Dear Comrades, here am I such a wonderful friend of Castro. Look what I do for Castro. So he can get into Cuba. And they say, it'll take three months.

CANNON: What do you think Harold, to interrupt for a second, what do you think Harvey Oswald's mind at this point, what is he doing this for, to assassinate Castro?

WEISBERG: No, but, I think someone else planned it and that's the next step in the story. Planned just the way you said. They asked him why he wanted a visa to get into Cuba and he of course, had to give them a reason. And he probably hadn't thought this one out too well because he said he really wants to go to the Soviet Union. Well, in 1963, it was not difficult to go from the United States to the Soviet Union but, it was very difficult to go from the United States to Cuba. So, when Oswald was told it would take three months, to get a visa he blew his stack. He got in an argument with them. They told him he was no friend of the revolution and they chased him out. And then he went back to Dallas and the rest of the story is fairly well known. Now, then we had the assassination. One of the first things the FBI learned, within a couple of weeks of the assassination was of the visit to the home of a Mrs. Sylvia Odio(?) a genuine Cuban refugee, whose parents had been among the wealthiest in Cuba. In Dallas, three men, two of whom were soliciting her support in anti-Castro activities, the third one was introduced

as Leon Oswald at a time when the evidence was overwhelming, it could not have been Lee Harvey Oswald.

CANNON: Well, who is this new Leon Oswald?

WEISBERG: I don't know. I called him the false Oswald in chapter eleven of Whitewash which I'm about to begin.

CANNON: Um hum.

WEISBERG: I think this is really the beginning of the Garrison story. And they say of this Oswald what, I don't know about the exact line--our idea is to introduce him to the underground because he is kind of nuts. And about knocking off Castro.

CANNON: Well, how do we know he wasn't the real Oswald?

WEISBERG: Because of the date. The Commission says it couldn't have been Lee Harvey Oswald because he was in Mexico. The immigration records show when he crossed the border. And if it was Lee Harvey Oswald, then the Commission was much more in error than I've seen them and they've been pretty grievously in error. But, either way, either way. I'd like to discuss it, if it was Oswald, I'd like to discuss it if it wasn't, when I tell you the rest of the CIA background.

Now, in the next part of what this man who was taking the Leon Oswald around said is, he has told us that we don't have any guts you Cubans because President Kennedy should have been assassinated after the Bay of Pigs and some Cuban should have done that. It is so and he will do it. He has told us. Now, this is from Sylvia Odios(?) testimony. Sylvia Odios was not called as a witness, until the twenty third of July, 1963. A month after the Commission was suppose to have finished its work. After, there was a kind of an investigation.

Now, here we have a man--

CANNON: Was she shown a picture of Lee Harvey Oswald?

WEISBERG: Yes, she said it was him, same guy. There were some differences she pointed out the differences but, she was satisfied it was Oswald. She was so satisfied as a matter of fact, that before she saw Oswald's picture on television, this conversation with these Cubans with whom she thereafter had nothing to do, and they were well prepared. They knew the most intimate details of her family, her father who was then in jail in the Isle of Pines, the Commission printed her father's letter saying, I don't know these people, don't talk to them anymore. It was really carefully prepared.

She was so certain, when she found out, getting back to work, that the President had been killed, she passed out because she really believed he had done it. Now, we have Oswald in New Orleans. I've given you a little bit of it. Then we have the murder. We've got this threat to kill the President of the United States and by God, it happened. He was killed! As you may remember, from the very beginning, there was never any official doubt about it. Lee Harvey Oswald was along, assisted, allegedly pro-communist assassin.

With all of that, on November 25, 1963 the FBI in New Orleans started a crash investigation of the Cuban Revolutionary Council and I have some of the reports here in my hand. Unfortunately, the Commission with twenty six volumes and ten million words, didn't see fit to print these. I had to dig them out of their suppressed files.

CANNON: You mean the place where suppressed files--Professor Thompson is there a place where suppressed files, if so Harold, how did you get them?

THOMPSON: Well, I don't know what suppressed files means. You mean the documents themselves that are in the Archives and available to anybody who wants to take a look at them?

WEISBERG: Some of the files in the Archive are available to those who can get qualified. What I am saying is that--

THOMPSON: Well, where did you get them?

WEISBERG: I got them from the Archive.

THOMPSON: So, they weren't suppressed.

WEISBERG: Mr. Thompson, I want to answer that in two ways. And they were suppressed. Now, I'm going to tell you why I think that. First of all, there is a quagmire(?) of three hundred cubic feet of unsorted material and you've got to have a nose like no Beagle ever had, to get the stuff you want. Just having it there with all the undulated material, with no index, no meaningful description of any of the documents, no way of finding anything.

THOMPSON: I suppose that if they destroyed ninety per cent of them, they would be much easier to find. Would you rather have them do that? Since you take offense at them burning their notes.

WEISBERG: No, I wouldn't rather have them do that. But, I don't think that in anyway justifies what they did do?

THOMPSON: What did they do?

WEISBERG: They printed twenty six volumes, ten million words of evidence, and they left this stuff out. But, pictures of--

THOMPSON: Well, they couldn't very well have printed three hundred cubic yards of documents could they?

WEISBERG: Well, they found space for Ruby's strippers. They found a place for also-- all sorts of stuff that didn't have to be printed...

THOMPSON: Well, maybe that's the value of it.

WEISBERG: Well, will you please tell me why it was necessary to print pictures of Ruby's hard-faced and soft-bodied women, page after page after page as part of the murder of the PRESIDENT.

THOMPSON: Well---

CANNON: Let me just interrupt here for a second. I have a couple of things to do.

CANNON: I think the point you're getting at Harold, I don't want to get off on the strippers, not that that might not be an interesting topic of conversation. You're trying to say, I think, that the Cuban Revolutionary Council and Oswald and the CIA are all in the same bag, aren't you?

WEISBERG: Right.

CANNON: Harold, I want to get back to the question and your attempt to link Lee Harvey Oswald with the Cuban Revolutionary Council and both with the CIA...

THOMPSON: Can we straighten out one thing first though. Since he's now revealed that the documents he said were suppressed are available in the archives to him and to anybody else who wants them, I imagine he'll withdraw his charge that they're being suppressed.

WEISBERG: No, not at all. They were deliberately suppressed. As a willful act on the part of the staff of the Commission, censored from the 26 volumes which were published...

THOMPSON: You mean they weren't published in the report?

WEISBERG: Not only not in the report, but not in the 26 volumes of evidence.

THOMPSON: But they are in the archives?

WEISBERG: How many people can go to the archives? The conclusions of the Commission allegedly are based upon the 26 volumes they printed. This is suppressed from the Commission's conclusions. Not only that, but when a witness got the name of the Cuban Revolutionary Council in, that was censored out by the indexer.

CANNON: Harold, could we use the word selected or selectivity rather than suppressed.

WEISBERG: When you have a proper name indexed, you can use any name you want -- any way you want it, it is not there.

THOMPSON: So, your charge is that unless the government printed every single document and every single line that was involved at all in the investigation -- the ones they left out were suppressed.

WEISBERG: That is not true. I didn't charge that and I

don't think that's any reasonable interpretation of what I did say. I'd said that when they leave out what is very germane...

THOMPSON: In your opinion.

WEISBERG: Well, I can't give you anybody else's opinion except mine. But would you care to hear what these reports are and then maybe you'll want to say something, Mr. Thompson.

THOMPSON: Alright.

WEISBERG: I have 3 reports here by an man who in "Oswald in New Orleans" I call On the Ball Wall.

CANNON: Who?

WEISBERG: ON the Ball Wall. I felt that this man was worthy of being noted in history for being on the wall. He's an FBI agent, Ernest C. Wall Jr. On the 25th of November, remarkably the same day Jim Garrison arrested David Ferrie, in connection with the assassination. Most people don't know this, but I have the story in "Oswald in New Orleans". David Ferrie was not arrested by Garrison as part of his current investigation. He was arrested by Garrison on the 25th of November 1963 in New Orleans. YOU will not find a reference to this in the Warren Report...

CANNON: What charge was he arrested on Harold?

WEISBERG: Suspicion of being wanted in Texas or something like that. I don't remember the legal charge and as you know I'M NOT a lawyer.

Garrison released him when he was persuaded by the FBI and the secret service that there was no reason to hold him. That he was connected with nothing.

THOMPSON: Some reason that should be in the Warren Report?

WEISBERG: Would you care to ask me that question in about 5 minutes, Mr. Thompson. The answer is yes.

ON that same day, Mr. Wall had this really on the ball investigation of the Cuban Revolutionary Council. NOW here's Oswald, a lone unassisted assassin. For example, here's the report from File Number 89-69 dated the 25th, as I told you, (WORD UNCLEAR) 1608 Masonsmith Avenue, Matara (?), Louisiana, so forth. Six lines.

This report says merely that Frank Bartis was a delegate of the Cuban Revolutionary Council in New Orleans, that he knew Arcacia Smith - Sergio Arcacia Smith, had been formerly the delegate of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, and that the Cuban Revolutionary Council was an anti-Castro organization.

Now there was no purpose in the FIB conducting any investigation to learn this. It was all very well known. The Cuban Revolutionary Council, so there will be no secret about it, was organized by the CIA in the Skylark Motel in Miami Florida on the 19th of March 1961.

CANNON: This is where I've got to come in and say, is this an opinion, an assumption, a fact, or I mean, how do we know this. Can we prove it?

WEISBERG: Well the simplest way is to refer you to Arthur Schlesinger's book, he has about 20 pages on it. Including his own participation. It's a thousand days.

The purpose -- well, there were a number of purposes. First, and the CIA was very explicit in talking to the Cuban groups. They said we can't deal with a hundred of you. They got the 2 biggest and they said you really get together. One group we can deal with. This was preparatory to the Bays of Pigs or the whole deal is off. And they put them together at the Skylark Motel and the Cuban Revolutionary council evolved. It was (WORD UNCLEAR) to the CIA that its policy statements were drafted by the CIA and then sent over to the White House for approval. And Schlesinger discusses his own participation in that.

CANNON: Now what was Lee Harvey Oswald -- fit into this?

WEISBERG: This is part of the story I'm telling you.

Remember Frank Bartes, Delegate of the Cuban Revolutionary council in New Orleans was interviewed by Wall. This report serves only one purpose. If anybody ever said to the FBI, by the way did you ever speak to Frank Bartes and find out about the Cuban Revolutionary Council. Oh yeah, we spoke to him and we got nothing.

The next report, because it says nothing, this was all well known.

The next report, the same day, by the same man. Says that he telephonically interviewed Guy Bannister. This meant he couldn't walk across the street. Guy Bannister's office was as readily visited by the FBI as a dog visits the neighborhood garbage pails. Guy Bannister -- Guy Bannister Associates, 531 Lafayette Street, New Orleans was telephonically contacted. Bannister advised that he knew Arcadia Smith of the Cuban Revolutionary casually, and so forth and so on, and that Smith had an office in the building located at 540 Knick Street. Now, the next FBI report, also by Wall, says that he spoke to the owner of the building and he couldn't add and he couldn't add anything to it.

What the FBI left out here, Mr. Thompson doesn't like suppressed, left out...

THOMPSON: I don't like suppressed in the improper context. I'm perfectly willing to accept suppressed when something is suppressed.

WEISBERG: What the FBI left out was what the Secret Service did not leave out. And that is that Guy Bannister arranged for the rental of the office space by the Cuban Revolutionary Council. Now, these reports - one gives the Cuban Revolutionary Council Address at 540 Knick Street and the other one gives the address of Guy Bannister at 531 Lafayette Street. Would you mind looking at that picture I took in New Orleans Mr. Thompson?

CANNON: Want to get a close up of that Jack? I wish we had television, we've got tons of documents here.

WEISBERG: That is a street sign, Don you keep me honest, it shows that there are two signs on one pole. One says Knick Street, the other says Lafayette.

CANNON: Correct. But where does Leon Oswald come into all of this?

WEISBERG: The one and the same building. They gave a side entrance to the building as Bannisters address. This dinky, little, three story building, hardly larger than a private home, in which Bannister's office was separated by the thickness of one floor from the Cuban Revolutionary Council that he arranged. And the FBI in New Orleans pretended to the FBI in Washington, and through it to the Commission, that there was no connection between these two...

CANNON: First you use the word pretended-- gotta stop you there. Pretended?

WEISBERG: Here are the reports. First report says the Cuban Revolutionary Council's address was 540 Knick Street. The second one pretends that Guy Bannister knew nothing about all this. He just happened to know Arcacia casually, and...

THOMPSON: But I don't understand what the CIA involvement in the Cuban Revolutionary Council, which I suppose was formed for the purpose of overthrowing Castro, has to do with Oswald.

WEISBERG: Well, if you'll let me go right to the end of this. I'd much rather deliver this in a logical way...

CANNON: I'm going to stop for just a couple of minutes and link or unlink Lee Harvey Oswald with the CIA...

* * *

CANNON: Harold you still haven't linked Lee Harvey Oswald with the Cuban Revolutionary Council or the CIA.

WEISBERG: There Don is Commission Exhibit 4120. The lower right hand corner -- this is one of the leaflets that was taken from Oswald when he was arrested on August 9, 1963. And what I told you, is to me nothing but the establishment of an intelligence cover. It has the return address of 540 Knick Street.

CANNON: And that's the same address as the Cuban Revolutionary council.

WEISBERG: It is exactly the address of Guy Bannister who was in on every Latin American operation of the CIA. I have, since I wrote Oswald in New Orleans, traced important functionaries of the Cuban groups to Bannister's office.

CANNON: Now, let us say, people listening can't see this, but these are documents. The document is printed, but the return address is stamped -- how do we know that that address was stamped on there by Lee Oswald at the time or later by somebody else.

WEISBERG: A good question. I can't say that it wasn't done later by somebody else but I can say this Commission proves it was done with the stamps that they found on Oswald's property. You know, where you assemble your own stamps, and this is in evidence before the Commission.

Now, here we have Oswald, allegedly engaged in pro-Castro activity, giving out pro-Castro literature that somebody else had printed for him -- the Commission says he did under the name Osborne -- he goes out and creates a non-existing Fair Play for Cuba Committee in New Orleans. He asked to be interviewed by the FBI, and we're supposed to believe that this is all perfectly normal, that every communist wants only to be interviewed by the FBI.

going along with this we have this fellow Ferrie. Remember I mentioned him before. Wesley Lieber (?), who was the Assistant Council together with Mr. Gener (?) of Chicago, in charge of the New Orleans investigation -- and in fairness to Mr. Gener, I should say that Wesley Lieber on May 2nd of last year made a speech at UCLA, said that he, Wesley Lieber, had to do all of it, because Mr. Gener was too busy running for the presidency of the American Bar Association. So this really is not very much Mr. Gener's fault. It's Mr. Lieber's. He says so himself. Lieber says he alone decide not to call Ferrie before the Commission. Why? Because he had this big stack of FBI reports, and on different occasions he describes different ~~s22e~~ stacks. And he said they proved that Ferrie was connected with nothing. Now here is another one of the FBI reports from Commission's File Number 71 -- the first part of it. And for the time being I won't say this was suppressed.

Where -- here's C. Wall again, same FBI agent and here's David Ferrie, and Ferrie is known to have threatened to kill the president. And he says, oh well, that's only a colloquial

expression, kill the president, that's only a colloquial expression. I have a chapter in "Oswald in New Orleans" called the assassination a colloquial expression. So here we have David Ferrie, known to have threatened to kill the President - not called as a witness before the Commission that was investigating the President's murder...

CANNON: But isn't it true, Harold, that every year the white House gets thousands of threats on the President's life.

WEISBERG: Yes, but it isn't every year that the President gets killed.

CANNON: I want to get Jim Thompson's reaction on the last couple of minutes on this portion of the show.

To the linkage that Mr. Weisberg has presented here. Linking Lee Harvey Oswald with the Cuban Revolutionary Council on the assumption that the Cuban Revolutionary Council is the CIA organization.

WEISBERG: Well, one thing missing, but I won't interrupt the professor's time, and that has to do with Ferrie and the Cuban Revolutionary Council and the CIA. I wanted you to know professor, that there's one more link. Go ahead.

THOMPSON: 40 minutes ago, I was given to understand that you had evidence that there was first a link between Oswald and the CIA and secondly that there was somehow in this Oswald and CIA link, a connection to the assassination. And in 40 minutes I haven't heard a single words which proves either of these things.

WEISBERG: Let me take up Ferrie again...

CANNON: Let me just hold that point for a minute. You are not convinced, Professor Thompson, by the documents Mr. Weisberg has shown, by the assumption that the Cuban Revolutionary Council was organized by the CIA, that Lee Harvey Oswald's return address was the same as the Cuban Revolutionary Council -- this is not convincing.

THOMPSON: Suppose I had in my pocket a pamphlet printed by the Cuban Revolutionary Council which had their address on it. That doesn't prove that I'm connected with the CIA, does it?

CANNON: It proves that you're connected with the Cuban Revolutionary Council.

THOMPSON: I may have picked up the leaflet on a street corner.

WEISBERG: That is correct...

CANNON: We've got to break...

CANNON: Harold, for people who tuned in late, if I can briefly summarize your points. Your position is simply this, that Lee Harvey Oswald killed nobody, that Oswald was a front for whatever organizations, he deliberately pretended to be a leftist when he in fact was a rightist, that he was either directly or indirectly in the pay of the CIA, the Cuban Revolutionary Council - Oswald was a member of it and that it was formed by the CIA, and therefore there's a connection between all 3 and the assassination. Am I wrong?

WEISBERG: Well, not that he was a member of the Cuban Revolutionary Council. Yes, that Oswald was exactly the opposite of what he was officially represented as being. I merely referred to a speech Wesley Lieber (?) made and he was the man who was in charge of this aspect of the investigation, he's the man who decided not to call Ferrie as a witness in the investigation of the President's murder because Ferrie had threatened to kill the president and this was known to the FBI. Lieber also in this speech, acknowledged knowing that Ferrie and Arcacia, Sergio Arcacia, the man from FBI agent Wall's reports, knew each other, acknowledged having known that the CIA had financed, as he put it, financed the Cuban Revolutionary Council at 540 Knick Street, and also apparently reasons for not calling Ferrie or Arcacia as witnesses.

There was a bit of Oswald's background that I dug up for this book Oswald in New Orleans that I did not find in the Commission's files because if they exist there, they are among the documents, would you be happier if I said withheld, Mr Thompson...

THOMPSON: No, they're available so they couldn't be withheld.

WEISBERG: As a matter of fact, they're not available. Most of this file is withheld and I think, repressed, especially on Ferrie. Once David Ferrie, and he has been dead for a year, so he is certainly not being protected. Since he's not alive to be protected by the withholding of more than 75% of the Ferrie file.

THOMPSON: If they've been withheld how did you get them?

WEISBERG: I didn't get them. I'm talking about -- those are withheld.

Now Oswald was a Marine. A communist according to the Commission, with a dedication to communism and to marxism. And for this reason Marine Corps put him in an unusual organization in which it only had three. He took specialized training and wound up with Confidential Security Clearance and he had to be on that outfit because everybody in the outfit had to have a minimum of a Confidential Security Clearance which is not the lowest. IN Oswald's case, however, he was one of 5 men who had a Security Clearance known as Crypto (?).

And as a pre-requisite for Crypto, he had to have a top secret security clearance because his job required cryptographical knowledge. Oswald was possessed of all the great -- radar codes, all of the radar defense for the west coast, all of the frequency clearance. Oswald was in a U-2 outfit in Japan and what more natural place for them to have a communist, huh?

THOMPSON: What Marine organization was this?

WEISBERG: MACS it was called.

CANNON: Did they know about his background, Harold?

WEISBERG: Openly through the mail, Oswald got Communist literature. Openly in the Marine Corp. He learned Russian in the Marine Corp.

CANNON: Learning Russian is one thing. And then--

WEISBERG: He got his discharge two months ahead of time to take care of a destitute mother so, he took a trip to New Orleans and went to Russia.

THOMPSON: How can something sent through the mail be opened?

WEISBERG: In the Marine Corp he got the Communist literature openly.

THOMPSON: What do you mean openly?

WEISBERG: I mean, you get a newspaper by mail?

THOMPSON: All right.

WEISBERG: all right, let me put it very bluntly, the man who distributed the mail was his Sargent Russel Belgado (?) who said that everybody knew; knew and could see that Oswald was getting this communist literature.

CANNON: Knowing a little bit about the Marine Corp, I can't imagine that -- communist are not very popular.

WEISBERG: That's right.

CANNON: In the Marine Corp, I can't imagine somebody not blowing the whistle. Can you professor?

THOMPSON: No, I can't imagine that at all. I

WEISBERG: I suggest that they didn't have to. That they knew exactly what Oswald was doing and that's why they taught him Russian.

THOMPSON: Somehow the Marine Corp is somehow involved in this assassination plot?

WEISBERG: I didn't say that at all.

*

*

*

CANNONE: Harold Weisberg is my guest along with Professor James Thompson. Harold, it seems to me that you're bringing the Marine Corp into the plot here.

WEISBERG: As part of Oswald's intelligence function, but not as part of the conspiracy to kill the President.

CANNONE: What was this Marine organization again?

WEISBERG: MACS-9.

THOMPSON: What is that?

WEISBERG: Marine Air Control.

THOMPSON: And what's their job?

WEISBERG: Their job was radar defense, identification of friend and foe.

(VOICES OVERLAPPING)

WEISBERG: OSWALD was one of the five men who had the highest clearance, top secret and crypto.

THOMPSON: In the whole Marine Corp?

WEISBERG: No, no, no, in this outfit. He operated the radar, he was the one who in effect decided if this was a friend or a foe.

THOMPSON: He was one of the radar operators?

WEISBERG: Not just a radar operator because they were all of this character.

THOMPSON: He turned buttons or something like that? What was his job?

WEISBERG: The Commission spent less time on this evidence than they might very well have. And I can't here just give you a definite answer on that. Well, let me tell you what his commanding officer said. That Oswald was one of about a half dozen of the best men in his outfit and he trusted him to do things and that he did them well.

THOMPSON: What did he do? ...I mean if he was a train keeper,

WEISBERG: Does it take a Crypto security test to be a train-keeper?

THOMPSON: That's why I'm trying to understand what job Oswald performed that required all this top secret clearance and why that was relevant?

WEISBERG: Well, it would--

(VOICES OVERLAPPING)

WEISBERG: Are you seriously asking me Professor, are you seriously asking me about the federal government representing OSWALD who had been dedicated to communism and Marxism and after having given him a Crypto security test at the same time? Are you seriously suggesting to me that that means nothing? When this man is discharged early he goes to Russia and then says he's defecting but, is very careful not to lose his citizenship. And he says he's giving all these secrets, you haven't asked me what secrets yet, all these secrets --all of the United States defense secrets to the Soviet Union which is a criminal act? Then he wants to come back to the United States and he says he won't come without his wife? And the State Department breaks its back to get his wife back that when the Immigration service won't let her in, they try to bring her in through Brussels and meanwhile put pressure on the Immigration Service and comes back to the United States and is not prosecuted? And out of all the times he was suppose to have been denied a passport, no watch card was ever filled out, and this all bureaucratic bungling?

THOMPSON: You mean to say that Oswald is guilty of turning over the plans of the entire defense of the United States to the Soviet Union?

WEISBERG: Professor, stop talking like the Warren Commission.

CANNON: If I can just pause here for a moment, I want to get to what the larger point of all this means. Does it mean that Lee Harvey Oswald was put up to go into Russia by the Marine Corp, by the CIA or the FBI? If I can get that answer in sixty seconds, we'll come right back...

CANNON: What does all this mean though Harold?

WEISBERG: To answer your question, I say yes. The question was, was Oswald put up to something and there's no question in my mind.

CANNON: Do we have to indict the Marine Corp?

WEISBERG: No, I'm not indicting the Marine Corp. That was the professor's suggestion which is foreign to my thinking, my writing and my speaking. Now, here we have Oswald who has done all of these things. The state department brings him back. They don't fill out the cards they're suppose to to keep him from getting a passport. And the FBI knows about him. Poski(?) was the Oswald expert in Dallas. One of the things the Commission had remarkedly little interest in was the statement by Dallas Lieutenant Levall...and Poski said we knew he had the capability but we didn't think he'd do it. Poski said it didn't happen, Levall said it did happen. But, can you imagine a man with this genuine history and he goes to Dallas and is not under surveillance.

Do you think for one minute that if Oswald was genuinely defecting to the Soviet Union, he would not have been under surveillance when the President went to Dallas?

] And there was one document that the Commission saw fit to eliminate from the ten million words. It was a very brief one. A Dallas police report of February 17, 1964 of an interview with George Miller, whose Russian name was (?), he was one of the refugee...let me just read briefly this. I can tell you that Wesley Lieber was interrogating Mrs. Anna Miller who had seen Das Kapital in Oswald's home and was outraged, told her husband and he called the FBI. So, when I say subject reading from the Dallas police report, that means Miller.

CANNON: Um hum.

WEISBERG: Subject said he checked with the FBI and they told him that Oswald was all right. Oswald, with all of this history, was all right to the FBI before the assassination. Anna Miller was a witness before the Commission and Wesley Lieber never asked her question. Normally, there were only three people in the hearing room, the lawyer entitled to administer the oath, the stenographer, and the witness. In this case, Lieber was a little bit effusive and said come right in Mr. and Mrs. Miller. He didn't even ask a single question of George Miller.

CANNON: Harold, you explained that Lee Harvey Oswald's whole defection role to Russia was a put up job and the FBI knew it was a put up job and therefore, they did not keep him under surveillance in Dallas.

WEISBERG: I think that's the most reasonable presumption of it and I'm sure that he was working for federal agents. The Commission got a report immediately. Some of these documents have been published. Some of them have not been that Oswald was a federal agent getting two hundred dollars a month and so forth.

THOMPSON: Can you tell me one thing. Supposing that everything that you've said is true, let's assume that Oswald was in league with the CIA and that together they planned it--the assassination, why would they do it and why would the Warren Commission cover it up?

WEISBERG: Professor, I'd like to suggest to you that you should have been on the Warren Commission. You keep on saying things I didn't say.

(VOICES OVERLAPPING)

WEISBERG: You have wuoted me as saying exactly the opposite of what I said. You said that I say Oswald and the CIA got together and started to kill Kennedy. And I say exactly the opposite that Oswald killed nobody.

THOMPSON: Then why are we quarreling about Oswald and the CIA being connected? What relevance does it have? I thought that you were going to come to some conclusion about why -- I just wanted to know if Oswald and the CIA were together?

WEISBERG: That's one question I didn't expect to hear from a professor of law.

WEISBERG: We're discussing the death of an American President. We're talking about not only the sanctity of an institution, but that of the law. Now, among the things that I've read to you, that the Commission saw fit to leave out of twenty six volumes was the knowledge that Oswald was okay to the FBI before the assassination. Is that a normal thing professor? Is the FBI in the business of going around telling odds and ends of people who call up don't worry about Oswald, he's okay? Or about anybody else?

CANNON: We're talking with Harold Weisberg, author of Oswald in Dallas and Whitewash and Whitewash II and upcoming, a book called Whitewash III. Professor Thompson, you wanted to reply so go ahead please.

THOMPSON: One of the things we look for in the trial of criminal cases is motive. Except when we're dealing with people who are insane and therefore may have no motive but, we like to know what the motive is for committing a criminal offense because it aids us in determining whether or not the man really did it.

If he had a motive to kill, that's some evidence that perhaps he was the killer other evidence going with it. If he has no motive, it's one of those things, it might raise a reasonable doubt in the fact whether or not he did it. Now, you're saying that the Warren Commission has suppressed, to use your word, relevant evidence with connections between the CIA and Oswald, whatever purposes those connections serve. Why did they do it? What was the motive of the Warren Commission in doing all of this?

WEISBERG: Well, uh--I don't say the members of the Commission consciously did this. But, it's not an unfair representation of my belief about the staff. And I think the most dramatic way of giving you an answer is to give you a question. Why did the CIA knowing it was a lie, assure President Eisenhower that the Francis Gary Powers plane was not American, it not over the Soviet Union, and they knew damn well it was. They sent it there and they knew it was missing and couldn't be anywhere else?

This is not unique in governments. They're hiding the involvement of the CIA. Now, the CIA involvement could have been innocent. Simply because of these connections, people who had been connected with them might not have been connected with them then.

THOMPSON: Let's assume the Commission--

WEISBERG: The one thing that you said before I can't ignore. We have not now adjusted ourselves to the major burden of the evidence. The simplest way of proving that Oswald was innocent because the Commission proved that he couldn't have been at the scene of the crime.

THOMPSON: Let's assume for the moment that the Commission did suppress this involvement of Oswald with the CIA. That still doesn't answer the question of why they did it?

WEISBERG: Why don't you ask them that?

I'm only telling you what they did and it's irreputable what they did.

THOMPSON: But, this has nothing to do with anybody else's motive to kill the President which is where you started. What you're asking me to believe is that they did something horrible and they suppressed all of these relevant things but, you're able to give me no reason in the world why they should do it.

WEISBERG: Do you want me to get inside of somebody else's mind?

CANNON: Harold, we're talking about more than somebody else. We're talking about a lot of people who worked with us so that all of these people would have to be part --

WEISBERG: Their concept of what is quote, national security, quote..at the bottom of page two hundred and three, you'll find a picture from page two thirteen of the Report.

(TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES)

WEISBERG: ...A picture taken by James W. Watson(?), an Associated Press photographer. Above it is most of the picture, I hadn't yet framed the complete picture and I think you'll admit that more than half of it has been eliminated.

CANNON: Harold, you're going to have to describe--

WEISBERG: This picture taken half way through the assassination shows among other things. The president's car, he's gripping his throat, the car behind him, And when the version printed by the Commission, it does not show the two cars behind that. It does not show the building across the street. The point that I'm trying to make, is it has nothing to do with the contents of the picture, it has to do with this debasement of every legal procedure.

CANNON: Now, wait a minute, how does the elimination of a couple of motorcycle officers and the car behind him --

WEISBERG: The point is this, James W. Watson was a witness before the Commission. He was not asked to disclose the equipment he used. He was not asked to produce the negative. He was not asked to produce a print. And the Commission put in evidence at no time the complete picture. This is required in the court of law. It happened even worse with the Zapruder picture. The Commission says that for the first time the President could have been shot by Lee Harvey Oswald in frame 210. So, you go to volume nineteen, page eighteen and you find that in printing the frames of the Zapruder pictures, they skipped from 207 to 212 and the splices are quite clear. And this is a big mystery until I brought it to light.

Professor, do I have to tell you as a professor of law what this is? The law requires, does it not, original evidence? Authenticated by the person who can authenticate it?

THOMPSON: Sure.

WEISBERG: Well, the original Zapruder pictures is not in evidence. The copy that was put in evidence was switched for another copy that was a copy of that made by the FBI. The frames that were allegedly aware of the President being killed had been destroyed.

May I suggest the reason for the destruction regardless of the cause is a very simple one. Because they contained total disproof of the first shot being aimed after two ten.

CANNON: Harold, your last statement again I would think and perhaps Jim Thompson would agree with me, require some pretty strong motives if the Zapruder film was deliberately doctored--

WEISBERG: ...It happened. Was this Life Magazine that did it?

CANNON: Life has the film right?

WEISBERG: Life has the original. The Commission printed what represented an uninterrupted series of slides beginning with the one hundred and seventy first of the frames of this picture. It had--at no place is there any reflection of the fact that the Commission members would even know this was there.

THOMPSON: You mean to say that the people who cut this film and the Commission who presented it for their purposes thought that they could get away with doing something knowing that Life Magazine had the full film?

WEISBERG: Well Life has been silent about it and the Commission has been silent about it. And I have not been. It happened.

THOMPSON: Well, Life printed the film?

WEISBERG: I beg your pardon. They did not.

THOMPSON: They did not?

CANNON: What's in those five frames though?

WEISBERG: What is there is not the important thing. In my way of thinking, it's what's not there. Now, Phil Willis took a picture...

CANNON: Now, wait a minute, I think we have to retrack, we don't know what's not there--

WEISBERG: I'm sorry. We do know what's not there.

CANNON: In the five missing frames?

WEISBERG: We know one thing that's not there.

CANNON: What?

WEISBERG: A man who took a picture at the same moment and he and Zapruder were in each other's lenses. His name is Phil Willis. His picture was entered into evidence and the FBI avoided it.

THOMPSON: What's that got to do with anything?

WEISBERG: It's got to do with a lot. May I please finish? You haven't mentioned one of my books, the least well known one. I have an entire book on the suppression and destruction of pictures called, 'Photo--

CANNON: Can I plead not guilty. I've mentioned your books.

WEISBERG: Not this one.

CANNON: Oh, I see. Photographic Whitewash.

WEISBERG: And I went through this whole subject in some detail the Commission didn't see five per cent of the pictures of the assassination that we know now existed.

THOMPSON: What was done to the pictures to make them important for the Commission to see?

WEISBERG: Well, let me give you an example with what I just started to talk about--Phil Willis. But, if any of your listeners call up, they can get this by writing to me to get it. I don't think it's on sale in Chicago. Phil Willis took a dozen pictures... well, if we had more time, I think you might change your opinion. May I continue with Phil Willis?

CANNON: Yes, you may.

WEISBERG: Here at the upper part of photographic exhibit 25 is Phil Willis' picture. The Commission said that it was taken instantaneous with the assassination. It's not quite true. Willis wasn't quite ready to take the picture and all the evidence and there's much of it bears on this. It was the shot that triggered his involuntary action when he took the picture.

CANNON: What does the picture show?

WEISBERG: The picture is a view from the opposite side of Zapruder. You'll see the FBI chart with a straight line in the middle showing what would be in each others lenses at the top of the chart and below it, Mr. Thompson. It's the opposite view from Zapruder's.

CANNON: Right, but what does it show?

WEISBERG: What is missing in the missing frames.

CANNON: In the missing Zapruder frames?

WEISBERG: Yes.

CANNON: And what do they show?

WEISBERG: they show --Willis, having taken the camera down from his eye, at frame 202, having already taken the picture of the President being shot at frame 202, he has already taken the camera down from his eye and is waling away professor.

THOMPSON: What does that prove?

WEISBERG: Do I have to spell it out for you?

THOMPSON: I wish you would?

WEISBERG: the Commission says that the President couldn't have been shot before frame 210. And that it was between frame 210 and frame 224 that for the first time the President was shot.

Phil Willis took this picture in reaction to the shot. And he had taken his picture before frame 202. But--

CANNON: Hasn't it been shown that the Zapruder camera was working all off speed that day?

WEISBERG: No, I'm the one who brought that up. That's not relative to this point. We're running out of time, the point is, that these missing frames show that Phil Willis is not in them and he must be in frame 210 for the story to be true.

Now, there are copies. there were three copies made originally in Dallas. There's one that's never talked about. Life made one here in Chicago, Blacka and white while they were taking the film to New York. But, when you copy an 8mm film, you miss what is in the margin. when you take 8mm pictures, it's 16mm and it's cut in half and between the sprocket holes you have pictures. And you can see professor, it's what 25% of the total film area is between the sprocket holes and is not shown and you projected it and like-0 wise was not shown when you copy it.

CANNON: Harold, you say this all part of the conspiracy to suppress evidence that would disprove that Oswald was the killer of President Kennedy?

WEISBERG: This exonerates Oswald because frame 210, the shot could not have come from the sixth floor window from where the Commission insists despite everything that proves that it was not so.

*

*

*

WEISBERG: Do I have to spell it out for you?

THOMPSON: I wish you would?

WEISBERG: the Commission says that the President couldn't have been shot before frame 210. And that it was between frame 210 and frame 224 that for the first time the President was shot.

Phil Willis took this picture in reaction to the shot. And he had taken his picture before frame 202. But--

CANNON: Hasn't it been shown that the Zapruder camera was working all off speed that day?

WEISBERG: No, I'm the one who brought that up. That's not relative to this point. We're running out of time, the point is, that these missing frames show that Phil Willis is not in them and he must be in frame 210 for the story to be true.

Now, there are copies. there were three copies made originally in Dallas. There's one that's never talked about. Life made one here in Chicago. Blakka and white while they were taking the film to New York. But, when you copy an 8mm film, you miss what is in the margin. when you take 8mm pictures, it's 16mm and it's cut in half and between the sprocket holes you have pictures. And you can see professor, it's what 25% of the total film area is between the sprocket holes and is not shown and you projected it and like--0 wise was not shown when you copy it.

CANNON: Harold, you say this all part of the conspiracy to suppress evidence that would disprove that Oswald was the killer of President Kennedy?

WEISBERG: This exonerates Oswald because frame 210, the shot could not have come from the sixth floor window from where the Commission insists despite everything that proves that it was not so.