

MARCH,  
1984

Mirror Mirror on The Wall  
Who's The Dumbest of Them All?  
By Edgar F. Tatro

Americans have always been fascinated with statistics. In recent years we have been deluged with compilations of every sort - The Guinness Book of World Records, The Book of Lists, Blackwell's worst dressed personalities, the top ten films of yesteryear and the top one hundred hits of rock history to mention only a few.

Even Johnny Carson gets into the act. Ed McMahon will mockingly thank Johnny for citing every show which failed to air on television this year for obvious weaknesses and Ed is thankful for now knowing "everything there is to know about null and void TV shows", but Carson interjects, "Not so, Camel Breath", and proceeds to review a parody of fabricated shows designed to split our sides in hysterical laughter.

In keeping with this trend, I figured it was time to compile a "JFK Assassination Stupid Documents List" just for the Hell of it. Of course, any educated student knows that such a list could fill up twenty-six volumes with ease, so I decided to detail a small list of "My Favorite House Select Committee on Assassinations Absurdity Documents List". Unfortunately, when it comes to historical laughter rather than hysterical laughter, the American people remain the butt of the jokes.

1. The Blakey Mannlicher-Carcano Firing Test Document (HSCA Volume VIII p.p. 183 - 185)

Have you ever seen a little kid try to jam a puzzle piece into a place which appears appropriate, but just won't fit? The kid becomes persistent and shoves the damn edge in place anyway which bends the jigsaw piece beyond repair, buckles the whole side of the puzzle and ultimately wrecks the complete enterprise.

In the world of propaganda this conceptual fallacy is known as selected preference which essentially means to select only evidence which substantiates a previously established hypothesis or desired result. Fred Newcomb, my friend, and author of Murder From Within often referred to selected preference as the process of the lawyer-trained mind, that is, having a preconceived answer before one starts and omitting any evidence which repudiates the original claim. Winning, not justice, is all that counts.

Chief Counsel and Director of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, G. Robert Blakey, supplied us with what I consider to be a classic example of selected preference and the most idiotic document of the congressional investigation to date.

Since the acoustic tests had mandated that the time differential between shots #1 and #2 was only 1.66 seconds and since the FBI Carcano tests in 1964 had stipulated that Oswald's rifle could not be fired twice in less than 2.3 seconds, then, assuming that the

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acoustics tests were valid, the only way to salvage the sacred single bullshit theory and the sole assassin from behind nonsense was to discover a flaw in the FBI's original premise. Otherwise, two killers from the rear flank would be undeniably confirmed.

Blakey issued a memorandum dated March 22, 1979 which detailed the result of firing a carcano but employing iron sights rather than a telescopic sight in an attempt to lessen the time to fire two shots in succession. Blakey had theorized that using iron sights and not the scope would save valuable time and condemn Oswald forever as the lone TSBD assassin or lone rear assassin.

It's bad enough that Blakey's ego deceived him into thinking that he had discerned "The" piece of ballistical magic that the FBI experts had overlooked, which is preposterous because Hoover wanted to nail Oswald as much as anyone did, but his foreshadowing exposition includes the following gem; "From knowledge of the difficulty involved in so shooting, it may be possible indirectly to infer something about the probability, as opposed to the possibility that Oswald did so. Nevertheless even the most improbable event may have occurred".

Now what the Hell does that mean! The "G" in G. Robert Blakey must stand for gobbledygook. Now if I decipher my Orwellian Newspeak carefully, Blakey is saying that Oswald "probably" used the iron sights instead of "possibly" using them and even if Blakey can't prove Oswald did use the iron sights because Blakey simply can't prove it and/or because there is no reasonable motivation for Oswald to use the iron sights, maybe Oswald did anyway.

Of course, his rationale (and I am being kind in calling it that), proves nothing. Blakey is utilizing a fallacy known as appeal to ignorance which maintains that a statement is true because it cannot be disproven, which is utterly illogical. I can take off my shoe and pound on the podium of the United Nations and declare that a chocolate cake is floating in the Martian atmosphere because you can't prove otherwise, but that doesn't make it a verity. Unfortunately, more doublespeak follows.

Blakey informs us that the Oswald rifle is in such a deteriorated state that a similar weapon was used for the tests. Well, doesn't that end that! What is the purpose of this insanity? Blakey's charade was invalid from the start.

Then (get this now!) the shots were fired at stationary targets from a twenty foot tower. The TSBD perch was three times that height and President Kennedy was not posing for an artist in Dealey Plaza! But it gets worse. Much worse. Ulcer victims should stop reading at this point.

Four rifle experts fired shots and we are told that by using iron sights, they reduced the time considerably. In fact Officer

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B.L. Miller and Officer Joe Masson only took 1.9 seconds between shots #1 and #2 which is impressive, Blakey, but it's not good enough!

The four experts could not accomplish the necessary task and need I dare cite Oswald's last mediocre USMC rifle proficiency evaluation, a 191, one point from failure, a score which the head of USMC records in Washington, D.C., USMC Lt. Col. Allison G. Folsom felt relegated Oswald to the status of "a rather poor shot".

If all this madness doesn't surpass a rubber room in Edlam, Blakey outdoes even himself in the following sentence, HSCA, volume VIII, p. 185, item (2), which is a pitiful matter of congressional record - "It is apparently difficult, but not impossible -- at least with only minimal practice with the firearm used -- to fire 3 shots, at least two of which score 'kills', with an elapsed time of 1.7 seconds or less between any two shots, even though, in the limited testing conducted, no shooter achieved this degree of proficiency".

I've read and analyzed thousands of government documents for two decades, but that sentence is the quintessence of stupidity. Please give Blakey the Buffoon Award of the decade for that brainchild. Are we to assume that further tests would accomplish the feat? After all, the shooter in the TSBD would have only had one opportunity. What horse manure! Yes sir, cram that puzzle piece in there, Blakey, just like a pre-school toddler.

Finally Blakey and Deputy Chief Counsel Gary Cornwell, both inexperienced riflemen, fired two consecutive shots within 1.5 seconds and 1.2 seconds respectively, but only by "point aiming" the rifle. You see! They finally did it! So there, skeptics!

Now if anyone out there believes that Lee Harvey Oswald, "a rather poor shot" sporting what is known in rifle circles as the Italian "humanitarian rifle", accurately "point aimed" from a sixty foot perch at a moving target, under extreme pressure, from an awkward angle with a tree partially obstructing his view, and fired three shots at the President of the United States, twice hitting his target, within a minimum of 1.66 seconds between the first two shots, you've been ingesting LSD for too long.

2. The CIA Oswald 201 File Caper  
(HSCA Report pp. 200 - 204)

Did you ever ask someone a straight forward question and their reply was "not necessarily"? Wasn't that that infuriating! Well, the HSCA's handling of Oswald's 201 file is a master lesson of alternative choices, not necessities, we-don't-knows, and no proofs either way.

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The CIA officially opened a 201 file on Lee Oswald on Dec. 9, 1960. Over the years all kinds of oddities and discrepancies about this file have led to some might heavy allegations, but the most serious declarations originated from former CIA agents themselves. In a national tabloid, approximately 1977, CIA personnel Bradley Ayers, Patrick McGarvey and Victor Marchetti, famous author of the The CIA and The Cult of Intelligence, all accused Oswald of being a CIA intelligence operative. Ayers said, "Oswald was either a contract agent, working for them full time or he was on some kind of assignment for the CIA". McGarvey stated, "If a guy has a 201 file, that means he's a professional staff employee of the Organization". Marchetti concluded, "Basically, if Oswald had a 201 file, he was an agent."

Around this time I was utilizing the Freedom of Information Act to obtain from the CIA certain documents unrelated to the 201 file, but I very nicely asked if the three former agents were correct about their assertions and what was the CIA's position on this matter. Sometimes if a researcher is very gentle, the cloak-and-dagger boys answer a question . . . sort of.

I had to write twice, but Gene Wilson, the CIA's Information and Privacy Coordinator wrote to me on February 13, 1978 and said, "In answer to your question, please be advised that the fact that the CIA maintained a 201 file on Lee Harvey Oswald does not at all signify that he had any relationship with this agency. Contrary to any such reports you may have heard, 201 files in the CIA are merely collections of biographic information about separate individuals, and their relationship with the Agency or lack of such, plays no part in the assignment of a 201 number".

First, the reports were not "heard" by me. I read them. Secondly, what Wilson was essentially saying was that a 201 file does not necessarily indicate a CIA relationship. Of course, he never denied that Oswald was an agent either so the answer was somewhat helpful, but not a total commitment to clarity by any stretch of the imagination.

Meanwhile the HSCA made a weak effort to find solutions to various anomalies in the Oswald 201 file. The congressional sleuths claimed that Oswald's file having been posted as "restricted" and the thirteen month delay of the opening of this file after his October 31, 1959 alleged defection were "not uncommon". How reassuring. The Committee also found no evidence of a dual filing system. How impressive. They accept the Lee "Henry" Oswald miscue as a simple bureaucratic error and were incredibly unable to fathom the true significance of the notation, "AG", which could either indicate an "actual or potential defector to the East or the Sino/Soviet Block including Cuba," the acceptable solution or a code used to aid in preparing computer listings of occupational groupings or intelligence affiliations, the ugly answer. How such a discrepancy could be left dangling as such boggles my

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mind. Also various documents dated improperly such as "radar operator, U.S. Marine Corps, as of 60" were considered trivial errors or ignored.

The one issue brought into the open for which the Committee deserves some applause involved the CIA's use of a faked 201 file complete with forged documents, cleverly backdated, to cover up the employment of the ZR/Rifle Project, a code name for the assassination of foreign political leaders, also known euphemistically as "Executive Action". Therefore, if such a scheme can be perpetrated once, it could have occurred more than once and any statements written by the CIA or HSCA stating that "the existence of a 201 file does not necessarily connote any actual relationship or contact with the CIA" will not alleviate too many fears.

However, in the HSCA nitty gritty land of stupidity, the 201 file's whopper revolves around the magical question, "Were 37 documents missing from Oswald's 201 file?" We are never assured of anything.

The CIA wants us to "assume" that the Oswald file is "up-to-date" and that one of the periodical update machine listings was inaccurate, but even the Committee was unsatisfied with swallowing that assumption. They felt that explanation "incomplete". How quaint!

But they did accept as "plausible" the explanation that the 37 documents were placed in a special sensitivity file elsewhere or were presently in the hands of some CIA analysts. Ah, here it comes reader, The Wacko Award of the 201 file mystery belongs to the following sentence of pure dribble - "...the 37 documents were, in fact, available; but they were not located in the file at the time." Pardon my skepticism, but as Dirty Harry would say, "Swell!" How can the HSCA be so naive as to trust the CIA!

Considering Lee Harvey Oswald's mysterious CC7-type history and considering the many controversial mysteries previously cited such as the "AG" notation and the fake ZR/Rifle files for assassination capabilities, the accepting of the CIA's innocent explanation for 37 missing Oswald documents as "plausible" without explicit confirmation and substantiation is the sign of a gutless, naive, and/or stupid committee. Shouldn't the CIA have produced the 37 documents to allay the suspicions? If the documents were elsewhere, where is elsewhere? If CIA analysts were perusing them, who are these men and why are these documents under examination now?

Maybe they're in a legitimate holding tank. Maybe everything is business as usual. Then again they might be visiting JFK's brain and Nixon's 18½ minute tape extravaganza in an Orwellian memory hole. Thanks for six million dollars of maybe-maybe notes.

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3. The Incomplete Autopsy  
(HSCA Volume VII pp. 14-15)

One of the blockbusters of the Kennedy Assassination nightmare occurred at the trial of Clay Shaw in New Orleans in 1969 during the testimony of Colonel Pierre Finck, who had been one of the attending pathologists at the autopsy. During the legal proceedings, Alvin Oser, Executive Assistant District Attorney, was attempting to ascertain why the wound which allegedly entered the President's back and allegedly traversed his body and allegedly exited his throat was not dissected to prove that the first chapter of the single bullet theory was a fact. Since it is the sine qua non of forensic pathology that a bullet always leaves a traversing path, the laying open of the track would have been the most obvious and irrefutable means of substantiating or ridiculing the one shot controversy.

Oser cleverly and persistently hounded Colonel Finck until he cracked. Like Lucy trying to evade Ricky Ricardo's wrath for an obvious wrong doing, Finck avoided answering the question, "Why didn't you dissect the track of the bullet wound in President Kennedy's neck?" But on the seventh attempt, Oser, an insightful lawyer who had impressed me during my private conversations with him at various court intermissions, coupled with the authoritative pressure of Judge Edward Haggerty hovering above him, Colonel Finck finally admitted, "As I recall, I was told not to, but I don't remember by whom."

Colonel Finck had finally succumbed and told the jury that someone whom he couldn't recall had instructed him not to complete the autopsy of the President of the United States of America. Whew! The critical means of clarifying the direction and number of bullets which had penetrated the President's body had been conveniently aborted by some individual in an autopsy room dominated by Pentagon generals and admirals.

The implications of Colonel Finck's admission are suspicious and gargantuan and Finck, under possible penalty of perjury, had not offered his information readily, but only when pressured to do so by a competent lawyer and an honest judge. Failure to examine the missile track in President Kennedy on orders from a high ranking military official was evidence of conspiratorial whitewash of the highest degree.

Ah, but almost a decade later here come the congressional investigators to the rescue. George Orwell must have turned over in his grave like a spin-and-dry washer when the HSCA decided to investigate the matter and determined that "it was Dr. Humes and not any Army general or other person who made the decision not to dissect the back entry wound."

Essentially the HSCA came to the dubious conclusion that the neck wound was innocently left unexamined based upon Dr. Michael

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Baden's rhetorical question, "Now that was your decision as opposed to somebody else's decision?" and Humes' sheepish surrender, "Yes, it was mine."

Congressmen in Washington expect us to believe the word of Commander Humes, a shell of a man who speaks in riddles, a man who has had to live with the shame of this medical mockery for years, a man who had Dr. George Burkley overseeing all of his written autopsy work as evidenced by Burkley's initials of approval which were hidden from us for a decade, a man whom we are told made a four inch error in the location of the head wound, a man who burned certain preliminary draft notes, a man whose credibility has more holes in it than a moth-riddled wool sweater.

How can the HSCA mental midgets expect us to accept that Humes made the decision? Finck makes it clear that although he could not pinpoint the origin of the order, that Humes certainly was excluded from the source.

Remember Finck had reluctantly given this information in that 1969 courtroom. Why would he fabricate a story like that which surely did not please his military godfathers upon his return home? Humes would have been an acceptable "easy out" for Finck to blame the order on since he was not a qualified forensic pathologist in the first place. If Finck had done so, the big brothers could say that Humes ignorantly, but innocently did not grasp the grave consequences of his decision.

It is also foolish to believe, as Finck implied that maybe a Kennedy family representative, such as General McHugh, terminated the crucial task to expedite the autopsy, McHugh, a Kennedy loyalist, would have wanted the truth and besides, he wasn't running the show. The Humes-did-it assumption is not only an example of sheer, stupid, and unfounded speculation, but it is also a biased attempt at rewriting history and therefore properly belongs on our list of assassination absurdities.

4. Oswald's Military Intelligence File  
(HSCA Report pp. 221 - 224)

Most Americans love to blame the assassination of President Kennedy on the C.I.A just because they're the "bad guys" who are notorious for killing people all over the globe. Some others select the FBI. Some real fools still point the finger at Communists and the newest fad for target practice is the Mafia.

However the means, motive and opportunity for assassination and more importantly, cover up, leads inescapably to a military coup d'etat ...with a little help from their Secret Service pals. The autopsy fiasco in a naval hospital, the infamous "shut up" memorandum to all autopsy personnel, the 8 to 12 military

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intelligence agents in Dealey Plaza cited by Lt. Col. Robert E. Jones, the "stand down" orders given to the 112th Army Intelligence Unit stationed at Fort Sam Houston, the presence of unidentified military intelligence agents riding around in police cruisers, the apprehension of an Army intelligence agent, James Powell, inside the TSBD after the shooting coupled with the initial handling of most of the physical evidence, including the body, as well as the motorcade order and assignments by the Secret Service is overwhelming evidence that the assassination was a military act.

As such Lee Harvey Oswald's military intelligence file which was never given to the Warren Commission may have possessed indispensable information to the true identity of Oswald and all of his James Bond antics. Unfortunately, the Department of Defense saw fit to destroy the Oswald file sometime in 1973. The Defense Department claims that "The Oswald file was destroyed routinely in accordance with normal files management procedures, as are thousands of intelligence titles annually." Also the military powers that be were unable to determine who was responsible for the file's destruction.

What is more absurd? The destruction of a military intelligence file belonging to the alleged assassin of a United States President or the evaluation of such a blatant cardinal sin of all cardinal sins as "routine" and "normal"? Gimme a break!

Now let's add HSCA salted orange juice to the psychological laceration provided by the Department of Defense propagandists. The HSCA who accepted the CIA's explanation for the 37 missing 201 file documents as "plausible" now became courageous hellions on wheels by calling the destruction of the military intelligence file of Lee Harvey Oswald as "extremely troublesome". What whimpering chokes! These congressional cowards give euphemisms and understatement a bad name. Washington must be inundated with single digit IQ disease to expect anyone to swallow such insane gibberish.

Yes, the FBI, CIA, and Mafia are by no means boy scouts, but even these organizations could learn a thing or two about political audacity from the Pentagon. In retrospect, the HSCA couldn't teach anyone anything because its yellow streak is too deep and wide.

5. Parkland Versus Bethesda  
(HSCA Volume VII pp. 37 - 39)

There is no need to belabor the discrepancies in the wound descriptions as reported by the Parkland doctors in Texas and the Bethesda doctors in Maryland. A Texas throat wound with a sharp, surgical tracheotomy cut approximately 3-5mm. is observed at Bethesda as a 7-8cm wound with "widely gaping irregular edges". Likewise a Texas description of the head wound as 5 by 7 cm of the right occipitoparietal area transforms via Bethesda into a large irregular hole some 13-17cm across extending from the occipitol

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region and including mostly parietal but also some of the temporal region. Add the famous FBI quote of pre-autopsy head surgery and the David Lifton theory, that John Kennedy's body was tampered with between Parkland and Bethesda in order to remove conspiratorial bullets and transform the wounds to appear more in line with a solo assassin from the rear, raises its macabre head.

The HSCA admits that it is a "theoretical possibility" that both Parkland and Bethesda doctors are correct about their observations "if someone had altered the body while in transit from Parkland Memorial Hospital to Bethesda Naval Hospital".

Frankly I was shocked to realize that HSCA members at least had enough imagination to consider the alterations as theoretical possibilities, but the old political horses slapped those blinders and feed bags on almost immediately thereafter.

The HSCA then assumed its way into mindless oblivion by continuing to say that "This possibility, however, is highly unlikely or even impossible. Secret Service agents maintained constant vigilance over the body from Parkland to Bethesda and stated that no one alter the body."

Now if the HSCA could prove that Lifton was wrong by developing a reasonable explanation for the multiple hearses and two coffins or by ascertaining that Robert Kennedy and Jackie had decided to observe JFK's body in the casket one more time as the entourage approached Bethesda and JFK was still resting peacefully inside, then they would stand on solid ground.

Of course such an investigation was not totally possible since Lifton's Best Evidence was published after the HSCA's demise, but the point is still fundamental to the truth. The HSCA merely disregarded the alteration theory because of its blind faith in the Secret Service.

Another fallacy is at work here known as appeal to integrity which succeeds because people believe in statements uttered by sources of unquestionable honesty. Ah, there's the rub! Who is a source of unquestionable honesty? The Warren Commission survived on this fallacy alone for years. I would show three hours of slides shattering the single bullet theory into fragments only to hear some patriotic oaf ask, "But why would Earl Warren lie?"

The HSCA sunk into fallacious feces when it trusted the praetorian guard as beyond reproach. No one is beyond reproach, especially when it comes to political assassination and especially the Secret Service. Just ask Julius Caesar or Thane Eugene Cesar for that matter.

6. The TSBD Poltergeist Award

Researchers throughout the years have convincingly argued

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that there is reasonable doubt that Oswald could have shot the President, hidden the rifle, rushed down four flights of stairs, and purchased a Coke prior to the arrival of Officer Baker and Roy Truly on the second floor which took ninety seconds or less. The controversial debate has see-sawed endlessly, but the HSCA photographic experts have confirmed Oswald's alibi.

The forensic photographers of the HSCA destroyed the Warren Report and the HSCA report with one sentence - "There is an apparent rearranging of boxes within two minutes after the last shot was fired at President Kennedy", but no one in Washington seems to be intelligent enough to realize it.

It was hard to accept the time constraints placed against Oswald to accomplish the feat in lightning speed, but if boxes were being rearranged within two minutes after the assassination, it is explicitly clear that Oswald was not moving them. It was simply impossible for him to do so.

Lillian Mooneyham's testimony indicated carton movement after the shooting. Richard Sprague's photographic research citing suspicious perch rearrangements reinforced Mooneyham's observations and shattered the sanctity of the official perch photos. Now there is photographic proof from an official government source. Unless there is someone out there dumb enough to suggest that there was a poltergeist spirit inhabiting the TSBD on November 22, 1963, then unidentified conspirators were rearranging the TSBD perch. Once that is established, the motive for the rearrangement implies evidentiary fabrication to implicate Lee Harvey Oswald. Otherwise why bother risking such an operation.

How could Congress fail to grasp the relationship and significance between Oswald's alibi and the moving boxes? This lack of coordinating judgment is incredible and inexcusable.

7. Let's Blame The Dead Aword  
(HSCA Volume 7 pp 23 - 33)

A bullet always leaves a bullet path. Despite all the theories bandied about for twenty years, there is only one definitive way to determine the number and direction of shots which hit President Kennedy in the head and that is to dissect the brain. This probably will never occur since the President's brain, brain tissue slides, blood smears, and photographic slides of all of these materials disappeared sometime prior to October 31, 1966. The general public would not learn of these missing materials listed under item 9 in official inventories until discovered by forensic pathologist, Dr. Cyril Wecht in August, 1972.

The Committee worked diligently in an effort to locate the missing materials and develop a chain of transfer. Their final conclusion was "that Robert Kennedy either destroyed these materials

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or otherwise rendered them inaccessible" and they just might be right this time . . . maybe.

The HSCA's chain of transfer begins at Bethesda Naval Hospital, then to the Executive Office Building in Washington, then to the National Archives under Evelyn Lincoln's guidance, when on April 26, 1965 an itemized inventory was made which included the materials in question, then allegedly to Angela Novello, Robert Kennedy's personal secretary and Herman Kahn, Assistant Archivist for Presidential Libraries to another area of the National Archives and finally on October 29, 1966, the official day of gifts transfer day, the materials were discovered missing.

The evidence which suggests RFK may have destroyed the materials results from a conflict in testimony between Evelyn Lincoln and Angela Novello. Lincoln claimed that in May, 1965 RFK ordered Novello and Kahn to move the footlocker elsewhere and Lincoln said she gave the keys to Novello at the time of the transfer. RFK and Kahn are deceased so Novello was the only other person who could provide information and she denied handling autopsy materials, the footlocker, and any keys.

However during the October, 1966 transfer a National Archives memorandum dated November 4, 1966 entitled "Inspection of Materials Relating to The Autopsy of President John F. Kennedy" states that Novello produced the footlocker key for the second inventory. If so, Novello is an apparent liar, a Robert Kennedy loyalist, but still a liar which is what the HSCA discreetly concluded.

The HSCA cannot be faulted this time for its thorough investigation of the RFK brain destroyer theory. However they can be criticized for not considering other alternatives simultaneously. It is very convenient to blame the dead.

First, who maintained custody of all these materials at the Executive Office Building until the 1965 transfer to the National Archives? Answer: the Secret Service! Uh-Oh! Consider Fred Newcomb's Murder From Within and David Lifton's Best Evidence and the Secret Service spells means, motive, and opportunity.

Secondly, on April 26, 1965 who itemized the inventory? Answer: Robert Bouck, U.S. Secret Service Agent, Admiral George Burkley, the President's physician and "other Secret Service personnel". Assume that Bouck and Burkley are innocent (and assume that for only a second, please), who are these "other Secret Service personnel"? Also Bouck was "uncertain" about Burkley's custody of the brain for that day, but assumes everything is legitimate now. There is a lot of assuming going on here.

Regarding the Lincoln-Novello contradiction, can we trust the Archives memo of November 4, 1966 that Ms. Angela Novello

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produced the footlocker key? I would love to know Novello's reaction to the HSCA's conclusions.

Also Mrs. Lincoln said the materials first came to her in boxes and she put the materials in one day's time into a footlocker provided by Archives personnel. Who gave her the locker and who had previous access to the keys provided? Also how good was the security in Lincoln's office the day that boxes littered the place? In fact how good was the security in Lincoln's office at any time?

Maybe the HSCA is right. Their theory is reasonable, but their story is circumstantial and not as tidy as their ten page dissertation makes it out to be. There are lots of other possibilities and lots of loopholes, especially when one considers the hands of the Secret Service were present throughout the whole ordeal and remember that the Committee considered the Secret Service beyond reproach when it came to wound alterations. Isn't it obvious that John Kennedy's brain is not the only one missing in Washington D.C.

8. The Chest Cavity Photographs  
(HSCA Volume 7 p. 12)

The internal photographs of President Kennedy's chest might be the most crucial pieces of evidence in determining the authenticity of the single bullet theory. If photos showed a "missile" or flechette or good sized bullet fragment or a whole bullet inside the President, the Oswald scenario would be crushed. Commander Humes is positive that these photographs were taken and he's rarely sure of anything. The autopsy photographer, John Stringer, supports Humes' belief. However Admiral Burkley denies that interior chest photographs were taken.

The Committee takes up the gauntlet of courage again and concludes "There is no evidence that such photographs exist" and drops the matter. Are we to assume that they agree with Burkley? And these pieces of evidence were not included in item 9 so let's not blame Bobby for their disappearance, ok?

Well, the Committee didn't blame anyone. They just ignored the issue which implies through silence that Burkley is correct.

Who is Admiral George Burkley? His approval of Humes' autopsy documents including the infamous Boswell back chart, his "third thoracic vertebrae", no throat wound death certificate, his lack of Warren Commission testimony despite his presence in the motorcade, at Parkland Memorial Hospital and at Bethesda Naval Hospital, his coziness with Bethesda's commanding officer, Captain R. O. Canada and his access to the brain and other missing materials does not insure within me a feeling of security, but it's clear that the HSCA considered him beyond reproach also.

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#### 9. The Acoustics Tests

The acoustics tests have become a complex labyrinth and frankly I raised my white flag in dizzying surrender long ago. I don't know who or what to accept any longer and I refuse to jump into the jungle of masochistic quicksand.

However even an acoustical novice can attack one aspect of the tests conducted and that is the re-enactment. The re-enactment only included shots from two locations, the famous grassy knoll and the alleged Oswald window.

Over the years various researchers have alleged or theorized a number of possible shooting origins. Penn Jones cites the Records Building roof and the sewer drain. Harold Weisberg is curious about a figure in a second floor Dal-Tex window. Emory Brown has shown me blow ups of a figure in a third floor Dal-Tex window. Emilio Santana claimed to be a Dal-Tex roof shooter. Robert Cutler, in addition to his non-supersonic, shooting umbrella man, convincingly indicates a possible TSBD southwest window shooter. I am intrigued by the Cancellare figure situated upon the grassy knoll south as is Robert Groden and Emory Brown. Fred Newcomb really went out on a limb and accused William Greer, the JFK limousine driver, of being the assassin. Perhaps all of these "snipers" can be innocently dismissed, but by firing shots only from two positions, apparently to save money and time, the HSCA may have blown the whole investigation.

If the HSCA experts found fifteen coefficient matches and determined four were shots and six were false alarms, what are the other five undetermined impulses? Are they all false alarms? Are some of them shots from an area other than the grassy knoll or Oswald perch? If so, where?

Whoever is correct about the acoustics results, one thing is certain. To limit the re-enactment to two sites was just plain stupid!

#### 10. Who Didn't Do It?

The House Select Committee on Assassinations admits that they were unable to identify the other gunman or the extent of the conspiracy. Well, no one is perfect. What is outlandishly dumb to me is their absolving almost everyone on Earth without knowing who did it. "Two plus two is five," moans Orwell.

The day after the Committee had closed its doors, I wrote a blistering diatribe of the HSCA which was published in The JFK Assassination Forum in Belfast, Ireland in January 1979. My comments still hold up - "I can't believe that the HSCA can rule out any organization as conspiring to kill President Kennedy,

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particularly since they can't name another gunman. Such reasoning is absurd . . . . How could any committee make such a naive statement and consider itself honest and rational?"

Hey, Did you notice in the HSCA Report index, p. VI, they wrote, "The Committee was unable to identify the other gunmen or the extent of the conspiracy"? On page 95 it's corrected, but subconscious truth surfaced partially in the table of contents.

In all frankness, the HSCA was never really stupid or naive or irrational. They were just dishonest rodents with the brains of foxes. They were concerned with looking good, not being good. They were selected preference masters. They weren't detectives; they were slimy politicians. They placated everyone, the Russians, the Castroites, the Anti-Castroites, the Federal agencies. They even gave the critics credibility by declaring probable conspiracy, but tempered it by blaming a dead man again and stuck in "probable" as a safety valve. They tried to be all things to almost all people, but accomplished virtually nothing, then buried their classified files more efficiently than their predecessors and now can whine that it's the Justice Department who won't pursue their efforts, which they must have known all along.

When one considers these twenty years, despite their occasional bunglings, the big brother puppets have effectively protected the assassins of John Kennedy from justice, but they lost the faith of the American people in doing so and that is a costly price to pay to kill one man and cover it up.

#### THE END

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FRANKLIN — Billie Sol Estes cited the electric chair, in addition to prison, as reasons he refused to tell a grand jury in Franklin anything about the suspicious deaths of four people connected with Estes, sources here say.

Estes' purported declaration came during his secret testimony last week to a Robertson County grand jury investigating the June 3, 1961, death of Henry H. Marshall, a U.S. Agriculture Department official in nearby Bryan. Estes, granted immunity from prosecution, said former President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered the killing out of fears that Marshall could tie an LBJ political operative to Estes' multimillion-dollar frauds.

A Johnson family friend, Malcolm E. "Mac" Wallace, killed Marshall with five rifle shots after trying to fake a suicide by using carbon monoxide, Estes added.

The jury last week changed a 23-year-old ruling of suicide to homicide and then said no one could be charged because those responsible were dead. Johnson,

Wallace and a third alleged plotter, former Democratic Party official Clifton Carter, all died in the 1970s. Historians and Johnson aides have denied that LBJ was involved.

The Marshall case had been reopened after U.S. Marshal Clint Peoples of Dallas persuaded Estes to testify.

According to various sources, Estes' expressed fear of capital punishment came in an exchange initiated by Peoples, who was allowed to remain in the grand jury room.

The 73-year-old marshal reportedly mentioned four other cases where "a similar situation exists." He apparently was referring to people connected with Estes who died during a federal investigation and whose deaths were attributed to suicide.

Peoples asked Estes to name the cases, but Estes allegedly balked. District Attorney John Paschall reportedly inquired "off the record" whether the people involved in the four cases were also involved in Marshall's death.

Sources said that Estes, glaring across the room, responded, "I would say off the record I wouldn't tell you nothing that



Billie Sol Estes

would send me to the penitentiary or the electric chair."

Paschall didn't press the matter, sources say, after Estes pulled out a white index card containing a recitation of his right not to incriminate himself and indicated he would invoke it.

Several lawyers contacted Sunday night said Estes would not have to fear a death penalty.

ESTES CITED ELECTRIC CHAIR IN REFUSAL TO DISCUSS DEATHS  
Dallas Times Herald  
March 26, 1984