

WATERGATE GLARE CATCHES KEY Nixon, Ford, Jaworski Among the Strangely Bulging File of

By JOHN MOULDER

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WHERE WERE YOU on the day President John F. Kennedy was murdered in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963?

RICHARD M. NIXON was in Dallas that day, but it had slipped his mind not three months later in an interview with FBI Agent John F. Malone.

GERALD R. FORD was then an obscure congressman destined to take the leading role on the Warren Commission which made the controversial investigation of the assassination.

LEON JAWORSKI was an attorney, little known outside Houston, who misrepresented himself in a telephone call to the only attorney to counsel with accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald between the time Kennedy was killed and Oswald was murdered by Jack Ruby.

JOHN B. CONNALLY, Texas governor who had urged Kennedy to come to Dallas, was wounded by the bullets fired into Kennedy's open-topped car.

All these men — and many others connected with the Kennedy tragedy and its aftermath — have one thing in common:

Their lives have been changed drastically by the staggering scandals placed under the general label of Watergate.

THE SCANDALS LOST NIXON his Presidency. They made Gerald Ford the 38th President of the United States. Connally was indicted for bribery. Jaworski became Nixon's chief antagonist.

The often-challenged Warren Report on the assassination was made public exactly 10 years ago — on Sept. 24, 1964.

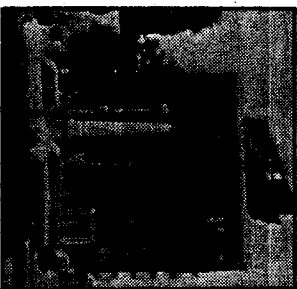
During that decade, scores of assassination buffs and public officials have unraveled a thousand strands in their efforts to prove a conspiracy was behind the President's death, that Oswald did not act alone as the Warren Commission claimed.

TWO OF THE MOST MOMENTOUS EVENTS of 20th-century American history were the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the Watergate scandal which toppled the administration of President Richard M. Nixon.

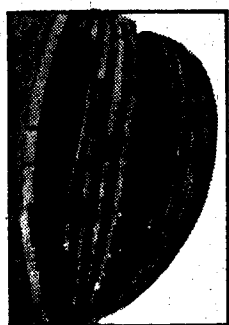
Ironically, these two astonishing tragedies—although they happened almost 11 years apart—are tied together by an incredible chain of coincidences. Again and again, the names of those who played prominent roles in the aftermath of the Kennedy assassination also crop up as principal figures in the events surrounding Watergate. Time after time, the paths of these individuals cross and recross, creating—accidental though it may be—an intricate, beguiling pattern of suspicion.

In this article, TATTLER's John Moulder guides you through that pattern, to acquaint you with the more important of these "coincidences." Nothing is intended to imply guilt, wrongdoing or conspiracy on the part of any of those involved.

As another in an ongoing series of articles growing out of TATTLER's extensive assassination investigation, it is presented in an effort to underscore the growing need for a reopening of the entire Kennedy case.



Dallas Book Depository



Watergate Complex

MEN IN JFK TRAGEDY

Names Found in Both National Crises

But this historic story, thoroughly documented by TATTLER, has never before been told. It is the story of what more than a score of people did or said concerning the assassination during the past 11 years and how they ended up in the Watergate spotlight.

Kennedy made his trip to Texas and to Dallas at the urging of Texas Democrats, especially John Connally. The party in Texas was in shambles, torn then between the conservative Connally faction and the liberal Sen. Ralph Yarborough alliance. Kennedy undertook a peace-making mission.

After the assassination, Nixon phoned a Dallas paper to say he had wished Kennedy well...

A former Vice President-turned-corporation lawyer named Richard Nixon was in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. He was to attend a board meeting of Pepsi-Cola Co., which he represented.

The day before, he had told Dallas Morning News reporter Carl Freund he believed President Kennedy would drop Lyndon Johnson as his 1974 running mate because he felt the Texan was a political liability. The story only made the fourth section of the same issue that carried a notorious black-bordered advertisement calling Kennedy a traitor.

THAT DAY IN DALLAS, Nixon told reporters he hoped Kennedy would receive a cordial reception. A few hours later, as news of the Kennedy tragedy flashed around the nation, Nixon would telephone a Dallas Times Herald editor to remind him that he had wished Kennedy well in Dallas.

Two hours before Kennedy landed at Love Field, Nixon stepped aboard a New York-bound American Airlines plane at the same airport.

Ten years later, Nixon would recall that he heard the news of the assassination while riding in a taxicab from the airport in New York.

"We were stopped for a red light when a woman came out of her house screaming and crying," Nixon said. "I rolled down the cab window to ask what the matter was and when she saw my face she turned even paler. She told me that John Kennedy had been shot and killed in Dallas. We drove the rest of the way in silence."

Just three months later, Nixon would be unable to remember that he had been in Dallas on the day Kennedy was shot.

The FBI reported to Warren Commission investigators:

"On Feb. 28, 1964, the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, former Vice President of the United States, was contacted by Assistant Director in charge of the New York Office, John F. Malone, and furnished the following information:

"MR. NIXON ADVISED that the only time he was in Dallas, Tex., during 1963, was two days prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

"He vaguely thought there was some invitation extended during the early part of 1963, probably in April, but it never materialized, nor did he give any consideration to going there.

"Mr. Nixon could not even recall the circumstances surrounding the invitation, but did observe there could have been some publicity indicating he had been invited to come to Dallas.

"Mr. Nixon said that if anything more concrete comes to his mind or after his secretary checks his records, which could indicate the circumstances surrounding this, he would immediately notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He did say positively that he had no intentions of visiting Dallas during April 1963."

A question of a possible Nixon visit to Dallas in April of 1963 arose in FBI interviews with a Chamber of Commerce official. The official had at first told the FBI Nixon had been invited to speak at a function in April. Later, the official said he had been mistaken, that Barry Goldwater had instead been invited.

Can any sane, sober adult American not recall what city he was in on the day the President was assassinated?

LEON JAWORSKI ENTERED the assassination investigation almost immediately.

Texas Atty. Gen. Waggoner Carr, as he revealed exclusively to TATTLER correspondent James Kerr recently, concluded immediately after the assassination that he would arrange a Texas Court of Inquiry to openly investigate it. Carr later dropped this move at the urging of Warren Commission Chairman Earl Warren.

Prosecutor Leon Jaworski deceived a lawyer to pump him for information on Oswald...

A Connally appointee, Carr told TATTLER he had named Jaworski to head up his proposed probe.

On the day after the assassination, H. Louis Nichols, president of the Dallas Bar Association, visited Oswald in jail for a few minutes. He wanted to know if Oswald was being treated fairly and if he wanted the bar to appoint him a lawyer. Oswald told him he wanted representation from the American Civil Liberties Union.

After the visit with Oswald, Nichols received a telephone call from Jaworski. The Houston lawyer wanted to know what

Oswald told him. But Jaworski made no mention of the fact that he was representing the state attorney general in an investigation of the assassination.

Instead, according to Nichols' testimony before the Warren Commission, Jaworski represented himself this way:

"Later (after meeting with Oswald) Mr. Leon Jaworski, a Houston, Tex., attorney, called me and said that he was going to go to Miami, Fla., to the meeting of American Trial Lawyers and had been asked to make a report of some sort on the Oswald matter and he asked me if I would write him a letter outlining

Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis was questioned in the JFK case, the New York Times reports...

what I had done in connection with interviewing Oswald and attempting to see whether or not he wanted the Dallas Bar Association to provide counsel."

Nichols wrote Jaworski a detailed report.

WHY WOULD JAWORSKI, a learned attorney who prosecuted the Nuremberg war criminals, misrepresent himself and take a chance on prejudicing the state's case, had Oswald lived and been brought to trial?

Jaworski surfaced in the assassination investigation later, sitting in on some commission meetings. He was present on June 7, 1964, when the commission took testimony in Dallas from Jack Ruby.

Ruby practically begged to be taken to Washington to testify.

"Gentlemen," the man who murdered Oswald before millions of television viewers said, "unless you get me to Washington, you can't get a fair shake out of me. If you understand my way of talking, you have got to bring me to Washington to get the testimony ..."

To Warren especially, Ruby entreated: "If you want to hear any further testimony, you will have to get me to Washington soon, because it has something to do with you, Chief Warren."

Jaworski said nothing to indicate the state was willing to allow Ruby to go to Washington. The state had jurisdiction over him because of the murder charge.

Ruby never told the story he wanted to tell only in Washington, a thousand miles from Texas jails and authorities. He died in the Dallas County Jail, amid dark speculation by conspiracy buffs that he had been injected with cancer cells.

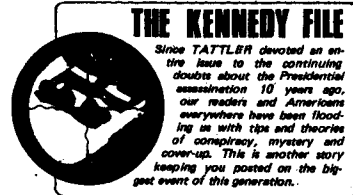
DID NIXON HIMSELF EVER KNOW Ruby? The possibility does exist that the man who became the first American President to resign under scandal had once known the small-time nightclub owner with shady connections.

Nixon, as a crusading congressman in the late 1940s, was a Communist-hunter on the House Un-American Activities Committee. Revilo P. Oliver, University of Illinois professor, has claimed that the committee had investigated a "Jack Rubenstein" in Chicago as having once been active in a Communist youth movement.

"Rubenstein" was Ruby's name before he moved to Dallas and changed it.

J. David Truby, a free-lance journalist, has shown TATTLER a memo he claims he obtained from a confidential source within the FBI. Supposedly signed by a Nixon staff aide, the memo states:

"It is my sworn statement that one Jack Rubenstein of Chicago noted as a potential witness for hearings of the House Committee on Un-American Activities is performing in-



formation functions for the staff of Congressman Richard M. Nixon, Rep. of California. It is requested Rubenstein not be called for open testimony in those aforementioned hearings."

Truby readily concedes that he has not verified that the memo is authentic.

But if Ruby was an informer for a prominent congressman, it would be in character with the type of man he became in Dallas in the years before he shot his way into the history books.

Ruby was a small-time hoodlum himself, but he was a police buff, continually hanging about the police station, giving lawmen aid and information.

NOT GENERALLY KNOWN is the fact that President Johnson, before naming the seven-member Warren Commission, asked Nixon as titular head of the Republican Party to recommend a Republican to serve. Nixon recommended Gerald Ford, the low-key congressman from Grand Rapids, Mich.

Ford, unlike other commission members, hired a staff and proceeded to dominate the commission. With a reputation of usually being nonaggressive, Ford asked more questions and heard more witnesses than any other commissioner.

Just after the commission report was released 10 years ago, Gerald Ford by-lined a story in Life magazine shooting down as a "mother's myth" the persistent rumors that Oswald had been a paid agent for the U.S. government.

The commission failed to call as a witness Alonzo Hudkins, a Houston newspaperman, who was the original source of the agent rumor. He wrote that Oswald was a \$200-a-month FBI informer with the code number "179." Curiously, enough, it was Leon Jaworski who, as special counsel for the state of Texas, was sent to check out Hudkins' story. He reported back it was "sheer speculation."

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover proclaimed, "Lee Harvey Oswald was never an informant of the FBI." But the name of FBI agent James Hosty, his telephone number and license plate number were written in Oswald's address book.

This bit of information was deleted from the Oswald papers by the FBI. Hoover explained the information was not pertinent to the commission's investigation.

Years later, Hoover and the FBI would become involved in the domestic intrigues of the Richard Nixon Administration. But Hoover died before the Watergate scandals oozed to a climax.

LAST YEAR, ARLEN SPECTER, Philadelphia district attorney, was named to Nixon's legal defense team. A White House aide said the appointment was "logical and inevitable."

John Dean's wife, Maureen, was once wed to George Owen, accused of gambling ties with a Ruby pal...

Perhaps it was also logical and inevitable that Specter had

become the staff lawyer of the Warren Commission years earlier.

It was Specter who originated the controversial "single bullet" hypothesis in the Kennedy assassination. This theory was propounded, and accepted, after rifle tests showed the alleged murder weapon could not have been fired within the time period a film showed that both Kennedy and Connally were wounded. Specter contended the same bullet passed through Kennedy and struck Connally.

Did Connally ever know Oswald? Probably not, but Connally's name did appear in Oswald's address book. And Connally had routinely corresponded with Oswald as Secretary of the Navy under John Kennedy. Oswald had written to Connally about his Marine Corps discharge records.

After Nixon came to power, Connally shifted his allegiance from the Democratic Party to the Nixon camp. He became Secretary of the Treasury under Nixon. Connally was on the road to being a 1976 presidential contender until he was recently indicted on a charge of accepting a \$10,000 bribe from Texas attorney Jake Jacobson to influence legislation for the milk lobby.

But Oswald was personally acquainted with another Kennedy cabinet member — former Secretary of the Navy Fred Korth, who succeeded Connally as Kennedy's Secretary of the Navy.

Korth resigned, shortly before Kennedy's death, amidst a nationally publicized controversy over awarding the \$8.5 billion contract for the TFX — later known as the F-111 — to General Dynamics in Texas.

TEXAS DID GET THE CONTRACT, through President Johnson's influence after he became President when Kennedy was killed.

Korth's name, like Connally's, appeared in Oswald's address book. Korth had known the Oswald family for years.

As a Fort Worth attorney, he had once represented Edwin A. Ekdahl in a divorce suit against Marguerite C. Ekdahl, formerly Marguerite Oswald. The mother of Lee Harvey Oswald has unwaveringly maintained that her son was a government agent.

Korth is now a Washington attorney and has in no way been linked with Watergate.

Also named in Oswald's address book were two leaders of the American Nazi Party — George Lincoln Rockwell and Daniel Burros. Rockwell was later assassinated. Burros killed himself after the New York Times disclosed he was born a Jew.

Assassination buffs have in recent months, claimed that key Watergate figures may have been connected with a Kennedy conspiracy.

AMATEUR SLEUTH AL CHAPMAN, whose "Dallas Irregulars" have come up with startling new facts since the assassination, produced a picture taken at the assassination scene of an unknown man he believes is convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt. Hunt, former CIA man, denies he was in Dallas that day.

Watergate conspirator James McCord threatened to sue the magazine called The Realist after it carried an article by

**'I never believed Oswald acted alone,'
President Johnson told an
interviewer before he died...**

assassination researcher Mae Brussell that placed McCord in Dallas on the day Kennedy was shot.

The article also claimed the National Archives contain FBI reports indicating Watergate figure Frank Sturgis was a friend

of Lee Harvey Oswald and David Ferrie. Ferrie, a pilot and investigator for Carlos Marcello, the Louisiana mob king, was found dead after former New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison revealed that Ferrie was the key figure in his investigation of a Kennedy conspiracy. And the New York Times reported recently that Sturgis was questioned by the FBI after the Kennedy murder.

Former White House attorney Gordon Liddy, convicted of Watergate crimes, appeared to have some obsession with assassinations. Washington columnist Jack Anderson claimed Liddy was once prepared to assassinate him because of his reporting, until called off by an official of the Committee to Re-elect the President.

And Liddy was ready to test his loyalty to Nixon by allowing himself to be assassinated — "on any street corner, at any time."

FOUR OF THE WATERGATE BURGLARS were Cubans opposed to Castro.

Cubans kept cropping up throughout the various investigations of the Kennedy assassination. Oswald had taken part in "Fair Play for Cuba" demonstrations in Dallas and New Orleans. Sturgis had been a soldier of fortune and gun runner to Cuba. Hunt had been a leader in the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion and wrote a book about it.

U.S. Rep. Henry Gonzalez, a San Antonio Democrat, rode in the Kennedy motorcade. Now, 11 years later, he is demanding investigations to determine if Watergate figures may have been involved in a conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

He first revealed his suspicions in an exclusive TATTLER interview last year. He had tried, unsuccessfully, to persuade

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governmental agencies, including the CIA, to reveal where certain Watergate figures were on the day Kennedy was killed.

In recent months, Gonzalez has become more vitriolic in his allegations.

ANOTHER STRANGE COINCIDENCE by association occurred in Dallas last March.

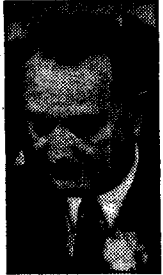
Joseph Campisi, owner of a Dallas restaurant, and George Owen, former executive with the New Orleans Saints professional football team, were among five people subpoenaed to appear before a federal grand jury probing gambling connections between Dallas and Las Vegas.

Campisi was a friend of Jack Ruby, who sent for the restaurant owner after he was jailed for

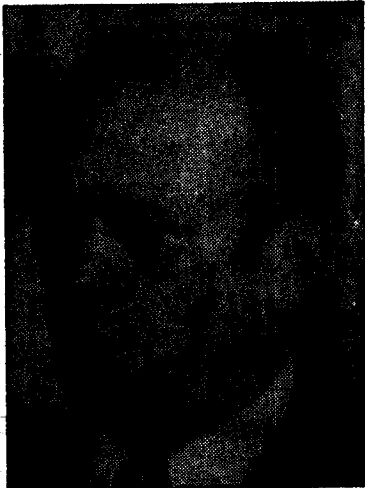
murdering Oswald. Owen? He is the former husband of blonde beauty Maureen Dean, wife of John Dean, White House lawyer-turned-Watergate canary. National polls have shown that a majority of the American public is not satisfied with the Warren Commission report on the Kennedy assassination.

This disbelief is not confined to the unsophisticated and rank-and-file.

When President Johnson asked Richard Nixon for a man to lead the Warren probe lawyers, he got Ford.



JOHNSON

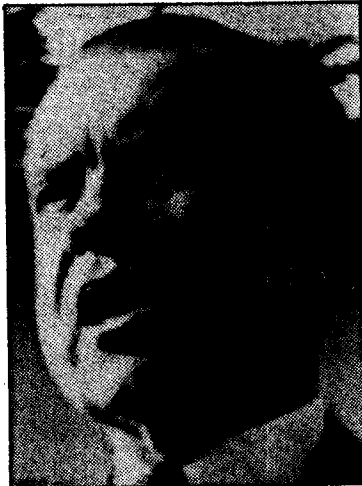


PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD

When Kennedy died, Nixon was in Dallas, but his memory, unlike most, was hazy as to why and where.



KENNEDY

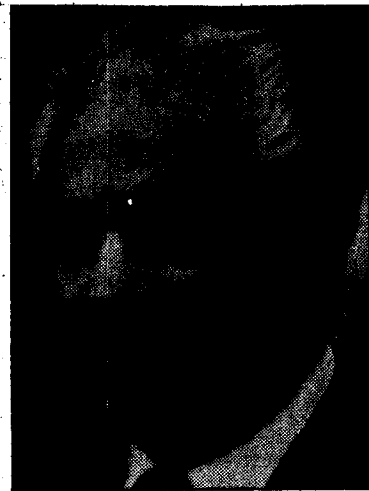


FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON

Watergate prosecutor was deaf to Ruby's plea for permission to leave Texas to see Justice Warren.



RUBY

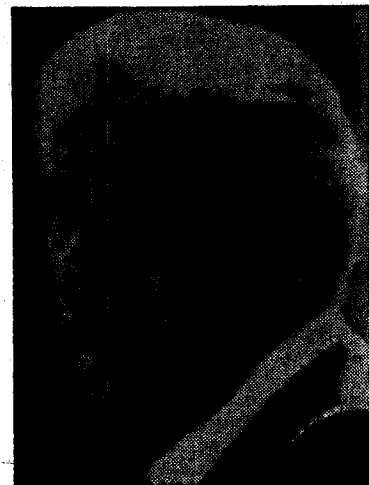


PROSECUTOR LEON JAWORSKI

Secretary of the Navy under JFK, Connally corresponded with Lee Harvey Oswald on service records.



OSWALD



INDICTED EX-GOV. CONNALLY

President Lyndon Johnson told CBS newsmen Walter Cronkite in a 1972 interview that he himself was dissatisfied with the commission's findings. He felt Oswald did not act alone. Then he edited the comments out of the interview before it was broadcast. Johnson never publicly elaborated on these beliefs. A few months later, he died.

In the last interview before his death, President Johnson privately told writer Leo Janos:

"I NEVER BELIEVED that Oswald acted alone, although I can accept that he pulled the trigger."

The former President said a year before Kennedy's death a CIA-backed team for assassinating Fidel Castro had been picked up in Havana. Johnson speculated Kennedy's assassination might have been a retaliation.

U.S. Rep. Hale Boggs, a member of the Warren Commission, reportedly told a staff member in 1972, "I know we were hoodwinked on the Kennedy thing, and I want to look into it again." A few months later, his aircraft disappeared somewhere in Alaska.

Sen. Robert Kennedy was never satisfied with the Warren Commission's conclusions about his brother's death.

At Oxnard, Calif., telephone company manager Ray Sheehan told the FBI after the assassination that a telephone operator overheard a woman caller whispering, "The President is going to be killed."

Sheehan said the caller ac-

identally entered the operator's circuits, probably by misdialing. The woman's voice was troubled.

That was 20 minutes before Kennedy was killed.

Peter Noyes, author of "Legacy of Doubt," wrote that the President's brother, Bobby was always concerned about this mysterious call.

WHILE CAMPAIGNING for the Democratic presidential nomination in California, Kennedy chanced to be up in Oxnard on May 28, 1968.

For two hours, he dropped out of sight. Later, when campaign aides asked him where he had been, he made a joke about having lost his hat. Bobby Kennedy never wore a hat during the campaign.

Had Bobby received a personal tip about his brother's death he wanted to check out in Oxnard? Did his personal checking turn up the truth?

The world never knew. A week later, he was assassinated in Los Angeles.

One by one, those who may know the truth behind the assassination are dying off.

Answers to the puzzling questions, the coincidences and the political ramifications of the assassination, may lie buried in the National Archives.

The Warren Commission ordered sealed for 75 years important evidence collected during the investigation.

Thus, the truth will not be revealed until the year 2039, long after any conspirators are dead.