

THE FOURTH DECADE

1963

1973

1983

1993

2003

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Back cover illustration: Will Fritz Uncropped

In most publications of the Jackson photograph of Ruby shooting Oswald, the figures on the left and right margins of the pictured are cropped off. In this uncropped (less cropped?) version the figure of homicide Captain Will Fritz appears in the left foreground. This film shows Fritz' remarkable lack of reaction to the event in his immediate vicinity, especially in contrast to detective Leavelle (white suit) whose expression seems to portray the whole official police position of shock and dismay at Ruby's murderous act. For further discussion of Fritz in relation to the Oswald transfer, and the way he is depicted in movie film footage at the time of the slaying, see the article by Jan Stevens, this issue.

CLOSING ARGUMENTS

by

Jerry Organ

Professor Rose defiantly heralds the fourth decade of assassination dissent with the declaration: "we shall not answer all the outstanding questions in the first 100 days nor even in the first 1000 days." One would think having the absence of deadlines, scientific constraints and investigative ethics would ensure findings more perceptive than the official reports.

Not so, as objective researchers like Gerald Posner—and gadflies like Livingstone, Wrone and Perry—point out: the critical case to date revolves around witness embellishments, shoddy analysis, petty carping, semantics and, worst of all, cheap innuendo and character assassination that defame dedicated officials and undermine government agencies.

Assumptions. In his review of *Case Closed* (November 1993), James Folliard suggests Posner "puts the cart before the horse" by opening his book with Oswald's personal history out of context. In fact, the book opens with Oswald's arrest—after attempting to kill Officer MacDonald with the gun he used to murder Tippit [1]—at the Texas Theatre. Evidently, Folliard finds nothing suspicious about a man fleeing the site of the assassination to roam the streets of Dallas with a concealed weapon.

Frazier-Randle. Mrs. Randle, through the rain, saw Oswald carry the package to her brother's parked car from a distance and only briefly. Buell Frazier saw the package in place on the rear seat and later being carried from behind, as Oswald rushed ahead to the Depository. Frazier recalled:

"I didn't pay too much attention the way he was walking because I was walking along there looking at the railroad cars and watching the men on the diesel switch them cars and I didn't pay too much attention on how he carried the package at all." [2]

The distance to the point on the rear seat where Frazier thought the package reached was 27 inches; [3] even that was too long to be carried between the armpit and cupped hand. The siblings' rough estimates missed by just 20 percent. If the package really was short and lightweight, why bother to lay it across the back seat? Why carry it so close to the body, using the arm as a partial shield? Why fail to mention the "curtain rods" to Marina and Ruth Paine on the 21st?

Oswald thought the story so contrived, he denied it during interrogation (not knowing Mrs. Randle had also seen the package). Recently, *Frontline* acknowledged his room didn't require curtains or rods. Posner seems to have "conflated" the dual accounts, but critics continue to embellish the record in

the opposite extreme. [4] As for the FBI obtaining "prints not found by the Dallas police," (p. 3) Lt. Carl Day dusted the paper bag with powder, a method usually ineffective on such absorbent materials, while the Bureau utilized a silver nitrate solution which reacts to perspiration absorbed into the material. [5]

The Lunchroom Debate. Gary Mack (p. 14) completely ignores Carolyn Arnold's first statement in which "she thought she caught a fleeting glimpse of Lee Harvey Oswald standing in the (first floor) hallway" as she stood in front of the Depository. Mrs. Arnold didn't know Oswald personally and most of the women who left the building with her place their departure at about 12:15, [6] not 12:25 as claimed by Mack.

Oswald, writes Mack: "could also have entered the second floor lunchroom from another direction." (p. 14) However, Officer Baker testified:

"I can't say whether he had gone in through that door (the lunchroom door) or not. All I did was catch a glance at him, and evidently—this door might have been, you know, closing and almost shut at that time." [7]

Gerald Posner, like Jim Moore, evades the key issue surrounding the lunchroom encounter: whether Oswald had a Coke in hand when confronted by Baker. The motorcycle officer's affidavit of September 23, 1964 had the phrase "drinking a coke" struck out. [8] I propose that when Baker left Oswald behind in the room, he may have heard the machine operate, an action he later recalled as "drinking a coke." Reviewing his affidavit, Baker may have decided the term was essentially inaccurate but not important enough to qualify.

In his desperation to justify his presence in the lunchroom, Oswald selected the predominant brand, foresaking his usual Dr. Pepper. David Keck seems under the impression that: "No one else saw him in the building with a Coke after that time, and Baker's testimony indicates otherwise." (p. 12) In fact, Mrs. Robert Reid encountered Oswald in the second floor office area; "He had gotten a Coke and was holding it in his hands." [9] The Coke is never mentioned in Baker's testimony; Roy Truly and Baker both told the Commission Oswald was empty-handed.

Dealey Plaza Witnesses. To discredit Posner's claim that every credible witness who saw a rifle located it in the Oswald window, Folliard cites Malcolm Couch's account of seeing a rifle in a "window on the far right." (p. 4) From Couch's position on Houston Street, the Oswald window was on his far right.

Gary Mack writes: "The films and photos show that the testimony of a train blocking Hoffman's view are in error." (p. 14) However, a frame from the Patsy Paschall film—on view at The Sixth Floor Exhibit—shows the last car of the train clearing the north entrance of the overpass as the Presidential

limousine enters the trestle. [10] The Bond photographs show a train stopped behind the North pergola, which may be a different one parked on a siding.

Lee Bowers testified he was occupied when the assassination occurred, perhaps remotely switching a track (using steam?) for the train just creeping across the overpass. Possibly, the operation—or the train itself—are the source of “smoke” over the knoll. Hopefully, Dealey Plaza denizens like Penn Jones or Carl Henry will shed some light on Bowers’ duties, track-switching, and the steampipe’s purpose.

It is certain that what David Lifton claims to be “smoke” on a Nix frame, [11] is nothing more than the tree shadow pattern visible on the sunlit portion of the retaining wall in the Moorman and Bond photos. Like Jim Marrs’ reference to Weigman’s “one clear frame,” Gary Mack alludes to “three frames of NBC News’ film” (p. 15) that purports to show smoke but fails to print them. Their evidence is as much a phantom as the smoke itself.

The two have also enjoyed a field day with the Bronson film, claiming (without publishing) movement in a window next to the sniper’s. Last fall, *Frontline* determined there were no human forms where alleged in either the Bronson or Hughes films; movement only occurs in the Oswald window during the final Hughes frames. [12] Critics still have two options: minimize their culpability or assault the integrity of those conducting the study.

The Umbrella Man. Gary Mack suggests “Penn Jones located the Umbrella Man,” (p. 15) while Marrs says “a telephone caller told” Jones about Witt. Jones and a parcel of media then confronted Witt at work unannounced.

Mack advises Witt’s testimony is at variance with the photographic record. Witt said he didn’t see “the President

shot and his movements.” Unlike Jean Hill and Gordon Arnold, Witt was tagged as an assassin, so he may have understandably minimized his observations to disinterest obsessive critics. The President was likely out of view from Witt when the first report occurred and had nearly passed Witt’s position when his hands moved towards the throat.

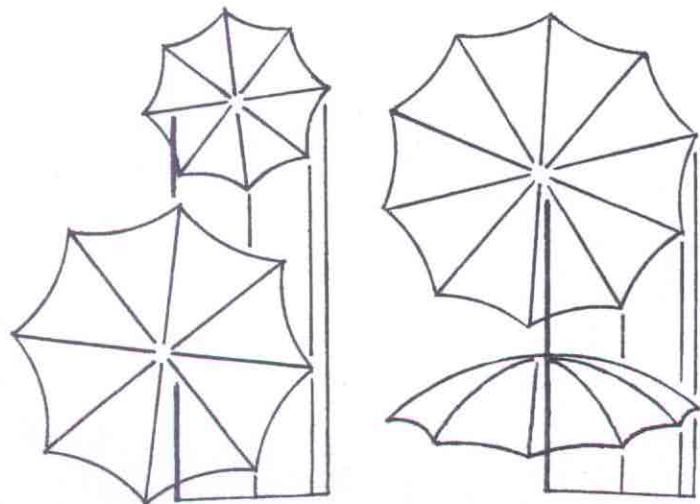
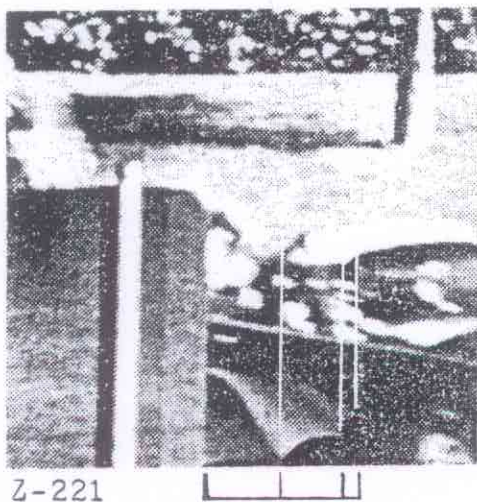
Perhaps the first report caused Witt to look towards the Depository as JFK approached; the pumping of the umbrella as Kennedy’s limousine passed indicates Witt’s awareness at the last moment. Witt claimed someone told him an open umbrella—a symbol of Chamberlain’s pre-World War II appeasement—would offend Kennedy, whose father had advocated American neutrality. [13]

Mack alleges Witt’s umbrella “had a different number of ‘ribs’ than the one in the Zapruder film.” Relying on the Willis 5 slide, Robert Cutler purports the umbrella at Dealey Plaza had eight ribs while Witt’s has ten. But, Zapruder frames 221–231 disclose not quite half of a side of the umbrella to the right of the Stemmons sign. Two and a half “webs” are visible in that quadrant, which can be doubled to five per half, making ten total. (See Figure 1)

Black Dog Man. As Sheldon Inkol points out, the mysterious shape at the retaining wall in the Willis 5 and Betzner photographs could not have joined the men on the stairs because the two men in dark clothing are already present, and Emmett Hudson is seen in various films (and Moorman) wearing a white hat and white shirt beneath an open jacket. [14] Robert Cutler believes the man to Hudson’s left screened him in the Willis photo. Inkol proposes the figure behind the wall was Gordon Arnold.

Although Gary Mack cites an interview with Lee Bowers concerning “two men he saw behind the grassy knoll picket

Figure 1: Spare Ribs



fence at the moment of the assassination...exactly where Badge Man and Back Up Man...appear to be," (p. 17) the position of those figures are between the fence and retaining wall. The Moorman photograph was analyzed by Polaroid and MIT for NOVA in 1988. They concluded Badge Man's "flash" was "most likely sunlight filtering through trees." [15]

The Nix rotoscoped image of a "tan-colored object...(dropping) downward and to the left" (p. 18) was shown on a Geraldo episode in 1991. Interestingly, the program opened with a live remote from Dealey Plaza, in which Marilyn Sitzman pointed towards the corner of the retaining wall, and said:

"What had happened, there was a couple sitting right over here in a park bench and they dropped a pop bottle, right after the car went under the Triple Underpass. And when that pop bottle hit the cement, it kind of woke us up. And both Mr. Z and I was still standing up here. Everybody else was laying down flat. And all's I can remember then, was going through my mind: 'What am I doing standing up here?'" [16]

Martin Shackelford reports what others contend was "a large pool of blood in an alley near the Depository" was actually "above the steps on the grassy knoll...variously described as blood and as red pop." [17] He adds: "An empty pop bottle appears in some photos, sitting atop the concrete wall on the knoll." What seems to be a park bench between the walkway and retaining wall can be seen in a newsclip. [18]

Could the movements in Nix represent a bottle being smashed, or some startle reaction that knocked it over? The black couple were gone when Zapruder panned over the retaining wall—Sitzman said they ran "towards the back." As far as I know, not one of the critics—Grodan, Lane, Mark North and Dick Gregory—watching in the Geraldo studio connected the couple to the grainy shapes at the retaining wall. In fact, Grodan presented the same Nix sequence, without mentioning the black couple, on The Montel Williams Show five weeks later.

The Shoulder/Neck Wound. James Folliard lampoons Posner's "shoulder/neck" wound positioning as "unscientific imprecision." (p. 4) In fact, Posner's description accurately locates the wound as shown in autopsy photos and JFK F-376. (See Figure 2) Using the latter, Thomas Canning notes: "The inshoot wound using the right lateral view in that figure showed that the wound was very high in the shoulder, just below the base of the neck at the back." [19] The Autopsy Report termed the wound site: "right superior posterior thorax above the scapula."

To counter such "imprecision," Folliard retreats to a favorite ploy of critics: eyewitness impressions, chiefly that of non-medical observers. While on the Commission, J. Lee Rankin interpreted a picture of the wound as "below the shoulder blade," a position that would have been below the seat back

(did Rankin mean shoulder crest?). Such loose impressions and researcher compliance are the real "imprecision." With respect to the Autopsy Descriptive Sheet, as far back as 1966, Dr. Boswell cautioned the sketch showed approximate locations only. [20]

Nor are the President's clothing holes a true indication of the wound site. Motorcade footage, especially that taken from JFK's side, clearly show his jacket exhibiting a rightward bulging cavity. [21] The Robert Croft photograph, taken simultaneously with frame 161, reveals the bulge in profile, and both the shirt and jacket converging at the level of the hairline on the nape. (See Figure 3) It is impossible to know just how the shirt was displaced, but it was not kept tucked in and was probably wrinkled beneath the jacket.

Measurements applied to the Left Profile photograph (see Figure 4) disclose the "shoulder/neck" wound was about 6 cm (2 1/4") below the lowest crease on the nape. Motorcade photographs of the collars at the hairline suggest they rose about 3 cm (1 1/4") from the same crease. That leaves only 5 cm (2") of clothing to be taken up by a bulging cavity or, in the case of the shirt, wrinkling.

Neck Transit Trajectory. Gary Mack claims: "the HSCA, based on the medical panel studies of the original photos and X-rays of the body, concluded the trajectory (through the neck) had to be slightly upward when Kennedy was sitting in an upright position." (p. 15) In fact, forensic anthropologist Dr. Clyde Snow reported: "When seen in the autopsy position, the outshoot wound was described as being at about the same height (or slightly higher) relative to the inshoot wound." [22]

Mack erroneously claims "the trajectory became slightly downward" only when "JFK bent over." However, just returning JFK to the anatomical position (the standardized medical reference showing the head and body in full and true profile) resulted in the bullet "moving right to left by 18 degrees and downward by 4.0 degrees relative to Kennedy if he were sitting erect." [23]

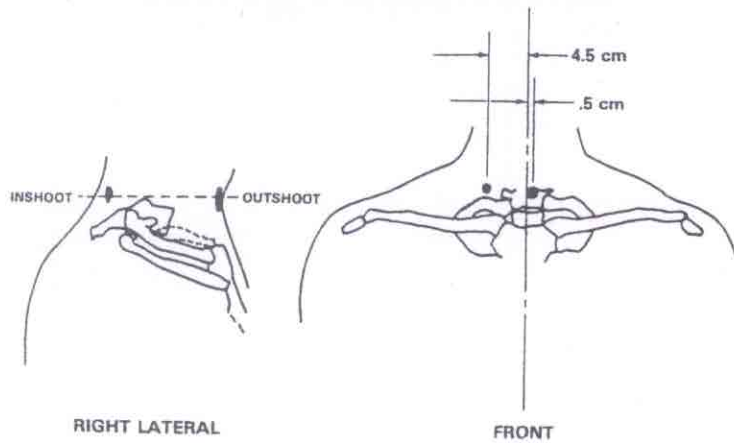
Mack adds: "Posner's theory depends on JFK bending over prior to being shot, a most unlikely scenario." In fact, detailed analysis of the Croft photograph by the HSCA Photographic Panel reveal just that:

...since Kennedy was inclined slightly forward by approximately 11 degrees to 18 degrees (from true vertical), the downward slope of the trajectory, taking into account the 3 degree slope of the street, was established at between 18 and 25 degrees (4 degrees plus 11 degrees to 18 degrees, plus 3). The Panel decided to use an angle of 21 degrees for its analysis. [24]

Resorting to long-discredited wound indicators and blurring the HSCA trajectory analysis show the desperation of critics stunned by the glare of modern science. The 1978

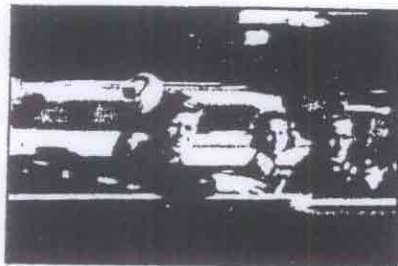
Figure 2: Shoulder/Neck Wound

J.F.K. WOUND LOCATIONS DEDUCED FROM PATHOLOGY
PANEL REPORT (AUTOPSY POSITION)

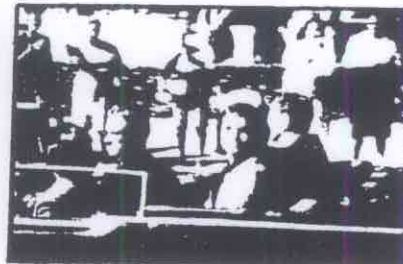


JFK EXHIBIT F-376

Figure 3: Bulging Cavity



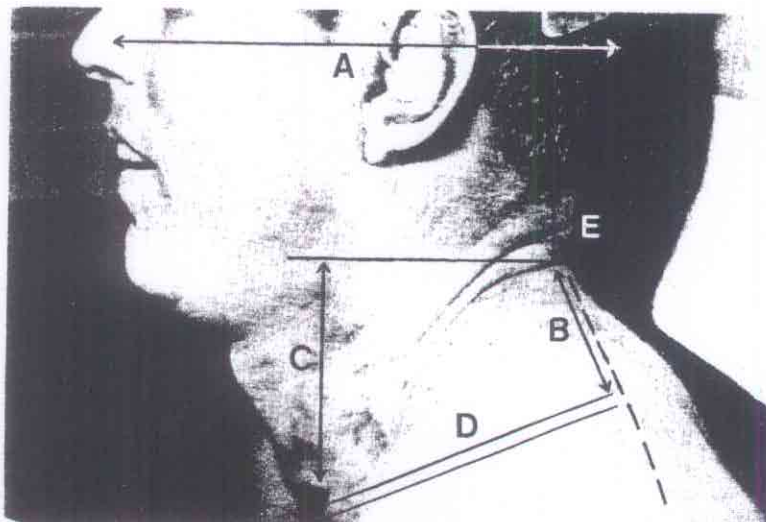
Lemmon Ave (12:05)



Croft (Z-161)



Figure 4: Neck Transit Correlation



- A) 19.5 cm; based on skull indices
- B) 5.7 cm below lowest crease on nape (Wecht & Smith)
- C) 9 cm below same crease (Clark Panel)
- D) 13 cm cross section (due to inshoot 4.5 cm to right of midline, distance between wounds is 14 cm; 6 HSCA 43)
- E) 3 cm to hairline where collars converge

Select Committee study, establishing the plausibility of the single-bullet theory, has since been endorsed by NOVA, Failure Analysis Associates and Frontline.

Connally Wounding. David Keck writes: "the neck wound 'was 1.5 cm, not 1 1/4" as stated by Posner.'" (p. 12) In fact, Posner ascribes that measurement to the entry wound in the Governor's back, [25] a length twice that of the bullet hole in the back of Connally's jacket. [26] Dr. Shaw termed the back wound "roughly elliptical." [27]

Dr. Wecht's claim that "the lungs would deflate immediately" was shared by the surgeons who operated on Connally. However, indicators that his reactions were delayed include:

- Z 190: inability to execute intended rightward turn [28]
- Z 224: suit lapel flies out [29]
- Z 224-228: injured forearm (wrist is limp) springs up
- 224-234) upper body lurches from rightward to forward to rightward for half a second
- no memory of the second report, or being struck in the wrist and thigh.

Connally's natural impulse was to turn rightward, an action he may have failed to complete because he was physically incapacitated and lapsing into shock from the double-hit. He somehow blended an innocent turn to the right at frame 162 and involuntary lurch to the fore after frame 224 with actions he later considered were deliberate and keyed to the first report.

The dramatic shoulder drop at frames 237-238 has been a red herring. The tiny mass of CE 399 is simply too small to move or push such a large muscle group. The only body part of the two men that the bullet could have moved appreciably was the Governor's wrist, out of view prior to frame 224, after which it is out of alignment. It is the delayed lung collapse that draws the right shoulder down at frame 238.

The Bullet Fragments. Gary Mack urges: "There is reason to believe the fragments subjected to neutron activation analysis have no chain of possession and would be useless in court—the fragments still in the late Governor would be very useful." (p. 15) Perhaps Mack is referring to the Sibert-O'Neill "missile" receipt written for what was actually tiny lead fragments from the President's brain, and Audrey Bell's claim of unaccounted fragments from Connally's wrist. [30] Dr. Charles Gregory testified there were "two fragments of metal retrieved" from the wrist, [31] although a 1964 FBI photograph of CE 842 showed three, the number tested by Dr. Vincent Guinn in 1977.

High Treason contends "some of the known fragments have disappeared and Guinn was unable to test one of the fragments he had." [32] Concerning CE 841 (scrappings from the windshield), Guinn ventured: "Apparently in the previous FBI emission spectrographic examinations that little bit of mate-

rial had been completely used up." [33] The same tests consumed much of the lead in the curbstone smear, leaving "hardly a visible smudge." [34] CE 569 (fragment from the front seat) consisted entirely of copper from the bullet jacket, and was not tested because the samples used for comparison must contain in excess of one milligram of uncontaminated bullet lead.

Critics were quick to point out CE 842 had eight times more copper in their composition than CE 399, neglecting Guinn's explanation that the higher readings from the wrist fragments were "most likely due to contamination from the copper jacket of the bullet." A drilling from its core was used to represent CE 399 in the test. Similarly, extreme levels of sodium and chlorine (the constituents of salt) in CE 842 were attributed to dried body fluid and handling. [35] An exhumation of the late Governor would resolve nothing for conspiracy buffs intent on distorting the record and contemptuous of professionals respected in their field.

Ballistics. Gary Mack laments: "Posner ignored military specifications published by the House Assassinations Committee showing the muzzle velocity was 2300 feet per second, not 2000." (p. 16) Ballistics expert Larry Sturdivan testified:

"...the muzzle velocity of this bullet varies between 2,000-2,200 feet per second. It will have lost some velocity in traversing some distance. Say at 100 yards it would have about 1,800-feet-per-second velocity." [36]

The Commission reported C 2766 "has a muzzle velocity of approximately 2,160 feet per second." [37] As Oswald's ammunition was not recent, CE 399's charge may have been less than standard. Whichever muzzle velocity, the bullet will lose some velocity traveling through air to Kennedy. Posner uses Dr. West's estimate of 2,000+ feet per second entry velocity on page 328 and the slightly lower velocities of Drs. Oliver and Packler on page 338. Both figures are within the range of possibilities, and if transposed, would not negate findings.

David Keck is correct to denounce Posner's claim the missed bullet shed its copper jacket by striking a tree branch. (p. 12) As support for this, Posner cites experiments by Dr. Lattimer who "discovered that the lead core 'often' separated from the jacket." On page 335, he contradicts himself by presenting ballistics tests that demonstrate the toughness and stability of the Carcano bullet. Indeed, the two large remnants of the bullet that shattered the President's skull retained their jackets.

What gives? It all seems a desperate (but needless) attempt to give a fragment enough velocity to reach the underpass plus justify the absence of copper traces in the curbstone smear. Posner believes a fragment from the fatal bullet strike would be too spent to reach the curb (he seems unaware the windshield intrudes). The simple answer may be the bullet disintegrated

when it struck the street. A fragment could still have reached Tague's vicinity, perhaps cascading along Elm (pavement strikes were reported behind and ahead of the limousine). Certainly, the fragment was nearly spent as its impact barely chipped (if at all) the curbstone.

Other contentious aspects of Case Closed:

- Thorburn's Position (an involuntary shoulder reflex just happened to bring the hands to the throat wound site?)
- heap snap models requiring neuromuscular reaction and jet effect (couldn't the depressed head simply rebound off the chest?) [38]
- Bonnie Ray Williams leaving the sixth floor at 12:05 (before Jarman and Norman were on the fifth)
- dismissal of Arnold Rowland
- failure to address admission from Coleman and Slawson of hearing rough CIA tapes of Oswald speaking to the Soviet embassy.

Posner's chapters on Oswald's history, Jack Ruby, and the assassination industry are revealing. He may have even closed the case on the Jim Garrison investigation, embraced by most critics in 1967 and again in 1990-91, this time a gross Hollywood reincarnation.

The Critics. Professor Rose (p. 10) also cries foul when Posner gives critics a mild taste of their own vituperation. Typically, the worst abuse in Case Closed towards critics flows from their own ranks. Such personal attack among the researchers is designed to intimidate while diverting scrutiny of their pet theories. Few of the so-called scholars have read the Warren Report thoroughly, let alone perform objective primary research or hold other theorists to basic standards.

Veteran investigative reporters know there is nothing to the claims of conspiracy buffs, and that any effort to correct the record will only draw charges of cover-up. Thankfully, courageous investigators like Jim Moore, Gerald Posner, NOVA and Frontline are willing to be subjected to abuse to deliver the truth to the American public.

Notes

1. Facts acknowledged most recently on: "Who Was Lee Harvey Oswald?" Frontline, PBS, November 16, 1993.
2. Report of the Warren Commission, (Bantam, 1964), p. 127.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 126.
4. In his review of Posner's U.S. News & World Report adaptation, Gary Mack jumps an inch each way: adding an inch to the disassembled rifle, subtracting an inch from the space allegedly taken up on the seat. (November 1993, p. 14)
5. Gerald Posner, Case Closed, (Random House, 1993), p. 272; Warren Report, p. 522.

6. Posner, p. 277; Howard Roffman, Presumed Guilty, (A.S. Barnes, 1975), pp. 185-86.

7. Warren Report, p. 141.

8. Sylvia Meagher, Accessories After the Fact, (Vintage, 1976), p. 74. I have been unable to substantiate a report that the Coke in hand "was one of the details announced by Chief of Police Jesse Curry on Saturday, November 23." (*Ibid.*)

9. Jim Marrs, Crossfire, (Carroll & Graf, 1992), p. 52.

10. Letter from Bob Porter, The Sixth Floor, February 16, 1994. This visual is currently in storage, pending construction of archival facilities.

11. David Lifton, Best Evidence, (Carroll & Graf, 1991), pp. 10, 35, photo 6. Clear reproductions of Nix frame and Moorman photo: UPI & American Heritage Magazine, Four Days, (Simon and Schuster, 1964), pp. 18-19, 21. Bond photos appear in LIFE, November 24, 1967, p. 95.

12. The supposition that boxes in the Oswald window were moved within minutes of the assassination is totally false.

13. In the cajoling of delegates on the day JFK received the nomination in 1960, Lyndon Johnson obliquely referred to his opponent's father by saying: "I was never any Chamberlain umbrella man." (Victor Lasky, JFK: The Man and the Myth, [Macmillan, 1963], p. 395.) While the motorcade was on Main, a woman with an umbrella caused an agent on Halfback to go to the Presidential limousine. (Gary Savage, JFK First Day Evidence, [The Shoppe Press, 1993], p. 362).

14. "The Man Behind the Wall," The Third Decade, January 1991, pp. 27-29.

15. "Who Shot President Kennedy?," NOVA, PBS, November 15, 1988, p. 13 of transcript. Ulric Shannon nominates Badgeman as the "city officer" Deputy Sheriff Mabra encountered behind the fence (The Third Decade, Jan 93, p. 14) but this could have also been Officer J.W. Foster who ran through the parking lot from the underpass.

16. "Who Really Killed President Kennedy?," Geraldo, November 18, 1991. Marilyn Sitzman recently passed away.

17. Addendum to Proceedings of the Second Research Conference of The Third Decade, 1993, p. 30. The "blood" angle apparently came from Jean Hill's vivid recollections in which she describes a "trail of blood in the grass just to the right of the steps." The red droplets led her to a discarded Sno-Cone. (Marrs, p. 323). Harrison Livingstone, High Treason 2 (Carroll & Graf, 1992, p. 90) extends the misperception to a November 22, 1963 AP report of a Secret Service agent having been killed; but that rumor was corrected the same day. (Lifton, p. 679; n. 19 on p. 742).

18. Frontline, 1993; 35 sec after Zapruder film sequence ends, 65 sec before Failure Analysis animation begins. Immediately before this, footage of the parking lot search show a

parked passenger train there, no doubt the one Jesse Price saw. (Posner, p. 254)

19. 2 HSCA 170.

20. "JFK Autopsy Doctor Admits Sketch Error," AP of Nov. 24, 1966. Boswell recently affirmed: "use only the measurements next to the diagram and not the marks...(which) are not to be considered accurate by any means." (Livingstone, p. 195). Critics also cite Dr. Burkley's T3 positioning in the Certificate of Death, but this could be based on Secret Service impressions (whom Burkley also relies upon for the President's condition at Parkland).

21. Frontline, 1993; immediately prior to Bronson film sequence.

22. 6 HSCA 43. See present text Figure 2. I have been unable to resolve why the Pathology Panel designated a "level" transit at autopsy while the Clark Panel (and Figure 4) define a downward trajectory.

23. 6 HSCA 46. Robert Cutler claims a bullet "must be fired from a position at least 28 degrees to the right of the midline" to avoid striking the spine. But his drawing (JN2) models an upper cervical vertebra, too anterior for the first thoracic vertebra where the spinous process can be felt just below the skin on the nape. Since Kennedy's torso was turned about 5 degrees, it was "concluded the bullet was moving from right to left by 13 degrees relative to the midline of the limousine." (6 HSCA 46)

24. Ibid. Motorcade footage shows Kennedy sitting comfortably slouched forward and, during at least one stop, twisted sideways to shake hands with bystanders. His back brace, worn at the waist, may not be as restrictive as some suggest. Perhaps it was worn as a preventative measure, to be tightened should his back pain flare up.

25. Posner, p. 479.

26. Warren Report, p. 96: 5/8 x 1/4" (1.5 x 0.7 cm).

27. 1 HSCA 259. Shaw testified the entrance wound was "approximately a centimeter and a half in its greatest diameter," but his Operative Record said "approximately three cm in its longest diameter." (Warren Report, p. 493) The clothing holes infer 1.5 cm was the wound's maximum value.

28. Jim Moore likens Connally's jump seat to a "stadium seat," making full turns in either direction difficult. However, just after the lung collapse, the Governor manages to turn his head fully around to check the President.

29. Posner, p. 329. On the following page, Posner claims the "movement of the jacket took place at the exact area where the Governor's suit and shirt have a bullet hole," although the exit site on the chest is some distance from the lapel. It's possible the bullet momentarily tugged the jacket to the point where the lapel overturned. It's also possible the violent jerk of his injured forearm caused the right side of his jacket to

simply bulge out.

30. Lifton, p. 558; Livingstone, pp. 304-05, 312.

31. 4 H 122. Gregory may be transposing the number from the bone fragments removed: two.

32. Robert Groden and Harrison Edward Livingstone, High Treason, (Berkley, 1990), p. 74.

33. 1 HSCA 496. Critics charge Guinn didn't test the same "fragments" used in the 1964 FBI NAA test; but only "samples" (tiny shavings)—not the actual fragment—used by the FBI were not returned to the Archives, possibly because of their radioactivity. (1 HSCA 562)

34. 1 HSCA 496.

35. 1 HSCA 532. Key elements in bullet lead are antimony, silver and, to a lesser degree, copper. Guinn testified: "For the sake of completeness, I have included all of the elements detected, but I don't think that some of them contribute one way or the other to the characterization of source of the specimens." (1 HSCA 566)

36. 1 HSCA 407.

37. Warren Report, p. 535.

38. 1 HSCA 414; Testimony of Larry Sturdivan: "It would have a slight movement toward the front, which would very rapidly be damped by the connection of the neck with the body."

Editor's note: It is my expectation that various of the authors whose work is criticized in this article will respond with Letters to the Editor. Since I have not started (yet) to write letters to myself, I'll use this opportunity to comment on one of the more provocative of Mr. Organ's statements: that a frame from "the Patsy Paschall film at the Sixth Floor Exhibit" shows part of a train on the overpass as the presidential limousine is about to go under it. In my paper for the Third Decade conference at Providence last summer ("Dance of the Railroad Men") I commented on the likely "prevarication" of Dallas policeman J.C. White, stationed on the west side of the overpass, who said that he did not see or hear the shooting because a "large noisy" train was passing between his position and Dealey Plaza at the time. In Posner's book, as noted in Gary Mack's critical review, this same questionable train was used to discredit the eyewitness testimony of Ed Hoffman of seeing gunmen behind the picket fence. I am not sure that the version of the Sixth Floor Exhibit film that I possess corresponds to the one referred to by Organ, but a viewing of my version certainly does seem to show some boxcars on the overpass at the relevant time. In going back to Posner, I find that he says (p. 258) that "photographs and independent testimony reveal that there were four large freight cars over the Elm Street tunnel that day" to obstruct Hoffman's view. His references for this assertion?—testimonies of Eugene Moore at vol. 3 p. 294 and of Earle Brown at vol. 6 p. 233 of the Warren Report and (sic!)

interview with Jim Moore, March 4 and 13, 1992. Brown, a police officer stationed on the Stemmons Freeway Overpass 100 yards west of the Triple Overpass, actually says that his view of the area was obstructed because they were moving trains "in and out" of the railroad yards; there is nobody named Eugene Moore who is even indexed in vol. 15 of the Report and Jim Moore was neither an eyewitness nor a photographer. So a lot hinges, really, on what the Paschall film actually does show. My own mind on the matter is settled (for now at least) upon viewing a film by F.M. Bell at p. 243 of the paperback edition of Josiah Thompson's Six Seconds in Dallas. The same objects that seemed to be boxcars in the Paschall (?) film are seen in this picture, but the objects are clearly beyond the overpass, since both the east and west edges of the overpass structure are visible in front of the objects. I am almost certain now that what appeared to be boxcars in Paschall are buildings in the distance and/or highway direction signs near the entrance to the Stemmons Freeway. The Bond films may, as Organ suggests, show a train stopped on a siding, but this is quite another matter than the Posner/Organ assertion of a train passing at the time of the shooting—if anything like this did happen, it appears to have escaped the notice of every eyewitness except J.C. White and every photograph that has yet surfaced.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

It may be of interest to your readers that Carroll & Graf has published a long-awaited condensation of Harold Weisberg's work on the John Kennedy assassination entitled Selections From Whitewash. An oversize trade paperback offered at \$16.95, this would be a valuable addition to anyone's library as a handy reference book, and in particular to the person who is just beginning to research this topic. For the collector, or someone wishing more detail, the full collection of six books by Weisberg on the Kennedy assassination are available from him, as is the price list, by writing to him at 7627 Old Receiver Road, Frederick, Maryland 21702.

Last year, a new edition of his book Frame-up, about the Martin Luther King assassination and the role of James Earl Ray in that murder, was also published in full under a different title. That offering is also paperback, and the original Frame-up is still available from Weisberg in hard bound.

I would not be surprised if this is not the last we hear from Mr. Weisberg.

In a letter published in your last issue (Vol. 1, No. 2, January, 1994), among other items, I mentioned that I had written to Gerald Posner in conjunction with my earlier review of his

book Case Closed, and had been told by another researcher not to expect a reply. Up to the time of writing the letter to the editor, that had been the case.

To Posner's credit, and it can certainly be said that he has been busy the past few months, he wrote a hand-written reply dated December 12.

Essentially he apologized for not having written sooner and gave an indication that he had read reviews in The Fourth Decade. He said he was "working on an updated and revised edition of CC for the paperback to be published next September." He said he would address most issues raised in The Fourth Decade in that forum. He also said he would try to specifically respond at a later time to the specific points raised in my review.

While this does not convince me to agree with some of the conclusions in his book, it is refreshing to see the responsiveness to criticism in a positive and non-defensive manner; something we don't always see in the critical research community. This kind of exchange can help foster critical thinking and rethinking, and hopefully lead to getting closer to the truth.

—David Keck, 868 Chelsea Lane, Westerville, OH 43081-2716

To the Editor:

Gary Mack's attack on Gerald Posner in the November, 1993, issue seems to leave Mack himself vulnerable.

With respect to the well-beaten, dead horse of acoustics, the following comes to mind:

1) Surely Mack agrees that the precise source of the sounds on the police Dictabelt recording is unknown. The House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded that the stuck microphone belonged to the motorcycle of Officer H.B. McLain, who disputed that assumption. (See the USGPO edition of the HSCA Report, pp. 75-79.) Bolstering McLain is the detailed, photographic survey by Sim Heninger that was printed in the July, 1990, issue of The Third Decade. Heninger found there was no way McLain's motorcycle could have been in the proper position to make the recording.

2) Oddly, Mack himself is responsible for the dissemination of one of the better rebuttals to the conspiratorial interpretation of acoustics. The very first issue of his now-defunct newsletter Coverups! (July, 1982) reprinted an April 14, 1982, Dallas Morning News story by none other than Earl Golz. In it, Golz pointed out that the supervisor of the DPD radio system in 1963, James C. Bowles, had long suspected a microphone problem occurred not in Dealey Plaza but in the area of the Trade Mart, miles away. Bowles refused to name one of the two motorcycle patrolmen whom he considered possible candidates—the man was "in very declining health"—but the other was identified as Leslie Beilharz. Beilharz

admitted to Golz he received no communications for several minutes around the time of the assassination and was first told of what had occurred by other officers, leading him to believe that his microphone had been stuck in the transmission mode. If nothing else, this shows once again that the McLain scenario advocated by the HSCA is simplistic and does not account for all the facts.

3) Whatever happened to automatic gain control? AGC, which is used to regulate the volume of received sound, was discussed by Mack at length in the same issue of Coverups! mentioned above. Mack contended that the DPD radio system did not feature AGC, even though the National Academy of Science's Ramsey Panel assumed from the anti-conspiracy results of its study that AGC had to be present. Mack thereupon drew the inference that "the original recording is not in evidence and tampering may be involved." Of course, that could mean the recording is useless for any purpose, but my main concern here is that Mack speaks only of AM-FM differences in his November, 1993, piece and does not specifically mention AGC at all, even though that was crucial to him in 1982.

4) As pointed out by Paul Hoch in the May 19, 1982, issue of his own newsletter, Echoes of Conspiracy, the Ramsey Panel's report contained what he called an "unsettling revelation." This concerned the development of the acoustic evidence for the HSCA by first the firm of Bolt, Beranek, and Newman and then the consultants Mark Weiss and Ernest Aschkenasy: "the knoll shot originally detected by BBN is just the last half of the knoll shot analyzed by W&A..." Hoch adds that this "does not invalidate the W&A analysis," but that does not change the fact that the crucial impulse on the recording was not quite the same one in the two studies and even grew larger for the second.

5) I hope Mack does not consider the matter of the mysterious bell sound to be resolved simply because a news film from November, 1964, features a "similar bell sound" reaching Dealey Plaza from an unknown point. After all these years, the bell that sounded in 1963 has yet to be located definitely. As Mack well knows, pro-conspiracy interpretations start to fall apart if it emerges that the bell was so far away it had to be recorded by a microphone outside Dealey Plaza. Mack does not even mention that Posner (p. 241n of Case Closed) offered an alternative bell, discovered by Bowles: "There was a replica of the Liberty Bell at the Trade Mart, and passersby frequently gave it a rap."

With regards to photographic matters, perhaps Mack could respond to the following concerns:

1) As anyone who saw the November 16, 1993, Frontline installment can attest, the results are now in for the Bronson and Hughes films. The suspected, conspiratorial movement at a sixth-floor Depository window was judged to be nothing more than the fluctuations of film grain. This accords perfectly

with the 1983 "quickie" study of the Bronson film by Itek, which Mack cites in his article.

2) In his discussion of Badge Man and the Moorman photo, Mack states, "Several attempts at computer enhancement over the years have been stymied by the grain in the copy photographs." I am not certain that the term "stymied" is entirely accurate. The Moorman photo was examined for the 1988 Nova show by experts from MIT and Polaroid. They conceded there could be human face in the Badge Man image but discounted the possibility of a muzzle flash, which they suspected was just an effect caused by sunlight filtering through surrounding trees. Is that "stymied?"

3) For a man who never saw a single rifleman, it is amazing how often Lee Bowers is used as a pro-conspiracy source. In his Warren Commission testimony (WC VI, p. 288), Bowers was quite specific that he had not the slightest idea what drew his attention to the rear of the picket fence at the moment of the assassination: "I just am unable to describe rather than it was something out of the ordinary, a sort of milling around..." In his 1966 interview with Mark Lane (Rush to Judgment, New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1966, p. 32), he was equally vague: "there was a flash of light or, as far as I am concerned, something I could not identify, but there was something which occurred which caught my eye in this immediate area on the embankment." Did he see guns? No. Did he see shooting? No. Did he see a conspiracy? No.

4) Mack's comments on Gordon Arnold—including the supposed corroboration of Arnold's statements by the Nix film—may have weakened rather than strengthened the credibility of Arnold. Mack says Arnold told him in 1982–1983 that "he hit the ground just as a pink object in the car (which he now knows was Jackie) started moving out of the seat." That is not what Arnold has been telling everyone else. In the original Dallas Morning News article of August 27, 1978, in which Earl Golz formally introduced Arnold to the world, Golz reported, "Arnold, then 22, said the first two shots came from behind the fence 'close enough for me to fall down on my face.' He stayed there for the duration of the shooting." Obviously, if Arnold was already on the ground before the end of the shooting, he could not have been standing when a "pink object" (which is not even mentioned by Golz) moved in the limousine. Arnold's lengthy description of his experience for the Nigel Turner documentary a decade later is consistent: he went down while the shots were still flying, and no "pink object" is mentioned. The implication here should be apparent. In the Turner documentary, Mack and Jack White unveiled their colorful panorama, in which we see Badge Man, Back Up Man, and Gordon Arnold Man. Unfortunately, the Moorman photo that gave us the Badge Man image was taken about the time of the head shot, which, even in the Warren Commission's count, was the third shot. Arnold; by his own word (except to Mack), should be on the ground and

not visible in the same image as Badge Man. So who is in error? Arnold? Mack? White?

5) Some advice: do not destroy the Moorman photo. You do not burn a priceless parchment just to see if it disintegrates as fast as other parchments, and you do not test Stradivarius tone quality by smashing a violin to pieces. If the Moorman photo is fading, let it fade. Maybe, ten years from now, we will have a process that can bring it back without leaving it radioactive. Such impatience.

—Scott Van Wynsberghe, 87 Cornell Dr., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 3C2 Canada

Mack Responds:

Van Wynsberghe is certainly entitled to some answers, for his questions are representative of many over the years:

1) I do not agree "that the precise source of the sounds on the police Dictabelt is unknown." The matching of test shot sound patterns to the police recording reveals both the shooter and microphone locations at the moment of each shot. Only H.B. McLain could have been in the right place at those times, based on his known and observed route. In fact, as I published in the March 1982 The Continuing Inquiry, and again with supporting photos in the January 1983 Coverups!, what can only be a motorcycle is visible in the Zapruder film exactly when and where the acoustic analysis had predicted. This information was ignored by the National Academy of Science (NAS) panel.

Additionally, the BBN scientists' study showed that the microphone was mounted on the left side of his motorcycle, a unique characteristic according to McLain (5HSCA631), who also admitted (5HSCA637) to having had open microphone problems in the past. The Dictabelt also revealed that McLain lingered in Dealey Plaza at least 13 seconds before accelerating, a fact confirmed by McLain's identification of himself (5HSCA635) in a Dealey Plaza photo (Cancellare 1, or JFK Exhibit F-675) known to have been taken 20-25 seconds after the head shot. He also testified to having seen Hargis run up the grassy knoll (5HSCA639), an impossibility if he had sped off immediately.

The only photographic evidence that seems to challenge the acoustic findings is the Robert Hughes film, which some think shows McLain too far back on Houston to have reached his first shot location in time. McLain testified that he was "approximately halfway between Main and Elm" (5HSCA629) when the first shot was fired. That unbiased recollection placed him about 50 feet from the position already calculated by the BBN scientists, and McLain was not claiming to be precise.

I spoke with Robert Hughes in 1980, and again in 1987, while doing film research for "The Men Who Killed Kennedy,"

and learned that the first shot came "within a few seconds" after he stopped filming (Hughes died the following year and his widow has remarried). That time frame does allow McLain to get from Main & Houston to the first shot location near Elm & Houston.

Corroboration for Hughes' memory, which matches what he wrote to his parents the day of the assassination (see footnote 1 at the end of chapter 8 of *Six Seconds In Dallas*, by Josiah Thompson), may be deduced from a complete lack of reaction by news reporters and photographers riding in the motorcade as McLain turned up Houston. Clear blowups of the Hughes film show the men laughing and talking, with no sudden head or body movements one would expect to see after hearing the first shot.

Van Wynsberghe should not have relied on Sim Heninger's photographic analysis, for it contains several errors, ignores the Zapruder evidence and does not take into account Hughes' story or the still unknown speed of his camera. Simply put, the film ends seconds earlier than previously believed and the time frame is consistent with McLain's position.

2) There was nothing "odd" about my decision to reprint Earl Golz' Dallas Morning News story presenting a contrary opinion of the acoustics evidence by a respected expert. Former Dallas Police Sergeant James C. Bowles, then supervisor of the radio division and now Sheriff of Dallas County, was off-duty the day of the assassination attending to the death of his father—he had no first-hand involvement with operations that day.

Bowles and I have become friends despite the acoustics issue, and finally met face-to-face at the "JFK" preview. I'm sure he didn't like it because he believes there was no second gunman, is convinced Oswald shot Tippit, and won't rule out a conspiracy involving Oswald. But what's most interesting is that Bowles, McLain (5HSCA640) and the BBN scientists (8HSCA112-113) all agree that more than one open microphone can be heard at the same time. Nowhere in the HSCA volumes did the scientists conclude that just one microphone was responsible for the entire five minute interference period. Therefore, it is certainly possible for a second microphone at the Trade Mart to have picked up the siren sounds two minutes after the shooting. Bowles' conclusions, while well-intentioned, fall far short of proof.

3) Van Wynsberghe wonders why I did "not specifically mention AGC." Actually I did, but not by name. AGC, short for automatic gain (volume) control, is the "artifact" that fooled the NAS scientists. In my efforts to keep the article short and non-technical, I avoided those details. In the nearly 12 years since the NAS report, no one has refuted the fact that the mere presence of AGC on the crosstalk voice invalidates the NAS findings. Panel member Luis Alvarez, who headed the group studying the crosstalk, admitted that to me just months before he died. BBN scientist Dr. James Barger insists he

mentioned it to panel head Norman Ramsey during their deliberations. AGC could only have appeared on the Dictabelt if it were a copy, a situation that does not affect the findings submitted to the HSCA (according to Barger). It does, however, demonstrate a break in the chain of possession and raises questions about whether the Dictabelt in evidence includes all conversations.

4) Paul Hoch's criticism, while technically correct, applied primarily to the early BBN study, later refined and made more accurate by consultants Weiss and Aschkenasy (W & A).

5) While Bowles has a memory of a bell that may have existed at the Trade Mart and that may have been rapped by a passerby on November 22, 1963, the Dictabelt includes a bell sound within range of a microphone known to be in Dealey Plaza seconds after the shooting. That bell was near a Dealey Plaza microphone one year later, chiming a slightly different note at 1pm than it did at 12:30pm, standard practice to distinguish the half hour from the hour. The original 1964 film soundtrack proves the 1963 recording could have come from Dealey Plaza, whereas Bowles' memory proves nothing, since a second microphone could have caught the Trade Mart bell.

As for Van Wynsberghe's concerns about "photographic matters":

1) Scientists Fran Corbett and Bob Gonsalves, who performed the 1983 JFK study for CBS, agreed to write a scientific paper detailing their 1993 findings on the Bronson and Hughes films, so it would be inappropriate to comment at this time. However, Robert Groden's claims that "You can actually see one figure walking back and forth hurriedly" (Dallas Morning News, November 26, 1978) in the Bronson film is clearly ludicrous, and I regret having repeated it. The window blowups in the Frontline study definitely show movement, but it is not consistent from frame to frame. Those who have seen the huge blowups prepared by Groden for the Dallas Morning News in 1978 may think that one of the "gunmen" was captured in nine different poses, but those frames are not sequential. The figure has a shape in one frame, then a completely different shape in the next, obviously an impossibility. I will follow up on these studies when the report is available.

2) As for the 1988 NOVA analysis, let me recount my adventures with that group so you can judge whether they practiced science or voodoo. Late in 1986 or early 1987 I was contacted by the show's associate producer/senior researcher, Steve Lyons, who asked if they could use our Badge Man material. I had just agreed to allow free, exclusive use of the pictures for "The Men Who Killed Kennedy" in exchange for further scientific study; nevertheless, I asked producer-director Nigel Turner if he would allow the NOVA cameras to record and document the enhancement work. He declined, fearing that NOVA would premier the results before his film

was finished. Lyons was very unhappy and no resolution was possible. He then said NOVA would do their own study even though the clarity of their Moorman picture, compared to ours, was unknown (subsequent viewing revealed that theirs was dramatically inferior in both sharpness and brightness). I also told Lyons that we were using the original Polaroid picture and camera for comparison tests and they would not have access to them or any of the independent corroboration my research had turned up. Lyons didn't care, and that's when I realized NOVA wasn't interested in a proper scientific study. The Polaroid and MIT technicians worked on their own time, according to a Polaroid employee I talked with later, and they were below the calibre of enhancement experts I had worked with over the previous five years. NOVA performed none of the proper studies Geoffrey Crawley made for "The Men Who Killed Kennedy" and apparently provided no reference photographs to the technicians to help them identify the images. The NOVA show, still being rerun today, was written, produced and directed by CBS News alumnus Robert Richter, who was an associate producer on their controversial, four-hour look at the JFK assassination in 1967 (see Mark Lane's "A Citizen's Dissent" for his experiences with Richter). The NOVA show is my nomination for the video equivalent of Gerald Posner's execrable "Case Closed."

3) Van Wynsberghe is absolutely correct to question the use of Lee Bowers as a pro-conspiracy witness, and that's precisely why I did not use his accounts in that manner. Bowers saw two men behind the fence at the exact spot where the Badge Man and Back Up Man appear, and his observation is powerful proof that the figures we see in the Moorman photo really are people. If the men Bowers saw were innocent bystanders, why did they wait behind the fence for Kennedy to arrive, instead of walking ten feet around the end of the fence and then down to the street for a closeup view? If they were government employees, as the HSCA wondered (R184), they would have been marched into the Warren Commission to say they saw no grassy knoll gunman. Isn't it interesting that after 30 years, neither of those men has come forward to tell the world what they know about the existence of a second gunman?

4) As for Gordon Arnold, his fascinating story about the assassination, how Earl Golz learned about him and why his family ultimately convinced him to talk on camera, all is too detailed for this article. Yes there are a few minor inconsistencies, and the one van Wynsberghe mentions may not be too significant—it all depends on which shots were the ones he reacted to. For example, Mary Moorman has always believed there were two or three shots. But what you won't find in her statements is which shot corresponded to her famous picture. I asked her that question in 1980 and she said it was the first shot, with one or two more after that! When I told her that at least two shots had already been fired prior to her picture (not counting the head shot), she was astonished. She did not hear

any shots until the one that caused her to snap that last picture.

Because Earl Golz' 1978 article about Gordon Arnold wasn't clear about when he hit the ground, I asked him in December 1982 what was the last thing he saw, and that's when he said "the pink object...". I do not know if Nigel Turner also asked that question, but I did brief him on all aspects of Arnold's story. When Nigel previewed a rough cut of the show in England a few weeks prior to broadcast (while still keeping the very shaky French hit team story top secret from me), I noticed that Arnold had identified the man who kept him from the overpass as a Secret Service agent to Earl Golz, but a CIA man to Nigel. Nigel thought the other "take" might have included the earlier identification, but the CIA answer was the one he used. Witnesses can say odd things in front of a camera, but Arnold told me "Secret Service" in 1982.

5) As for radiation enhancement of the Moorman original, the process does not destroy the photograph. It does prevent one from ever handling it without proper protection unless, of course, you wish to glow in the dark. The fading of the image is absolutely irreversible, according to Vivian Walrath, Polaroid's now-retired expert on restoration. She says image will vanish in a few years. The picture was not taken out of the camera for several minutes, an understandable, yet fatal, mistake. Several more minutes elapsed before the picture was coated with the fixative that normally helps prevent fading. Someone put their thumb on it before the coating was applied, so oil from the skin has dissolved the image in a non-important area. The real problem is the silver, which has oxidized to the point where minute detail is no longer evident. While radiation enhancement can compensate for the loss, there is no guarantee that it will be as clear, or clearer, than what we have in the two UPI prints. No decision about radiation enhancement has been made.

As a result of my work for Frontline and assistance in organizing the Bronson and Hughes studies, I met a third expert who expressed interest in the Badge Man project. He recommended subjecting the original to ultraviolet light, a non-destructive technique which reacts with the silver, and then performing a computer enhancement from that. I have not yet seen the results, but the scientist is pleased with the improvement. (All of these studies could have been made for the HSCA in 1977 and 1978, when the Moorman original was less faded than it is today.)

Finally, let me address Van Wynesberghe's closing remark "Such impatience." Nearly 12 years of work and he accuses me of not being patient! Some have criticized me for not allowing wider distribution of the Badge Man picture, but tens of millions of people have now seen "The Men Who Killed Kennedy" and Time/Life Video has acquired the mail order rights to the unedited version (Nigel Turner personally removed 5-6 minutes from each hour for commercial time in the A&E cable version.)

The FBI, Secret Service and Warren Commission borrowed the Mary Moorman original several times in 1963 and 1964, yet the Warren Report has no mention of the picture or even a reproduction. What did investigators know about the contents and when did they know it? Document researchers should be on the lookout for anything pertaining to the Moorman photograph.

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To the Editor:

I would like to relate the following story to TFD readers and yourself and see if anyone has an opinion about it.

In the summer of 1992, I heard Vincent Bugliosi, author of "Helter Skelter" and prosecutor of Charlie Manson, on a Kansas City talk-radio show, The Mike Murphy Show. Bugliosi was talking about the book he was writing, a book which would validate the single-bullet myth and Oswald as lone-nut gunman and close the case. He also said there was far more evidence of conspiracy in the murder of Bobby Kennedy than in John's.

At the time, I was outraged and attempted to reach the radio show to ask Bugliosi some questions, but I didn't get through. Then I completely forgot about it. Now after the resulting controversy over Gerald Posner's book, Case Closed, I have been rethinking that radio show and have several questions, among them:

1) Was Bugliosi a ghost-writer who backed out, and Posner's name ended up on the book instead? (Bugliosi having greater name recognition.)

2) Is Bugliosi still coming out with a book and Posner just happened to beat him to the punch? Is this too much of a coincidence?

3) Could Case Closed be a misinformation campaign aimed at countering or discrediting Oliver Stone's JFK? A book written by the same "magic bullet" and lone-nut gunman apologists who have clung to this view for 30 years despite evidence to the contrary?

4) Am I too paranoid and see conspiracies where none exist?

If you or any of your readers have any views on this, I would love to read them in TFD.

—Kevin Brown, 8329 Santa Fe Lane, Overland Park, KS 66212

THE LAST INVESTIGATION: A REVIEW

by

Monte Evans

Gaeton Fonzi, *The Last Investigation*, (New York: Thundersmouth Press, 1993). Of the countless magazine articles published about the JFK assassination in this country, one piece has for 13 years now towered above all others like a Watusi amongst Pygmies. Gaeton Fonzi's *Who Killed JFK?* appeared in the November 1980 issue of *Washingtonian* and almost instantly achieved legendary status in the serious researcher community. A former investigator for the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), Fonzi had boldly renounced the secrecy agreement he had been sworn to and revealed a wealth of information. The most salient details concerned an elusive spymaster called "Maurice Bishop," who was reliably reported to have associated with Lee Harvey Oswald in Dallas shortly before JFK's murder.

Now, at long last, Mr. Fonzi has expanded his startling revelations into book-length form. The result, *The Last Investigation*, is the single most damning document regarding CIA complicity in Kennedy's death ever produced. Fonzi, a man apparently oblivious to ramifications, not only invites Government retribution for violating his secrecy agreement with details of HSCA machinations and in-house politics, but painstakingly re-lives his pursuit of "Maurice Bishop" through the complex—and deadly—CIA wilderness. It's quite a read.

To begin with the end, after some four hundred pages of carefully crafted intrigue, the journalist-investigator summarizes with brutal candor: "There is a preponderance of evidence that indicates Lee Harvey Oswald had an association with a U.S. Government agency, perhaps more than one, but undoubtedly with the Central Intelligence Agency...Maurice Bishop was David Atlee Phillips. I state that unequivocally...In addition to the abundance of evidence detailed in this book which unerringly points to Phillips being Bishop, believe me, I know that he was. And (the HSCA) knew that he was, although its report did not admit that." And then: "David Atlee Phillips played a key role in the conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy."

What is most sobering about those statements is that they emanate from a man who was for years employed by the United States Government to investigate John Kennedy's assassination. It is difficult to conceive of a more credible position.

Gaeton Fonzi was a Philadelphia journalist in 1964 when, like millions of others, he naively accepted the Warren Report as a valid account of what had happened to JFK in Dallas. He became aware of a local attorney, Vincent Salandria, who was printing attacks on the Warren Commission's methods and conclusions in an obscure legal journal. Fonzi persuaded his

editor that a story about a local eccentric would be good copy, so he arranged an interview with "this oddball young attorney who was saying crazy things about our Government." But to his dismay Fonzi discovered that Salandria's critiques were based on a sound, rational perusal of the evidence. "Eventually, the things he was saying no longer sounded so crazy."

Soon Fonzi was interviewing Salandria's antithesis, Warren Commission junior counsel Arlen Specter, who also happened to be a local Philadelphian. With the possible exception of David Belin, Specter had been more responsible than anyone for tailoring the dubious "evidence" against Oswald to suit the Commission's pre-conceived conclusions of the latter's guilt. (Senator Richard Russell's long-suppressed dissent notwithstanding.) Fonzi had expected Specter to put his Salandria-inspired qualms to rest, but instead the wafflings from the architect of the single-bullet theory "had not eased my concerns about the Warren Commission Report, he had magnified them...After those interviews with Arlen Specter, my belief in (the US) Government would never be the same."

A decade later, Fonzi was invited by his state's junior US Senator, Richard Schweiker, to become an investigator for the Church Committee probing abuses by the CIA. Schweiker sat on that committee, and he had been greatly disturbed by Lee Oswald's numerous and myriad connections to the so-called "Intelligence Community." As Schweiker succinctly put it, "Everywhere you look with (Oswald), there are fingerprints of intelligence."

Fonzi was assigned the Miami anti-Castro Cuban area, and his successes in that fertile field led him to an assignment with the House Select Committee on Assassinations that resulted from Church Committee exposes. He dug deeper, and eventually discovered that Antonio Veciana, a prominent Cuban exile who had been chief of the notoriously violent Alpha 66 anti-Castro terrorist cell, had seen his CIA case handler in the company of Lee Oswald in Dallas shortly before JFK was killed in that city. The CIA officer went by the name of Maurice Bishop, but Veciana was certain that had been a pseudonym.

The most essential thread of *The Last Investigation* is Fonzi's long pursuit of the mysterious Maurice Bishop and the point-by-point explanations for why the author is convinced—as is this reviewer and many other JFK-murder authorities—that Bishop was actually David Atlee Phillips, who eventually became the CIA's chief of its Western Hemisphere Division. (That, by the way, was the highest Agency position possible shy of direct Presidential appointment and Congressional scrutiny.) The evidence of that, as Fonzi flatly states in his book's conclusion, is literally overwhelming, far too extensive to go into here.

Indeed, in the process of examining Phillips' career Fonzi uncovered links to literally thousands of political murders committed by CIA cadre around the world, particularly in South America and Vietnam. Principal among these CIA

murderers was one David Sanchez Morales, a.k.a. "El Indio," a ferocious Arizonan who had headed the CIA's JM/WAVE station in Miami that was the primary focal point of the "kill-Castro" plots. Fonzi devotes two key chapters to Morales, who, before his untimely sudden death when the HSCA was in full gear, drunkenly admitted to friends that he had been involved in President Kennedy's execution.

It appears that Phillips and Morales were among two dozen Agency operatives who must now, given Fonzi's revelations, be considered prime suspects in that execution. The others are Edward Lansdale, Richard Helms, Howard Hunt, William Harvey, William Pawley, Theodore Shackley, Thomas Clines, George DeMohrenschildt, Paul Bethel, Mitch WerBell, Lucien Conein, Sam Kail, Luis Posada, Edwin Wilson, John Martino, John Roselli, Gerry Hemming, Loran Hall, Frank Sturgis, Ignacio Novo, Guillermo Novo, and Tony Sforza. Fonzi brings each of these men—all inter-connected with political murder in one way or another—into the JFK picture. The only suspect's name Fonzi avoided revealing is the Cuban he calls "Carlos" who was reputedly posing as a photographer in Dealey Plaza when JFK was shot. (Ironically, Clay Shaw, Guy Banister and David Ferrie are all given only one passing reference in a single sentence. Though they were doubtlessly involved somehow, they just didn't fit into the Miami-based picture that Fonzi has pieced together.)

It is probably impossible to overstate the implications we are confronted with in The Last Investigation. Here is a man our Government had hired to investigate President Kennedy's murder flatly accusing the CIA's top hierarchy of being responsible for the assassination, and presenting evidence that, while admittedly circumstantial and associative on most points, is nevertheless extremely persuasive. Not only that, but Fonzi insists that his cohorts on the HSCA who were directly involved with the evidence feel that same way he does, though they have dared not take the extremely risky steps he has by coming forward. According to Fonzi, the HSCA's conclusion of an Organized Crime conspiracy—and concomitant CIA whitewash—was exclusively that of its chief consul, G. Robert Blakey—a notion shared by many serious researchers since the 1970's. Indeed, Fonzi even dares to suggest that Blakey's protection of the CIA was by no means the innocent mistake of a clumsy bureaucrat but instead the deliberate Machiavellian design of an Agency stooge. Fightin' words, to be sure; but has Blakey dared to respond? I believe the greatest testament to Fonzi's plausibility is the deafening official silence responding to it, which echoes the non-responses accorded Harry Livingstone's High Treason 2 and Dick Russell's The Man Who Knew Too Much. This recent triad of books featuring sensational revelations have been ignored by a mass media that by Cyril Wecht's estimate heaped twenty million dollars of free publicity upon Gerald Posner's error-ridden Case Closed. (Not to digress, but that avalanche of publicity resulted in Posner cracking the New York Times top-15

bestseller list only five times, with an 8th, an 11th, and three 13ths. Then a profusely laudatory front-page New York Times Book Review inspired just one more appearance, a last-place 15th. When we recall that many of those books were purchased by entrenched JFK conspiracy theorists eager to dissect it for flaws, it should be evident that the public is far more sophisticated about the case than it had been given credit for.)

Despite its seemingly total avoidance by the national mass media, The Last Investigation is much more than a damning indictment of the Central Intelligence Agency's malfeasance in the matter of President Kennedy's murder, be it covert (the execution itself) or overt (the blatant effort by Agency assets to obfuscate or stonewall the truth.) For many years even the most informed researchers were at a loss to understand the peculiar political meanderings of the HSCA; thanks to Fonzi's inside report, that complex mess is now untangled. Among other things, the book includes an excellent summary of the Bay of Pigs situation and its consequences that culminated in a Dallas ambush, a perceptive account of Marita Lorenz's role in the saga—Fonzi believes her to have served some unfathomable CIA interest with her dubious tale of travelling to Dallas with Oswald, Sturgis, Hemming, the Novo Brothers and Orlando Bosch—and a telling glimpse of the CIA's homicidal activity in Latin America. Fonzi also offers one of the best evaluations of the anti-Castro Cuban mindset ever printed. His reports on the two most important witnesses in the case as far as establishing conspiracy is concerned, Sylvia Odio and Antonio Veciana, are peerless. We are also treated to brief but juicy tidbits concerning the roles that William F. Buckley, Jorge Mas Canosa, Felix Rodriguez and—most interestingly—the latter's sidekick George Bush played in this, the most sordid saga in American History. (There can now be no more doubt that the ex-CIA-Director-turned-President had a hand in covering the murderers' trail; indeed, Bush's complicity in the cover-up might have been the foremost factor in his eventual ascension to those offices.)

But by far the most crucial material pertains to the man whose evil deeds allowed him to haunt the world from the highest echelons of the CIA, David Atlee Phillips. Fonzi quotes a fellow HSCA investigator, Dan Hardway, as saying, "I'm firmly convinced (Phillips) ran the red-herring, disinformation aspects of the plot." Fonzi and Hardway had questioned Phillips in camera, and Hardway noted, "The thing that got him so nervous was when I started mentioning all the anti-Castro Cubans who were in reports filed with the FBI for the Warren Commission and every one of them had a tie I could trace back to him. That's what got him very upset. He knew the whole thing could unravel."

Fonzi explains—and very convincingly—why it didn't unravel. The conspiracy remained secure from exposure due to two dominant factors: the internecine, hypocritical "realities" of the legislative world, and G. Robert Blakey's determi-

nation to protect the CIA.

It might be difficult for some of us to accept that the conspiracy to eliminate John Kennedy was as pervasive within the CIA as Fonzi would have us believe. However, before dismissing that thesis such Doubting Thomases might want to consider something recently published by the penultimate Washington insider, Clark Clifford. In his autobiography Counsel To The President, Clifford recalls where he was when he heard President Kennedy was shot. It seems he was chairing a meeting of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, a little-known but awesomely powerful entity; one can liken it to the President's own hand-picked State Department. The subject of that November 22, 1963 PFIAB meeting was how to dismantle and re-structure the CIA in accordance with President Kennedy's desires. Fortunately for CIA, that matter was immediately shelved upon news of the President's passing. In other words, the shots in Dallas weren't fired an hour too soon as far as the CIA's fate was concerned. The monster's hydra-head was actually on the chop block, only to receive a last-moment reprieve in Dallas.

The Last Investigation does not offer the stark conspiratorial evidence that High Treason 2 did. Nor is it as profound an analysis of the sinister forces above, within and without the CIA that The Man Who Knew Too Much is. However, it is unquestionably the most penetrating attack ever launched against the murderers of John Kennedy. Given Fonzi's status as a United States Government investigator, there can be no denying his credibility. Indeed, if what he says about most of his HSCA cohorts believing as he does is true, their diffidence guaranteed by their secrecy pledges, we have a national scandal of Watergate dimension on our hands. Is it possible that our Government's own investigators of this heinous crime have been agreeing with us all these last 15 years? As Lord Bertrand Russell pointed out in 1964, it was the very secrecy of the Warren Commission proceedings that should have tipped off sophisticated folk that something enormous was being concealed. But even Lord Russell might have found it difficult to conceive of an entire thirty-person staff consensus being overridden and suppressed. Yet, if Fonzi had not come forward, that staggering notion might never have been entertained, let alone accepted. However vilified Robert Blakey might have been by observers like Penn Jones and Harold Weisberg, even those staunch critics probably never imagined the man as that powerful. This reviewer had long taken it for granted that Fonzi was a minority among the HSCA staff, but if his is indeed the consensus opinion among those investigators it is high time they were released from the secrecy agreements imposed upon them by Blakey.

As for Gaeton Fonzi personally, he is to be regarded with awe. He is that rarest of serious researchers, one who has on numerous occasions looked the monster right in the eye. The people he had to deal with were, however cultivated their

appearances and demeanor, of the most psychopathic element—and he knew it. Yet Fonzi never relented in his pursuit, nor did he allow any secrecy pledge to stand between the truth and the public's right to know the truth. It might be difficult for those of us who have been fortunate enough to meet Mr. Fonzi to reconcile that slight, soft-spoken fellow with the kind of courage that would honor an Audie Murphy, but appearances—as the CIA is acutely aware—are forever deceiving. Gaeton Fonzi has done nothing less than to lead a charge directly into the top echelon of the CIA, against a corps of men that he is convinced executed John Kennedy, President of the United States, with impunity. The Last Investigation is a clarion call to his fellow citizens to follow him, to force our nominal leaders to confront the reality of JFK's murder and reclaim the reins of our national destiny.

"WE WANT THE TRUTH WITH THE BARK OFF"

by

Jeff Pascal

P.B.S. Frontline, Broadcast of November 16, 1993: "Who was Lee Harvey Oswald?" This program would require several viewings and a full issue of The Fourth Decade to refute thoroughly, but even one viewing should suffice to show that the full truth is not to be found here. The genesis of my interest in this project which promised so much but delivered so little began with my receipt of a letter from the author of the superb The Man Who Knew Too Much, Dick Russell, in January, 1993, in which he alerted me to a two hour documentary on Oswald, produced for Frontline, and scheduled for this fall. Great expectations!

To be charitable, maybe a half hour of the three hours were of value, in my opinion, including the following points:

1. The "new" photograph of David Ferrie and Oswald together, contrary to Gerald Posner's claim that they were not in the Civil Air Patrol at the same time.
2. The first televised interview with Sylvia Odio, and her sister, whose story has always been credible (see G. Fonzi's The Last Investigation), despite attempts by Posner and others to discredit them.
3. Richard Helms' continuing memory lapse pertaining to Oswald's alleged visits to the Cuban and Russian embassies in Mexico City, and his persistent denial of any debriefing or of interest in Oswald by the C.I.A. upon his return from the Soviet Union. However, a C.I.A. officer, filmed in shadow, recalls

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seeing a debriefing file on Oswald in 1962, with the signature of an Anderson on it. The following scene shows J.F.K. and Vietnam author, John Newman discussing recently declassified C.I.A. documents which reveal considerable interest in Oswald. Interestingly, among these was a page presented for the camera with the name Anderson appearing on it, a possible confirmation of the above officer's recollection.

4. The superior quality of the Bronson and Hughes films. The assertion here that no movement can be seen in the sixth floor windows may be accurate, but as H. Livingstone points out in Killing the Truth, there seems to be more than one version of many of the crucial films and photos in this case. Although not mentioned by the above author, a good example of this problem in the photographic evidence is the version of Zapruder frame 313 featured on the recent Dan Rather C.B.S. J.F.K. assassination special in which blood and brain matter are clearly propelled upward slightly forward six to eight feet during the head shot, and in subsequent frames the mysterious, infamous "blob" appears much more prominently than in the more frequently shown version, such as in the movie JFK.

5. The backyard photograph retrieved from the late George DeMohrenschildt bearing Oswald's apparent signature on the rear has a genuine appearance, but the possibility of forgery cannot be ruled out in view of other examples of his handwriting which are questionable. [1] As to the controversial photographs themselves, no one will ever be able to convince me that that broad chin belongs to Oswald.

Now for a few of the many things I found wrong with the program:

1. Why did neither David Lifton nor Norman Mailer make an appearance, considering the fact that they are both working on major books on Oswald?

2. What was the point in showing Wally Weston making an innocuous comment, when he had previously stated for the record, before his "disappearance," that shortly before the assassination he had punched Oswald in the mouth in Jack Ruby's presence at the Carousel Club? [2]

3. Although former Dallas Deputy Sheriff Al Maddox makes some intriguing comments regarding Carlos Marcello and Joe Campisi, no mention is made of the note Ruby handed him shortly before his death proclaiming that he had been "framed for the assassination" and "my motive was to silence Oswald". [3]

4. It was not a balanced presentation. Those experts with a conspiratorial view, Anthony Summers for example, were given short shrift, while those espousing the official lone assassin scenario were emphasized. An inordinate amount of time was spent on Gerald Posner's opinions, presented here as if they were facts. But of course, he has been elevated by the established media to the status of supreme authority on the J.F.K. assassination. It seems I was mistaken in my belief that

PBS represented a little more independence.

5. Epstein, Blakey and Posner all believe Oswald alone fired the shots which struck Kennedy, Connally and Tippit. Posner paints a picture of Oswald which is the personification of the lone nut. Epstein agrees that Oswald was a lone nut, but possibly had some vague KGB connection. Blakey thinks Oswald was a nut, but not alone, since he was hired by New Orleans mob boss Carlos Marcello, who presumably was a little short of funds (and brains) during this period, when for the "hit" of the century he relied on Marxist marksman Lee Harvey Oswald and his \$14.00 rifle with a misaligned scope to fulfill the contract. Out of all the many researchers who could have provided a provocative discussion, these three "experts" were consulted the most. Is this objective reporting?

6. Failure Systems Analysis. [4] In regard to the single bullet theory, the basic premise of their demonstration is faulty (computer information is only as good as the input, as we all know). The correct placement of the rear entry wound is five to six inches below the neck as evident in the jacket and shirt photos, the autopsy face sheet, autopsy witnesses and the FBI report. The latter goes on to state that the bullet traveled 45 to 60 degrees downward and there was no point of exit. [5] Never mind about the magical qualities of a pristine bullet which does so much damage to two men, the foregoing facts are plenty enough to demolish the single bullet theory before it gets off the ground. An additional insult to our intelligence is the diagram of this bullet's trajectory revealing a slightly left to right, or at least a straight back to front path, conforming to an origin not at the Book Depository but rather the Dal-Tex Building.

7. Oswald's fingerprint(s) on the trigger housing of the Mannlicher-Carcano as proof (actually only assumption, as in so much other evidence in the case) that he fired the weapon that day and in that place. Of course, as this was supposed to be his weapon, as the government maintains, there is nothing unusual about his prints being found on it. This begs the question, apparently never asked, how old were the prints at the time? Herein, a policeman states that for identification of a print 6 to 8 points are needed, but he found only three on the alleged Oswald rifle. Then an FBI fingerprint expert makes the claim that the prints found are of too poor a quality for authentication as Oswald's. Finally, out of the blue, yet another expert reveals an astounding 18 points of identification in these same prints! [6] Is this conclusive, or is it rather meaningless?

8. Why was Priscilla Johnson MacMillan chosen to be Marina Oswald's mouthpiece? [7] I now understand why Marina declined to be a part of this charade.

9. Why wasn't Buell Wesley Frazier's critical testimony even alluded to concerning the "curtain rods" package which Oswald carried into the Depository the morning of the assassination, tucked under his right arm, and which Frazier

claimed was no longer than two feet, give or take an inch, certainly not close to the required 35 inches for the broken-down Mannlicher-Carcano? [8]

10. To me the program's final hour was the most disappointing. It seemed hastily prepared, with many factual errors, and demonstrated a simple reliance on a rehash of the Warren Report conclusions (assumptions) concerning Oswald's movements and activities on that fateful day. There was no enlightenment, nothing original or exploratory was offered, in fact quite the opposite; because crucial eyewitness testimony and considerable hard evidence not suiting the case for Oswald's guilt were either ignored or played down. The evidence for conspiracy and more than one shooter is overwhelming and cannot be so easily dismissed. [9]

Among those problems not addressed by Frontline are the innumerable documents still being withheld by government agencies (not to mention that many of those which have been released are heavily censored); and in direct contradiction to the lone nut thesis presented, Oswald's association with individuals connected to U.S. Intelligence, namely Guy Banister, David Ferrie, Clay Shaw, and George DeMohrenschildt. [10] Or is this just another aspect of "Coincidence Theory"? One example, DeMohrenschildt, by admission Oswald's "best friend" in Dallas/Fort Worth, starts cultivating a relationship with Lyndon Johnson at roughly the same time as his trip to Haiti in May, 1963 (about twenty of his letters can be found in the LBJ Library in Austin, written both before and after the assassination). [11] Not necessarily suspicious by itself, but it is amazing how many of the principals in this case interconnect.

Another source of wonder is the document from the Navy Department, referred to in DiEugenio's Destiny Betrayed, [12] reporting Ruth Paine's inquiries about the family of Lee Harvey Oswald in 1957 (five years before they were officially introduced!)

Reproduced in the photo section of Russell's The Man Who Knew Too Much is Oswald's Uniformed Services I.D. card over stamped by the Department of Defense dated October, 1963. [13] Also, on the same page another Oswald U.S. I.D. card is pictured without a D.O.D. stamp. The latter card was in Richard Case Nagell's possession. It is intriguing to note that both the portrait photos and the Oswald signatures are different.

Credulity is stretched to the Twilight Zone when we are asked to accept the self-incriminating trail of evidence that Oswald left behind, such as: the backyard photos; the ordering of two easily traceable weapons under an alias, A. Hidell, implicating him almost immediately as the owner and therefore assassin; despite having the time to wipe the rifle clean and hiding it, not bothering to pick up the shell casings for later disposal; nor did he trouble to retrieve the hulls he dropped near the site of the Tippit killing, even though, according to the

official story, he did pause long enough to re-load his revolver before entering the Texas Theatre without paying for a ticket, again attracting attention; amongst numerous other blatant and logic-defying examples. After virtually placing the noose around his own neck, what does he say following his arrest? He protests his innocence, adamantly denies shooting anyone, proclaiming, "I am just a patsy". This pronouncement is completely at odds with every known political murder in history wherein a lone assassin was involved, especially in view of the incredible anticlimax in which he is eliminated in circumstances unheard of before or since.

No questions pertaining to Oswald's guilt or innocence have been put to rest by the Frontline effort, instead they continue to multiply.

John F. Kennedy once said, "We want the truth with the bark off." Unfortunately, P.B.S. failed to give it to us.

Notes

1. Jerry D. Rose, "These are a Few of My Favorite Forgeries", The Third Decade, March, 1986.
2. Seth Kantor, The Ruby Cover-up (New York, Zebra Books, 1992), p. 390.
3. Interview with Al Maddox on television program, "The JFK Conspiracy", Part 2 (KTLA, Los Angeles, hosted by Robert Conrad, 1992).
4. Harrison Livingstone, Killing the Truth (New York, Carroll & Graf, 1993), statement by Roger McCarthy of Failure Systems Analysis, p. 200.
5. Oliver Stone/Jane Rusconi, JFK-The Book of the Film (Applause Books, New York, 1992), Sibert-O'Neill FBI Report, p. 157.
6. Ibid, pp. 13, 25, 57.
7. Peter Whitmey, Hal Verb, Jack White, "Priscilla Johnson MacMillan", The Third Decade, Jan. 1986, Jan. 1990, Jan-March 1992, Nov. 1993.
8. Buell Wesley Frazier on Nigel Turner's "The Men Who Killed Kennedy" (BBC, 1989).
9. Jim Marrs, Crossfire and Harrison Livingstone, Robert Groden, High Treason, evidence throughout.
10. James DiEugenio, Destiny Betrayed (New York, Sheridan Square Press, 1992), and Richard Bartholomew, "Possible Discovery of an Automobile Used in the JFK Assassination", Compendium, Providence Proceedings Research Conference, 6/18-20, 1993 (Available through Fourth Decade).
11. Ibid, Bartholomew.
12. Op cit, DiEugenio, End Notes, p. 343.
13. Dick Russell, The Man Who Knew Too Much (New York, Carroll & Graf, 1992), Photograph Section.

THE OSWALD TRANSFER: WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE?

by

Jan R. Stevens

After Jack Ruby got into the basement of the Dallas Police Department and killed Lee Oswald, the crucial questions began as to his possible role in a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy. But the immediate questions, discussed for these thirty years, were a) How did Ruby get in; and b) just who was responsible for all this?

Beginning with Police Chief Jesse Curry and Homicide Captain Will Fritz, the official answer has always been that Ruby made his way past Officer Roy Vaughan (who was momentarily distracted by traffic) and went down the Main Street ramp a few moments before 11:21 A.M. We all realize now that this is patently untrue, as verified clearly in the final report of The House Select Committee in 1979. They stated that "the conclusion reached by the Warren Commission that Ruby entered the police basement via the ramp was refuted by the eyewitness testimony of every witness in the relevant area, only Ruby himself excepted. [1] They also based this on the viewing of videotapes taken before the shooting which show a police vehicle moving up the ramp, thus leaving Ruby "less than 55 seconds to get down the ramp and kill Oswald." Even Gerald Posner's verbal gymnastics could not save him from embarrassment, as he played games with the HSCA's reasoning and evidence before concluding "it appears the committee was mistaken." [2] What makes this even harder to fathom is that even the cock-sure Posner had to acknowledge that Roy Vaughan passed a lie detector test on this shortly afterwards. Officer Vaughan was supported by Officer Don Flusche's statement that he did not see Ruby (whom he knew) enter either. Flusche was parked directly across the street from where Vaughan was guarding the ramp entrance. [3] As recently as May 1992, in a videotaped interview with researcher Mark Oakes, Vaughan was still adamant that Ruby had to enter some other way, perhaps through a door that led in from the alleyway, as Larry Harris illustrated in the documentary, "The Men Who Killed Kennedy". [4]

That being more-or-less settled, we shall look more closely here into how the transfer of Oswald from the DPD to the County jail was set up and who may have been ultimately responsible for the breach in security, facilitating Ruby's action.

The question is not as simple as it seems; for in the final analysis, the buck was passed back and forth and it is quite apparent that neither Captain Fritz nor Chief Curry knew clearly what was going on. I contend, however, that certainly

one of them (or, less likely, both) knew that Oswald would never make it out of the jail alive.

Someone high up in the Department, or higher up in the "powers-that-be," knew that Oswald could not be allowed to speak further about what he might have known—and surely a trial could not be permitted.

Captain John William Fritz of the (then) Homicide and Robbery bureau was in charge of the investigation from the start and had responsibility for the security of his prisoner. At the time of the JFK assassination, he had been on the Dallas Police force for forty-two years, having joined in 1921. He made detective in 1923, and had a long-standing reputation as a master interrogator. It is said he was able to coax confessions out of even the most reticent of suspects, and most of these were later convictions. He was known early on for championing the use of scientific methods in police work, and advocated modernizing police procedures. [5] Thus says his April 1984 obituary, but it is tough to swallow when we recall that no notes were made, or interrogations recorded while Oswald was in custody. At least, "officially."

Fritz, it was reported, even had a hand in the investigation of the legendary Bonnie & Clyde back in the thirties. [6] A perfectionist by nature, he was offered the position of Chief of Police a number of times, but always turned it down, preferring to work the Homicide and Robbery Bureau, which he himself set up. For all Fritz's success in extracting confessions, he never did get one from his most famous prisoner, Lee Harvey Oswald. I suspect this is because Oswald had no confession to make.

After careful study of the respective testimonies and the JFK case literature, it is still hard to pinpoint who was in charge of the transfer's final arrangements. Many have said Curry was, and it was indeed the Chief who gave some specific orders as to what would be done. Yet, let us consider what Curry himself told the Warren Commission:

Curry: I mean, I don't enter in the transfer of prisoners, I don't ordinarily even know when they are going to be transferred.

Rankin: Why is that?

Curry: It's just a routine matter.

Rankin: Did you have anything to do with this transfer then?

Curry: Other than to, I called Sheriff Decker on Sunday morning and he said, I told him and I think he talked to Fritz prior to that time too, and he told Fritz, he says, "Don't bring him down here until I get some security set up for him..." [7]

We can see from this that Decker did not have any security set up yet either over at the county jail. And this conversation took place about three hours before the actual transfer was begun! According to Detective Jim Leavelle, it was Fritz who

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gave the final OK for the transfer. [8] Yet Fritz seems to get edgy when questioned by commission counsel Joseph Ball and tends to implicate Curry as responsible, citing the death threats against Oswald received the night before. Fritz told the Commission he always thought the call came from Ruby, which it did, according to the recollection of Billy Grammar, who received it, and subsequently recognized Ruby's voice as the one on the phone. [9] Another call was received by the Sheriff's Office, and was reported by the FBI. Strangely enough, Curry did not acknowledge the phone threat taken by Grammar in his testimony and when asked by Commissioner John McCloy about rumors of a "possible lynching" of Oswald, he said "The only information I had was that the FBI, someone from the FBI passed the information to the City Hall [Police Headquarters] during the night that they had a call that said, I believe, the FBI sent this call, that there was a group of 100 men who would take that prisoner away from us before we got to the county jail." [10] It is unusual that nowhere else in his testimony does Curry refer to the other threat which Fritz knew about, as did several other officers. Even when McCloy posed the direct question, "You never heard any threat uttered within the jail?", Curry replied, "No." [11] You may recall that the Police Chief did have his phone off the hook after he returned home Saturday night; his wife felt he was over-stressed and needed sleep. This is certainly understandable on the face of it, if we give Curry the benefit of the doubt, unless Fritz knew more about the threatening call (and who placed it) and chose, perhaps, to keep Curry in the dark about it. It was Captain Frazier who called Fritz at home about the threat that very night; yet as we have seen, it was only the threat from the "gang of 100" that Curry testified he was aware of.

The commission said that two members of the Department had suggested to Fritz that "Oswald be taken from the building by another exit, leaving the press 'waiting in the basement and on Commerce Street and we would be to the county jail before anyone knew what was taking place.'" [12] Dallas D.A. Henry Wade also thought it a good idea to transfer the suspect as early as Friday night, November 22nd. [13] Fritz refused these suggestions, bowing to Curry's concern for the media. The Chief made the announcement to the press after 7:30 Saturday night, saying that if they were there by 10 o'clock the next morning, they "wouldn't miss anything." This apocalyptic utterance should be considered in the light of the fact that at that point, the particulars of the plan were not even devised yet, and would not take shape until about 8:45 Sunday morning, after Curry's phone call to Sheriff Decker. [14] In fact, the Commission began its chapter on the "abortive transfer" by saying that it would normally have been Decker's responsibility; anytime after the complaint against the accused was filed, the Sheriff's Office would send deputies to pick him up. [15]

"The basic decision...was never carefully thought out by

either man", stated the Warren Commission. [16] In its zeal, however, to somehow exonerate Curry and Fritz, the Report goes on to blame the frenzy of the assembled newsmen during the assassination weekend, and the problems police had with them in the basement. Author Harold Weisberg said it best when he wrote "[the report] goes out of its way to justify fables and fabrications", citing only "minor procedural errors on the part of the police." [17] We do know that the details of the transfer caused sharp disagreement between the two men. The original plan was to use an armored truck, or "money wagon" in police parlance, to transport Oswald. Fritz thought this unreliable for its maneuverability, just in case that terrible ol' "gang of 100" lynchmen should overtake it. [18] It is also mentioned in various books that this vehicle's height made it impossible to clear the ceiling in the basement, but it was there after all, and photos and films seem to contradict this. At any rate, Curry finally decided to use the armored truck as a decoy, and to take Oswald in an unmarked car which would then veer off the route away from the other vehicles and approach the jail from another way. Even this sounds like more Keystone Kops-style getaway antics. The event was televised live, of course, and any potential hitman planning to shoot Oswald somehow at the County Jail location, would have seen the vehicle they put him in anyway. A much tougher job than hitting him in the police basement, but nonetheless plausible to some degree. Thus, Ruby was able to fire the shot which deprived the world of any secrets Oswald might have known.

On Sunday morning, Curry put Sgt. Patrick Dean in charge of basement security, along with Deputy Chief Stevenson. Dean failed a lie detector test given him in 1964 about Ruby's access to the basement, although this was apparently ignored by the Warren Commission. These polygraph results were acknowledged by HSCA investigators, but they could not be located by them. [19] Perhaps they were "routinely destroyed" along with other key evidence. Dean, we now know, enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Dallas Mob boss Joseph Civello, as he admitted to author Peter Dale Scott "without embarrassment", [20] and Carlos Marcello biographer John Davis noted that Dean once had dinner with Civello upon the latter's return from the infamous Mafia summit of 1957 at Apalachin, New York. [21] Civello's connections to Ruby have been cited elsewhere as well and Ruby's Mob pal Paul Roland Jones had told the FBI that if Ruby had orders to kill Oswald, they would have had to come from Civello, a Marcello deputy. [22] Perhaps, but not likely without Dallas police complicity, probably not without the aid of someone of rank. The late Seth Kantor, highly regarded for his work on Jack Ruby, wrote that one of Captain Fritz's right-hand men, Homicide Detective Joe Cody, was a "special police pal" of Ruby's. [23] So were both Cal Jones and Buddy Muenster of the Burglary and Theft detail. [24] Could they have been the links to Fritz's possible pre-knowledge of Ruby's execution of Oswald? Or could it have been Lt. Richard Swain, the first

policeman to come off the elevator to the basement when the suspect was brought down? After giving the OK to Fritz, he would have been the first to notice if Ruby was in place, if such a plot existed. They were also both friends, as Kantor reports. [25] In terms of Fritz as the officer in charge of the assassination investigation, the custody of Oswald and his association with these officers, it is not unreasonable to suggest that Fritz knew something.

Another possible clue to this came from John Currington, an attorney and "former" chief aide to Texas oil billionaire H.L. Hunt. Currington was asked by Hunt to go down to the jail to observe what kind of security was in place for their prisoner. Currington said he arrived at police headquarters about 5:30–6 P.M. Saturday, was never asked to produce any credentials and got on an elevator to the third floor where the homicide office (and all the press) were located. In the elevator were Will Fritz and Lee Oswald, whereupon Fritz said only, "Meet the blankety-blank who shot the President" (Currington's version of quote; I can't imagine Fritz using the term, "blankety-blank".) H.L. Hunt had given instructions to Currington to report back, regardless of what time it would be and he arrived back to see Hunt shortly after midnight. He then told Hunt that security around Oswald was, of course, extremely lax, and "we did not discuss the merits of this, and I left." [26] One must wonder why one of the world's richest men in 1963 was interested in the lack of security for the President's accused assassin; his interest caused him to send his chief aide on a little spy mission and the aide reported back that this security breach had "merits." Those familiar with the case will recall that Ruby himself was at the Hunt office complex in Dallas on the day before JFK's murder, ostensibly to drop off a woman for a job interview, but not entering the seventh floor offices. [27] It is also common knowledge that several of the H.L. Hunt-financed, right-wing "Life Line" radio scripts were found in the trunk of Ruby's car. [28] Even the Commission noted that Oswald's killer handed KLIF disc jockey Russ Knight one of the scripts when he visited the radio station during his Friday late-night escapades of the 22nd. [29] Add to these "coincidences" the visit of Jim Braden to those same Hunt offices, also on the day before the assassination. Braden, a Mob-connected character with an extensive criminal record was, of course, picked up in Dealey Plaza, coming out of the Dal-Tex building after shots were fired. He was detained briefly by police and released.

Author Harry Hurt III, in his definitive book on the Hunts, indicates several other possible Ruby-Hunt connections, since both men had several of the same individuals in their employ at various times and had once allegedly bet big money against each other on several football games. [30]

If, as Currington's story may indicate, Fritz recognized him on the elevator as being one of Hunt's people—and we know how the "old boys network" stretched out far and wide—

another Ruby connection here is, at least tenable.

Former CIA technical specialist and author George O'Toole said in "The Assassination Tapes" that he tried to get an interview with Fritz in 1975. Fritz told him he had never given any interviews on the assassination and had no intentions of changing his mind. [31] The captain has never spoken publicly about this case, and was always as silent about any ensuing research or investigations as very few other principals have been. (Marie Tippit and, until recently, Michael Paine, also come to mind.)

On the other hand, Curry has spoken out. He later contended that he had doubts about Oswald's guilt, saying they were never able to "put him at that window with that rifle" as he wrote in his 1969 book. [32] He later expressed similar sentiments to Peter Dale Scott in a filmed interview on the grassy knoll. [33] A few authors have mentioned that Fritz did tell friends on the day after the Zapruder film was first shown on television in March 1975 that he was ordered to stop the investigation. The command came from none other than Lyndon Johnson who said "you already have your man", so the story goes. [34]

Chief Curry has always appeared to this writer as sincere, for the most part, yet somewhat befuddled, bewildered and definitely harassed by the demands and feeding frenzy exhibited by the immediate media onslaught on his headquarters. We should recall that he was quite stern and seemed personally upset when he told reporters that he learned the FBI had prior knowledge of Oswald and "we were not informed of this man." [35] Ostensibly forced to retract these remarks by perhaps, Dallas FBI chief Gordon Shanklin or even Hoover, Curry is visibly flustered when he tells the press that the FBI had no obligation to tell the Dallas police anything (of course not!) and that they had always "cooperated 100%". Yeah, and they were about to take away all the evidence before you guys were through with it and do God—only—knows—what with some of it.

The most damning evidence about the transfer that never happened is, however, the filmed reactions of Will Fritz to the Oswald shooting. As seen only in the CBS coverage, we can see Lt. Swain come in the basement first, followed by Fritz who makes his way to the waiting car to the right of the foot of the ramp. [36] According to the captain, "I was approaching our car to open the back door to put him in, they were having a terrible time to get the car in through the people—they were crowding all over the car—and I heard a shot and I turned just in time to see the officers push Ruby to the pavement." [37] But what the footage shows is probably the most delayed reaction of all time to a sudden and loud noise (unless we count the Commission's version of Connally's reaction to CE399). If you have ever been in the Dallas police basement, you may have noticed that the immediate area where Oswald was shot is not all that large and is prone to echoing any loud

noise, even the somewhat muffled shot to Oswald's abdomen. Nonetheless, as we can clearly see from the CBS coverage, Fritz is just rounding the corner when Ruby lunges forward and fires his Cobra .38 into Oswald. Fritz is the only man in sight who does not display any immediate reaction to the shot. Even after Ruby surges forward the second time, Fritz has yet to turn around, then does so ever-so-slowly, raising his arms on either side. He has a slightly bemused look on his face and looks more like he's about to dance in the "Nutcracker Suite" ballet, than the tough as nails homicide detective his reputation suggests. There is, to my eyes, a complete lack of surprise exhibited and an air of nonchalance that is appallingly obvious. Fritz appears totally nerveless and is a real contrast to the quick, frantic movements of all others. A delayed reaction or slow reflexes due to age cannot explain away Fritz's strange behavior, once you view the videotape. Police officers are given specific and extensive training in reacting quickly and properly to the sound of gunfire and we know that the captain was aware of the several threats to Oswald's life. A 42-year veteran at that time, Fritz should have seen to it that a police cordon of officers provide a "human shield" for the suspect. This would seem to be standard procedure for such a momentous event, after the assassination of the President had already stained the city of Dallas and the area of police security surrounding JFK's visit was already severely questioned. There were, after all, almost seventy-five officers present in the basement [38] (Chief Curry was still upstairs, having taken a call from Mayor Cabell). [39]

Police complicity in the Oswald murder has been a major issue in the case all these thirty years, especially considering Ruby's many close, personal ties to the department. Various researchers have implicated DPD members such as the highly suspect Assistant Chief Charles Batchelor (who later became Chief of Police himself), Blackie Harrison, Lt. George Butler, Jack Revill (who was head of Criminal Intelligence and had ties to Army intelligence and other federal officials), the aforementioned Cody, Swain and others. What this author is suggesting is that if these men, or others, were involved in a plot to kill Oswald, it could not ostensibly be done without some sort of pre-knowledge on the part of either chief Curry or captain Fritz.

In the light of the details now known about the transfer's mishandling, the phoned threats that came in to the Sheriff's Office, the FBI and DPD headquarters and the alleged associations discussed herein—the available evidence seems to point to the man who told the press that "this case is cinched" (only hours after the assassination), and that man was captain Will Fritz.

Many thanks to Gary Mack, Walt Brown and Ed Bell. Their opinions may not necessarily reflect those expressed in this article.

Notes

1. HSCA final Report (Bantam edition) p. 191.
2. Posner 395-396.
3. Blakey (Fatal Hour) p. 345. Captain Talbert also vouched for Vaughan's credibility and conduct. See Meagher 406.
4. "Eyewitness Videotape: Real JFK Facts" by Mark A. Oakes, 1992.
5. Dallas Times Herald, April 20, 1984.
6. Dallas Times Herald, April 20, 1984.
7. Warren Commission Hearings and Exhibits, Volume 4, page 186. References hereafter cited in format: 4H186.
8. 13H17, see also Lane 211 ("Rush...").
9. "The Men Who Killed Kennedy", documentary by Nigel Turner, A&E Cable 1991.
10. 4H194.
11. 4H194.
12. Warren Report, Government Printing Office edition, Washington, D.C., 1964. References hereafter cited in format: WR 210.
13. WR 209.
14. WR 209.
15. WR 208.
16. WR 229.
17. Weisberg (Whitewash I, p. 165). See also WR 225 for explanation of the Dallas Police Department's General Order No. 81 which states that the order places on a police officer "a responsibility to lend active assistance [to the press]".
18. 4H188. See also Bonner, Judith, Investigation of a Homicide, (Anderson, S.C.: Droke House Publishers, 1969) p. 179.
19. HSCA Final Report (Bantam edition), p. 192.
20. Scott (Deep Politics) 131.
21. Davis 206.
22. Davis 208. See also Commission Exhibit 1184.
23. Kantor 148-149.
24. Kantor 148-149.
25. Kantor 72.
26. Russell 602. See also Marrs 277.
27. Joeston, Joachim, Oswald: Assassin or Fall Guy?, (New York: Marzani and Munsell, 1964) p. 204. See also Jerry D. Rose, "You Don't Know Me But You Will", The Third Decade, Vol. 4 #1, November 1987, page 20 for excellent material on Connie Trammel, the woman driven by Ruby to Lamar Hunt's office.
28. 22H502.

29. WR 343.
30. Harry Hurt III, *Texas Rich*, (New York: W.W. Norton, 1981) pp. 235–236. See also Lane (op. cit.) p. 237.
31. O'Toole 176.
32. Curry 161.
33. "Dallas and After", videotape of program "The Fifth Estate, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, 1977. Scott expressed the importance of the back-and-to-the-left motion of the President's head as well as Dr. Perry's contemporaneous statements on the entrance wound to the throat as evidence of a frontal shot and, hence, another gunman. When asked if he might agree, Curry responded "Yep, that's right." He was also shown overlaid transparencies of the backyard photos, and agreed with Professor Scott that discrepancies were apparent.
34. Shaw with Harris 186–187, see also Groden & Livingstone 245.
35. "Rush to Judgment" videotape (Mark Lane and Emile deAntonio), MPI Video. Also "The Kennedy Tapes", WFAA-TV Dallas coverage of November 22–24, 1963.
36. "Four Days in November", CBS Television, November 1988. Also "48 Hours: JFK", available as "Who Killed JFK, Facts not Fiction" (1992 from Fox Video).
37. 4H234.
38. 4H189 for phone call from Mayor Earl Cabell, Meagher 403 for count of officers.
39. Meagher 403.

A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ENTRY WOUND IN PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S THROAT

by

Martin Shackelford

Researchers in this case have long argued that the wound in President Kennedy's throat was an entrance wound, based on descriptions of the doctors at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. Attempts to refute this have consistently stumbled over the near-unanimity of testimony, just as in the case of the rear head wound.

Despite this, there has always been a certain level of uncertainty among researchers, because no photograph existed showing the wound as it appeared prior to the tracheotomy. It is a photograph of that wound, reconstructed from the enlarged photo of the throat wound published on p. 92 of

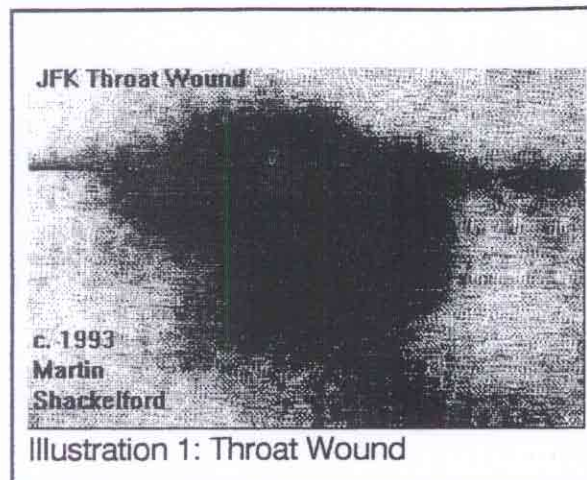


Illustration 1: Throat Wound

Note that the two photographs are in the same scale.

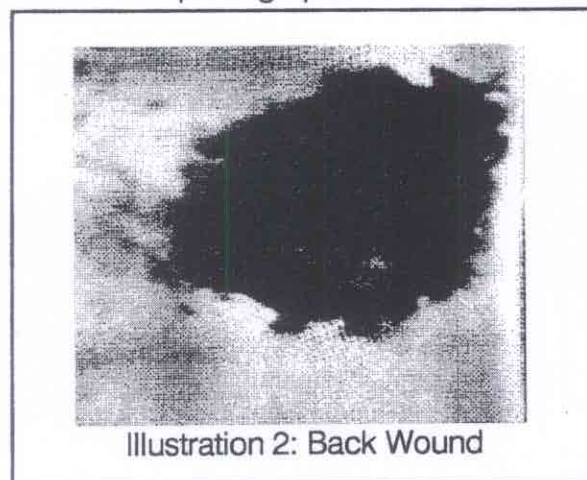


Illustration 2: Back Wound

vol. 7 of the House Select Committee on Assassination's appendices.

A brief word on how the photograph was produced. I began by scanning Fig. 9, p. 92 HSCA VII with a 256 Gray Scale scanner. Using Proimage software, I boxed from the upper edges of the rounded margin. I then moved this margin up to the upper edge, where it met the less obvious margin edges at the top of the trach cut. As Dr. Perry "extended" his cut from the wound, but did not "obliterate" the wound, as has often been stated, the margins remained intact, and thus were joined with relative ease (see illustration 3).

Next, I determined the width of the original wound. HSCA reported "The maximum transverse diameter of the incision in the neck is approximately 5 centimeters." (HSCA VII 92). Calculating from that measurement, I determined that the original wound was approximately .93 centimeters wide, or roughly 9.3 mm.

As defenders of the "lone assassin" view have agreed that the back wound was a wound of entrance, I thought it might be interesting to compare the two wounds. HSCA reported that

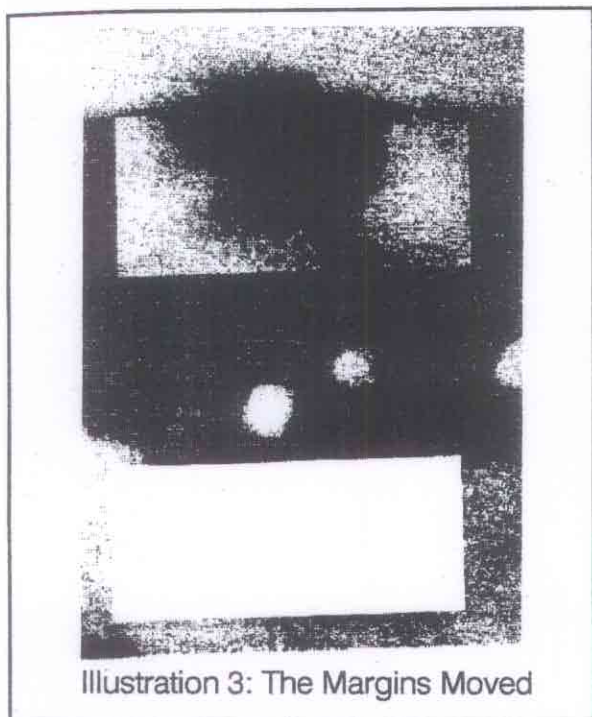


Illustration 3: The Margins Moved

the back wound's "maximum wound diameter...is 0.9 by 0.9 centimeter" (HSCA VII 85) or 9 mm. compared to the throat wound's 9.3 mm. Pretty close figure. I made my calculations, incidentally, before looking up the size of the back wound.

Our best previous measure had been that of doctors, from memory, that the wound was 3–5 mm in width. The wound as we see it may have been spread somewhat as a result of the tracheotomy cut, but I think it more likely that what we see is approximately what they saw on the afternoon of November 22, 1963. What we see in illustrations 1 and 2, I believe, are two entrance wounds.

28

THE SEARCH FOR FACTOIDS

by

Jack White

Floating out there like asteroids in the vast universe of JFK information are a multitude of what I call factoids, and you don't need a Hubble telescope to find them, just the WC volumes, the HSCA volumes and some of the other books on the case, plus a very good memory. There are not very many "planets", "stars" or "galaxies" still to be found, but some of these factoids could be extremely important if studied intensively.

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A telephone call from Las Vegas researcher Art Swanson brought to my attention a factoid which concerned a problem which had puzzled me for decades—the strap on the rifle C2766, CE 139, the alleged Mannlicher–Carcano murder weapon.

In my years of study of the three backyard photographs, one thing which always puzzled me was what appears to be a "rope" sling on the rifle in the photos. This rope sling is confirmed in the testimony of the FBI's Lyndal Shaneyfelt (4H289). When we next see the rifle after the alleged depiction in the Neeley Street backyard, it is being removed from the TSBD by Lt. Carl Day, and it has a peculiar non-standard leather sling. "It is not...a normal sling for a rifle. It appears to be from a carrying case, camera bag, musical instrument strap..." testified FBI gun expert Robert Frazier (3H397). This issue was well covered by Sylvia Meagher in "Accessories After the Fact," pp. 111–112. The gun furnished by Klein's had no strap, and there is no evidence that Oswald provided the leather strap. It is clear that the FBI knew of the problem of the strap.

In 1980, Dr. John Latimer (in "Kennedy and Lincoln", p. 297) solved the mystery of "what" the strap was—it was an obsolete Air Force pistol holster strap. Thus the urologist was able to do what the FBI experts couldn't. But we still don't know "how" the strap got on the Mannlicher–Carcano. And there the matter rested until Swanson phoned me with the following "factoid" from HSCA VII, 365–66:



"Evidence examined"

"(98) CE139. (71)—One 6.5–millimeter caliber, bolt-action repeating rifle, Mannlicher–Carcano Model 1938, serial number C2766. Attached was an Ordnance Optics, Inc. 4X telescopic sight and an adjustable black leather strap." (underlining added).

...and then a description on page 366 of a rifle described by

the Warren Commission as "Replica of the C2766 rifle." (17Ex), which is Commission Exhibit 250 (17E241) (photograph of Exhibit 250 is CE542) which Frazier said was obtained from Klein's (3H396):

"(106) CE 542.—One 6.5 millimeter caliber, bolt-action repeating rifle, Mannlicher-Carcano model 1938, serial No. UC5209. Attached was a 4X Ordnance Optics, Inc., telescopic sight and an adjustable black leather strap. The strap is consistent in length, design and construction with the strap on the CE139 rifle. The rifle was purchased by the FBI in order to compare the method of mounting the telescopic sight." (underlining added).

Examination of photo CE542 (17E241) SHOWS NO STRAP. Then what was the House Committee reporting in paragraph (106)? Were they looking for a different version of photo CE542? Did the rifle obtained by the FBI from Klein's have a strap like the C2766 rifle? Did the rifle have such a strap when examined by the HSCA? Did the FBI add a strap to CE250? Who put the straps on the two rifles, and what was the source? Did the FBI photograph two different poses of CE250 (CE542), with and without strap? Did the FBI really know the origin of the strap? Did the HSCA staff just imagine that photo CE542 showed a strap on CE250? Did they just make it up?

What is the significance, if any, of Swanson's Factoid? Is this just some kind of mistake? Or does it indicate the FBI knew more about the mysterious strap than they wanted to tell? Like much of the case, there are more questions than answers.

I recommend that all researchers go back over material previously studied. You'll probably discover some factoids yourself!

Editor's note: I should like to piggy-back on White's "factoid" a long-standing puzzlement of my own about that rifle strap. Photographs at pages 96 and 97 of the HSCA volume VI show the rifle being carried out of the TSBD. Trouble is that there appears to be a different strap in the two pictures!



MAJOR TROUBLE IN CONSPIRACY LAND

by
Dennis Ford

The value of a symposium like ASK is that it brings researchers together and allows for the evaluation of theories. There's something in the procession of prominent speakers that enables a rapid assessment of what is supposed to be state-of-

the-art Kennedy assassination research.

Two features of the state of research into the death of President Kennedy impressed this interested and relatively theory-free observer. The first feature was the usual disparity between minimal evidence and maximum theorizing. This feature is nothing new in assassinology; although uncomplimentary, it amounts to business-as-usual.

The second, and truly astonishing, feature seems to be a more recent development. It was the eagerness some speakers showed in declaring important evidence invalid. President Kennedy's body was altered. The Zapruder film was tampered with. The Nix film was tampered with. The backyard photos are fakes. Some of the autopsy photos are forgeries. Some of the X-rays are forgeries. Lee Oswald himself may be a forgery.

I view the second feature as a pathological, perhaps fatal, development in assassinology. I know of no other field in which opinion leaders happily argue their cause out-of-existence. (This viewpoint didn't seem to be "fringe" but "mainstream" among the conventioners.) It's as if some of the speakers forgot that no theories are possible without an evidentiary base. There's no way to create a theory without such a base; more importantly, there's no way to test a theory. The only evidence left for consideration is eyewitness testimony and that has been shown in decades of experimental study to be an exceedingly shaky base on which to build cathedrals of speculation.

Proponents of this view suggest that such tampering is suspicious, proof of conspiracy, and in need of their special brand of sleuthing. It may well be that sinister forces destroyed, altered, and created evidence, but I'm going to suggest an equally nasty alternative. I suggest this bizarre development reflects the mistaken solution some researchers have made to the conflict of evidence and theories. (It may also reflect last-ditch efforts to keep refuted theories alive.) The evidence doesn't support a researcher's pet theory, so the evidence is discarded and the theory preserved.

This development is exactly opposite to the legitimate process of theory-building and testing. In the clash between evidence and theories, theories have to be discarded. It's true that evidence is often weak and open to multiple interpretations, but to argue that evidence is fraudulent is to undermine the possibility that any theory might turn out to be "true". (If the dark side was able to tamper with the major evidence, they could have tampered with any of the evidence; if only some evidence is suspect, research becomes a sifting and sorting procedure, which is all too convenient for the life of certain theories.) To argue in such a style is to cause the collapse of the entire empirical edifice of assassinology. However weak, evidence could at the least refute theories; now the evidence can't even do that.

By surrendering the possibility of proving or disproving their

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assertions assassinologists who view evidence as fraudulent have lost their hold on reality and reached the dead end of knowledge. Turning from empirical researchers into metaphysicians, whose theories need no support and can't have support, these assassinologists have unwittingly closed their version of the case. Supporters of the Warren Commission myth would have won the contest for the "truth" of President Kennedy's murder not because their arguments were superior but because they took seriously the immensely sensible question, "What's your evidence?"

MY EVIDENCE IS THE LACK OF EVIDENCE: THOUGHTS ON READING D. FORD, "MAJOR TROUBLE IN CONSPIRACY LAND"

by
James Folliard

Double, double, toil and trouble
Cauldron boil and cauldron bubble

—*Witches' Song, Macbeth*

Shakespeare's delightful and devious troublemakers came to mind as I read Dennis Ford's latest assessment of JFK assassination research. Ford's impetus for writing this piece was what he heard at the November, 1993 ASK Symposium in Dallas. But his observations apply to the whole range of "conspiracy" literature on the Kennedy case.

Ford is more interested in how assassination theories are constructed and defended than in the theories themselves. It is the consistent focus of his essays, reviews and "occasional pieces." Together, these writings make up a worthwhile compendium of criticism, in the best sense of that word. Methodological criticism may seem dull (hence unimportant) when placed alongside the latest batch of "revelations" and "solutions." Don't blame Ford for that: his observations are provocative and concise, and with a dash of good humor thrown in. He's worth paying attention to.

A few simple questions should make clear to the reader why Ford's issues are important: What do you do for a living? What do you do, or try to do, well? Sooner or later in these endeavors, haven't you found the need to become methodi-

cal, orderly, and technically proficient? Disciplined, in other words? Have you experienced the paradox of how this "restraining discipline" actually makes the work easier, the results better?

To be blunt about it, if your answers to the last three are No, No, and No—you're still a rookie. You may even win "Rookie of the Year," but the "Sophomore Jinx" is coming. You'll never break 90, close the tough sale, or hit the curveball. You'll keep muffing those slam bids, forgetting your lines, and agonizing over that checkbook that won't reconcile.

You'll waste enormous time and energy getting such dismal results—and you'll blame it on "the breaks." You'll marvel at the pros in whatever field, and envy all their "pure talent," and how easy they make it all look. And the fact that they're actually having FUN!

And you'll wonder what secrets they're hiding when they say things like...

"It's a matter of technique."

...Which is the conscious application of simplicity, method and discipline to the task at hand. For assassination researchers, one task is to keep from falling headlong into that boiling brew of evidence—fact—artifact—speculation—solid hypothesis—disinformation that bubbles higher and hotter with every passing year.

I seldom agree fully with Ford's complaints, arguments, or conclusions. But they cause me to sort my own disorganized ideas. There's a method to his madness, which, if nothing else, can help researchers keep from getting scalded. (Although in this field not many seem to mind.)

2. Ford seeks theories (or hypotheses) that can be tested against basic assassination evidence. In "Major Trouble," he decries "the usual disparity between minimal evidence and maximum theorizing."

Nothing new here—about the phenomenon or Ford's complaint. But his jibe that "it amounts to business—as-usual" for assassinology seems overstated; there's a growing body of solid work by researchers who adhere to good evidentiary and critical standards. They don't get featured on TV or in US News And World Report, but they're out there. [1]

Ford goes on to express astonishment at a more recent development, "the eagerness some speakers [at the ASK Symposium] showed in declaring important evidence invalid." It is certainly fair and justified for him to

...suggest this bizarre development reflects the mistaken solution some researchers have made to the conflict of evidence and theories. (It may also reflect last-ditch efforts to keep refuted theories alive.) The evidence doesn't support a researcher's pet theory, so the evidence is discarded and the theory preserved.

After all, this kind of self-serving "selectivity" tarnishes all

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fields, even "exact" ones like accounting (Corporate CEO, interviewing new CPA: "How much is 2 and 2?" CPA: "How much do you want it to be?" CEO: "You're hired!").

Assassination research, despite its pledged allegiance to "nothing but the truth," is hardly immune. Glaring recent examples would include JFK's neglect of Perry Russo's "testimony" (the key factor in discrediting the case against Clay Shaw), and Gerald Posner's treatment of numerous points in *Case Closed*. Ford may seem like a pest about these things, but it may take a pest to prevent a pestilence.

Here's where we part company:

I view the second feature [finding evidence invalid] as a pathological, perhaps fatal, development in assassinology. I know of no other field in which opinion leaders happily argue their cause out-of-existence.

Ford mentions President Kennedy's body, the Z-film, the Nix film, the backyard photos, and some of the autopsy photos and X-rays as "questioned" evidence. With characteristic wit he adds, "Lee Oswald himself may be a forgery." To throw all this evidence into our cauldron of confusion leaves no evidentiary base:

There's no way to create a theory without such a base; more importantly, there's no way to test a theory. The only evidence left for consideration is eyewitness testimony and that has been shown in decades of experimental study to be an exceedingly shaky base on which to build cathedrals of speculation. (Emphasis Ford's.)

Ford's method of discipline is obviously to give precedence to "physical" or "scientific" evidence (or to be more precise, "physical evidence scientifically analyzed"). This is a time-tested and generally reliable procedure for adducing both historical and legal "truth," (as in a criminal trial), not to mention the creation and testing of scientific theories themselves.

The key phrase in that statement is "generally reliable." And the question to be asked is: Have generally-accepted standards for insuring the reliability of physical evidence, and the scientific analysis of that evidence, been met in this case?

Do I hear, "Yes...But of course...Absolutely"? Or even, "Not always, but by-and-large...pretty well, overall"?

Or am I just hearing things in a room filled with silence?

3. Let's assume for the moment that we're trying to "solve this case" using generally reliable methods of forensic science—the discipline of discovering and validating physical evidence for courtroom use. A key standard or test here is that the chain of evidence must be maintained. The burden is clearly upon the investigators and scientists (pathologists, ballistics experts, photo analysts, etc.) to honor this chain in

order to demonstrate the integrity of the evidence. To fail to do so—even by inadvertent mistake—is costly; the evidence may be ruled inadmissible.

The idea isn't unique to criminal law; bookkeepers and accountants, for example, try to maintain an "audit trail."

Can a reliable chain of evidence—an "audit trail"—be found for any of the items Ford mentions? The Z-film?—Supposedly in a vault at Time-Life and/or in the hands of Robert Groden for years.

X-rays and photos?—No one really knows the origins of the so-called "Fox Set" of photos. Groden—again—allegedly had X-ray and photo originals in his possession while he worked for HSCA; we have his word for it that the originals went back to the National Archives, unenhanced. This is not to disparage Groden's word, only to point out that this is hardly a reliable evidentiary chain.

President Kennedy's body?—The chain of evidence was broken—by force—right at Parkland Hospital. And to this day it is unclear when, how, and in what condition it arrived at Bethesda Hospital. One need not subscribe to David Lifton's "body alteration" thesis to acknowledge that basic procedures and safeguards were lacking.

And even Lee Harvey Oswald?—As early as 1960, J. Edgar Hoover called attention to the possibility that someone may have been impersonating Oswald in the Soviet Union. "Would the real Lee Oswald please stand up!" remains a pertinent request in assassinology's version of "To Tell The Truth."

We could add the "magic bullet", the limousine, the murder weapon, the paper wrapper, Dr. Humes' burned autopsy notes—the list would still be incomplete.

Individually and in isolation, none of these "anomalies" would support a case for conspiracy. As Ford puts it, that would root maximum theorizing in minimal evidence.

But any sound hypothesis must be able to embrace and explain all the evidence. What emerges here is an inescapable pattern: in THE MURDER CASE OF THE CENTURY, no less, basic, simple, time-tested, and generally reliable methods for securing and analyzing evidence were violated at virtually every step of the investigation.

"Obstruction of Justice" is conduct that includes concealing, falsifying, or otherwise tampering with physical evidence. Whether deliberate or inadvertent, "breaks" in the chain of evidence also obstruct justice.

A persistent pattern of such conduct, in the face of time-tested, reliable safeguards against the very same behavior, must surely suggest deliberate obstruction of justice; as well as suggest a conspiracy to do so, since several persons are obviously involved.

This hardly argues the case for conspiracy "out-of-exist-

ence," as Ford claims. Nor is to call attention to questionable evidence "pathological." In fact, it is the very basis for constructing and testing the type of theory he demands, as it would be for trying an indictment for obstruction of justice.

The "defense," of course, would have its say at such a trial. Non-criminal explanations for this pattern of behavior might include: (1) Inattention and incompetence brought on by nervous anxiety over the very fact that this was "the crime of the century" (CBS anchorman Walter Cronkite used this idea in 1967: This was no ordinary murder. The fact that Oswald was shooting at a president lifted him to peak marksmanship performance). (2) Bureaucratic muddling and "CYA." (3) National security concerns.

Any successful theory must account for such explanations. If the defense "wins," the public is still served; it is surely in the people's interest to know how law enforcement and national security agencies behave in a national crisis.

In any case, the fact remains that we have a pattern of events, all tending to invalidate the physical evidence in the murder of an American president. The pattern itself is the evidentiary base Ford demands for constructing a theory.

I rest my case.

Notes

1. Just a sampler: David B. Perry, "The Lee Bowers Story," *The Third Decade [TTD]*, 9 (November, 1992); M. Duke Lane, "The Cowtown Connection," *TTD* 9 (July, 1993); David Keck, "Zapata: What's In A Name?" *The Investigator*, 1 (Feb.-March, 1993), and follow-up letters by J. Riley and M. Shackelford (April-May, 1993); Ulric Shannon, "First Hand Knowledge: A Review," *The Fourth Decade*, 1 (November, 1993); Gaeton Fonzi, *The Last Investigation* (NY: Thunder's Mouth Press, 1993).



CASE CLOSED OPENS OLD WOUNDS

by

William E. Kelly

Despite the thesis of *Case Closed* (Random House, 1993), Gerald Posner manages to provide a few missing pieces of the puzzle that, rather than cutting off lines of inquiry, prompt further questions. Early psychological testing results of young Lee Harvey Oswald, the identity of the owner of the '57 Chevy Oswald photographed in General Walker's driveway, and the man Ruby was with at the moment of the assassination and Ruby's KLIF connections are all fruits of Posner's research, providing further food for fodder.

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Posner takes pride in reviewing what critics have long neglected—Dr. Renatus Hartzog's report on Oswald as a New York City delinquent. Although its value is predicated on Oswald actually being the assassin, its significance may have been missed. According to Posner, Oswald was tested by Hartzog and diagnosed as having a "passive-aggressive" personality, a unique trait that is mentioned elsewhere among the assassination literature.

In a London Sunday Times article reporting from an Oslo, Norway, NATO conference on stress, U.S. Navy Lt. Commander Dr. Thomas Narut is quoted as saying that a "passive-aggressive" personality trait is exactly the type of person the Navy looked for in recruiting soldiers to become part of special assassination teams. Talking with reporter Peter Watson, Narut said, "U.S. Naval psychologists specially selected men for these commando tasks from submarine crews, paratroops, and some convicted murderers were being released from prisons to become assassins." They were then trained and programmed with the latest multi-media techniques at a Navy base in Southern California.

If Hartzog recognized this trait, certainly the USMC did as well, creating the distinct possibility that Oswald was recruited into this unit or a similar one. While Narut has conspicuously disappeared from public view, another Oslo conference participant, Alfred Zitani, was quoted in the London Sunday Times article saying, "Dr. Narut must realize this kind of information must be classified." In a December, 1993 telephone conversation, Zitani said that he does not know where Narut is today, but said that a British documentary TV producer also recently contacted him regarding Narut.

Zitani noted that the Oslo conference was not concerned solely with combat stress. Zitani presented a paper at the conference on stress experienced by students afraid of school—exactly why Oswald was tested by Hartzog after he was caught at the Bronx Zoo by a truant officer.

The "passive-aggressive" personality trait may not be common, Zitani said, but nor is it obvious. "You or I may be 'passive-aggressive' and not know it," he said, you have to be tested specifically looking for such a trait.

How someone like Narut, a prominent psychologist and Naval Commander, could avoid further published scrutiny may indicate the significance of his information. Professor P.D. Scott's "negative template"—evidence by omission thesis, should be tested, not only by finding Narut, but by locating and interviewing Mr. Charles Klihr, whom Posner identifies as the owner of the '57 Chevy that Oswald photographed in Gen. Walker's driveway.

Although the photograph was among Oswald's effects taken by the Dallas police, and can be seen complete in Chief Curry's book (*JFK Assassination File*, 1969), the license plate on the car was obliterated after it came into the possession of

the Dallas police. Posner mistakenly writes, "A photo of evidence taken at Oswald's flat after the assassination shows the hole was in the print at that time." (p.117) The photo was taken not from "Oswald's flat," but from Mrs. Paine's garage in Irving, and, as can be seen in Curry's book, the photo was intact when in his possession.

Since such license plate information has been successfully used elsewhere in this case, particularly with the Wise incident (See: Oswald-Tippit associates, HSCA Vol. XI), the car's owner is thought to be significant given the extent someone went to destroy evidence in order to protect another person. Posner continues to belittle this evidence however, dryly noting, "the photo was taken from such a distance that the license plate of the car would not have been legible in any case..." (p.117)

Then, without a footnote or citing the source (another "negative template"), Posner writes, "...and it was later determined the car belonged to a Walker aide, Charles Klihr." (p.117) Given that Walker's group was then being infiltrated by the Schmidt brothers, Charles Klihr's background should be checked and it should be determined why Klihr's identity was significant enough to destroy evidence to protect him.

Then there's the case of Don Campbell. According to Posner's account, "From about 9:45 to 10:45, Ruby had dinner with Dallas businessman Ralph Paul, his good friend and financial backer. They ate at the Egyptian Lounge, a restaurant and nightclub."* (pp. 367,368)

The footnote at the bottom of the page reads:

"The owner of the Egyptian Lounge, Joseph Campisi, was evidently associated with a host of leading mobsters. Ruby was a frequent patron at the Egyptian Lounge, so his Thursday night dinner there was not out of the ordinary...Campisi did not see Ruby that night...Summers, relying on an FBI report, says Ruby had a brief conversation at the Lounge with someone named 'Conners' from the Dallas Morning News and 'no person of that name worked at the News in 1963,' implying there is a mystery about the person whom Ruby spoke to...However, the FBI mistakenly listed the name as 'Conners.' Ruby actually spoke to Don Campbell, a salesman in the advertising department at the News. He invited Ruby to the Castaway Club on Thursday night, but Ruby declined."

Instead of joining Campbell at the Castaway Club that night, Ruby met up with his old friend from Chicago, Larry Meyers, at the Cabana Hotel lounge. Also at the Cabana that night were Meyer's companion Jean Aase, who was in telephone communication with David Ferrie, Meyer's brother Ed and his wife, in town for a Pepsi Cola convention, and mob courier Jim Braden and his friend Morgan Brown. The ubiquitous Beverly Oliver, (in Third Decade, Nov. 1993) also claims to have been at the Cabana that night dancing with auto salesman Jack

Lawrence.

The next day JFK was killed while Brown was visiting H.L. Hunt, Braden was taken into custody as a suspicious person at the scene of the crime, and Ruby was four blocks away at the Dallas Morning News where he had spent the morning with Mr. Don Campbell.

Writes Posner: "On Friday, November 22, Ruby was up by 9:30 and at the Dallas Morning News shortly before 11:00 in order to place his regular weekend advertisements for his two nightclubs...He then stopped by the office of Tony Zoppi, the newspaper's entertainment reporter, but he was not in."

Posner's footnote for this: "Interview with Tony Zoppi, November 23, 1992), is also supported by Ruby's Warren Commission testimony, "So I went down there Friday morning to Tony Zoppi's office, and they said he went to New Orleans for a few days." (9 AH 1102; 5 WH 183; Scott, Deep Politics p. 198); but Zoppi gave a conflicting report to the Congressional investigators in 1978. Their report (HSCA Vol. 5, p. 170) reads:

"Ruby visited Zoppi at 10:30 on the morning of the assassination with a picture of an ESP expert he wanted Zoppi to plug...Ruby he later said, was a 'highly emotional' person and Zoppi believed him to be too calm that morning to have been involved in a conspiracy. Ruby told him he was moving into a new apartment starting Monday that cost \$190 a month (up from \$100 that Ruby had been paying). The new address was 21 Turtle Creek. When Zoppi questioned him about it, Ruby said, 'I've scrimped all my life and now I want to live a little.' These were Ruby's last words to Zoppi..."

The Warren Report (p. 334) reads: "Ruby then went to the office of the Morning News Columnist, Tony Zoppi, where he states he obtained a brochure on his new master of ceremonies that he wanted to use in preparing copy for his advertisements. Proceeding to the advertising department, he spoke with advertising employee Don Campbell from about noon until 12:25 p.m. when Campbell left the office...According to Campbell, Ruby did not mention the Presidential Motorcade nor did he display any unusual behavior."

Posner's version is: "Ruby next went to the second-floor advertising department where he met with Don Campbell, the sales agent he had seen at the Cabana Hotel (sic) the night before."

Campbell had seen and talked with Ruby at Campisi's Egyptian Lounge the night before the assassination, a fact brought out by Posner himself, and then Campbell is with Ruby again up until five minutes before the assassination.

After fifteen minutes Posner then picks up the scene, during which time JFK is shot in the back four blocks away.

"Before 12:40, John Newman, another advertising department employee, observed Ruby sitting at the

same desk where Campbell had left him. He was reading the Morning News... "Welcome Mr. Kennedy," (ad)...the text accused the President of being a Communist tool. It was signed by 'The American Fact-Finding Committee, Bernard Weissman, Chairman.' Ruby was very disturbed that the News should have run such a demeaning advertisement and was dismayed that it was signed by someone with a Jewish name."

Weissman was an associate of Larry Schmidt, who was trying to infiltrate such right wing organizations as the Young Americans For Freedom, the John Birch Society and Walker's group. They organized the demonstration against UN ambassador Adlai Stevenson and Schmidt's brother had become Gen. Walker's driver. The Schmidt brothers have also become suspects as accomplices in the shooting of Gen. Walker (See: The Man Who Knew Too Much, Russell).

Entertainment writer Tony Zoppi was supposed to go to Cuba with Ruby, and was working at the Riviera casino in Vegas when the HSCA caught up with him in 1978, so the conflicting nature of his testimony concerning his presence at the Dallas Morning News that day should be clarified. P.D. Scott has speculated that Zoppi's office was the connection to the Vegas interests, just as Campisi's Egyptian lounge was the connection to Carlos Marcello and New Orleans interests. (See: HSCA, Vol. IX, Campisi testimony, and PBS Frontline).

In addition, what was Ruby doing in the missing fifteen minutes when no one saw him, which just happens to include the precise moment JFK was being killed a few blocks away? Whatever he was doing, his attitude changed drastically after the assassination. Even before he left the newspaper offices it was obvious he was more than just upset over the assassination.

Ruby then went to Parkland Hospital at 1:30, where he was seen by at least three witnesses. For some reason, Ruby later denied he was there, leading to speculation that he planted the "magic bullet" that was found on a stretcher. By 2 p.m. he was back at the Carousel Club, making phone calls.

What is significant about the information Posner brings out is that Ruby met with Don Campbell on the night before the assassination at Campisi's Egyptian Lounge, and then spent over three hours in Campbell's office during which time the assassination occurred.

Posner also confirms Ruby's interesting associations with KLIF radio, even going so far as to conclude that, "As far as Jack (Ruby) was concerned, he was...officially representing KLIF as a reporter" when he shot Oswald. KLIF is the only radio station not listed in Posner's index, and when given the opportunity to mention that Ruby called the home of the station's owner, Gordon McLendon, to obtain the phone number of the station, he merely notes that Ruby, "had obtained the number." (Scott's "negative template"?)

McLendon's KLIF broadcast the rightwing propaganda radio

show Lifeline, financed by the Hunt family, and copies of the Lifeline newsletter were found in Ruby's car. Ruby said he considered McLendon one of his "six best friends" (20 WH 29, Scott, Deep Politics, p. 217), and turned the tables on his inquisitors when he asked Earl Warren if he knew McLendon.

Ironically, Ruby had called a newsman at KLIF when he noticed the "Impeach Earl Warren" billboard, and asked who Earl Warren was. He considered the billboard significant enough to take a picture of it at 4 a.m. in the morning. Ruby went to the coffee shop at the Southland Building, where Antonio Veciana had previously met with "Maurice Bishop" and Oswald.

McLendon's friendship with David A. Phillips—(aka Maurice Bishop) dated to the 1940's, so McLendon provides a link between Ruby and Oswald.

Dr. Thomas Narut, Charles Klihr, Don Campbell and Gordon McLendon are four persons who should be further investigated. Thank you Gerald Posner for calling them to our attention.



THE WANDERING WOUNDS

by

Milicent Cranor

They should just move the Texas Book Depository Building to someplace in front of where Kennedy was assassinated. This would be easier than moving the wounds around to fit the story of a gunman from behind—and having Gerald Posner explain it.

Chapter 13 of Posner's book, *Case Closed* is a squirming mass of contradictions that seems to have been put together by Beavis and Butthead, with the help of Slick Wiley. Before assuming they are the result of honest error, you should take a good look at some comments made by a key player, Dr. Marion ("Pepper") Jenkins, a former lieutenant commander in the Navy, and then Chairman of the Department of Anaesthesiology.

In his original report, [Robert] McClelland said there was a wound to the left temple, one that does not show up on any autopsy X-ray or photograph. This has caused some to charge that Kennedy was shot by a second gunman from another location at Dealey, and that the autopsy team either negligently or intentionally overlooked that wound. "I'll tell you how that happened," Dr. Jenkins explained to the author [Posner]. "When Bob McClelland came into the room, he asked me, 'Where are his wounds?'. And at that time I was operating a breathing bag with my right hand, and was

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trying to take the President's temporal pulse, and I had my finger on his left temple. Bob thought I pointed to the left temple as the wound."[1]

What Posner doesn't tell you is that on two separate occasions, Dr. Jenkins himself asked about a left temple wound while testifying before the Warren Commission:

I don't know whether this is right or not, but I thought there was a wound on the left temporal area, right in the hairline and right above the zygomatic process. [2]

I asked you a little bit ago if there was a wound in the left temporal area...the left temporal could have been a point of entrance and [the] exit [would have been] here [indicating]...[3]

Here is another fascinating example of deception from Case Closed:

Although no one at Parkland saw JFK's back wound, Dr. Pepper Jenkins later told John Lattimer that he had felt it with his finger when he positioned the President's head and neck to facilitate the passage of oxygen. [4]

Why didn't Jenkins report this to the Warren Commission, to whom he swore to tell the whole truth? Didn't the subject come up when he was questioned closely about the throat wound? He didn't hesitate to ask about a wound he wasn't sure about (left temple), but said nothing about a wound that he actually felt? If he had told his colleagues about it, would they have announced an apparent entrance wound in the throat if the entrance appeared to be in the back?

Lattimer's explanation of the anaesthesiologist's behavior could take your breath away:

The body was removed so unexpectedly and so abruptly from Dallas that no written report about there being a bullet wound in the front of the neck could be prepared in time to send with the body...Nor was Dr. Jenkins' knowledge of the bullet holes in the back and front of the neck entered in the record before the body was carried away. [5]

Was his knowledge of the wounds placed in the coffin and carried off? His explanation brings to mind a child saying, "My mother says to tell you she's not at home." [6]

Jenkins did find the time to enter into the record such items as the fact that he took the stairs to get to the trauma room, and praise for his team.

By the time Jenkins testified before the Warren Commission, he was already quite accommodating. He explained that, although he had only a "quick look" at the throat wound, he meant to put it in his report that he thought it was an exit wound. Asked why, he replied that it was not "clearly demarcated, round [and] punctate," [7] the opposite of what was said by the others, including Dr. Malcolm Perry who performed the tracheostomy, and got a good look at it.

The Dilemma

The head presents a more complicated problem for Posner who explains, "some of the Parkland doctors who treated the President described a gaping wound in the rear of JFK's head...If true, this not only contradicted the findings of the autopsy team but was evidence that the President was probably shot from the front...[and] raised legitimate questions over the authenticity of the photographs of JFK's brain, which showed no such damage." [8]

Their solution to the problem belongs in the Journal of Irreproducible Results.

No One Saw It

We were trying to save the President, and no one had time to examine the wounds (Jenkins) [9]; We never had the opportunity to review his wounds (Carrico) [10]; I don't think any of us got a good look at the head wound (Perry) [11]. The President had quite thick hair, and there was a lot of blood and tissue (Midgett) [12]; the President had a lot of hair, and it was bloody and matted...(Perry) [13]; He had such a bushy head of hair, and blood and all in it, you couldn't tell what was wound versus dried blood (Baxter) [14]; He had a big shock of hair...(Jenkins) [15].

They Didn't See It—But They Know It Wasn't There

Now that he has rendered the Parkland doctors unqualified to comment on the back of the head, Posner announces their confirmation of the autopsy,

"...The Parkland physicians in their discussions with the author [Posner] were almost unanimous in supporting the autopsy findings that the massive exit wound was on the right side (parietal)...not the rear (occipital) [16]

I never even saw the back of his head. The wound was on the right side, not the back. (Baxter) [17]

The autopsy photo, with the rear of the head intact and a protrusion in the parietal region, is the way I remember it. I never did say occipital. (Jenkins) [18]

The photo shows wet-looking, clean hair neatly combed over a head that seems normal in the back and side all the way to slightly in front of the right ear. And he did say "occipital."

They Admit Kemp Clark Saw It

Dr. William Kemp Clark, the Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery, must have pulled aside the curtain of hair and gore, for he donned gloves [19] to examine the wound in order to make a decision to stop resuscitation. He found

...a large wound beginning in the right occiput extending into the parietal region. Much of the skull appeared gone...[20] The loss of the right occipital and probably part of the right parietal lobes would have been of specific importance. [21]

What No One Else Saw

The other doctors report similar findings, and add more specifics:

The wound that I saw was a large gaping wound, located in the right occipitoparietal area...about 5 to 7 cm. in size, more or less circular, with avulsions of the calvarium and scalp tissue...macerated cerebral and cerebellar tissues...(Carrico) [22]; ...I noticed that there was a large defect in the occiput...It seemed to me that in the right occipitalparietal area that there was a large defect. There appeared to be bone loss and brain loss in this area...we saw the wound of entry in the throat and noted the large occipital wound...(Peters) [23]; ...the right side of his head had been blown off...cerebellum was present—a large quantity of brain was present on the cart (Baxter) [24]; There was a great laceration on the right side of the head (temporal and occipital), causing a great defect...(Jenkins) [25]; I really think part of the cerebellum, as I recognized it, was herniated from the wound;...there was part of brain tissue on the drapes of the cart...(Jenkins) [26] I noted a large avulsive wound of the right parietal occipital area, in which both scalp and portions of skull were absent, and there was severe laceration of underlying brain tissue...(Perry) [emphasis added] [27]

Please Note: They do not appear to have described something that could have migrated from the front to the back; they report a defect, with a specific size, a specific shape, defined by bones with specific names going in specific directions. The donut and the hole.

What Robert McClelland Didn't See

Robert McClelland, an Assistant Professor of Surgery, is the revisionists' greatest obstacle: he refuses to alter his observations. His credentials are impeccable and he has no commercial investment in his opinion:

As I took the position at the head of the table that I have already described, to help out with the tracheotomy, I was in such a position that I could very closely examine the head wound, and I noted that the right posterior portion of the skull had been extremely blasted. It had been shattered...the parietal bone was protruded up through the scalp and seemed to be fractured almost along its right posterior half, as well as some of the occipital bone being fractured in its lateral half, and this sprung open the bones that I mentioned in such a way that you could actually look down into the skull cavity itself and see that probably a third or so, at least, of the brain tissue, posterior cerebral tissue and some of the cerebellar tissue had been blasted out...[28]

McClelland will not move the wound. The solution? Move McClelland, and give his reputation a nick:

[McClelland] wasn't in that position the way I remember

it, as he was on the other side of the table. As for Dr. McClelland saying he saw cerebellum fall out on the table, I never saw anything like that (Peters) [29]; I hate to say Bob is mistaken, but that is clearly not right (Jenkins) [30]. I am astonished that Bob would say that. It shows such poor judgment...(Malcolm Perry) [31] As for the head wound, they couldn't look at it earlier because I was standing with my body against it, and they would only have looked at my pants. (Jenkins) [32]

While trying to save the President's life during 20 minutes of absolute pandemonium, they found the time to monitor McClelland's every move?

They Saw It, But They Didn't Know Where It Was

The Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery doesn't know the terms and anatomy of his specialty? Experienced physicians don't know the back of the head from the side? I think the back is parallel to the front which is the place where you see eyes and a nose, etc., if the face can be visualized and hasn't moved.

Films and testimony indicate the wound included the right temple, the side, and the right side of the back. They want us to believe the wound was strictly on the side and front, and not the back at all.

It Was in the Back and Side

The occipital and parietal bone join each other, so we are only talking a centimeter or so in difference (Perry) [33]...the occipital and parietal region are so close together it is possible to mistake one for the other (Giesecke) [34]

Please notice they don't tell you where parietal and occipital bone meet: at the back of the head. And a wound in parietal bone alone could be considered in the back if it lies between the ear and the occiput. An "avulsed" wound in the back and side still does not work with the official version.

Dr. Clark nailed down the location of the defect he saw when Arlen Specter asked if a wound 2.5cm and slightly above the EOP could have been present, but missed by Dr.Clark:

Yes, in the presence of this much destruction of skull and scalp above such a wound and lateral to it...such a wound could be present. [emphasis added]

Dr. Clark believed, at least initially, that Kennedy was struck tangentially [35] from the right side. [36]. This does not preclude another shot from the front that exited from the right rear. (I believe I have evidence for Dr. Clark's theory, and will be presenting it soon.)

Obviously, the Parkland doctors are not confirming the findings of Bethesda, they are deferring to Bethesda. Such deference is intellectually unsanitary. There was a time when the exit was to be the right supraorbital ridge (bone beneath the eyebrow). Dr. Alfred Olivier of the Edgewood Arsenal,

Maryland, who supervised the recreation of the assassination using reconstructed skulls, explained the experiment:

...We were aiming, as described in the autopsy report...the point 2 centimeters to the right of the external occipital protuberance and slightly above it. We placed a mark on the skull at that point, according to the autopsy the bullet emerged through the superorbital (sic) process, so we drew a line to give us the line of flight...(emphasis added) [37]

Did Olivier misread the autopsy report and diagrams placing the exit at the top right side of the head? Was there a different autopsy report? Didn't this render the experiment invalid? Did Specter see the discrepancy? He had interviewed Humes et al, had seen diagrams of the bullet's trajectory. Did he know where the supraorbital ridge is? The subject came up when the autopsists explained a bullet fragment was lodged behind this area. And he had been shown photographs of Olivier's prize skull with the right front of the face gone which hardly resembled autopsy photos of Kennedy's face.

Specter's response: create a diversion. He made Olivier go to a safe, dig out a notebook from his briefcase, and find the exact entrance wound. Specter says not one word about the exit. But you can't say they are uncoordinated: Olivier's skull resembles the X-ray of Kennedy taken from the "modified Waters view" that gives the impression the upper right side of his face is missing.

If they ever go back to that version, the Parkland doctors would have to move the wound from the back of the head to the front, 180 degrees. And Beavis and Butthead will have more explaining to do.

Notes

1. Gerald L. Posner, Case Closed, Chapter 13. Random House, New York, page 313.

2. Warren Commission Hearings, Vol. VI, p. 48. [Jenkins]

3. Hearings, Vol. VI, p. 51. [Jenkins]

4. Case Closed, p. n305-6.

5. John K. Lattimer, Kennedy and Lincoln: Medical & Ballistic Comparisons of Their Assassinations. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, p. 154.

6. This reasoning is reminiscent of Lattimer's explanation of the discrepancy between the entrance wound in the head as reported in the autopsy and in testimony before the Commission, versus an entrance wound 10 centimeters higher (near the cowlick), as reported by the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

Lattimer pretends the discrepancy is only between drawings: that the artist made the drawings without the benefit of the autopsy photos and X-rays. As if "2.5cm to the right and slightly above the external occipital protuberance" on a better drawing would show a wound near the cowlick. (Lattimer,

J.K., Lattimer, J., Lattimer, G. An experimental study of the backward movement of President Kennedy's head. Surg, Gynecol & Obstet 1976; 142:246-254)

Posner stretches Lattimer's lie further. He claims it was Humes et al—besides the artist—who didn't have the benefit of photos and X-rays when they made their report, and therefore didn't know where to place the alleged entrance. (Case Closed p. 308, footnote) As if they based their measurements on photos and X-rays alone, instead of the body. I think they based it on Oswald's height and alleged position, but that is a different issue.

Humes told the Commission that the drawings were accurate but that "...it is the bony prominences...which we used as points of references, I cannot, transmit completely to the illustrator where they were situated." (Hearings p. 350, Vol.)

Meaning, I think, the EOP itself was a little off on the drawing. To me, the EOP looks a bit low on the drawing, but the alleged entrance wound is still near it, where Humes put it. As of 1992, the wound is still there, according to Humes' recent statements to JAMA. Someone needs to tell Posner. Lattimer may want to X-ray that drawing.

7. Hearings, Vol. VI, p. 48.

8. Case Closed, p. 308 [Posner]

9. Case Closed, p. 309 [Jenkins]

10. Case Closed, p. 309 [Carrico]

11. Case Closed, p. 309 [Perry]

12. Case Closed, p. 310 [Midgett]

13. Case Closed, p. 312 [Perry]

14. Case Closed, p. 312 [Baxter]

15. Case Closed, p. 289 [Jenkins]

16. Case Closed, p. 310 [Posner]

17. Case Closed, p. 312 [Baxter]

18. Case Closed, p. 311 [Jenkins]

19. Case Closed, p. 291 [re Clark]

20. Hearings, Vol. XVII, p. 10. [Clark]

21. Hearings, Vol. VI, p. 26. [Clark]

22. Hearings, Vol. VI, p. 6. [Carrico]

23. Hearings, Vol. VI, p. 71. [Peters]

24. Hearings, Vol. VI, p. 41. [Baxter]

25. Hearings, Vol. XVII, p. 15 [Jenkins]

26. Hearings, Vol. VI, p. 48 [Jenkins]

27. Hearings, Vol. III, p. 372 [Perry]

28. Hearings, Vol. VI, p. 33 [McClelland]

29. Case Closed, p. 313 [Peters]

30. Case Closed, p. 313 [Jenkins]

31. Case Closed, p. 312 [Perry]

32. Case Closed, p. 309 [Jenkins]

33. Case Closed, p. 312 [Perry]

34. Case Closed, p. 312 [Giesecke]

35. Hearings, Vol. VI, p. 21 [Clark]

36. Hearings, Vol. VI, p. 28 [Clark]

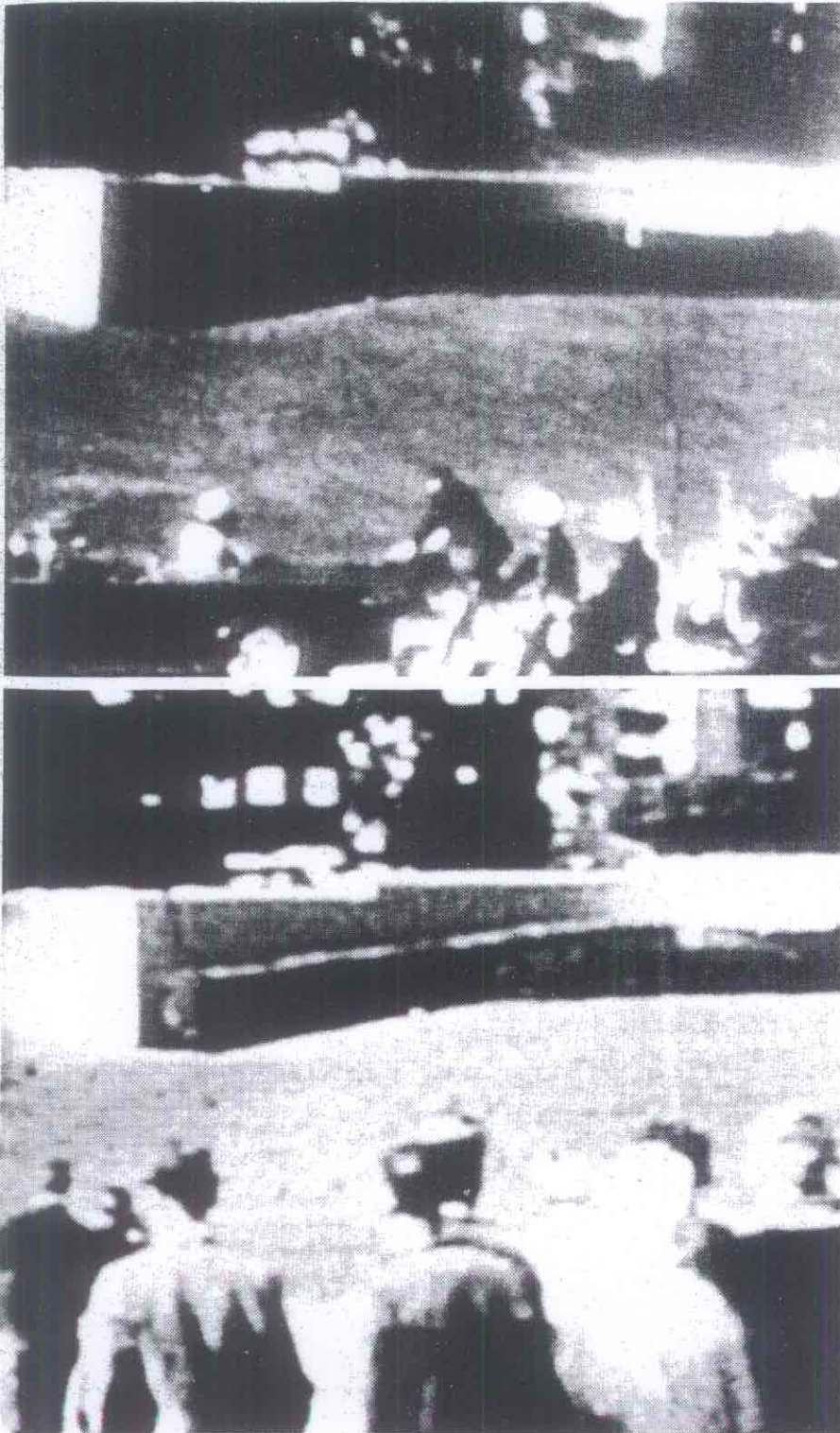
37. Hearings, Vol. V, p. 89 [Olivier]

WAS THE NIX FILM ALTERED?

By Jack White

About 16 years ago I made prints from a 16mm copy of the Orville Nix movie of the assassination in an attempt to analyze the "car-rooftop-parking-lot-gunman image" familiar in much JFK literature. The Nix film as most researchers have seen it has two sequences: (1) the shooting sequence on Elm Street and (2) the crowd running toward the Grassy Knoll about 30 seconds later.

I was puzzled then and still am regarding the apparent differences in the upper left hand corner of the frames (see illustration below).



The upper frame shows Clint Hill climbing on the trunk of the limousine as Jackie rises in the seat. Directly above them is the "cartop-gunman" image just above the concrete wall by the edge of the pergola. Notice the entire upper left corner is very black.

The bottom frame shows the crowd running toward the knoll. Nix has obviously moved a few feet to the west, judging by the relationship of the car to the concrete wall. Notice the many changes in the dark area! Most obvious are the three white squares above the cartop, which when viewed in motion appear to be windows of a passenger railroad car behind the pergola. The "gunman's" right arm has disappeared, and his head and left arm appear now to be sunlight spots on the pergola wall. But numerous other light spots appear which seconds earlier were not visible.

Having studied all the photos of the knoll for years, I believe we should see numerous spots of light where the sky is visible through the tree leaves. The obvious fact that the assassination sequence shows the upper left of the frame to be "blacked-out" when compared with the sequence a few moments later defies logic.

I suggest that this obvious anomaly in Nix calls for scientific photoanalysis.

