

TV

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(51)

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT, BUT..."

Based firmly in his own ignorance and political necessities, Texas Governor John B. Connally marked the third assassination anniversary with a Life interview, ^{after} following examination of their clearest copies of the Zapruder film, ^{followed by} and a press conference in which he found it necessary to label as "scavengers" those who, unlike him, knew what they were talking about, *and would not derive political profit from what they said*

Precisely the same political necessities kept any of those who could have tipped him off from alerting the Governor to the self-indictment he was about to issue. His appeal for a return to McCarthyism, ^{proved over.} fortunately, was ignored. Of needless scandal there had already been too much.

As Martin Waldron put it in the New York Times of November 24, 1966, Connally declared that the Report "should be accepted as final". Simultaneously, he insisted there could be no doubt of it, he was struck by a bullet that did not hit the President. And, "he said he had not read any of the books that have criticized the Warren Commission's findings". Moreover, as Life reported in its issue dated November 25 but distributed earlier, "Connally says he has never read any of the Warren Report, not even his own testimony..." Here we have his authority and the basis on which he was accepted as an authority: total ignorance.

Divorced from the misrepresentation of the propaganda field-day by the press, Governor Connally, like those who followed him in the intensified campaign (including Malcolm Kilduff, the ^{late} last President's press aide, whose long experience in public relations, if not his integrity, should have told him better), was saying, "I don't know what I am talking about, but", and demanding crediting on the basis of self-proclaimed ignorance.

He got it, too, as did Kilduff and the others, all of whom began with similar or identically-worded ^{disclaimers of knowledge.} declarations of ignorance.

Now, if Connally was struck by a separate bullet, as indeed, he had been, this alone ended the single-bullet, single-assassin parallel theories twisted and press-agented into pretended reality. This alone required at least a fourth shot. With that rifle and in the allotted time of five to six seconds there was no possibility of even the three shots alleged by the ~~first~~ Commission to have been fired, *leave alone a fourth.*

To the Governor, it was not "scavenging" for him to exploit the tragedy (that had touched him more than most men) with a politically, if not financially, profitable exposure in Life, or for him to extract political benefit from the crime by his press conference and the tremendous attention given it, all of it rooted in his self-proclaimed ignorance. But it was sinister, somehow dishonorable - and with "subversive" overtones - for others' without pay to spend the thousands of hours he hadn't poring over the evidence and raising the questions he failed to ask, then proving from these studies, as I had, exactly what he had said, but giving it the meaning his ignorance denied him.

Governor Connally had been struck by a separate bullet. That alone proves the Report wrong; not, as he claimed, right.

As with every effort to defend the indefensible Report, what this did was to elicit further damning information, unveil addition^d suppressions

(52) In WHITEWASH (160^d) I point out that the cleaning^s of the Governor's clothing destroyed evidence and ^{that} the Commission was without interest, in its proceedings or its conclusions.

Both Connallys testified before the Commission (4H129-49). Mrs. Connally's three-page testimony (146-9) took about five minutes. As was customary, when there were embarrassing questions, they were not asked. This was invariably true when these questions were about the character and conduct of the FBI and Secret Service investigations and about evidence

that jeopardized the pre-determined conclusion of Oswald's solitary guilt.

Why were the Governor's garments cleaned? How was it possible for this to have happened, for the FBI and Secret Service, both of whom knew the great evidentiary value they had, not to have seized them immediately and carefully preserved them? Scientific analysis would have irrefutably established the direction of the shots and the type of ~~missile~~ missile. Whether it was deliberately intended, as it may fairly be inferred to have been, especially from what followed, it without doubt resulted in the destruction of irreplaceable and incontrovertible evidence.

The Commission and its counsel, Arlen Specter, were not interested. There can be no excuse consistent with competence and honesty of purpose that can possibly justify Specter's failure to seek the answer to these unavoidable, obvious questions. It was his obligation to ask:

~~Why does not the record show~~
 What happened to Governor Connally's clothing? How ~~did~~ ^{did} their evidentiary value ~~get~~ ^{get} destroyed? Who permitted it?

Did I say "unavoidable"? Not for Specter. He did avoid them -- did not ask them. Specter met every challenge to his single-bullet theory with silence. He could - and did - manipulate the evidence and questioning.

All the ~~lawyer~~ members of the Commission compounded Specter's transgressions against truth and the solution to the crime, his framing of the dead accused assassin, by their personal silences. Each member of the Commission, too, ~~was~~ ^{is} a lawyer. His training, if not his ^{and experience,} common sense, should have demanded he ask what happened to the Governor's clothing. Like Specter - who did it right to their faces, for Mrs. Connally is one of the few witnesses to appear before the Commission - each failed his obvious responsibilities. Each preserved suppressive silence.

Not until, with the best of intentions, Mrs. Connally destroyed what evidentiary value remained, did any official get interested in this clothing. Once this occurred - once that evidence was permanently

irretrievable, its threat to the official pre-determined case ended - there was official interest.

This is what Mrs. Connally told Life, part of what she ^{w/} could have told the Commission had it but asked her or allowed her to volunteer it:

Lil- 87a - orange ~~part 3a~~

Remarkable as this is - that neither its experienced ^{politically ambitious} counsel nor the Commission's lawyer-members had any interest in this destruction of vital evidence or how this could possibly have happened with the fabled FBI on the spot and on the job and with the Secret Service backstopping it - no less remarkable is it that the ⁵³ Commission - to a man ~~it~~, its counsel and Report - are consistent.

There existed a bullet alleged to have caused all these injuries, to have had a career like nothing in science, or science fiction, or mythology.

Arlen Specter took testimony from Hospital Engineer Darrell Tomlinson (WHITEWASH 161-2, 171), who found this bullet. Whereas Tomlinson said he'd not be able to sleep if he said what Specter asked of him, to the Commission Specter said they had the required proof. Tomlinson, on finding this bullet, immediately sent for ^O D. P. Wright, chief of hospital security. Specter, whose legal training and district attorney's experience told him he was required to establish a chain of possession of the evidence did not call Wright as a witness. Nor, for that matter, did he call a single witness to establish that the bullet he said Tomlinson found is, in

^{June} FACT, THAT BULLET.

Perhaps what Wright told CBS, which aired him at the conclusion of its four-part series, makes sense of Specter's otherwise incredible departure from the requirements of his profession and of his particular employment of it (Eddie Barker, KRLD-TV News Director, ^{wright} questioned):

Lil; marked part 87A,3a here

87A
3a

On Monday night, hospital attendant Darrell Tomlinson described how, in shoving a stretcher into place, he dislodged a spent rifle bullet. Mr. Tomlinson quite properly sent at once for the hospital's chief of security, O. P. Wright. Mr. Wright describes what happened then:

WRIGHT: I told him to withhold and not let anyone remove the bullet, and I would get a hold of either the Secret Service or the F.B.I., and turn it over to them. Thereby, it wouldn't have come through my hands at all. I contacted the F.B.I. and they said they were not interested because it wasn't their responsibility to make investigations. So, I got a hold of a Secret Serviceman and they didn't seem to be interested in coming and looking at the bullet in the position it was then in.

So I went back to the area where Mr. Tomlinson was and picked up the bullet and put it in my pocket, and I carried it some 30 or 40 minutes. And I gave it to a Secret Serviceman that was guarding the main door into the emergency area.

BARKER: Mr. Wright, when you gave this bullet to the Secret Service agent, did he mark it in any way?

WRIGHT: No, sir.

BARKER: What did he do with it?

WRIGHT: Put it in his lefthand coat pocket.

BARKER: Well now, did he ask your name or who you were or any question at all about the bullet?

WRIGHT: No, sir.

BARKER: How did the conversation go? Do you remember?

WRIGHT: I just told him this was a bullet that was picked up on a stretcher that had come off the emergency elevator that might be involved in the moving of Governor Connally. And I handed him the bullet, and he took it and looked at it and said, "O.K.," and put it in his pocket.

3B

CRONKITE: There is little to praise in such treatment by the F.B.I. and the Secret Service of perhaps the most important single piece of evidence in the assassination case. Moreover, the Warren Commission seriously compromised itself by allowing the Secret Service, the F.B.I. and the C.I.A. to investigate questions involving their own actions.

RATHER: The Commission had before it the hard fact that Oswald's notebook contained the name, phone number and license plate number of Dallas F.B.I. agent, James Hosty. The F.B.I.'s explanation was that Hosty had asked Ruth Paine, with whom [redacted] let him know where Oswald was

The CBS comment is a modest understatement:

~~xxxx xxxxxx (87a) xxxxxx~~

CRONKITE: There is little to praise in such treatment by the FBI and the Secret Service of perhaps the most important single piece of evidence in the assassination case. Moreover, the Warren Commission seriously compromised itself by allowing the Secret Service, The F.B.I. and the C.I.A. to investigate questions involving their own actions.

It is just as haphazardly that what we are supposed to believe the same bullet turned up that night in the White House (WHITEWASH II, ~~120~~ 125). As the FBI report put it, Special Agent of the Secret Service in charge of the White House Detail, Gerald A. Behn, "stated that on learning of such a bullet being found at the Dallas hospital he inquired of a group of his agents who had returned from the Dallas trip (how dispassionate can you get!) on the night of November 22, 1963, and Secret Service Agent Richard Johnsen produced this bullet which had been handed to him by someone at the hospital..."

Did Specter call Behn as a witness? Or Johnsen?

He did not. Instead, ^{Specter} he told the Commission members they had the "proof". Here he introduced a radical new concept: "proof" without evidence, evidence without testimony. Don't laugh. The Commission of legal and political eminences accepted it. It and ~~his~~ his political apostasy - to Republican - made ^{Specter} him District Attorney of Philadelphia and, in one term, his new party's majoralty candidate.

Yet it is this bullet, the one I called magical and with a built-in intelligence, of a fineness of control like nothing ever launched from Cape Kennedy, that is central to the fundamental conclusion, that a single missile inflicted all seven non-fatal injuries on both men. The official approach was straightforward: it would not encumber itself or

its "evidence" with the requirements of the law or of evidence, not bother with witnesses, just assert what it wanted and ignore what didn't ^{fit} suit or pinched a little.

All in all, it was a truly spectacular performance, particularly by Specter. It is all the more spectacular because 100% of the credible evidence is 100% in refutation of it, as I have already shown in my first two books. One thing all doctors agreed on is that this bullet could not possibly have had the career officially attributed to it. Specter faced this problem squarely: he substituted a hypothesis for irrefutable proof - fiction for reality translated into "evidence". This in the "solution" to the murder of a President!

At the time he interviewed Specter, Life Associate Editor Richard Billings knew much less of the fact of the assassination and its investigation than he soon learned. Otherwise, he'd have known of Specter's single-bullet theory that, in the lawyer's words, it was already an eliminated alternative. Here is that part of the Life story:

"'One of our most impressive pieces of evidence', says Specter, ' is the FBI report on an examination of the limousine. It concludes that no part of the car's interior was struck by a whole bullet.'

"The only remaining place the bullet could have logically gone was into Connally. The FBI film shows that he sat directly beyond Kennedy in the assassin's line of fire. As Specter sums up the Commission's case, 'Given the trajectory from the Book Depository window, the ~~authppp~~ authppp, about which I have no doubts, and the FBI report on the limousine: where, if it didn't hit Connally, did that bullet go? This is the single most compelling reason why I concluded that one bullet hit both men.'

"As Specter describes it, the Commission arrived at its single-bullet

theory by the elimination of possible alternatives, This is a risky procedure in any court of law since no one can be sure he knows all the alternatives..."

It is not the "possible" alternatives that Specter "eliminated," for they still exist. It is any alternative that he wanted to forget, for any alternative meant conspiracy, and that the government had determined from the beginning it would not concede.

The most obvious of the "possible alternatives" is the one the Commission staff dedicated itself to pretending didn't exist and, quietly, to undermining it in every way possible. This is a shot from the front, which is proven by all the credible evidence, even after the federal hatchetmen thought they had safely cut it down. Consistent with this is the testimony of several witnesses, that they saw bullets strike near the President's car. One of these was expertly handled by Wesley Liebeler, without whose equally spectacular defiance of all the norms of evidence, law and accepted procedures Specter's valorous contributions would have come to naught. It is Liebeler (who now teaches others how to be ~~some~~ lawyers at the University of California at Los Angeles) who twisted poor Mrs. Donald Baker and manipulated her testimony (WHITEWASH II, 129-31) so the Commissioners ~~and other~~ later reading the record could not possibly determine whether her observations could be confirmed. His was a surgically sharp examination; and it is he who selected those pictures ~~she~~ would be shown. With no opposing lawyer to keep him honest, he chose only those that could not possibly show what Mrs. Baker testified to, taken from positions and at angles that precluded ^{its} their capture on the negative. His cutest trick was asking her to locate what she testified to on a picture that didn't - and couldn't - show it! This he then impressively entered into "evidence " as "Baker Exhibit No. 1" (19H112).

Until the Commission and its lawyers started pressuring the medical witnesses, twisting and leading them away from it, all the evidence is that the President was shot in the front of the neck. All the evidence is still that way; it is merely misrepresented by the Commission's defenders as it was by that body and its staff.

"One of the most impressive pieces of evidence," as Specter himself put it, ~~xxxxxx~~ is that "no part of the car's interior was struck by a whole bullet". The only "possible" conclusion is not that this bullet lodged in Connally. That, in fact, is the conclusion that is not possible, for all the real evidence disproved it. There is an answer to Specter's question, "where...did the bullet go?", the alternative that was not only "possible" but probable. It is that the bullet did not hit the car. This is exactly what ^w could have happened to a shot from the grassy knoll, ~~that~~ ~~could not have struck the windshield,~~ another of the official diversions. Such a shot could not have struck the windshield and the President because of ^{ne} the obtuse angle of Elm Street. To hit the President, this shot would have had to miss the windshield on the President's side of the car.

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missed the car as it exited the neck and ^{would have} struck the street. This is the "possible alternative" that Specter would not face, pretended didn't exist.

This is the fact that had to be suppressed where the pertinent evidence could be ^{not} ~~neither~~ misrepresented, twisted nor ignored, And this is precisely what was done, as what I have dug up from the Commission's ~~xxxx~~ record and suppressed files shows.

No single federal or local investigation or investigator believed or said what the Report concluding in adopting Specter's creation as its pretended reality. All, particularly the FBI and the Secret Service, said the opposite. The solution to ~~hhis~~ ^{ed} problem, insurmountable in a court of law, with ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ opposing counsel, in open hearings, was simplicity itself: everybody else and all the evidence were wrong, Specter was right.

Truth is wrong; illicit desire is right.

This, too, is the way the President's murder was "solved".

There is, in fact, so much of this official investigative evidence disproving the official fabrication - all suppressed or misrepresented, save what I have already published (in WHITEWASH, WHITEWASH II and PHOTOGRAPHIC WHITEWASH) - that there here is no need to present all of what is in the Commission's files and, until now, ^{Almeida} still secret.

This also is why the immediate, original Secret Service December 5, 1963, reconstruction of the crime had to be thrown out, replaced by the more carefully stage-managed FBI charade of Sunday, May 24, a half year later. The testimony about this FBI "reconstruction" (WHITEWASH II, 175 ff 243, 248) is that its purpose was to make it seem that the positions of the bodies of the President and Governor could be tortured into the possibility of a single bullet striking them, not to prove that it did. Even then, this reconstruction was wrong in time alone by thirty percent! However, to Specter, the Commission and the FBI, this presented no problem. They just ignored that, too.

It was suppressed from the Report!

It was undetected until I exposed it (WHITEWASH II, 180).

We do have the official Report on the murder of a President from which the fact that its "reconstruction", the "reconstruction" on which the basic conclusions rest, was an acknowledged ³⁰ thirty percent wrong, and the fact of this error is suppressed from that Report. This suppressed the evidence that the assassination took a third less time than officially acknowledged, making its commission by any single man that much more impossible.

(56) This, too, is consistent.

The Secret Service reconstruction was junked. It had to be, because

it made impossible the conclusion that Oswald was the lone and unassisted assassin. It proved there was a conspiracy. It also proved that some of the shooting could not have come from that sixth-floor window of the Texas School Book Depository Building, whether or not Oswald was in it.

In WHITEWASH (195) I reproduce ^{photographically} ~~pictures~~ of part of the first FBI report to the Commission. It accounted for all the shooting without mention of the wound in the front of the President's neck or the shot that is known and admitted to have missed the motorcade, something omitted by other books that thereafter used/misused this same report.

Apologists for the FBI, who are numerous and politically powerful, now say, as ~~xx~~ with the autopsy, that its report was not expected to be accurate and thorough! For what other purpose could the FBI make such a report, or should it? As a placebo, for propaganda? Then why was it kept secret, a secrecy perpetuated by the Commission that had a 900-page Report and 10,000,000 words and twenty-six large volumes of space for it? Its purpose, to be the definitive statement of fact, is clear in the announcement of it. Under the headline, "U.S. Inquiry Ordered by Johnson" in the Washington Post of November 26, 1963, where it is the "second lead", or, in the opinion of the editors, the second most important story of the preceding day, this appears:

"President Johnson last night ordered 'a prompt and thorough investigation into all circumstances surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy and the murder of his alleged assassin'. He directed the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to handle the investigation, a White House statement said. The President also said, the statement added, 'that he has directed all Federal agencies to cooperate and the people of the nation may be sure that

FBI report (Wash Post 11/26/63, p/1, col. 1 (second lead story)

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"all the facts will be made public'. This investigation is already under way at Dallas, officials said, with the hope of putting a Report on the President's desk very soon."

This first FBI report says that "medical examination of the President's body revealed that one of the bullets had entered just below his shoulder to the right of the spinal column at an angle of 45 to ⁶20 degrees downward, that there was no point of exit, and that the bullet was not in the body." It is this bullet that was the "found" one, according to the FBI.

The FBI had available the same evidence and sources the Commission had, and it said this bullet came from "a" stretcher, not the Governor's.

Here aggin the "solution" was simple and possible because of a self-corrupting press. WHITEWASH, which points out ^{other} the gross failings of the FBI, ^{aside from} ~~regardless of~~ the fact of this bullet - the FBI did ignore the front neck wound and it did ignore the "missed" shot and it knew of both - also was ignored. The papers were not about to acknowledge that the vaunted FBI and its almost-holy Saint Edgar would fake their investigation of the President's murder, the only certain meaning of its first ⁵Report, the Commission's first file.

Instead, focus was on "Inquest", which also ignores these and other glaring FBI errors and seeks to use the report of ~~the~~ the FBI agents at the autopsy as a second autopsy report, which it is not. This was convenient to the author of that book because he unquestioningly accepted the basic Commission conclusions and had, despite the contrary flackery of his publisher, made no genuine study of the evidence, of which he was blissfully ignorant. Thus he concluded that the autopsy report was altered after this FBI report was made. Had he read - not studied but read - the unburned version of the autopsy protocol prepared ~~the morning of~~ November 24, 1963, part of the official Exhibit 397 on the autopsy (17H29ff), and of File 371, he would have known that, according to the sworn testimony,

these changes were made ^{that day} before typing. A sample is in WHITEWASH (198), showing that one change was ^{INSERTED} made after the doctors turned in the draft and before it was typed ⁵⁷ that the doctors did not make, and that all other changes were made in Dr. Humes' handwriting, exactly those changes Epstein says were made later.

The change ~~XXXXX~~ not made in Dr. Humes' handwriting, not made in any writing at all, eliminates his words saying that Dr. Perry had told him the President had been struck from the front!

More magic!

(Specter asked Humes a single perfunctory question about these changes, but made no reference to this one, which is also ignored in the Report. Had he and the Commission not done this, there could have been no whitewash, for Oswald could not have fired simultaneously from front and back.)

In any event, the report of FBI Agents O'Neill and Sibert was not dictated until four days after the assassination, two days after the autopsy protocol was turned in. There are indications of an earlier Sibert-O'Neill report ^(File 5 - folio 149), the existence of which ~~is~~ officially denied that I deal with elsewhere (see pp. 800, 100). And on November 25, the day before the Sibert-O'Neill dictation, Admiral ^{C.B.} Galloway, Chief of the Naval Medical Center, sent the White House physician, Admiral George G. Burkley, the eighth and last original copy of the typed protocol (see pp.).

This is the kind of "scholarship" that won the approval of the eastern intellectual community, favorable mention by reviewers lost in respect for its "moderation" (this redefined), and delayed a real solution to the crime and exposure of the fakery of the official investigation.

But of the real evidence, unimproved by "moderation" or "scholarship", there is no question. From the outset there was no possibility of a single-bullet theory. That evolved not because of the compulsive power

of the evidence, not because it was the only alternative, but because without it there was no possibility of pinning the rap on the dead, accused and defenseless Oswald, Without it there was no avoidance of the certainty, of the painful but inevitable fact that the President was murdered as the consequence of a conspiracy.

Until government went to work on the evidence and the witnesses, this was what all the evidence and the witnesses proved.

In 900 pages, the Report had no space for this evidence.

Had it found the space, there would have been an entirely different Report.