

After an Intensive 4-Year Investigation . . .

Top Authority on JFK Assassination Photos Says 4 Gunmen Murdered the President

By RICHARD E. SPRAGUE

President John F. Kennedy was killed by a savage crossfire of bullets, fired at his motorcade from four separate locations by four assassins.

And Lee Harvey Oswald was not even one of them. Oswald never fired a single shot that earthshaking day.

Kennedy was struck four times in all — not twice, as the Warren Commission insisted. And the bullet that finally killed him came from a grassy knoll in front of the Presidential car — not from the Texas School Book Depository at the rear, where Oswald was supposedly firing alone.

Up to 50 conspirators plotted and carried out the precision, military-style maneuvers that culminated in JFK's tragic death on Nov. 22, 1963, on that crowded Dallas street.

Some were Dallas policemen. Some were agents of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Some were Cuban exiles.

Later, in their heavy-handed attempts to erase, blot out or cover up vital evidence, some of the top leaders in American government became accessories after the fact to the most frightful crime of the century.

These, basically, are my conclusions, formulated after four years of painstaking study of hundreds of photographs and thousands of frames of movie film taken either at the moment of the ambush or in the frantic minutes that followed. I was aided by more than 100 people in my research work and collection of new evidence. Most of these were members of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations.

JFK's assassination was the most photographed murder in history. Some 75 photographers are known to have taken more than 500 still photos and movie sequences at or near the time of the shooting. The movie film included some 25,000 frames.

Yet no official effort has ever been made to correlate the great mass of evidence contained in these pictures. Some of them have been seized, hidden away or "lost" by the FBI. Most of the rest have been ignored.

The Warren Commission, for instance, examined just 26 photographs in its entire investigation.

On the other hand, I have personally looked at more than 400 of these photos and film sequences, and I am convinced that they tell a far different story from the one the Warren Commission came up with.

The "crossfire" sketch (above, far right) by Bob Cutler, a fellow member of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, dramatically illustrates what I believe happened.

The sketch highlights why I want every single detail in every photo analyzed by a computer.

In this way, the time, content and location of each photo taken at Dealey Plaza can be related and compared to all the others.

It is the only way we may ever be able to prove what actually happened.

Our purpose in this is to solve a crime, not to discredit the Warren Commission. But I must add that the evidence is overwhelming that the commission's conclusions are totally false.

I have seen absolute photographic proof that nobody — Lee Harvey Oswald or anyone else — fired any shots from the easternmost sixth-floor window of the School Book Depository, where Oswald allegedly crouched as a "lone assassin."

There are several photographs in circulation of the window in question. We know one was taken exactly 5.7 seconds before the first shot by relating the position of the Presidential motorcade,

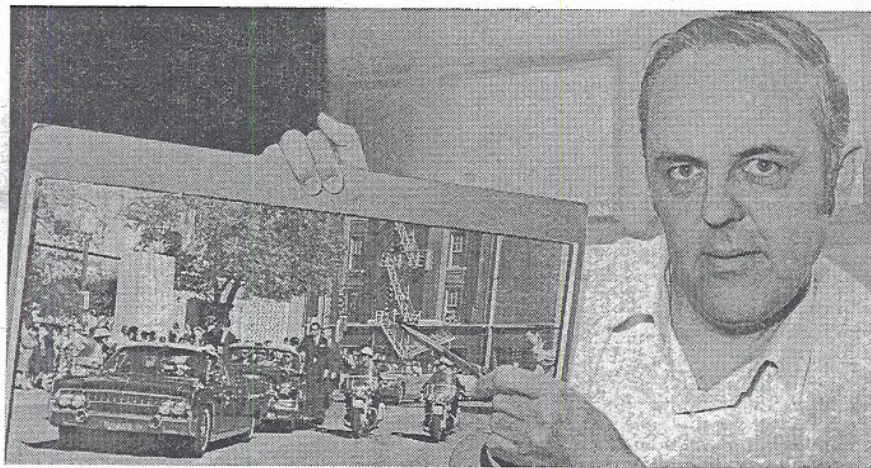
Richard E. Sprague, 48, an engineer and computer specialist, heads his own company, Personal Data Services of Hartsdale, N.Y., and is an active member of a Washington-based organization known as the Committee to Investigate Assassinations.

He is also the country's top authority on photographs taken the day President Kennedy was shot in Dallas. He has spent four years studying photos and has also made three trips to Dallas to talk with assassination eyewitnesses and other researchers.

In the course of his investigation, Sprague has turned up dramatic new evidence indicating that dozens of conspirators were involved in a complicated plot to kill the President. He condemns the "lone assassin" verdict of the Warren Commission as a glaring falsehood.

Assisted by a trade magazine, "Computers and Automation," — which carried a 32-page feature on his probe — Sprague is now feeding details gleaned from all available assassination photos into a computer in hopes of learning still more about who the plotters were and how they carried out their vicious job. In this ENQUIRER exclusive he tells of the amazing discoveries he has made so far.

... Lee Harvey Oswald Was NOT One of the Assassins



COMPUTER SPECIALIST Richard Sprague points to second-floor window of Dal Tex Building, from where he believes one of the gunmen fired at JFK.

also shown in the photograph, to the timing sequence accurately obtained from other films and photographs.

Another was taken 3.5 seconds after the last shot — the photograph was made from a press car in the motorcade — and by plotting the car's position from other films, we worked out the exact time the photograph was taken.

In both photographs, the window is empty.

Thus, these two pictures alone destroy the Warren Commission's contention, based on the testimony of one confused witness, that Oswald leaned far out the window with his rifle to fire the fatal shots, and then slowly withdrew a rifle. If he did, he would have appeared in one of these photographs.

Photos also prove that someone tampered with the storeroom from which Oswald supposedly fired.

Three bullet casings found on the floor near the window and three boxes arranged so that they could be used as a "gun rest" were key pieces of evidence in the Warren Commission's decision that Oswald was the killer.

But the original setting up of the bullet casings was too obviously faked. A deputy sheriff who arrived on the scene first saw the three casings, side by side, neatly pointing in the same direction, just inches apart. But by the time the official police photographer arrived, the casings had been scattered

about on the storeroom floor.

Similarly, the position of the boxes on which Oswald is said to have steadied his gun was obviously changed. Originally, the boxes were stacked three high, as shown in several photos. They were far too tall to rest a gun on, so someone later rearranged them so that they were stacked only two high.

This was not done for several hours, however. Jack Beers, a Dallas Morning News photographer took pictures of the boxes at 4 p.m. — three and a half hours after the shooting — and they were still in their original position.

Sometime later, when the police photographer got around to taking the picture, the boxes had been rearranged.

This mass of photographic evidence totally disproves the Warren Commission's neat verdict about a "lone assassin." While Oswald was, most likely, one of the plotters, it was no solitary fanatic with a mail-order rifle who triggered the mayhem in Dealey Plaza.

From microscopic bits of evidence found in numerous photographs, as well as from interviews with eyewitnesses and Kennedy researchers, I have pieced together what I believe to be the true picture of the plot.

A crack team of about 12 persons was on the scene to carry out the assassination. There were four snipers, and each sniper almost certainly had someone to pick up the spent shells and aid in

communication and escape. Another four probably acted as backup teams.

I base this conclusion on the photographic evidence, which also shows that shots were fired at Kennedy from four different locations. I do not believe that people who would execute such a plan would leave anything to chance — like leaving spent shells after shooting Kennedy. No spent shells were found at these locations.

Therefore, I believe each sniper had an assistant who had as a primary task the collection of these spent shells. Again, because the assassination was so well planned, I am sure there would be at least two backup teams — each with two people — in case one of the other teams couldn't get in position.

They had a visual system of communication, and very likely a radio system as well. Those who acted as communicators signaled the firing on the motorcade with split-second timing. I know one person who was at Dealey Plaza at the time of the shooting, Jim Hicks, claimed he was a radio communicator, and although he has been officially discredited, that doesn't mean he wasn't telling the truth.

The assassination teams also had drivers



OPEN CAR leaves President John F. Kennedy's motorcade with Texas Governor John Connally.

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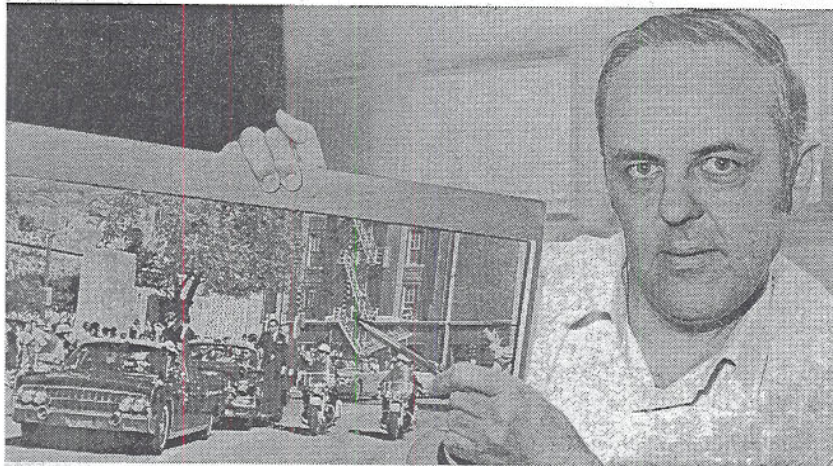
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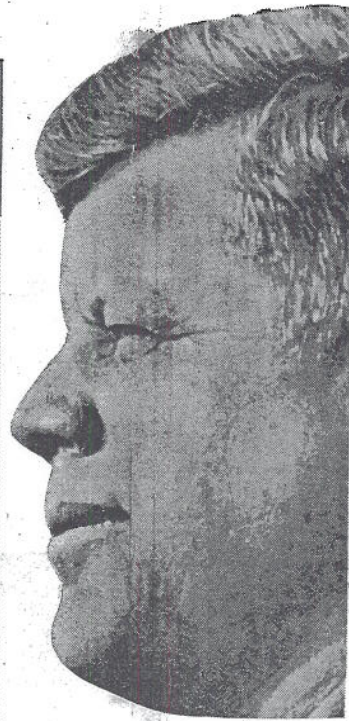
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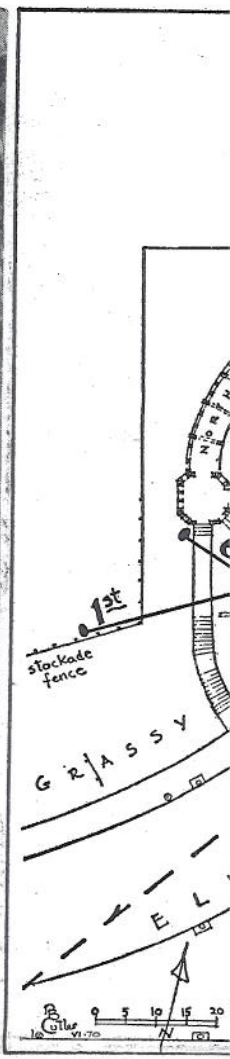
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LEE HARVEY OSWALD



'CROSSFIRE' SKETCH

ers for getaway cars — photos show autos parked at various points around Dealey Plaza. Minutes after the shooting at least two cars had driven off. I believe they contained the assassination teams. Again, nothing was left to chance — there were drivers waiting in these cars for the various team members.

There also had to be a field commander in or around Dealey Plaza directing the whole operation and making a last-second decision on whether or not to fire. Behind these actual assassins was a network of conspirators who helped plan and finance the operation and then confused the situation afterward.

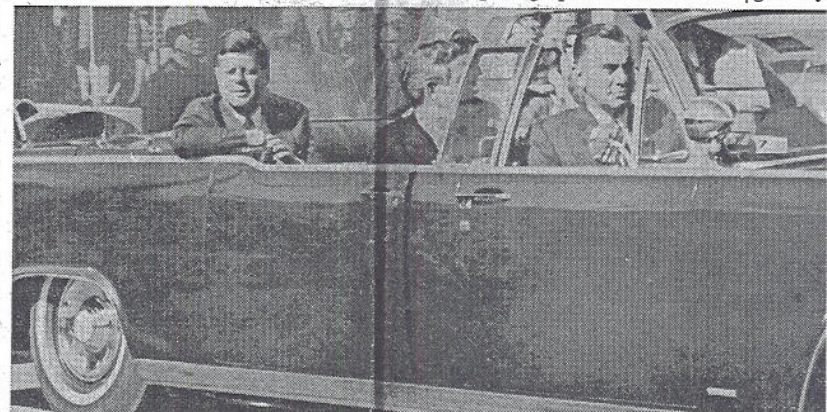
I believe that eight or 10 persons, not actually present at Dealey Plaza that day, did the bulk of the planning. And an additional 30 persons were involved in the conspiracy in some respect, making a total of up to 50 in all.

This is not just guesswork, although obviously these latter people do not appear in the photographs. I know of meet-

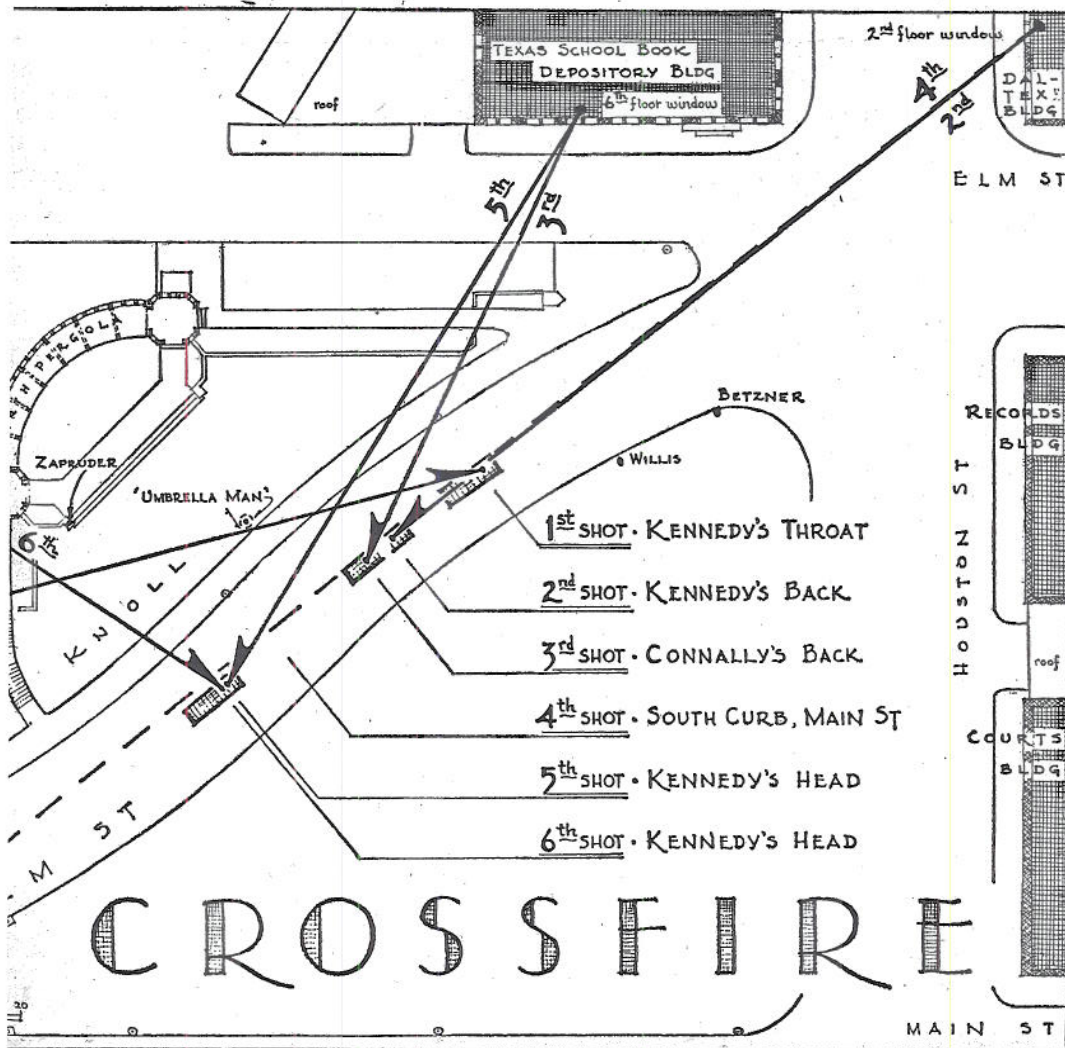
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OPEN CAR leaves President John F. Kennedy an open target to snipers as he rides motorcade with Texas Governor John Connally and Jackie (hidden behind Connally)



CH was made after Sprague personally studied over 400 photos taken at the time of the assassination.

between various people prior to assassination — Mexico City was scene of one such meeting. These meetings were to discuss killing President Kennedy. They involved people who had been overheard discussing the assassination of the President, people who were known to want him dead. Although we don't have records of what they discussed at their meetings, a common ground these people shared was their dislike of the President. Names constantly crop up in the accounts of the killing. Some of them were Cuban exiles, angered at the lack of anti-Castro action by the United States and the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion. They had been recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency to fight against Castro, and in their ranks were some people being paid by the CIA. Without the help of some Dallas policemen, the assassination teams on Dealey Plaza could never have made the clean getaway that they did. In fact, I believe

some members of the teams were arrested by Dallas policemen, and released away from the area as part of the plot.

Again, there is strong photographic evidence to support the idea that a group of four snipers carried out the assassination by spraying the Presidential limousine with bullets from all directions.

Of all the photographs taken in Dealey Plaza that fateful day, the color movie sequence of some 480 frames taken by Abraham Zapruder is the most important.

It clearly shows President Kennedy's head jerk backward from the impact of the fatal bullet — and this simple fact is enough to prove that that shot could not have come from the School Book Depository, or, indeed, from anywhere to the rear of the Presidential car.

To cause such a backward jerk, the bullet had to come from a point slightly in front of the car.

It is interesting to note that the Warren

Commission, in an error it has since admitted, published the two crucial frames of the Zapruder film in reverse order, making it appear that Kennedy's head was slammed forward by the bullet's impact, rather than backward.

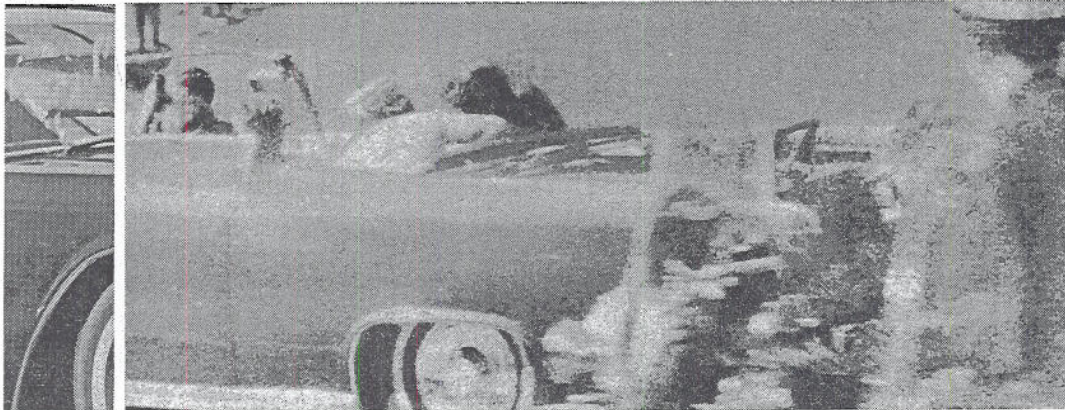
Undoubtedly, millions of readers of the commission's report have been confused by this reversal.

The film clearly shows that no sudden speedup by the car caused the violent backward snap of the President's head, as some have claimed. The speed of the car remains unchanged and Mrs. Kennedy's head does not move at all.

Unfortunately, no official attempt has yet been made to follow up or expand on the revelations of the Zapruder film by comparing it to the many other photographs made at the time.

When I studied the film and checked it against all the other photos showing the effects of the shots, I became convinced of two things:

- (1) Six shots were fired, of which four
- (Continued on next page)



MINUTES AFTER photo at left was taken, JFK slumps into Jackie's arms (above) after assassin's bullets slammed into his head.

ASSASSINATION

(Continued from preceding page)
hit President Kennedy, one struck Governor John Connally of Texas and another slammed into curbstone on Main Street.

(2) The sixth and final shot — the one that virtually blew the President's head off and killed him — struck Kennedy from the front and the right, hurling his head backward and to the left in accordance with the laws of physics.

Still basing my conclusions on firm photographic evidence, I find that the shooting went like this:

- Shot One, fired from behind a fence on a grassy knoll on the north side of Elm Street at a point well ahead of the motorcade, struck Kennedy in the throat.

- Shot Two, fired from the second floor of the Dal Tex Building across Houston Street from the School Book Depository, hit the President in the back.

- Shot Three, fired from a sixth-floor window of the Book Depository — but not from the same window Oswald allegedly used — struck Gov. Connally in the back.

- Shot Four, fired from the Dal Tex Building, hit the curb on the south side of Main Street, 100 yards or so in front of the motorcade.

- Shot Five, fired from the Book Depository, struck Kennedy in the head.

- Shot Six, fired from the grassy knoll over the heads of the crowd in the plaza, hit Kennedy at near point-blank range at almost the same instant as Shot Five.

The man I believe was the "field commander" for the assassination team can be seen in a number of photos standing among the crowd on the north side of Elm Street.

Despite the fact that it was a bright, sunny afternoon with the temperature at a mild 68 degrees, the man is carrying an umbrella.

In the first pictures where he shows up, this "umbrella man" is holding the umbrella closed. Then, just before the first shot, he is holding it open and low over his head. And finally, just before the last shot, he raises the umbrella — which is still open — about two feet higher.

Several moments after the rest of the crowd dispersed in the frantic wake of the tragedy, the "umbrella man" can still be seen standing in the same spot, his umbrella now folded again.

I think it highly likely that the man with the umbrella was the visual coordinator of the team's deadly mission and the man who had to make the final decision to "go."

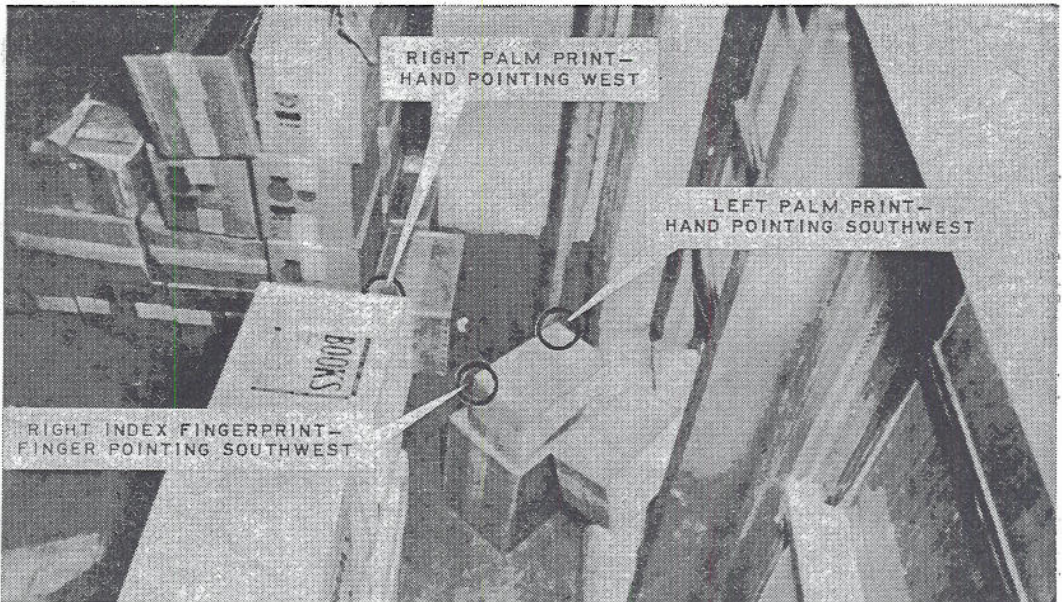
Of all the strange things I have uncovered in the course of my four-year investigation, none to me is stranger than the action — or, more accurately, the inaction — of the Warren Commission.

The commission ruled, for example, that only two shots hit JFK. Yet the commission did not even examine the autopsy X-rays and photographs — and the photos in fact were not developed until two years after Kennedy's death.

And the commission raised no questions at all over the fact that Commander J.J. Humes, chief surgeon at the autopsy, personally burned his preliminary notes in the fireplace of his home on Nov. 24, 1963.

For reasons that are far from obvious, the Warren investigators interviewed only a few of the 30 professional photographers who took pictures at the scene, even though 15 of them were in the motorcade itself, no farther than six car lengths from JFK's limousine.

And finally, the commission steadfastly ignored the violent backward motion of Kennedy's head as shown in the Zapruder film and other assassina-



VITAL EVIDENCE: Sprague claims that the three boxes near the window of the storeroom, which Oswald supposedly used as a "gun rest" were originally piled three high — far too tall to rest a gun on — and that someone later rearranged them so they were stacked only two high. (Photo is an official Warren Commission exhibit showing palm and fingerprints used to illustrate one phase of their investigation.)

tion photographs that I have since collected.

These and other glaring weaknesses in the commission's investigation lead me to conclude that — while they certainly did not participate in the conspiracy beforehand — many prominent

for some of the officials who have made the CIA possible.

I strongly feel that only a full computerized analysis of the contents of the photographs I have seen can unfold the entire truth about that grim day. By using the Zapruder and several

zine has access to a computer, which it has made available to me.

At the moment, we are working out a program to feed into the computer every piece of evidence we have obtained. It is impossible for any person to store all these facts in his head. The computer will be able to do so. Then I — or any person researching the Kennedy assassination — will be able to ask the computer: "Tell me about so-and-so," and will immediately get all the known facts.

That is the first step — using the computer as a memory bank.

The second step is to feed into it every detail of every photograph and film frame, including what appears in them, who took them, when they were taken and from what angle. Testimony of witnesses will also be fed into the computer.

Once all this is done — and it will take a long time — it will be possible to ask the computer to analyze the information.

This will be done, for example, by programming the computer to answer questions like: "Do the photographs show that shots came from the grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza? And if so, do they show individuals who could have fired the shots, and where these individuals went afterward?"

It will sift through the information on angles, Kennedy's reaction, times, placing people, and give an answer, yes or no.

Another question could be: "Do the photographs show that witnesses did what they have claimed to have done?" That is, if someone shown in the photographs has said he stood in the same spot for 10 minutes after the shooting, or ran immediately away, the computer will be able to check through all the photos and see if he did so.

It will also be possible to say to the computer: "Car X is seen at a certain spot in a certain photo or film frame. Does it appear again in any of the other photos? And given certain routes it could have taken to get there, which one did it take?"

By again checking all the information, including the time it would take by each route, the computer will be able to give a very accurate idea of how soon after the shooting the car left, which road it took, who in the photographs might have gotten into the car. In this way it will be possible to build up a very clear picture of the getaway sequence.

The computer analysis is the nation's only hope in clearing up the man-made mystery of what really happened in Dallas. Photographs don't lie. Neither do the computers. We may learn the truth yet.

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officials helped cover it up afterward.

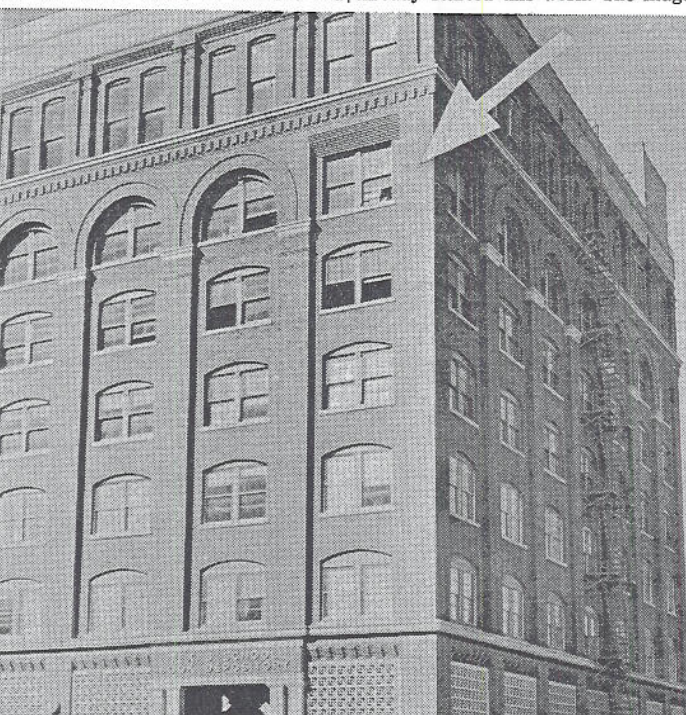
This involvement may well have touched some of the highest offices in the land, but that is something only an untainted congressional investigation could pin down.

I feel certain that once these high officials realized that the Central Intelligence Agency was involved with the conspirators and decided the truth could not be told to the American public, there would have been such an outcry that it would probably have meant the end of the CIA . . . and the end

other films as a time sequence guideline, we will eventually be able to learn the exact times each of the other photos was made. Then, by pinpointing the exact location and camera angle of each picture, we can trace the movements of every person and object appearing in the photos.

Admittedly, this will take time, not to mention a great deal of more work and expense.

With the help of the magazine, "Computers and Automation", I have already started this work. The maga-



SHOOTING PLACE: Arrow points to sixth-floor window of the Texas School Book Depository from where, according to the Warren Commission, Oswald fired at JFK. Sprague says the shots were not fired from this window.