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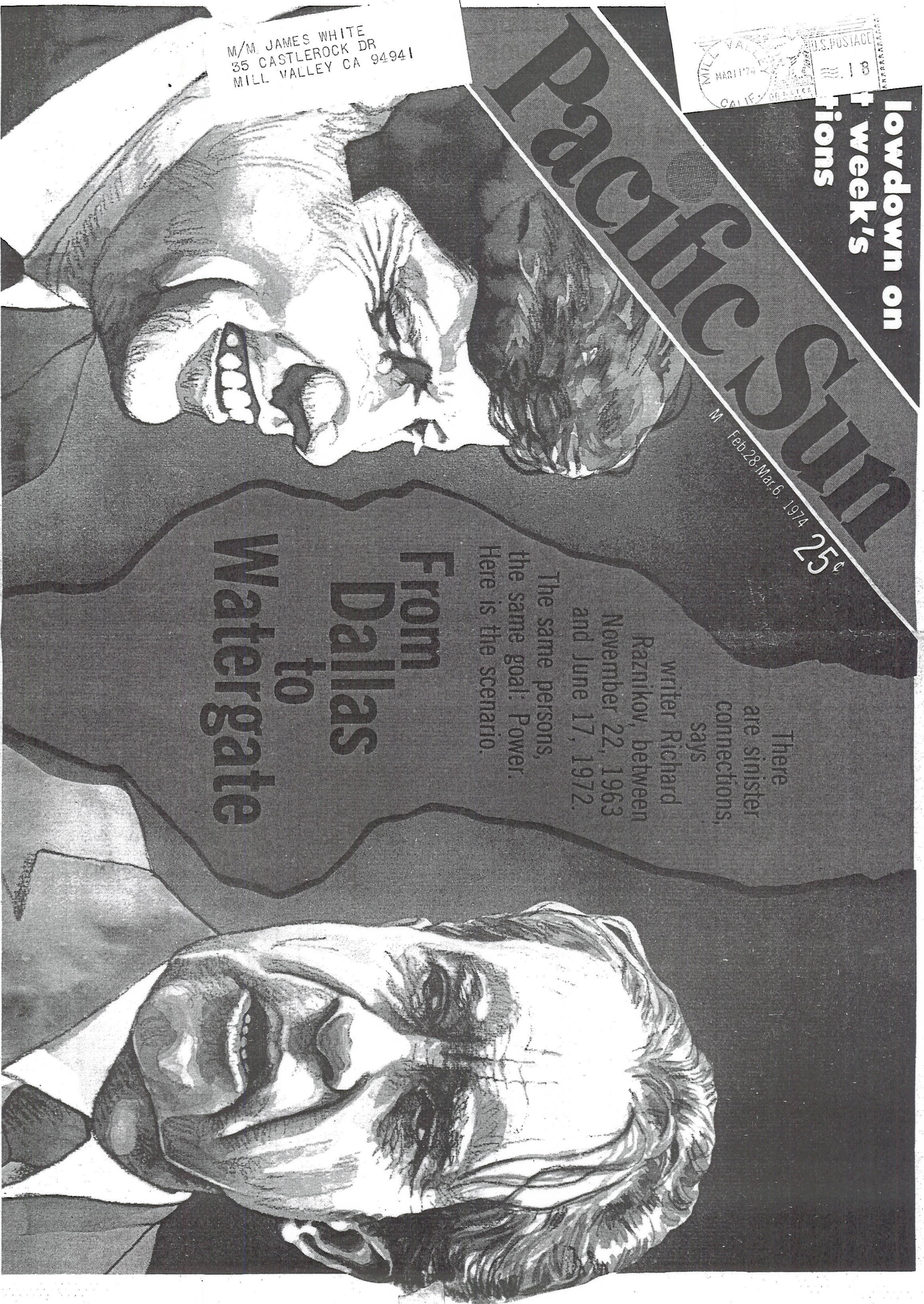
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Lowdown on
this week's
Fictions

Pacific Sun

M Feb. 28-Mar. 6, 1974

25¢



From Dallas to Watergate

The same persons,
the same goal. Power.
Here is the scenario.

writer Richard
Raznikov, between
November 22, 1963
and June 17, 1972.

There
are sinister
connections,
says

Tom Cervarik

FROM DALLAS TO WATERGATE

BY RICHARD RAZNIKOV

An era of innocence ended with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Americans began the painful process of learning to think the unthinkable, of learning to face the sinister side of human events.

Not that this country was ever immune to these forces. It was born in revolution. The American Civil War was as bloody an event as has ever seized a society. Violence was the way the West was won, and it was a large factor in the drive of labor to organize itself.

But somehow there always seemed to be an underlying belief in decency, in social stability. Not for us the plots and conspiracies of a decadent Europe or an unstable Latin America.

This comforting assumption began to unravel on November 22, 1963, and things have never been the same since. Prior to that time who would have thought that blacks would burn down their ghettos? That middle-class students would seize their campuses and would in turn be shot by police and soldiers? That assassins would pick off national figures as disparate as Martin Luther King and George Lincoln Rockwell, Senator Robert Kennedy and Governor George Wallace? That a President who promised to restore law and order would turn out to be enmeshed in a web of crime?

Ten years ago such ideas would have been dismissed out of hand — just as most people dismissed out of hand the idea that the death of President Kennedy stemmed from anything more complicated than one deranged ex-Marine named Lee Harvey Oswald. We accepted the Warren Report not so much because we found its factual arguments unassailable, but because we *wanted* to believe it. To believe anything else was too ominous.

AS KENNEDY'S black Lincoln rounded the corner onto Elm Street Mrs. Connally turned to him. "You can't say that Dallas doesn't love you," she said, and the President, smiling, continued to wave to the crowd. Photographers snapped their pictures. Film began rolling in the movie cameras of Abraham Zapruder and Orville Nix. On the sidewalk fronting the grassy knoll a spectator simulated an epileptic seizure, falling to the ground and drawing other spectators from the knoll area. Across the street a man opened his umbrella, though there was no threat of rain. Above and directly to the rear of the motorcade, on the roof of the County Records Building, and on the metal fire escape of the Dal-Tex Building, two professional gunmen trained their Mausers on the President's head. Behind a picket fence obscured by trees, atop the grassy knoll to the right front of the approaching cars, two other men took aim.

John F. Kennedy was a man of peace. The first bullet struck him from the front, piercing the knot in his tie, and entering his neck near the thorax, and he lifted his hands to his throat. The second bullet came from behind, and it tore through Governor Connally's body, shattering his fifth lateral rib, smashing his wrist, and penetrating his thigh. He screamed, "My God, they're going to kill us all," and his wife pulled him into her lap. Then a stream of bullets. One, fired from behind, struck the curbing on the South side of Elm Street, and its ricochet wounded a spectator, James Tague. From his overview in the window of an office building, Richard Randolph Carr, a veteran of Anzio, saw another shot miss. It was fired from the front, and Carr saw it burrow into the grass on the South side of Elm. Then three more shots. The first of these was fired from the knoll but never reached the motorcade, striking instead the reverse side of the Stemmons Expressway sign on the North side of Elm, and becoming embedded. Next, Kennedy was shot in the back, nearly six inches down from the right shoulder joint, an inch to the right of the spine. The impact of this bullet caused him, for a fraction of a second, to fall forward. But then one of the riflemen on the knoll squeezed off the final shot. It struck him in the temple, blowing off part of his head, sending blood and brain matter in a spray to the left and rear of the car. Though civilian doctors at

In the decade that has passed we have learned to our extreme discomfort that there *are* dark strains in supposedly unimpeachable levels of American society. Conspiracies *are* organized. Irrational events *do* take place.

Richard Raznikov was skeptical of the Warren Report from the beginning, as were many. It was after reading Richard Popkin's *The Second Oswald* in 1968 that he began to believe that something more sinister than inefficient investigative work lay behind the contradictions of the Report. He began at that time, six years ago, to collect the thousands of bits and pieces in the press, in books and in personal interviews that make up the unconnected public record of an American political assassination.

Raznikov is 27. He received a B.A. in political science from U.C. Berkeley in 1968 and graduated from Boalt Hall Law School in 1972. In 1971 he ran, unsuccessfully, as a candidate for mayor of San Rafael. He worked as Berkeley campus co-chairman in the 1968 presidential campaign of Senator Robert Kennedy, and was a delegate to the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

The editors of the *Pacific Sun* are not certain that the scenario Raznikov presents here is the correct one. We are convinced, however, that the scenario presented by the Warren Report probably is not correct. And we believe that events of the past ten years have proved it wise to look beyond government officials who announce that everything is all right.



Parkland Hospital would labor over his body for thirty minutes, Kennedy was already dead; the final bullet had killed him.

The official government version of Kennedy's murder was no more plausible than all of the succeeding cover stories fed to the American people over the course of the following decade. We have learned, finally, in the wake of all of the sordid revelations surrounding Watergate, that our government is not to be trusted. The lies out of Washington since 1964 have become habitual, and many of us have become inured to them. We do not want to believe the truth about what our country has become since November of 1963.

As New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison has said, coups d'etat do not occur unless their sponsors have some means of securing control over the government: The murder of a President will not be arranged unless the murderers anticipate immediate profit and long-term immunity for the act. A careful examination of the facts surrounding the first of the Kennedy killings strongly

suggests that those responsible possessed sufficient power, both economic and political, to enforce on other powerful interests in our country a post-assassination complicity of silence. The leaders of America knew, even before the sun set in Dallas, that November day, that Lee Harvey Oswald had not killed President Kennedy, and the cover-up they engaged in was so blatant, the "official" story so false, that anyone with a modest curiosity and an open mind could have found the truth. But the name of the game was not truth but power, and this central idea may help us understand not only why many "honorable" men helped conceal the truth behind JFK's murder, but also how our nation could have become, in the past ten years, a much different country than is boasted of in our pledge of allegiance.

We were shocked at Watergate, but why? We have witnessed the staggering immorality of our Vietnam adventure, with its accompanying lies, for years. We have found out about secret bombing campaigns and even secret invasions. Why should we be surprised? When students were murdered at Kent and Jackson state, and their killers went free, did we think this justice? When police in major cities embarked on a campaign to kill militant blacks, such as Fred Hampton and George Jackson, did we believe this to be due process of law?

No, Watergate should not have shocked us. The incident itself, a minor burglary, was cut not from whole cloth but from a clear and observable pattern of events dating back more than ten years, to the origin of the new American Superstate.

No one can truly understand Watergate without some basic understanding of the evolution of political power in our country. Today, in our growing domestic crises, we are witnessing the results of a decade of illegitimate power.

Under the Constitution, power on the national level is to be shared among the three branches of government. Today, it is clear that at least one branch, the legislature, has become truncated and cowardly. What is not so clear is that the increasing power ascribed by so many commentators to the presidency is instead owned by the most

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FROM DALLAS TO WATERGATE

Continued from page 3

powerful military and industrial interests. Both Johnson and Nixon, after Kennedy, have been figureheads, brokers for the military and other economic giants.

John Kennedy resisted the encroachment of illegitimate power on the policies of the national government, and that is the central reason for his death. Upon taking office he found himself at odds with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the CIA, big oil, the major defense industries, and the underworld. He was in trouble when it became evident that he would not "do business" with these interests in the expected manner.

A full account of this struggle cannot be rendered here, but the truth is available to any patient researcher. It is important for our purposes, however, to discuss those aspects which bear directly upon the events of November 22, 1963. Through them we can see clearly the web in which Kennedy was to be fatally ensnared.

Primary is Kennedy's relationship to the military and the CIA, especially concerning the repeated crises over Cuba. From the Bay of Pigs disaster through the last days of his life, Kennedy's fortunes were inextricably tied to the activities of CIA agents and Cuban exiles in Florida and Louisiana. And it is in this context that we find the threads which lead from Watergate back to Dallas.

To most Americans, the men arrested at the Watergate are seen as insignificant figures, bit players in a crack-pot scheme for obtaining political information through the bugging of the Democratic National Headquarters.

The true story of these men is far uglier. With the exception of G. Gordon Liddy, the rest of the Watergate Seven might be considered the "Bay of Pigs Six," and their involvement in other criminal activities is not difficult to trace. These men, Hunt, Barker, Sturgis, Gonzalez, Martinez, and James McCord, were in some ways deeply involved in the planning and operation of the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

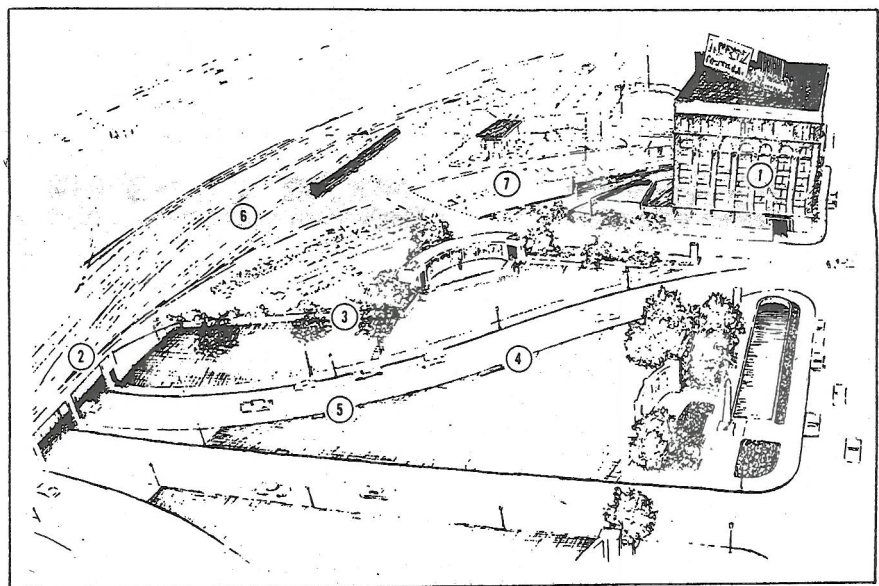
E. Howard Hunt was a member of the CIA at the time of the invasion. He served the 1961 operation in a directional capacity, as communications co-ordinator between the exile groups and the Agency in both Miami and New Orleans.

Hunt's interest in Cuban activities and in invasions of Cuba and/or assassination of Fidel Castro continued long after the Bay of Pigs. Under the name "Eduardo" he was the link between American Intelligence and the exile groups in perpetual training for more invasions. He was a close friend of Harry Williams, the man who directed the planning for the "second Bay of Pigs" in the Summer of 1963; on the day John Kennedy was assassinated, according to an investigator who has talked to Williams, Hunt was in Washington, D.C., in the company of Williams, Lyman Kirkpatrick of the State Department, and Richard Helms. With the death of Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson was to make Helms the Director of the CIA.

One of Hunt's closest friends is Bernard Barker. They have been in contact consistently since 1960. Barker, who had served as a high-ranking member of former Cuban dictator Batista's secret police, was Hunt's right hand man for the Bay of Pigs fiasco, serving as a conduit for CIA funds, and working closely with Frank Bender of the CIA, who recruited the exile army for the invasion.

Along with Frank Sturgis, alias Fiorini, Barker has been identified by a French soldier of fortune, Jose Luis Romero, as having approached him in 1961, through the U.S. Embassy in Algeria, with a plan to assassinate President Kennedy. Romero was quoted in a book by French author Camille Gilles as saying that he was offered nearly half a million dollars for the slaying. The plan never reached fruition, and Romero is now in hiding. But when the Watergate arrests were announced, pictures of those arrested were given to Gilles by *Washington Post* reporter Paul Valentine. She in turn took them to Romero, who identified Sturgis and Barker.

In 1964, Barker served as a conduit for CIA funding of commandos being trained in Nicaragua for anti-Castro raids. He also got into business, becoming a partner of



Miami lawyer Michael Suarez in the real estate firm Ameritas. This firm, which was financed through a loan from Nixon's friend Bebe Rebozo, was the name used by the Watergate burglars when they registered at the hotel.

Baker was a very busy man in 1972 and engaged in other highly suspicious activities. Besides helping the Nixon campaign "launder" extorted campaign funds, he paid provocateurs to demonstrate at the gravesite of J. Edgar Hoover, and tried to obtain from architect Leonard Glass the floor plans, including maps of the air conditioning system, of the Democratic National Convention Center in Miami. As an inducement, he offered Glass a "business" in South America.

Frank Sturgis is also a criminal figure. He was a CIA contract pilot during the Bay of Pigs invasion, a long-time friend of Barker, and apparently Barker's companion on the 1961 kill-Kennedy expedition to Algeria reported by Romero. Sturgis had operated the casinos for Batista, and had even been made temporary overseer of rackets by Castro before the latter kicked the Syndicate out of Cuba.

Sturgis had interesting friends, including David Ferrie, another CIA pilot and the New Orleans "baby-sitter" of Lee Oswald. He worked with a CIA front organization, Permindex, which operated out of Switzerland until kicked out by the Swiss government. Permindex once served to funnel CIA money to French Algerian officers who were plotting to kill De Gaulle. On the day after the Kennedy assassination, Sturgis was

telling people in Miami that he knew Oswald. Actually the man he knew was William Seymour, who impersonated Oswald in Texas before November 22, 1963.

Watergate burglars Eugenio Martinez and Virgilio Gonzalez were also longtime anti-Castro veterans of the Bay of Pigs. Martinez has business dealings with Barker and with Keyes Realty, of which he is Vice President. Keyes does business with Rebozo's Key Biscayne Bank and Martinez' operation is in the same building a Barker's Ameritas.

Last, but by no means least, is James McCord. This man also worked with the exiles during the planning of the Bay of Pigs invasion. A CIA man for over twenty years, he was Chief of Security for CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, and served with a special 16-man unit attached to the White House having to do with "emergencies, radicals, and contingency plans," including the censorship of news media and the U.S. mail. On the day Kennedy was murdered, McCord was in Dallas.

The invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in 1961, in which those later arrested at the Watergate played such an important role, signalled the first serious rift between the Kennedys and the military and intelligence powers.

Kennedy had inherited the invasion plan from Eisenhower's administration and, despite some serious reservations, gave his approval. But the new President insisted upon one thing: there was to be no over-

Lee Harvey Oswald, at left, distributing Fair Play for Cuba leaflets in New Orleans a job Raznikov believes was part of his assignment for the CIA. The artist's sketch of Dealey Plaza shows (1) the School Book Depository from which Oswald allegedly fired all the shots; (2) railroad overpass, from which workers saw activity and puffs of smoke originating at (3), the wooden fence atop the grassy knoll from which at least three shots were fired; (4) a piece of the curbing here was hit by a bullet removed by police; (6) railroad yard to which witnesses claimed to have seen two men flee; (7) after shots were fired, Dallas police encountered a man here with Secret Service credentials. The man was an impostor, however, since all agents' movements were accounted for. Another false agent was encountered by police behind the Depository.



James Hicks, top, confessed to the New Orleans Grand Jury that he had been radio man for the assassination. Photo was taken in office of New Orleans D.A. Jim Garrison prior to Hicks' disappearance. William Seymour, left, impersonated Oswald before November 22, 1963, according to most conspiracy theorists. Above, James McCord, one of the CIA's men for Havana, testifying before the Ervin Committee on his Watergate caper.

evidence of our own participation and no commitment of American forces. To this, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the CIA agreed.

Meanwhile, the CIA, through Hunt, assured the exile groups that direct U.S. air cover would be provided. The plan was that, with the action underway, Kennedy could be pressured into changing his mind. The generals and the Agency miscalculated. At a midnight meeting on the night of the invasion, CIA Chief Allen Dulles and the Generals urged this reversal on the new President but were rebuffed. In their failure, the exile groups felt they had been betrayed by the President; and the CIA and military understood that JFK could not be bullied.

Others had more than a passing interest in the Bay of Pigs expedition's success. The Mafia, in the person of Joe Rivers, an associate of Meyer Lansky and the Trafficante Family of Florida, was waiting in the Bahamas with an enormous sum of money, expecting to rush back into Cuba and reopen the Casinos. Perhaps Sturgis had a new job in mind.

Kennedy understood that the generals and the CIA had lied to him, and he was determined that it would not happen again. He assigned his brother Bobby to conduct a private investigation of the CIA, and the shakeup which followed left a large number of suddenly unemployed CIA agents, including Allen Dulles, who was later to serve as one of seven members of the Warren Commission.

The Agency and the exiles continued to train for more invasions, however. And Kennedy, according to Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, was "seared" by the experience. The President, said Douglas, "was dismayed at the power the CIA and the Pentagon had over civilian policy." It is not surprising that Kennedy, according to the *New York Times*, wanted to "break the CIA into a thousand pieces and scatter it to the winds."

This portrait of an administration caught in a deadly struggle with forces inside its own government is not the usual view of Kennedy's presidency, but it is the primary reality of that time. Indeed, it is the chief reason for his death, although Kennedy was at odds with virtually every major political and economic power in America.

When E. Howard Hunt was found to be forging "cables" designed to prove JFK's complicity in the assassination of South Vietnam's dictator Diem, we are given a clue about how modern U.S. history is written. There were other documents on the Kennedys in Hunt's White House safe, but they were burned by then F.B.I. director L. Patrick Gray. What did they contain?

Kennedy was not a man committed to a continuation of the Cold War, despite the false history since created for him. He had negotiated a neutralist Laos in opposition to military advice; he had worked toward detente with Fidel Castro, arranged meetings between Che Guevara and Richard Goodwin of his staff, and had promised Cuba that

no further invasions would be sponsored by this country; he had signed the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, a product of his own vision, against the strong protests of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and he had committed himself to a withdrawal of all American advisers from Vietnam. This last fact is not very well known these days, since so many politicians have a stake in blaming our Asian genocide on a dead President. It is, however, a fact.

A fairly accurate picture of Kennedy's relationship with the military emerged in a recent two-part interview with Daniel Ellsberg in *Rolling Stone*. According to Ellsberg, "...what a lot of civilians thought of themselves as doing, in particular during the Kennedy years, was trying to get a grip on a runaway military machine....From considerable evidence I had at the time it was my belief that McNamara was determined, secretly, to bring this machine under control..."

"QUESTION: So, did the military, the Pentagon, feel aware of a certain kind of conspiracy on the part of the civilian government?"

"ELLSBERG: Extremely aware, very resentful, and they fought like mad...To some extent, Vietnam was the price of that battle...Precisely because McNamara was so successful in fighting the military on subjects like...getting supersonic bombers, he made something of a deal with them, which was that he did not interfere operationally much in the decisions they were making in Vietnam itself."

Kennedy, had he lived, would not have allowed this country to become entangled in what he viewed as Vietnam's civil war. He had placed 15,000 advisers there, but no fighting troops. Before his death he ordered 1000 of these men home by the end of 1963, and told friends that following his re-election the remainder would be withdrawn, whatever the consequences.

Electorally vulnerable because of his other moves toward peace, Kennedy wanted to wait before effecting total withdrawal. He confided to aide Kenneth O'Donnell that "by 1965 I'll be damned everywhere as a Communist appeaser, but I don't care."

Kennedy's struggle with the military and CIA over Cuba continued unabated throughout his life. During the 1962 Cuban missile crisis he was pressured severely to launch an invasion, a move he saw as leading to nuclear war. In Khrushchev's *Memoirs*, the former Soviet Premier tells of secret meetings during the crisis between Bobby Kennedy and Russian Ambassador Dobrynin. At one meeting, Bobby told the Ambassador, "We are under pressure from our military to use force against Cuba...Even though the President himself is very much against starting a war over Cuba, an irreversible chain of events could occur against his will...If the situation continues much longer, the President is not sure that the military will not overthrow him and seize power..." Khrushchev says that on another occasion Kennedy, "almost crying," told Dobrynin, "I don't know how much longer we can hold out against our generals."

Surely this is not a description of the constitutionally prescribed civilian control over the military. The spectre of President Kennedy, "dismayed" at the power of the CIA, and promising to "break it into a thousand pieces," ought to cause some uneasiness. His fear, in 1962, of a military coup, ought to make our blood run cold. Yet this is the reality of his administration, and it is what America had become by 1962.

Meanwhile, JFK was in trouble with other powerful forces outside the government. His brother's Justice Department had attacked the underworld with unparalleled ferocity. The number of gangsters prosecuted under Eisenhower's eight years was little more than two dozen, but under the Kennedys that number had risen to more than a thousand. Some, like New Orleans Mafioso Carlos Marcello, had been deported from the country. In addition, Justice Department investigations were underway into the Bobby Baker and TFX scandals, and one probe was being conducted into the path taken by Texas oil billionaire H.L. Hunt's money into Nevada underworld activities.

In view of all this, is it so surprising that the truth behind the Kennedy murder should be covered up? Is it so surprising that the conspirators who plotted this killing should go unpunished, while an innocent Lee Oswald is shot to death in the basement of the Dallas police station?

It is a miracle that Kennedy survived 1962. But as 1963 began, this great and brave man was moving to seal his own fate. His tax message to Congress that year called for a closing of major tax loopholes, including the oil depletion allowance, which had allowed many rich

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From Dallas to Watergate

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persons to escape fair taxation. McNamara began to tighten his grip on the generals, who angrily denounced the Test Ban Treaty. Several resigned. Bobby Kennedy finally jailed Jimmy Hoffa, one of America's biggest gangsters. Something would have to give.

In the spring and summer of 1963 the CIA, in violation of express presidential orders and of the Neutrality Act, continued to train Cuban exiles for an invasion of Cuba. Two secret training camps, in Louisiana and Florida, stockpiled munitions and collected weapons and electronic equipment. At one of them a team of professional killers was in training for an assassination of Castro. In July, word of these maneuvers reached the President, and he ordered the camps raided by F.B.I. and Secret Service agents.

A number of interesting persons were at No Name Key in Florida and at Lake Pontchartrain in Louisiana. At the former were James McCord, Frank Sturgis, Bernard Barker, and Eugenio Martinez, later all of Watergate fame, and David Ferrie, a CIA pilot and Oswald's New Orleans "baby sitter." Also at No Name Key was William Seymour, who was later to impersonate Oswald in Dallas at a rifle range called the Sports Drome, a gun shop, and a new car agency. At each of these places he was to give his name as Lee Oswald, though in each instance it was manifestly impossible that he could have been Oswald. At the car agency he test-drove a new Mercury at speeds up to 70 miles per hour; Oswald didn't know how to drive.

Arrested at the Louisiana camp were eleven men, one of whom was Richard Lauchli, co-founder of the Minutemen. Also at Lake Pontchartrain was Emilio

Santana, a weapons expert who later confessed to a New Orleans Grand Jury that he had been one of the assassins of President Kennedy, and Fred Lee Crisman, a Minuteman, who appears in photos of persons arrested in Dealey Plaza. Carl Oglesby, one researcher, claims that most of these men show up in photos taken at the camps, and that Jack Ruby, who was later to kill Oswald, is in one of the pictures.



These men were among those arrested by Dallas police in Dealey Plaza after the assassination. The man in the middle has been identified as Fred Lee Crisman, a Minuteman from the state of Washington. Police later denied arresting anyone in the plaza that day. (Photo by Richard Sprague).

The direct result of Kennedy's raids of these secret camps was the planning for his assassination, and there are clear indications that men at these camps participated in it.

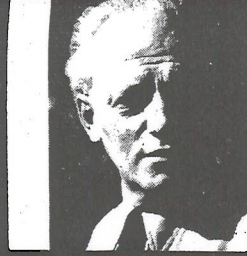
Santana, who is now missing, was one of the gunmen. Others involved were members of the Minutemen who

had apparently broken ties with the parent organization including Crisman and a man who may be John Blun shown in photos of Dealey Plaza arrests. The radio for the operation was James Hicks, who confessed involvement to the New Orleans Grand Jury and since vanished. William Seymour, besides setting Oswald, was seen fleeing the Texas School Depository by Dallas Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig.

The operational level of the murder involved a Castro Cubans, many of whom were acquainted with Oswald. At least a dozen men were part of the ambush in Dealey Plaza, some of whom were Minutemen American Nazis. Although it is probable that the Syndicate did not originate the conspiracy, some of those who participated had obvious underworld connections. P. Jones, Jr., author of *Forgive My Grief*, and Midlothian, Texas, newspaper publisher who chronicled the post-assassination deaths of at least twenty-four key witnesses, says that Mafia involvement was limited to a few contract killings, part of the cover-up.

There is absolutely no doubt remaining about the existence of a massive, high-level cover-up of the fact behind Kennedy's murder. Wherever the plot originated nearly every government agency and department became an accessory after the fact. F.B.I. agents found themselves under unusual restrictions in their search for evidence and the notes of an agent who had interviewed Oswald in New Orleans mysteriously went up in smoke. The Dallas police were saying, within thirty minutes of the crime that all the shots had come from the Book Depository despite the claims of most eyewitnesses including their own officers. A State Department memorandum on Oswald was "accidentally" destroyed while being thermofaxed in Washington.

The happy news that there was no conspiracy was first from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, although it was far too early for anyone to have known it. It is quite evident that the assassination was "solved" a little bit too prematurely to be possible, unless the Joint Chiefs and the Dallas police officials happened to have an advance scenario. Oswald was the designated patsy; any real evidence that could not be ignored or discredited was destroyed.



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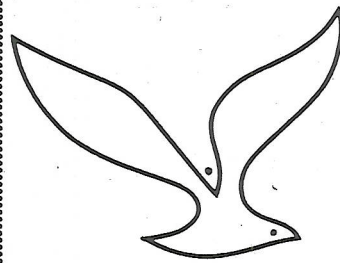
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The doctors who operated on Kennedy at Parkland, Perry and McLelland, identified a frontal entry wound in the throat, and announced the cause of death as a gunshot wound of the temple. Assuming these surgeons did not receive their medical education from a correspondence course, and thus did not improperly describe the nature of the dead president's wounds, the temple is usually located at the side of the head, between and slightly higher than the eye and the ear. It would thus seem inconceivable that the shot which blew off the back portion of Kennedy's head could have been fired from behind him. Nonetheless, their findings were reversed that night at a military autopsy in Bethesda Naval Hospital, by Commander James Humes, who was ordered not to probe the neck wound, and who burned his notes of his autopsy in his fireplace shortly afterward.

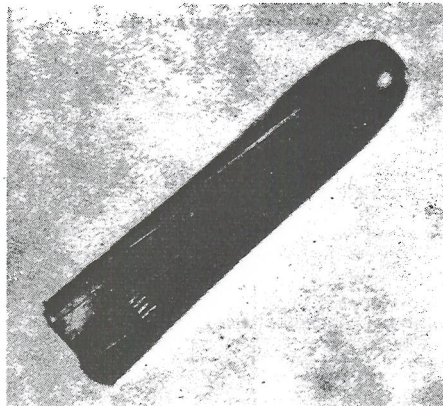
Oswald was questioned for twelve hours before his own death, and no stenographic record was made, nor was a tape recorder used, an omission as significant as it was irregular. He was allowed no lawyer, despite the law, despite his pleas, and despite the fact that attorneys went to the jail to offer their services.

The Warren Commission Hearings into the assassination will remain one of the greatest disgraces in the history of this country. The majority of eyewitnesses to the killing said that at least some shots came from the knoll area; the Commission ignored them. The two films taken of the shooting show conclusively that the fatal shot came from the front, not from the Book Depository; the Commission didn't view them. The autopsy photos and x-rays, which would shed some light on the nature of the President's wounds, are locked up in the National Archives for seventy-five years; the Commission refused to examine them. In all, over two hundred such exhibits are classified secret until the year 2039.

Ballistics experts testified that the "Magic Bullet," Exhibit 399, could not have caused the wounds attributed to it; the Commission disregarded them. Three National

Rifle Association Experts tried to duplicate the feat credited to Oswald and were unable to do so; the Commission lied about and misrepresented the test results.

The list goes on and on. The purposeful errors of the Commission are so numerous that there can be no doubt that they conspired to rig their so-called investigation, and they lied to the American people. Is it any wonder



Commission Exhibit 399, the immaculate "Magic Bullet" that the Warren Report said caused all the non-fatal wounds to the President and to Governor John Connally. The bullet was "found" on a stretcher at Parkland Hospital.

that former Attorney General Richard Kleindienst announced that his Watergate investigation would be "the most extensive, thorough, and comprehensive ... since the assassination of John Kennedy"?

The people who run this country have seemingly made conspiracy their blueprint for carrying on the national

business. Our last three elections have been decided by bullets, not ballots. We have seen conspiracies take the lives of both Kennedy brothers and Martin Luther King. In none of these crimes were the guilty apprehended. In each case our government was announcing the absence of conspiracy almost before the bodies hit the ground.

The pattern is evident: the shootings of major political figures across the past ten years, determined election outcomes, and (except for Wallace) eliminated powerful spokesmen for peace.

In the meantime we have become a frightened people. Major decisions which govern our lives are made by powerful interests beyond our influence, by people we have never elected. We are told that there is an energy shortage, yet oil cartels record astronomical profits. While domestic human needs go begging, and while Nixon travels to Russia and China in search of his "generation of peace," military spending has reached \$83.5 billion, twice what it was under JFK. The President impounds billions of dollars of Congressionally authorized funds, despite court rulings that he does not have that power. For years, the Congress tried to stop the Asian war, yet it continued. Meanwhile the Joint Chiefs of Staff are wiretapping the Secretary of State, just as they wiretapped Kennedy Administration officials.

What has become of our democracy? In order to find the answer to this disturbing question we must investigate the reality, not the myth, of John and Robert Kennedy, and the facts behind the political killings of the 1960's. We must consider that behind each ostensible "lone assassin" lies a powerful death apparatus which has taken control of our national life. Who are Hunt, Barker, Sturgis? Who were Oswald, Ruby, Ferrie? Who hypnotized Sirhan, tricked James Earl Ray, and arranged the timely deaths of so many key witnesses?

Finding the answers to these questions will not restore our democracy; it may not topple from their places of illicit power the persons responsible for these nightmarish murders. But perhaps, just perhaps, it will be, for those among us who care about freedom, the first step in reclaiming our once-great country.

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