

Chances of conspiracy refuted

By Alison Cross
DB Staff Writer

Termining conspiracy theorists who link the government with the Kennedy assassination "demonologists", Alfred Goldberg, Warren Commission historian, scoffed at possibilities of conspiracy at Friday's Security Studies Seminar here.

"Conspiracies are like elves," Goldberg said. "You have to believe in them to know they're there." Most speculation about the assassination, he said, has centered on the possibility of a right-wing conspiracy.

"A substantial number of people, however, especially in the South, still believe that the assassination was the result of an international Communist plot, but this is rejected only in the polls," Goldberg said. The craving for sensationalism on the part of the public he said is overwhelming.

"Racist and reactionary" at home, they (radical rightists) would also junk the detente with the Soviet Union, the test ban treaty, arms control and disarmament ideas and get on with the anti-Communist crusade at home and abroad, Goldberg said, when the anti-Communist crusade has lost a good deal of steam both here and abroad, except, of course, for our venture in Vietnam.

A powerful reinforcement of conspiracy theories lies with the crisis of confidence in government and society, "manifestations of which have become so rampant and indiscriminate in the past few years, The Kennedy Assassination has become, for quite a few, a symbol of the credibility gap."

Goldberg described conspiracy theories as "varied, ingenious, imaginative and often fantastic." (One of the theories held is that the Mafia was pro-

bably responsible for the Kennedy assassination.)

"Every conspiracy theory must dispose of Oswald one way or another," Goldberg then said, shaking his head. He suggested four possibilities regarding Oswald: "Oswald was guilty and did it alone, Oswald was the victim of mistaken identity and was innocent, Oswald was innocent but framed by the police or Oswald was a member of a conspiracy and may or may not have participated in the shooting."

Lampooning the possible composition of a conspiracy group, Goldberg listed "Texas oil millionaires, anti-Castro Cuban groups, white racists, and a dis-

sident CIA group." Why should Lyndon Johnson, Robert Kennedy and Earl Warren protect them, he asked.

There is no physical evidence to consider that more than three bullets were fired, according to Goldberg, although observers claim to have heard either more or less than three shots. "The fragments added up to less than two bullets," he said.

"The basis for questioning the number of shots, the timing and reaction of the victims, he explained, is found in the films of the assassination, especially the Zapruder film."

The conspirators would have had to depend, among other

things, on "Oswald's cheap \$19.95 rifle, (that's with the scope; \$12.45 without) as well as on the unstable Oswald as principal," Goldberg said.

"With each additional assassin and conspirator, the element of chance would have been all the greater—the loose ends, inconsistencies and contradictions."

Goldberg does not claim that the Warren Commission proved without a doubt that there was no conspiracy and that Oswald was the lone assassin, but he "believes it proved Oswald's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt."

"The finger of suspicion he also been pointed at the heir to the throne, Lyndon B. Johnson, he said, "who would be motivated by revenge for humiliations he received at the hand of the Kennedys." Goldberg aributes such charges to the "Hate Johnson" movement.

"The Commission itself has been accused of giving the public a political truth rather than the real truth, he said. "But this is one secret I believe would have been impossible to keep. It is perfectly possible, even probable, that the Commission did not discover a conspiracy because there was none!"

Educational opportunities . . .

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ment of such programs is far from unanimous...The visibility of the EOP students as "special cases" has caused some mixed emotions and antagonism between and among black militants, Mexican Americans and the white establishment..." the report said.

Lacks black tutors

The major complaint of EOP students here, especially blacks, is that the tutors provided through EOP are "white, middle-class" students who should be replaced by black tutors.

Rosemary Park, Vice Chancellor for educational planning, said that they will eventually get this but that the immediate problem is a lack of black students qualified to tutor other blacks.

"There's been a sudden consciousness just recently, and we've just begun, as the rest of the nation has just begun, to deal with the entire scope of minority group education."

"Perhaps when the current group of EOP students here advance to the point where they can become the tutors, the new students following in their footsteps will have black tutors."

Survey statistics

Despite intensive efforts to increase minority group undergraduate enrollment here,

a recently completed ethnic survey shows that 1.46 per cent of the undergraduate student body is Mexican American; 2.26 per cent is black.

Recruitment efforts, according to officials here, are aimed at equalizing these percentages with those in the Southern California area. This would raise the combined percentages on this campus to between 10 and 20 per cent, according to population figures used in the National Advisory Commission's report.

The percentage of Mexican American and black student enrollment in the graduate division here is even less. Approximately 1.03 per cent of the graduate student body here is Mexican American, while 2.29 per cent is black. This is despite the fact that Mexican Americans outnumber blacks in Los Angeles County.

Progress is being made in graduate student enrollment, according to H. W. Magoun, dean of the graduate division.

Graduate school potentials

Magoun said a great effort is being made to have students with graduate school potential identified in their junior and senior undergraduate years by the professors that work with them.

Hazel Love, director of the graduate division's minority student recruitment and special assistance programs, said that most

recruiting is done by letter to professors here and to offices at other colleges and universities. She, like EOP director Kenneth Washington, would like a larger staff.

There are two major programs designed to aid graduate students from minority groups, Magoun said.

This year is the first year of operation for the Masters Opportunity Program (MOP), which provides disadvantaged students with a \$2000 per year stipend to cover expenses and additional money to cover any fees.

Funded by the Danforth Foundation of St. Louis, MOP had 15 two-year grants and 6 one-year grants this year, Magoun said. Young said that all of the students were Mexican American and black, and that the number soon will be increased to 36 students.

Also being initiated is a Doctorate Opportunities Program, funded by the Regent Opportunity Fund and other sources.

Young said that the DOP will involve 20 students: 12 blacks and 8 Mexican Americans.

TA program

Under another program, the Regents Graduate Internship Program, 26 graduate division departments have qualified to set up TA training and TA programs for which participating students are paid.

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