

# national symposium

## ON THE assassinations

OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY AND

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

nov. 9-13 UW-SP

### The Martin Luther King Assassination

Tuesday, November 9

- 8 p.m. David R. Wrone, Lecture, "Martin Luther King and the Transformation of the Civil Rights Movement."  
Wisconsin Room, University Center

Wednesday, November 10

- 10 a.m. Harold Weisberg and James H. Lesar, Seminar, "Recent Developments: Court Cases, House of Representatives Inquiry, etc."  
125A University Center
- 3 p.m. James H. Lesar, Lecture, "The Assassination of Martin Luther King and the System of Justice — the Reality and the Idea."  
125A University Center
- 8 p.m. Harold Weisberg, Lecture, "The Assassination of Martin Luther King: A Case Study of the Malfunction of Government."  
Program Banquet Rm, University Center



### The John F. Kennedy Assassination

Thursday, November 11

- 3 p.m. James H. Lesar, Lecture, "The Assassination of John F. Kennedy: The Impact on the Legal System — the Freedom of Information Act."  
Program Banquet Rm, University Center
- 8 p.m. Harold Weisberg, Lecture, "The Warren Commission: Behind the Scenes — Their Secret Documents."  
Program Banquet Rm, University Center,

Friday, November 12

- 10 a.m. Harold Weisberg, Seminar, "Recent Developments: Schweiker Report, Abzug Report, FBI Revelations, etc."  
125A, University Center
- 3 p.m. David R. Wrone, Lecture, "The Assassination of John F. Kennedy: The Malfunction of Criticism."  
125 Collins Classroom Center
- 8 p.m. Harold Weisberg, Lecture, "The Assassination of John F. Kennedy: The Suppression of the Evidence."  
Quandt Gymnasium

Saturday, November 13

- 8 p.m. Howard Roffman, Lecture, "Lee Harvey Oswald and the Failure of American Justice."  
Quandt Gymnasium

# statement of purpose

What is SRIPKA?

The initials SRIPKA stand for Students for the Reopening of the Investigation of President Kennedy's Assassination. SRIPKA is a group of students on your campus, although this is unknown to many (unless you happen to be one of Dr. Wrone's students- Dr. Wrone is the group's faculty advisor).

What does the group do?

One of the main things the members of SRIPKA do is read. Read any critical work written about the Kennedy assassination. We discuss these readings and work to find the best and most accurate. We are working to get the assassination reopened on the basis of these critical readings. Currently we are working on the national symposium that will be held in Steven's Point dealing with the assassination of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King.

Why is SRIPKA doing these things?

Many people wonder just why we are working in these areas, after all it has been thirteen long years since Kennedy's death. The answer is really quite simple. We believe in the integrity of government, we believe in law and order; very simply we believe in truth. Following are some passages from Harold Weisberg's *Whitewash* books that will hopefully illustrate why we are doing what we are doing:

"Nothing can happen to (the President) or the institution of the Presidency that does not in some degree affect everyone in the entire world.

Much more does it relate to each individual American to the integrity of the institutions of our society when anything happens to any president- especially when he is assassinated.

The consignment of President John F. Kennedy to history with the dubious epitaph of the white-washed investigation is a grievous event."

(From: *Whitewash II*, pg 7)

"Above all, the Report left in jeopardy the right of all Americans and the honor of the nation. When what happened to Oswald once he was in the hands of the public authority can occur in this country with neither reprimand nor question, no one is safe. When the federal government puts its stamp of approval on such unabashed and open denial of the most basic legal rights of any American, no matter how insignificant he may be, then no American can depend on having these rights, no matter what his power or connections. The rights of all Americans, as the Commission's chairman said when wearing his Chief Justice's hat, depend upon each American's enjoyment of these same rights."

(From: *Whitewash*, pp. 189)

"Can these things (the improprieties in the official investigation) happen in a democratic society? They did.

They happened not in the pro-forma police investigation of the violent end of an unknown, a man without friends or influence, although it would not be tolerable in a democratic society if he had been an unwanted bum.

These things happened when a man over whom millions wept the bitterest tears was murdered. They happened when a President was assassinated...

If the government can manufacture, suppress and lie when a President is cut down-- and get away with it-- what cannot follow? Of what is it not capable, regardless of motive...?

This government did manufacture, suppress, and lie when it pretended to investigate the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

If it can do that it can do anything.

And it will if we let it."

(From: *Photographic Whitewash*, pp. 137)

The students of SRIPKA believe that the Warren Commission did not make an investigation into President Kennedy's death. Rather they decided that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin and investigated to prosecute him. SRIPKA believes, as Weisberg and the other responsible critics do, that this was a crime committed against the American people. How can we even begin to believe in the integrity of our government until this crime is cleared up?

What good will the group SRIPKA do?

We hope, that by informing some of the public, by making people aware of the outrageous crime committed against all of us, that enough people will speak out to get the investigation reopened- this time with a responsible committee.

by S. Soderborg



## THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY An Annotated Bibliography

In the past decade a voluminous and controversial body of literature has sprung up around the tragic events of November 22, 1963. In THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY, David R. Wrone offers a professional historian's critical evaluation of the newspaper series, magazine articles, books, pamphlets, and newsletters dealing with JFK's death - from the Warren Report to the writings of Mark Lane, Jim Garrison, and Sylvia Meagher. A unique 16-page compilation and commentary for students of assassinations. "A good place to start" - RAMPARTS.

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### PRESUMED GUILTY:

Lee Harvey Oswald in the Assassination of President Kennedy  
by Howard Roffman

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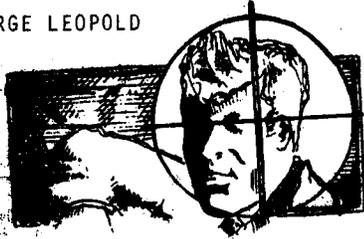
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BY GEORGE LEOPOLD



## The Crime of the Century

By a vote of 280 to 65, the House of Representatives on Sept. 17 voted to reopen the investigation of both the John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King assassinations. Perhaps on the surface, this would appear to be the culmination of years of work by the researchers and critics of the Warren Commission. Yet, the new House investigation contains several serious flaws which should be brought to light.

In the view of the responsible critics of the Warren Commission, the most glaring defect in the House probe is its orientation towards the false question of "who did it". If the best investigatory agencies on earth could not (and did not) find the real killers of President Kennedy in the months following Nov. 22, 1963, what makes Congress believe they will thirteen years after the fact?

Basically, then, the Congressional reinvestigation has been misdirected by conspiracy theorists and false critics away from the fundamental questions of why the institutions of our government failed in the initial investigation of President Kennedy's murder and why the public still does not know what happened in Dallas.

Because of the influence of sensationalist critics such as Mark Lane, the House investigation headed by Rep. Thomas N. Downing (D.-Va.) will invariably pursue the so-called "Cuban Connection" i.e. Castro had Kennedy murdered in retaliation for attempts on his (Castro's) life by the CIA. Yet, evidence of a Cuban conspiracy to murder JFK is unclear and often distorted. An illustration of

such a distortion is an article which appeared in the Dec. 7, 1963 issue of the New Republic entitled, "When Castro Heard the News". According to the Senate Report on the assassination of President Kennedy (Schweiker Report) upon hearing the news of Kennedy's death, Castro inquired as to what influence President Johnson exercised over the CIA (the implication being Castro's fear of retaliation for the murder of the president).

This, however, is a clear distortion of the facts by the Senate Report. This comment was not made until several hours after Castro received the initial report. Castro's first words on hearing of the assassination were reported by writer Jean Daniel as:

"Fidel picked up the phone and I heard him say: 'Como? Un atentado?' (What's that? An attempted assassination?). He then turned to us to say that Kennedy had just been struck down in Dallas...

He came back, sat down, and repeated three times the words, 'Es una mala noticia'. (This is bad news).

This passage not only places serious doubt on the possibility of Cuban participation in the assassination, but, more importantly, depicts the Warren Commission-like tactics of the Senate committee; i.e. arriving at a conclusion and then proceeding to prove it by distorting the factual base. This distortion was done in order to supply yet another false solution to the Kennedy assassination.

For these reasons, the Downing committee must redirect the course of its investigation towards the fundamental question of why the institutions of government have repeatedly covered up the truth in the assassination of President Kennedy. The need to do this is urgent, for the Downing committee may have the last opportunity.

## the medical evidence;

## MAKING THE FACTS FIT THE THEORY

by Scott Pollock

Many self proclaimed experts have published their findings concerning the murder of President Kennedy. Some in agreement with the verdict of the Warren Commission, others of course in disagreement, stating that they alone had solved what others have diligently been trying to do for thirteen years, i.e. prove the Warren Commission's lone assassins theory to be incorrect.

Not really looking for the truth, these pseudo-critics, through sensationalism of the murder seek only money and recognition. They concocted theories then printed them as facts.

If one is a serious student of the assassination however, with sound factual background knowledge, it takes little time to recognize the falsehoods these so called "experts" present.

For example, lets look at the investigation conducted by Dr. John Lattimer. (Time magazine based its editorial position on Lattimer's work, evidenced by the letter we recieved and have printed in it's entirety in this newsletter) Lattimer is a urologist, a science which progresses no higher than the navel. Why then was he chosen by defenders of the Warren Commission as the expert? I suspect because his ultimate conclusions would be as easy as predicting the suns rising in the east. There were others more qualified to conduct this investigation. A medical examiner, and a pathologist for example. Yet Lattimer was selected. He was selected by Burke Marshall, who represented the executors of the Kennedy estate.

Lattimer was given permission to see certain sequestered evidence kept in the National Archives. What does a urologist know about bullet holes in a body? This mans medical field is completely detached from the medical evidence of the assassination, in that the President's urinary tract was in no way involved in the assassination.

Much controversy has surrounded the assassination, concerning in particular, the number of shots fired where they were fired from and also what injuries were caused by each bullet. Countless hours have been spent studying films to decipher what actually happened. The most spectacular footage and most damaging to the Warren Commission was that taken by Abraham Zapruder. This film shows the shooting sequence, and in particular, the fatal head shot.

Observation of the film clearly shows the President being thrown abruptly back and to the left, with a portion of the skull also being blown back and to the left.

I mention this because I have studied the film, to be sure of what I believe took place that day. A shot was fired from in front and at an angle. This can be seen on the film, which also allows calculations on time and distance to be made by the most casual of observers.

X-rays and pictures of an autopsy however can't prove this information. Yet Lattimer by-passed the Zapruder film in his investigation. Even the

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"Despite the delinquencies of the news media and their reluctance, even now, to challenge the Warren Report, the direction of public opinion has become irreversible. If they will not lead the search for the truth about Dallas, the news media will have to follow. Ironically, reporters had great affection and admiration for President Kennedy; he enjoyed a rapport with the press unmatched by any contemporary White House incumbent. Perhaps that warmth and respect will yet impel the working press to move into the vanguard of the investigation into the assassination. The vast resources and the great power of the news media can still play a decisive role in uncovering the full truth."

-- from Sylvia Meager's "Accessories After The Fact", page 464.



Vol 2, #1--Students for Reopening the Investigation of the President Kennedy Assassination-special symposium newsletter.



WHITEWASH

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F KENNEDY

"THE INTEGRITY OF BASIC AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS"

**UWSP NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM** Pages:4-5



### LECTURERS:

**Harold Weisberg** "In its approach, operations and Report, the Commission considered one possibility alone--that Lee Harvey Oswald, without assistance, assassinated the President and killed Officer Tippit. Never has such a tremendous array of power been turned against a single man, and he was dead. Yet even without opposition the Commission failed. Not only did it fail to prove its case 'beyond a reasonable doubt', the American concept, it created new doubts where none had existed."

**Howard Roffman** "The government has lied about one of the most serious crimes that can be committed in a democracy. Having lied without restraint about the death of a president, it can not be believed on anything. It has sacrificed its credibility. Remedies are not clearly apparent or easily suggested. Certainly, Congress has an obligation to investigate this monumental abuse by the executive. But first and foremost, the people must recognize that they have been lied to by their government and denied the truth about the murder of their former leader. They must demand the truth, whatever the price, and insist that their government work honestly and properly. Until then, the history of one of the world's most democratic nations must suffer the stigma of a frighteningly immoral and undemocratic act by its government."

**Jim Lesar** "We are all the victims of the executioners of John F. Kennedy. Surely, the assassination of a president should be freely and openly discussed, with no information withheld except where the law requires it. Yet the government keeps facts about this assassination secret, in violation of what Congress intended the Freedom of Information law to mean. . . Freedom is not secrecy. A popular government without popular information or the means of acquiring it is "but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy or perhaps both."

**David Wrono** "The central question of the assassination is: What prevented us from learning the truth about the assassination of the President? And it is here that the false critics fall away, because only cold, sober, factual information will give us that answer, not gimmicks, "theories" or headlines. This is a difficult way to move, repugnant to many who think they know "who". But the American critical tradition and the example of "Fighting Bob" LaFollette demonstrates beyond cavil that truth is ultimately a question of facts, piling up the evidence, carefully and quietly assembling the data, the picture of what happened in Dealey Plaza will emerge in clear detail. The picture is much more heinous than the false critics would have us suppose."