

# 'A killed JFK to keep war going'

BY JIM LANE

...that headline?  
 ...since Jim Garrison  
 ...that information  
 ...two years ago. During  
 ...two years, we have wit-  
 ...numerous denials, primar-  
 ...the assumption that  
 ...Kennedy never showed any in-  
 ...down the war and  
 ...committed  
 ...American troops  
 ...in Vietnam.  
 ...Kennedy's P. O'Donnell, appoint-  
 ...and close per-  
 ...of the  
 ...reveals that John  
 ...committed to the  
 ...withdrawal of all Amer-  
 ...personal just after his re-  
 ...O'Donnell said  
 ...Kennedy said "that if he an-  
 ...total withdrawal of  
 ...military personnel from  
 ...the 1964 election  
 ...a wild conse-  
 ...against returning  
 ...the presidency for a sec-  
 ...term.

O'Donnell then quoted Kennedy:  
 "In 1960 I'll be damned every-  
 where as a Communist appeaser.  
 But I don't care. If I tried to pull  
 out completely now, we would have  
 another Joe McCarthy red scare on  
 our hands. But I can do it after I'm  
 re-elected. So we had better make  
 damned sure that I am re-elected."

Instead they made damned sure  
 that he was dead and unable, there-  
 fore, to run for re-election.

O'Donnell's statement was not  
 immediately followed by the of-  
 ficial denials that we have come  
 to associate with the aftermath of  
 all such revelations. Instead  
 the Senate Democratic leader Mike  
 Mansfield, said at once that, after  
 a White House breakfast meeting  
 in the Spring of 1963, Kennedy  
 told him he agreed that a "com-  
 plete withdrawal of all Americans  
 from Vietnam was necessary."  
 The president added, Mansfield  
 reported, that this could not be  
 done until after the 1964 elections,  
 but should be done immediately  
 after the elections.

According to O'Donnell, Ken-  
 nedy met with Gen. Douglas Mac  
 Arthur and then gave his staff a  
 complete account of the discus-  
 sions.

MacArthur implored the Pres-  
 ident to avoid a US military build-  
 up in Vietnam, or any other part  
 of the Asian mainland, because he  
 felt that the domino theory was ridi-  
 culous in a nuclear age. MacArthur  
 went on to point out that there were  
 domestic problems—the urban cri-  
 sis, the ghettoes, the economy—that  
 should have far more priority than  
 Vietnam.

I take you back to Nov. 22, 1963.  
 Do you remember what kind of a  
 country we lived in then? Compare  
 it to America—1970. Think of the  
 months and years that followed  
 the assassination of President  
 Kennedy. Years of silence. Two  
 years in which not a single voice  
 dissenting from the official ver-  
 sion of President Kennedy's as-  
 sassination was permitted on net-  
 work radio or television. Think of  
 the responsible editorials in the  
 responsible press congratulating

Lyndon Johnson for his every act  
 of escalation, declaring that he  
 had donned the Kennedy mantle as  
 he increased our investment from  
 15,000 advisors to more than half  
 a million combat troops. Do you re-  
 call how the voice of the liberals  
 was heard in the land? I.F. Stone,  
 the *New York Post*, *The Nation*  
 filled with support for the Warren  
 Report and condemnation for those  
 who dared to continue to think that  
 not all the questions had been an-  
 swered. And how many radicals  
 were heard to jeer that JFK was  
 all part of the pig power structure  
 anyway and that his death was an  
 insignificant bit of trivia.

During the past half year we have  
 learned that the former chief of the  
 Dallas police force, Jesse Curry,  
 has concluded at long last that  
 they never did have any evidence  
 to show that Oswald did it alone,  
 and that Senator Richard Russell,  
 a member of the Warren Commis-  
 sion, always did believe that there  
 was a conspiracy to murder the  
 president (even evidently when he  
 signed the report holding quite to  
 the contrary) and that Lyndon John-  
 son, himself, never really did be-  
 lieve the report and always did har-  
 bor suspicion that there was a con-  
 spiracy to kill Kennedy. The pres-  
 sions that Lee Harvey Oswald was  
 the lone assassin of John F. Ken-  
 nedy has now been so thoroughly  
 discredited that even the pretend-  
 ers have felt constrained to aban-  
 don it, Curry in a book and in sub-  
 sequent media interviews, Russell  
 in an Atlanta television interview,  
 Johnson to CBS in an exclusive  
 interview, the relevant portion of  
 which he then asked CBS to delete.  
 CBS, of course, having had a great  
 deal of experience with re-writing  
 and falsifying information in the  
 field, complied.

Where this all leaves poor Earl  
 Warren and his lone hapless de-  
 fender, Louis Nizer, is a matter  
 for self-described "contemporary  
 historians" such as William Man-  
 chester to ponder.

The rest of us might wonder  
 what Ken O'Donnell, described in  
 the press as JFK's close personal  
 friend, Robert Kennedy, Ted Ken-

nedy, Ted Sorenson and the  
 other JFK confidants were saying  
 as they heard Lyndon Johnson  
 order more men to Vietnam. They  
 explain that he was following the  
 policy laid down by his predecessor,  
 and what the surviving Ken-  
 nedy confidants have thought until  
 now as Nixon escalated, invaded  
 a neutral country, bombed North  
 Vietnam, sent troops into Laos  
 as quietly as one can send troops  
 into another neutral country, and  
 explained it all as part of a com-  
 mitment of American military per-  
 sonnel to Southeast Asia—a com-  
 mitment he explained that was en-  
 tered into and fully supported until  
 his death by John F. Kennedy.

They all said they were his  
 friends, and surely he died as much  
 for them as for any others. Yet in  
 cowardly deference to power and  
 with craven aspirations for a  
 place near the throne they re-  
 mained silent as his memory was  
 tarnished, the cause for which he  
 died scattered to the winds, the

best of our youth became victims  
 or executions and often both, and as  
 the evil that was always present  
 here as it is in all countries, be-  
 came so dominant that the country  
 lost its basic redeeming charac-  
 teristics and became an evil place.

Neither Lyndon Johnson nor  
 Richard Nixon could have wrought  
 such a monumental change alone.  
 They required the silence of John  
 Kennedy's friends and relatives.

News stories on O'Donnell's  
 statements about JFK filed  
 CIA, 1 Aug 70 et seq.