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Editorial

Governmental Scavengers

At a press conference in November of 1966 Governor John Connally said: "It is shocking to me that in the backlash of tragedy, journalistic scavengers such as Mark Lane attempt to impugn the motives of the (Warren Commission) members individually, cast doubts upon the Commission as a whole and question the credibility of the Government itself. I think it's time that we pause and reflect on who these individuals are rather than calling for a further investigation of the assassination which . . . is neither warranted, justified or desirable."

Connally did not name this editor, but we belong on the list. We do question the Warren Commission, and if the government itself does not help in getting to the truth of who killed President Kennedy, then we do question the government itself.

There are, however, other scavengers—for instance—governmental scavengers, and Governor John Connally seems to be one of those. Two punks associated with the assassination fled the state of Louisiana as soon as they learned that Jim Garrison was after them. Sergio Arcacha Smith got to Texas. Gordon Novel fled to McLean, Virginia, where he hurriedly took a lie detector test which

he said cleared himself of any blame.

Novel was located in Ohio. In Ohio, Governor Rhodes stated he would permit Novel to be returned to Louisiana if Garrison would promise to ask Novel no questions about the assassination. How absurd can a public employee get? Did the Governor think Garrison wanted Novel for a game of tiddly winks.

Connally continues to ask for more information before stating whether or not he will permit Smith to be extradited to Louisiana.

Governors, a great crime has been committed. Please, trust this democracy. Let these men go back to Louisiana and face trial in the American system.

Situation

Many writers now openly speculate that the Russians have agitated the situation in Israel-Egypt to put pressure on the United States in Vietnam. This may be true, but isn't it rather unfair on the part of the Russians towards the American Fascists? Surely the American Fascists cannot fight with the Jews. On the other hand, can they fight for the Arabs on the side of the Communists?

Ticklish situation, but we suppose it can be overcome by the Fascists.

FORGIVE MY GRIEF

VOL. II

By **PENN JONES, JR**

And More Deaths

Installment No. 11.

FORGIVE MY GRIEF Vol. 1 tells of the deaths of Bill Hunter, 35, Jim Koethe, 30, and Attorney Tom Howard, 48, after a strange meeting in the apartment of Jack Ruby and Ruby's "roomie," George Senator the Sunday night after Ruby killed Oswald.

Since writing Vol. 1, we have learned that Tom Howard had very important additional information which he did not tell the authorities. In view of this knowledge his death becomes more understandable. The information is to be printed by another author in the coming months.

Also since Vol. 1, we have learned that Jim Koethe was working on an assassination book with two other writers. In view of what happened to his two associates, we now feel that his specific assignment on the book was at the root of his

murder. Koethe's associates on the book were Thayer Waldo and Ed Johnson, both men working for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram at that time. All three men covered the Presidential visit for their papers, and all three covered the assassination and the Ruby trial.

Koethe's specific assignment for the proposed book was an indepth study of the leaders in Dallas. This, in our opinion, is what caused his murder.

The FBI, and other official investigators put unfriendly witnesses in as bad a light as possible. Accusations of insanity, dope addiction, hysteria, prostitution, psychaitric care were used when possible.

The unfair tactics will continue until citizens demand the truth.

Thayer Waldo, a newsman of 23 years experience, was the first of the three to find himself in trouble. Although he was not fired by the Star-Telegram, it was convenient for him to seek employment elsewhere after his big story turned out to be false.

At the request of Mark Lane, Waldo had accompanied Mrs. Marguerite Oswald and two officers, Pat and Mike Howard, to Love Field. Mrs. Oswald had requested of Lane that she have someone other than the officers escort her to the airport. Mrs. Oswald was going to Washington to testify before the Warren Commission, and of course, to say that her son was innocent.

Mike Howard was a Secret Service Agent, while his brother was a Tarrant County Deputy Sheriff. After the trio saw Mrs. Oswald on her plane, the men went for a cup of coffee.

Both officers told newsman Waldo that they felt pity for Mrs. Oswald, but that there was a prisoner in jail who saw her son kill President Kennedy. If such was the case and the story was printed, Mrs. Oswald's testimony would be completely buried by the new development.

At the conclusion of their story, however, the lawmen added: "But we are not supposed to talk about the prisoner." On the way back to Fort Worth, the lawmen repeated their story of the prisoner, but again added that the story was top

secret. Waldo begged to be allowed to use the story without giving the source of the information. This was agreed to by the brothers Howard.

Why tell a story to a newsman twice, if you do not want him to use it?

Waldo reported the news to his editor and the circumstances surrounding it. The editors and the top brass of the Star-Telegram had a conference and decided to run the story which became an 8 column banner page one story.

Next day, however, things were different. The Dallas District Attorney denied the story. The Sheriff and Police Chief and the FBI denied the story. Only the Secret Service remained quiet —

of course they had not been involved, in print, anyway.

The pressure on Thayer Waldo for his false story continued and he soon found a job with the University of the Americas in Mexico City, Mexico.

Ed Johnson also left the Fort Worth paper for a better position with the Carpenter News Agency of Washington, D.C. which is owned by Leslie Carpenter of Texas—the husband of Elizabeth Carpenter, Secretary to Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson.

The next group of deaths, we feel, had to take place as all four of the persons had the opportunity to talk to either Ruby or Oswald alone after they committed their part in this tragedy. Dead are William Whaley, Earlene Roberts, Tom Howard, and Dorothy Kilgallen.

From the time Oswald screamed he was "just a patsy," care had to be taken to be sure he did

not get a chance to tell FOR WHOM he was a patsy.

At 7:40 on Friday night, at the first so-called press conference for Oswald, a newsman asked why he had killed President Kennedy. Oswald said that no one had even accused him of killing the President. Fifteen minutes later as Oswald was being rushed down the corridor back to his cell, John Hart of CBS News crammed a mike into Oswald's face and asked: "Why did you kill the President?"

Oswald screamed: "I am just a patsy."

Hart did not get to ask the next question: "Patsy for whom?"

Failure to get an answer to that question which

we feel sure Hart would love to have asked, makes the failure of American Civil Liberties Union so monumental. We know now that Oswald was begging for a lawyer, any lawyer, during his stay in the jail. We know now that Oswald told the Secret Service: "When I get a lawyer, either he will talk, or I will talk."

Failure of the Civil Liberties indicated the low level of liberalism in Texas at the time. The ACLU could not get an attorney to head the organization here at the time. Greg Olds, a fine weekly editor from Richardson, was President of the Dallas ACLU chapter at the time of the assassination.

Greg Olds and two attorneys went to the jail and demanded to see and talk to Lee Oswald. True the police lied to the ACLU trio, but with all the publicity pointed on the events at the time, we feel drastic measures should have been taken. If the trio had stood on their heads on nationwide TV,

surely the cops would have relented before the night dawned. And history would have had a vastly more accurate picture of Oswald and his crime. Admittedly this in hindsight talk, but with the death of Lee Oswald democracy suffered an irreparable defeat.

Jack Ruby was writing letters and telling court judges and even Chief Justice Earl Warren that it was imperative for Ruby to be moved from Dallas so he could really talk. So all the people, four of them, who had talked to Ruby or Oswald alone after the crimes, had to be eliminated.

William Whaley drove Oswald in a cab from the Greyhound Bus Terminal to a point on North Beckley. Whaley had the opportunity to talk to Oswald; Oswald may have told Whaley nothing, but there was a chance. So Whaley, 60, was the first cab driver to die of a wreck while on duty since the mid 1930s. Whaley, hemmed in on the Trinity River bridge in the pre-dawn hours of December 18, 1965, was rammed head-on and both drivers died.

Earlene Roberts, 60, died January 10, 1966, of an apparent heart attack. Mrs. Roberts had the opportunity to talk to Oswald alone as he rushed past her on the way to his cubby hole room. Mrs. Roberts testimony is given in FORGIVE MY GRIEF

Vol. 1. Oswald may have told Mrs. Roberts nothing, but there was a possibility which could not afford to be overlooked by the plotters of the assassination.

Tom Howard knew too much from Ruby and he knew too well how the Dallas power structure and Police Department worked. Howard had to die.

At the Ruby trial in Dallas during March of 1964, Dorothy Kilgallen had a private interview during one of the noon recesses with Judge Joe B. Brown. This was immediately followed by a thirty minute private interview with Jack Ruby in Judge Brown's chambers. Even the bodyguards of Ruby were kept outside the judge's chambers. Tonahill and others thought the meeting room in the jail was "bugged," but it is doubtful if the Judge's own chambers would be bugged. Judges have the power of contempt of court for such irregularities.

This then, was the second person Ruby had talked to who could know for whom Ruby was acting; therefore Miss Kilgallen had to be silenced along with Tom Howard.

Shortly before her death, Miss Kilgallen told a friend in New York that she was going to New Orleans and break the case wide open. Miss Kilgallen, 52, died November 8, 1965, under questionable circumstances in her New York home. Eight days after her death, a ruling was made that she died of barbituates and drink with no quantities of either ingredient being given.

Also strangely, Miss Kilgallen's close friend, Mrs. Earl E. T. Smith, died two days after Miss Kilgallen. The autopsy of Mrs. Smith stated that the cause of death was unknown.

Many skeptical newsmen have asked: "If Miss Kilgallen knew anything, surely as a journalist she would have left some notes." This is a legitimate question. Possibly Mrs. Smith was the trusted friend with the notes. No one will ever know now.

The possibility of notes left by Jim Koethe was solved by having the room completely ransacked after the death. Many of Koethe's things disappeared along with any notes on his work, if he kept notes. Good journalists usually do keep notes. None were found so far for either of these people.

More next week.