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Winner of the 1963 Elijah Parish Lovejoy Award for Courage in Journalism.



Editorial

The Courage In Journalism Winner of 1967

The Department of Journalism of Southern Illinois University awarded the Elijah Parish Lovejoy Award of 1967 to Editor J. R. Freeman on Sunday night, July 14, 1968. Mr. and Mrs. Freeman owned and published The Frederick (Colo.) Farmer and Miner for over four years.

J. R. and Elaine have researched and made information available on the current oil shale scandal. For four years Freeman published more than forty-five articles, a total of over 200,000 words. He had drawn nationwide attention for his attacks and charges.

Even an attempt to kill him did not stop Freeman, but economic pressure has forced him to sell his newspaper. Freeman is now polishing a manuscript on oil shale which will be published within the next twelve months.

According to Freeman's research, every citizen in the United States owns \$50,000 worth of valuable rich lands

which are now being given away by Lyndon Johnson to his friends. The give-away must be stopped and no one has done more than Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Freeman in that battle.

Southern Illinois University won laurels for itself in choosing such a noteworthy man for their award this year.

Jim And His Judases

New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison has had to suffer more than his share of Judases since he dared to question the correctness of the Warren Commission Report. Garrison talks frankly, on the assumption that the newsmen are honest. He has been mal-treated by Life, Newsweek, Time, the Los Angeles Times, NBC, ABC, and now the New Yorker. Some of the reporters cannot come back to Louisiana since they now have criminal charges against them as a result of their activities against Garrison which include attempted bribery and threats against certain witnesses.

Latest to have his say in the sophisticated magazine, The New Yorker, is Edward Jay Epstein, author of Inquest.

Epstein took one peek inside Pandora's box, wrote a good book, and has been running scared from his book ever since its publication.

Jim Garrison is a brilliant attorney who still remembers America as a democracy. He still believes in that American dream. If the American press were honest it would seek in every way to see that Garrison had his day in court. The press could do this by helping bring pressure on three Governors to extradite criminals to the proper jurisdiction. If Garrison then falls on his face, then and only then is the time for the press to laugh.

Garrison got grand jury indictments to back his charges. Garrison has had only one trial—Dean Andrews—which ended in a conviction of Andrews. So the Establishment must use every means at its command to see that Garrison does not get another day in court. Epstein, like other lackeys, are used to publish repudiations of earlier works in an effort to destroy the work of Garrison.

The last paragraph of Epstein's book reads: "Why did the Commission fail to take cognizance in its conclusions of this evidence of a second assassination? Quite clearly a serious discussion of this problem would in itself have undermined the dominant purpose of the Commission, namely, the settling of doubts and suspicions. Indeed, if the Commission had made it clear that every substantial evidence indicated the presence of a second assassination, it would have opened a Pandora's box of doubts and suspicions. In establishing its version of the truth, the Warren Commission acted to reassure the nation and protect the national interest."

There are some people in this nation who feel that honesty and truth are the best protection for a democracy. Clearly Epstein is not in this elite group.

One of Epstein's gleeful sentences in the New Yorker

Magazine reads: "As in a speech he (Garrison) gave last December in New Mexico jocularly entitled "The Rise of the Fourth Reich, or How to Conceal the Truth About an Assassination Without Really Trying . . ." This is not jocular to me, nor do we feel Jim meant it to be funny. Apparently it is funny to Epstein.

It becomes more understandable to us now how Germany went the way it did under Hitler. This nation seems to be begging for a police state with the so-called free press at the head of the cheering section.

We Pledge Our Support To Rockefeller

It is undreamed of for a man who grew up on a fifty acre cotton patch in East Texas to support a Rockefeller for President, but the political situation in this country has degenerated to that point. We know Rockefeller represents the money interests of the nation, but the establishment was late in waking up to the facts of the assassination, and are now trying to regain some lost power.

The military, some independent oil boys, and Lyndon Johnson took over the country with the death of President Kennedy. The oil boys, and Lyndon desire to continue their rule. The military could not be unhappy with their position for the past five years. Promotions and ribbons have come faster than the privates have died.

The military is in a secure position. If Johnson or Nixon is elected, the military is still in control; more in control if Nixon is elected. Nixon was one of the Congressmen who gained power by permitting the CIA to grow unchecked and unwatched during its early years. Part of Nixon's payment for that CIA favor is to be allowed to run for President again and again.

We still predict, however, that if Rockefeller is nominated he will be killed. When one becomes a threat to the present rulers, that one is eliminated. Nevertheless one must try. That is what Rockefeller is doing although we understand the men behind Rocky have a very selfish reason, we prefer them to the military.

If Johnson and Nixon are the candidates, God pity us all for we are a lost cause.

The Mirror has learned that the right-wingers of this country thought that Nazi leader Lincoln Rockwell was a communist sympathizer. That is the most likely reason for his murder.

WATCHMAN WAKETH BUT IN VAIN

By:

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BACK IN DEALEY PLAZA THE EVIDENCE SPELLS OUT CONSPIRACY

Not only did the shots seem to emanate from the grassy knoll area by virtue of the auditory clues, but puffs of smoke were reported as seen in the area of the knoll at the time of the firing. (6) In addition to puffs of smoke being seen in the grassy knoll locale, gunpowder was smelled in the same area. Such evidence at least, at the time, should have aroused suspicions of a conspiracy, and should have caused the most intensive man-hunt, rather than satisfaction with a single assassin concept.

Surely, eye or ear-witness testimony can never constitute the most solid foundation for reconstruction of an event. And although the majority of witnesses did not testify as to hearing more than three shots, still this was the murder of the President, and eyewitness testimony should have roused questions about the direction and number of shots. The result of those unanswered questions should have been to have set in action a search for a person or persons other than Oswald who may have been involved alone or in conjunction with him. Instead of action directed at discovering what happened, there was federal action directed at entertaining only the evidence consistent with a lone-assassin theory.

In addition to testimony concerning direction and number of shots, that evidence concerning "bunching" of shots should have sufficed to shock officials into action. An amateur photographer, Abraham Zapruder, took a film of the assassination,

and based upon it, the time of the assassination has been established by the government as taking place between 4.8 seconds and 5.6 seconds. The Zapruder motion picture camera operates at an average speed of 18.2 frames per second. The very shortest time one can work that bolt-action rifle alleged to have been used by Oswald is 2.3 seconds. That 2.3 seconds is equivalent to about 42 frames of the Zapruder film. If there were only one assassin, it therefore mathematically follows, between each shot there must have been a minimum of 42 frames. If one shot were fired and then another in a shorter interval than 42 frames, that would add up to two assassins. For there to have been but one assassin there would have had to have been an even spacing of the shots with a minimum of 42 frames between each shot. As a matter of fact, the Warren Report

informs us, a majority of the witnesses stated the shots were not evenly fired, but that the second and third shots were "bunched" together. Indeed, even Secret Service agent Roy H. Kellerman testified that shots were "bunched." He was in the President's car and stated "... a flurry of shells came into the car." Kellerman described these shots as so bunched as to be like "... a plane breaking the sound barrier, bang, bang." (II H 74,76) With the unfortunately slow firing weapon of Oswald's in their possession, and testimony concerning "bunching," immediate action should have ensued aimed at finding two or more assassins and other weapons. What the government was really saying was that, irrespective of what its honest agents such as Roy H. Kellerman concluded, there was to be one assassin and he was to be Oswald.

No Governmental Response to the Unwanted Conspiracy Evidence

Still, evidence of more than one assassin having been involved in the assassination continued to pour into the Dallas police authorities. Whether two assassins or many, it seemed clear that the escape had been well planned. Local police agencies and the FBI normally respond to bank robberies and other crimes by setting up road blocks and by

mobilizing dragnets. But, in this case, which involved the assassination of a President and the wounding of a governor, NO ACTION OF ANY SORT was taken to seal off any part of Dallas or the entire city itself. Bus terminals, airports and trains were not watched. Private planes were not grounded. Roadblocks were not set up. The city was not swarming with local and federal investigators. Not only was the attack on the President not treated as an act directed against the government of the U.S., it was not even treated as important a crime as the robbing of a bank. Such neglect on the part of the federal police agencies constituted nothing short of malfeasance. The question arises--how can one assassin induce those in command of federal police agencies to commit malfeasance of such incredible proportions?

An argument might be made for the innocence of the Dallas police on the basis of paralysis and gross incompetence, shock, confusion, and the fact that they were besieged by both press and public, but the failure of federal agencies remains suspect of being criminal in nature.

The widespread confusion and panic following the Lincoln assassination did not prevent the mobilization of the full resources of the federal government to seal off the city of Washington and to begin a massive investigation. But the almost complete failure of federal intelligence agencies following the Kennedy assassination occurred in a circumstance lacking in widespread hysteria. Their malfeasance was represented in their failure to follow up on any and all leads thrusting in the direction of conspiracy. There is no evidence to support the proposition that federal government agents had been thrown into a panic which might possibly have provided a weak rationale for their initial inaction. There is, on the contrary, substantial

evidence of government response, but never to evidence of conspiracy.

An unidentified CIA agent showed up at the Parkland Hospital shortly after the assassination. (XVIII H 795) FBI agents who interviewed Lee Harvey Oswald after his arrest were apparently calm enough to carefully avoid asking any key questions or dropping any hints to the accused that he was a suspect in the Kennedy assassination.

The failure of police agencies to seal off the city of Dallas was soon confounded by another seemingly inexplicable failure. Once the assassins had escaped from the scene, it would seem reasonable, in the absence of clues to their identity, that they would be searched for among J. F. K.'s self-proclaimed enemies in Dallas. If federal agencies were unsure of where to begin, they could have asked the man on the street. Less than a month before the assassination, Adlai Stevenson had been physically attacked and spat on by an angry Dallas mob. The morning of the assassination there was a black-bordered full page ad in the DALLAS MORNING NEWS which attacked the President. (W-294) Handbills entitled "Wanted for Treason" bearing the President's profile were handed out on the streets one or two days before President Kennedy's arrival. (W-298) The author of this handbill was Robert A. Surrey, who is and was then closely associated with General Edwin Walker. (W-298) General Walker was flying the flag outside his house at half-staff and upside down--an international symbol of distress. Walker flew it properly after Kennedy's death had been announced. (UPI Dispatch, Dallas, Dec. 19, 1963.)

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