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Page Two



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Editorial

The Strange Death of Mr. Perrin Or Somebody

Last week we spoke of the strange death of a man "identified" as Robert Lee Perrin in New Orleans in 1962 and the recent investigation by Bill Boxley into circumstances surrounding that so-called suicide. That investigation resulted in Boxley's being fired suddenly as a "high level CIA agent" by DA Jim Garrison. Boxley was called variously a "sick man" and "agent" by certain Eastern Critics of the Warren Report.

But, this editor was inside the Boxley investigation and knew that Boxley had found witnesses who placed Perrin near Dealey Plaza at the time of the assassination—15 months after the autopsy in New Orleans. There were no fingerprints retained in New Orleans from the body itself. And no copy of the suicide note was saved. Boxley found discrepancies in Perrin's known tattoos and those on the buried body. He also found:

• The autopsy report made no mention of the esophagus, although police reports indicated Perrin had been "sniffing" ether for kicks—and, in fact, the official death certificate was altered 18 days after it was issued to include the cryptic notation: "Ingested ethyl ether."

• New Orleans homicide investigator Cornelius Drumm first expressed suspicion about circumstances of the death when he wrote in a signed report: "Two things stand out in this incident: (1) the victim telephone state police (for an ambulance) rather than the city police, and a state police employee identified the victim's body. (2) the apparent suicide note (apparently to the victim's wife) stated she had gone to Baton Rouge, which is headquarters for the state police, and the "Art" mentioned in the note probably is the (state police lieutenant) who identified the body."

• Boxley invited Policeman Drumm to Garrison's office to discuss that two-page police report of Aug. 28, 1962. Drumm, who since has become assistant chief of detectives for neighboring Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, read his own report through twice—and was unable to remember investigating the case, writing the report, or anything else about it.

• No container which had held arsenic ever was found in the apartment, although the victim was nude and unconscious on his bed within 20 minutes after police received the call. He never regained consciousness.

• When Nancy was asked on Sept. 16, 1968 to come to New Orleans to help identify some photographs in connection with the investigation, she stormed back: "You tell Jim Garrison to leave me alone, or I'm going to get Arthur Wise (the state police lieutenant who identified the body six years before) on his neck so fast and Captain Bradley of the state police that he won't know which way he's going; and you tell him if he does get me to New Orleans it's going to be by a subpoena and all I'm going to do is plead the fifth. You tell him to keep off my back....you kids aren't playing no more games now...I get calls from friends telling me I have friends not with us anymore...it's my own safety I'm worried about....and if I could, I would repudiate everything I said to the Warren Commission!"

• The building in which the Perrins lived was a fully-occupied four-plex, with two upstairs apartments over two similar units downstairs. It has been demolished since the death. The Perrins' utility and telephone bills were addressed to the death apartment—but five witnesses who lived in the same house at the time insisted repeatedly that Nancy and her husband lived ACROSS THE HALL from the death apartment. They said a quiet man whom they rarely saw lived alone in the death apartment.

• The building owner—a Rev. Abraham Krushevski—recalled renting the death apartment to Nancy about May 1, 1962, and said that within a week he rented the other upstairs apartment to an older woman, whom he remembered as a nurse or a waitress. Both upstairs apartments were vacated within the same week after his death, he said. Khrushevski recalled that after about two months, the older woman told him she was moving out and that a man would be taking over her apartment and paying the rent. Khrushevski said the new man moved in, but never

paid the rent; and that when he tried to locate the wraith-like tenant by entering the apartment with a pass key, he found only the usual signs of occupancy—no tenant—and SEVERAL SHORT WAVE RADIO SETS scattered around the apartment!

(Short wave radio sets in guerilla-training New Orleans of 1962?)

Khrushchevski denied knowing David Ferrie or Guy Banister (the ex-FBI agent turned private eye in New Orleans), to whose small office building Garrison had

traced a flock of facts and figures, including Lee Harvey Oswald and the "Fair Play for Cuba" leaflets he distributed in front of Clay Shaw's International Trade Mart. BUT, Khrushchevski volunteered quite casually that the late Mayor Chep Morrison's secretary DID ask to rent an apartment from him for Guy Banister's "business use."

Now who but a "sick" man or agent given to "spy fantasies" would see anything suspicious in the mysterious suicide of a man sought by Jack Ruby's group to run guns in Cuba and bring "refugees" out; in the "wrong" apartment across the hall from several short wave radio sets; in a dwelling owned by a man who had been asked to supply "safehouse" facilities to a paramilitary ex-FBI agent—even if Guy Banister; his partner, Hugh Ward; and Mayor Morrison had NOT all died within a ten day period (which they did) just as the Warren Commission was closing out its hearings?

Who else would think it worth investigating that four witnesses are willing to swear the "suicide victim" was resurrected in less than 30 days and job hunting near Dealey Plaza in Dallas?

Or that he worked there in a business firm where Lee Harvey Oswald (or his double) created an "incident"; and where a former Nazi SS agent - U. S. government employee, who has since returned to Germany, held a top managerial job?

What possible connection could there be between things like that and the long distance calls to Germany which, Boxley found, were made over Perrin's home telephone shortly before his death?

That's the trouble with all these American political assassinations — too many "nuts" like Boxley keep seeing things under the bed

THE EMPTY PEW

W. Jene Miller

The real battle which will be raging around Richard Nixon's administration will be the best kept secret since JFK's assassination (which was locked up on LBJ's orders).

The Nixon battle will be the one exposed by our last Republican President, Dwight Eisenhower. Many informed observers were watching closely to see how Nixon would approach the military-industrial junta which currently dominates the control of tax money. If there is any doubt, just check to see what percent of American tax dollars go into military-related activities and how much goes into constructive purposes.

This columnist has been one of Nixon's admirers (not necessarily supporters, but admirers) since he rejected the John Birch support in California. And it was the hostility of the Birchers, not the rejection by liberals, which got him clobbered in California. If you doubt this, look who the Californians had for Governor and State Superintendent of schools!

Mr. Nixon justified the confi-

dence placed in him when he named his advisors. Certainly, he kept Clark Clifford, hatchet-man for the military-industrial complex. But he also named Bryce Harlow as one of his personal assistants. Clifford can be replaced when international tensions and defense-pretenses are not so urgent. (At this time, everything is seen through the rose-colored—that's the hue of blood—glasses of defending ourselves against communist aggression by the mighty nation of North Vietnam, etc., etc.)

But, Bryce Harlow was the man who wrote the very speech in which Eisenhower warned of the military-industrial complex taking over the power of government. In appointing him as personal advisor, Mr. Nixon has given him access to the throne, and has protected him from that public stance which would make him vulnerable to either smear or assassination. Mr. Nixon has given us hope to believe that America's course will be toward building, not bombing, toward building men, not soldiers.

The day may even come when men will object more to their sons being taken to war than they do to their dollars being taken for taxes, rather than vice versa.