

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson	_____
DeLoach	_____
Mohr	_____
Walters	_____
Casper	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
Felt	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: October 7, 1966

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Shroder
- 1 - Mr. Raupach
- 1 - Mr. Wick
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS, 11-22-63

PURPOSE:

To answer Director's inquiry and to set forth facts concerning newspaper articles referring to FBI reports reporting results of autopsy examination conducted on President's body. Data in FBI reports is accurately reported.

BACKGROUND:

Articles appeared in the "Washington Evening Star" and "New York World Journal Tribune" (Bob Considine) on 10-5-66, referring to FBI reports which set forth the findings of the examining physicians who conducted the autopsy on President Kennedy's body. These articles refer to FBI reports submitted to the President's Commission on 12-9-63, and 1-13-64. Information set out was orally furnished to the Agents by examining physicians on 11-22-63, and is accurately reported.

With reference to the above, our reports of 12-9-63, and 1-13-64, accurately quoted the comments of the examining physicians at Bethesda Naval Hospital on the night of 11-22-63. The actual autopsy report is at variance; however, all facts pertaining to this matter were fully given to the Warren Commission and this Commission was fully aware of all such facts. In this connection, our Laboratory report very clearly, accompanied by photographs, showed a slit in the shirt and a nick in the tie which could have been caused by a projectile. The reason that there was variation between the two above-mentioned FBI investigative reports and the Warren Commission report was because the FBI was precluded from disclosing in its preliminary report to the Commission (because of the desires of the Kennedy family) any information concerning the actual autopsy report which, as a matter of fact, was subsequently furnished to the Commission by the Secret Service and used in the final report of the Warren Commission.

RIS:hw
(9)

CONTINUED - OVER

79 NOV 4-1966

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

The confusion comes about as a result of the examining physicians changing their original theory as furnished to our Agents on 11-22-63, that the bullet which entered the President's back did not exit from his body. The physicians subsequently concluded that this bullet did exit from the President's body, having passed between two large strap muscles without leaving any channel. The exit hole was obliterated by doctors who performed a tracheotomy on the President at Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas. The day after the autopsy examination was conducted, the examining physicians talked to doctors at Parkland Hospital and learned that they had utilized the exit hole as the point of incision for their tracheotomy. This chain of events is clearly set forth beginning on Page 88 of the Commission Report.

We have for some time been checking to find the specific basis upon which the statement has been made in various FBI memoranda (example attached) that the Kennedy family specifically asked that the autopsy report not be released. The fact is that Secret Service specifically claims that Bobby Kennedy had gotten in touch with that agency and had given specific instructions that the autopsy report, as well as photographs, were not to be released. Secret Service has advised that no information from the autopsy was released by that agency until it was turned over to the Warren Commission on 12-23-63. We, therefore, have a basis for any statements made by FBI representatives that the Kennedy family specifically requested that the autopsy report was not to be released.

ACTION:

The above data is set forth for your information.

The confusion which has developed would never have occurred if we had obtained the autopsy report originally. The Kennedy family never asked us to withhold the report.

001440

RICHARD WILSON

Supplementary Kennedy Slaying Report Urged

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Wick
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

A majority of Americans, according to a recent Harris survey, reject the finding of the Warren Commission that the assassination of John F. Kennedy was solely the irrational act of one man, Lee Harvey Oswald.

This should not be considered surprising. The conspiracy theory runs strong in the American mentality. Any notorious crime produces thousands of people who by divination, extrasensory perception or supposedly superior reasoning come to conclusions contrary to the accepted or official findings of guilt. The Lindbergh kidnaping and the Alger Hiss case are prime examples of the propensity of people generally,

not alone Americans, to disbelieve official or judicial findings in notorious crimes.

A half-dozen books, none of them to be taken as authoritative and most using the Warren Commission report as the primary source, have played upon the natural gullibility of the American people in this regard. The lower the educational level, according to the Harris, survey, the higher the credibility for the theory that Kennedy was killed either by Oswald acting in conjunction with others, and/or by another person firing at the President from the front instead of from Oswald's position above and behind the presidential motorcade in Dallas.

In ~~an~~ the avalanche of

innuendo, false reasoning and unjustified charges against the Warren Commission contained in the current literature, one point seems worth re-examination.

It now appears that, out of respect for the Kennedy family and the person of the late President, the Warren Commission at no time saw a complete set of pictures and x-rays taken in conjunction with the autopsy. The commission's findings that Kennedy was shot from behind, that one bullet entered and passed through his neck without striking bone or heavy tissue was based on other evidence considered more conclusive.

In the current issue of the public affairs magazine, U.S.

News and World Report, Arlen Specter, assistant counsel of the Warren Commission, argues cogently that viewing the photographs and X-rays was not essential to the findings made by the commission on this point. Yet the conclusion cannot be escaped that Specter would have been better armed to answer questions on whether this bullet entered from the front or the rear if he had seen the photographic and X ray evidence.

Confusion on this point has been caused by a preliminary FBI report that apparently was erroneous and by the obliteration of the bullet wound in the front of the neck by incisions to give the unconscious President a chance to breathe.

U.S. News and World Report states flatly that Robert F. Kennedy, then attorney general, took charge of the photographs, as a matter of deference to the memory of the late President and because the commission concluded that the photographs and X rays were not indispensable.

"The photographs and X rays would, in the thinking of the commission, not have been crucial, because they would have served only to corroborate what the autopsy surgeons had testified to under oath, as opposed to adding any

new facts for the commission.

In view of its 10-month study, its competent and careful personnel, its basic agreement with FBI conclusions, the heaviest weight must lie with the findings of the commission.

Yet, it might be possible at this stage to go a long way toward quieting the irrational doubts about the Kennedy assassination if the photographs and X rays were examined by the experts and membership of the former commission with the view of making a supplementary public report.

It would be imprudent in the extreme to open a new inquiry. Any new report should be confined strictly to the X rays and photographs. It is conceivable, of course, that such an examination might arouse new questions in the minds of the members of the former commission. But, in any case, if such an examination occurred, and it was

found to confirm other findings, this much would be eliminated from the literature of those who play upon the doubts in the public's mind.

- The Washington Post and Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Washington Evening Star _____
- New York Daily News _____
- New York Herald Tribune _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- New York World Journal _____
- New York World Journal Tribune _____
- The Baltimore Sun _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's World _____
- Date _____

What about this?

REC 1

12 NOV 3 1966

OCT 5

001441

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10054-10057

RECORDS SERIES :

HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 62-109060-4235

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR
TO :

TITLE :

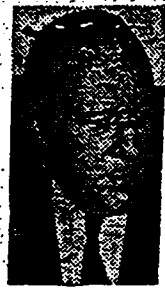
DATE : 10/05/66
PAGES : 1

SUBJECTS :
JFK, OPINION, WILSON, RICHARD

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : U
RESTRICTIONS : OPEN IN FULL
CURRENT STATUS : O
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 10/26/92

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS :
DATE LOCATED ON LOWER RIGHT-HAND SIDE



Bob Considine

Another Author Certain Oswald Had Accomplice

BECAUSE John Wilkes Booth was stupidly killed before he could be questioned or brought to proper trial charged with the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the succeeding century has been marked by the publication of countless books and tracts of speculation. One work published recently suggests that it was the work of the Jesuits, not Confederate diehards.

So it promises to be in the case of the murder of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Richard H. Popkin, presently on a sabbatical from his position as chairman of the Department of Philosophy, University of California at San Diego, has joined the ranks of Epstein, Lane, Rovere, Laddel, Hart and others who have damned the Warren Commission report. Like the others, he cannot name the accomplice or accomplices he is sure Lee Harvey Oswald employed during the deadly fusillade of Nov. 22, 1963.

Prof. Popkin's book, published in soft cover by Avon is "The Second Oswald."

★ ★ ★

HAD A TALK with Popkin the other day and the general impression he leaves is that he believes wholeheartedly in his right to be skeptical about the honesty of the Warren report. Like the others, he calls for a new and thorough investigation and report on the assassination—one that will clear up what he feels are the official report's errors of commission and omission.

"It should be a non-government group," the dark-browed, bespectacled philosopher said. "The government is already a party to the case. It has a vested interest in protecting the view of the Warren Commission and the FBI's reputation for accuracy. The new commission should be composed of historians, lawyers and journalists. The matter is somewhere between a law case and an historical investigation. You need different standards, different approaches for each." Inevitably, "The Second Oswald"

leans heavily on the now well-known variance between the official autopsy report, as it appears in the 26-volume Warren Commission findings, and the FBI's autopsy report. The latter was written or dictated by two FBI agents who were present at the Bethesda Naval Hospital for a portion of the actual autopsy.

In brief, the official autopsy states that the bullet that seriously wounded Gov. John Connally of Texas first passed through the back of the president's neck and emerged through his Adam's apple.

The FBI report states (and a photo of the president's coat would seem to confirm) that a bullet struck the president some inches below the collar line, did not come out, and may have fallen out at the Dallas hospital to which he was rushed. A bullet from Oswald's rifle was found near the president's stretcher.

From this conflict, the skeptics have all concluded that (a) the Warren Commission sloughed over this FBI evidence too hurriedly, and (b) Oswald must have had an accomplice because he couldn't have done that much damage in those scarce seconds of firing.

★ ★ ★

HE MUST HAVE HAD one or even more accomplices, the Popkin book proposes. He has come to the conclusion, Popkin told me, that Oswald was a dupe of some much more sinister individual or group. This compelling influence on his life arranged for him to become involved in several damning situations BEFORE the day of the assassination: his one-man pro-Castro movement, Russian sojourn, the shot he took at Gen. Walker, and a mild brush with officer J. D. Tippit in a beanery a few days before the shots rang out.

Purpose of this, Popkin says blandly, was to make Oswald the most likely suspect to be picked up. The "second" Oswald, and perhaps the third and fourth are still loose, he feels.

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Wick
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

What are the facts?

- The Washington Post and Times Herald _____
- The Washington Daily News _____
- The Washington Evening Star _____
- New York Daily News _____
- New York Herald Tribune _____
- New York Post _____
- The New York Times _____
- New York World Journal _____
- New York World Journal Tribune 23
- The Baltimore Sun _____
- The Worker _____
- The New Leader _____
- The Wall Street Journal _____
- The National Observer _____
- People's Voice _____

ENCLOSURE
62-109060-23

REC 1
12 NOV 3 1966

Handwritten signature

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

IDENTIFICATION FORM

AGENCY INFORMATION

AGENCY : FBI
RECORD NUMBER : 124-10054-10056

RECORDS SERIES :
HQ

AGENCY FILE NUMBER : 62-109060-4235

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

ORIGINATOR : FBI
FROM : NEW YORK WORLD JOURNAL TRIBUNE
TO :

TITLE :

DATE : 10/05/66
PAGES : 1

SUBJECTS :
JFK, OPINION

DOCUMENT TYPE : PAPER, TEXTUAL DOCUMENT
CLASSIFICATION : U
RESTRICTIONS : OPEN IN FULL
CURRENT STATUS : O
DATE OF LAST REVIEW : 10/26/92

OPENING CRITERIA :

COMMENTS :
DATE LOCATED ON LOWER RIGHT-HAND SIDE