

[PART 22]

[Warning: This work constitutes an historic review of a brutal murder! Readers are advised that certain portions of this work may be disturbing to some individuals. If an individual is easily disturbed by this report they are advised to limit their viewing experience.]

The Testimony

Taken as a whole, the testimony shows that the CIA was fully involved in the murder of John F. Kennedy; that a ‘lone gunman’ could not have committed this murder and that Lee Harvey Oswald did not assassinate the President.

President Kennedy

“It’s a hell of a way to learn things, but I have learned one thing from this [Bay of Pigs] business; that is that we will have to deal with CIA.”

“I’m going to take the CIA, break it into a thousand pieces and cast the pieces into the winds.”

“As soon as the election is over I’m going to get the boys out of Vietnam.”

“We’re heading into nut country today.”

Colonel L. Fletcher Prouty: “[President Kennedy] was not satisfied with the withdrawal of all U.S. military personnel; he wanted all Americans out of there, all CIA officers and agents. They had been there since 1945. They were furious.”

Oswald and the CIA

Robert Kennedy: “One of you [CIA] guys did it.”

Arthur Krock of the *New York Times*: “If the United States ever experiences as attempt at a coup to overthrow the Government it will come from the CIA. The agency represents a tremendous power and total unaccountability to anyone.”

U.S. Senator Richard S. Schweiker: “We don’t know what happened, but we do know Oswald had intelligence connections. Everywhere you look with him there are the fingerprints of intelligence.” “Oswald was the product of a fake defector program run by the CIA.”

Jim Garrison: “The real killer of John Kennedy was the Central Intelligence Agency. He was not the only American leader murdered by the CIA he was just the greatest.”

CIA Director Richard Helms: “No one will ever know who or what Lee Harvey Oswald... represented.”

CIA Operative John Garrett Underhill, Jr.: “The Kennedy murder wasn’t as cut and dried as it might appear. A small clique in the CIA were responsible.”

Historian Evan Thomas: “In hindsight it’s clear that Eisenhower gave too much to the CIA. He gave a wild horse its head, and allowed them to run amuck around the world in ways that were destructive to U.S. interests.”

Congressman Paul Rogers: “What proof have we that this [Central Intelligence] Agency, which in many respects has the power to preempt foreign policy, is not actually expressing this power through practices which are contradictory to the established policy objectives of this government?”

CIA Officer Victor Marchetti stated years after the event that “[CIA] Director Richard Helms had told his staff to look for ways to monkey wrench [district attorney Jim] Garrison’s investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.”

LBJ aide Marvin Watson: “The President (Johnson) had told him, in an off moment, that he was now convinced there was a plot in connection with the assassination [of President Kennedy]. The President felt that [the] CIA had had something to do with this plot.”

CIA Agent David Macmichal: “There were many in the CIA and many in the military who blamed Kennedy’s refusal to directly use American airpower for the [Bay of Pigs] failure.”

H. R. Haldeman: “After Kennedy was killed the CIA launched a fantastic cover-up. The CIA literally erased any connection between Kennedy’s assassination and the CIA.”

The Assassination Warnings and Threats

FBI report – November 9, 1963: “Threat to kill President Kennedy by J. A. Milteer”

FBI Director Flash Report to all agents-in-charge – November 17, 1963: “Threat to assassinate President Kennedy in Dallas Texas November twenty-two – twenty-three. “

John J. McCloy – November 21, 1963: “After tomorrow we won’t have to worry about the Kennedy’s anymore.” “After tomorrow, those goddamn Kennedys will never embarrass me again. That’s no threat. That’s a promise.”

Senate Investigator Harold Weisberg: “The second known threat... was made not in Miami, where the assassination conspiracy did not succeed, but in Dallas, where it did. It was made before there was public announcement that the President would go to Dallas. It was made by exile, anti-Castro Cubans, exactly those groups involved in the New Orleans aspects suppressed by the [Warren] Commission and reported in [the classified file] “Oswald in New Orleans”. It was made in public. A tape recording of it exists!”

The Assassination Set-up

District Attorney Judge Jim Garrison: “As late as Thursday, November 21st the newspapers in Dallas showed the route of the motorcade as it came out Main [Street] continuing through the extension of Main [Street] going into that big pasture they call Dealey Plaza. On Thursday evening at the 11th hour the route was changed by the administration of Mayor Earle Cable. The route was changed [that evening] to turn right on Houston [Street] and then left on Elm [Street] not only going by the ambush nest where the waiting rifles were but also going by the building in which they had pre-located the patsy. Indications are three teams at a minimum.”

Deputy Sheriff Roger D. Craig: “A couple of hours before Kennedy was to arrive the Sheriff called us in; what I would call street people; plain clothes men, detectives, and ah... he instructed us that we were to stand out in front and in no way take part in the security of that motorcade. That we were merely spectators and nothing more.”

Lee Edward Bowers, Jr.: The tower where I work is west and a little north of the Texas Book Depository Building. I was on duty today and about 11:55 am I saw a dirty 1959 Oldsmobile Station Wagon come down the street toward my building. This street dead ends in the railroad yard. This car had out of state license plates with white background and black numbers, no letters. (Florida?) It also had a Goldwater for ‘64’ sticker in the rear window. This car just drove around slowly and left the area. It was occupied by a middle aged white man partly grey hair. At about 12:15 pm another car came into the area with a white man about 25 to 35 years old driving. This car was a 1957 Ford, Black, 2-door with Texas license. This man appeared to have a mike or telephone in the car. Just a few minutes after this car left at 12:20 pm another car pulled in. This car was a 1961 Chevrolet, Impala, 4-door, am not sure that this was a 4-door, color white and dirty up to the windows. This car also had a Goldwater for ‘64’ sticker. This car was driven by a white male about 25 to 35 years old with long blond hair. He stayed in the area longer than the others. This car also had the same type license plates as the 1959 Oldsmobile. (Florida?) He left this area about 12:25 pm. About 8 or 10 minutes after he left I heard at least 3 shots very close together. Just after the

shots the area became crowded with people coming from Elm Street and the slope just north of Elm.”

Mark Lane: “I suggest that the Federal Bureau of Investigation knew that Oswald worked at the Texas Book Depository Building, which was on the Presidential route. An FBI agent by the name of Hosty visited the home of the Paines in Irving, Tex., sometime during September and October.”

Officer Marion L. Baker: “Oswald was not out of breath, calm and collected.”

From the Doctors

Surgeon General – November 26, 1963: “1. You are reminded that you are under verbal orders of the Surgeon General, United States Navy, to discuss with no one events connected with your official duties on the evening of 22 November – 23 November 1963. 2. This letter constitutes official notification and reiteration of these verbal orders. You are warned that infraction of these orders make you liable to Court Martial proceedings under appropriate articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.”

Rear Admiral Dr. George G. Burkley: “Yes, there was a conspiracy.” “Forget I said anything.”

Dr. Cyril Wecht, President of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences: “Despite the semantical sophistry and intellectual gymnastics of the forensic pathology panel report, it is clear that the single-bullet theory can no longer be maintained as an explanation for the bullet wounds in JFK’s back and neck, and all the bullet wounds in Gov. John B. Connally.”

“The medical and scientific evidence proves there were two or more shooters.”

Senate Investigator Harold Weisberg: “It should also be recalled that when asked if the [single bullet theory] was possible, they [the doctors in Dallas and Washington] agreed it was not; the word ‘inconceivable’ being employed.”

Dr. Robert Nelson McClelland: “It certainly did look like an entrance wound [in the throat].”

Dr. Kemp Clark: “[The bullet] ranged downward in his chest and did not exist.”

FBI Report: “Medical examination of the president’s body had revealed that the bullet which entered his back had penetrated to a distance of less than a finger length.”

Dr. Charles Baxter: “...literally the right side of his head had been blown off.”

The Magic Bullet

Senate Investigator Harold Weisberg: If the five fragments from the Presidential car cannot be proved to have come from the same bullet, to have caused the damage to the windshield, and to have also been parts of a single fatal bullet, the government is without proof of its case. If the fragments recovered from the Governor cannot be proved to have come from the magical and seemingly intact, undeformed and un mutilated bullet, Exhibit 399, the government on this point alone has its case destroyed. With the Governor’s injury, the allegations of the Report are contrary to 100 percent of the medical testimony.”

Parkland Hospital Security Chief O. P. Wright: “The bullet they found was point nosed, whereas CE 399 is round nosed”.

Leland Jones of LAPD’s crime lab: Speaking on another murder case Leland Jones “...blood or tissue would have remained on the bullet for years if it had hit the man... Because of the absence of blood or tissue, which would have been detectable and identifiable for years, the bullet could not possibly have entered a human body.”

The Rifles

Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig: “I felt then and I still feel now that the weapon was a 7.65 German Mauser.” “I was there. I saw it when it was first pulled from its hiding place, and I am not alone in describing it as a Mauser.” “And we weren’t any more than 6 or 8 inches from the rifle and stamped right on the barrel of the rifle was 7.65 Mauser.”

FBI report: “No palm prints were found on the rifle. We don’t have to worry about prints in this case.”

Senate Investigator Harold Weisberg: “The best shots the Commission could get, under improved conditions, could not duplicate the shooting attributed to Oswald, and Oswald was a truly lousy shot who, when last tested, on an easy course, scored but a single point more than the absolute minimum demanded of every serviceman. In the appraisal of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, he was ‘a rather poor shot.’” “In plain English, none of the required, proper test were ever made and there is nobody, not the world’s very best riflemen, who could duplicate the feat attributed to the incompetent, inexperienced Oswald.” “It was reported that ‘We have expert testimony to the effect that a skilled marksman would require a minimum of 2-1/4 seconds between shots with this rifle.’ This is false. That testimony was entirely different; that a really skilled man (and it must be kept in mind that Oswald was only a duffer) could reload the rifle in 2-1/3 seconds. Thereafter, he would have to re-sight and fire, both operations requiring additional time.”

Mark Lane: “Now, in this affidavit, Officer Weitzman swore that the murder weapon; that the weapon which he found on the sixth floor was a 7.65 Mauser, which he then went on to describe in some detail, with reference to the color of the strap, et cetera. Now, the prosecuting attorney, of course, took exactly the same position, and for hours insisted that the rifle discovered on the sixth floor was a German Mauser, adding the nationality. A German Mauser is nothing at all like an Italian carbine. [I] think almost any rifle expert will indicate that that is so. I have been informed that almost every Mauser; and I am not able to document this, unfortunately, but I am sure that you have easy access to rifle experts, that almost every German Mauser has stamped upon it the caliber, as does almost every Italian carbine.”

The Sniper’s Nest

Judge Jim Garrison: “The finger prints on the boxes added up to the fingerprints of a large number of policemen, one unidentified man and no fingerprints of Lee Oswald.

The Pystal

Sergeant Gerald Lynn Hill: “The shell at the scene indicates that the suspect is armed with an automatic .38 rather than a pystal.” [The shell casings were] “marked .38 AUTO on the bottom.”

District Attorney Judge Jim Garrison: “The FBI lab found that two of the cartridge cases had been manufactured by Western and two by Remington. None matched Oswald’s weapon!”

The Paraffin Test

Mark Lane: “Now, there is on file in the district attorney’s office; I assume you have the original or copies of it, a report of a paraffin test taken of Oswald, of both his hands and his face. The test proved, according to Mr. Curry, and the statement that he made on Saturday, November 23, to the press that Oswald had fired the murder weapon. However, a reading of the test indicates that one could come to a very different conclusion. The test in reference to the face proved negative, indicating that Oswald had not fired a rifle on November 22, 1963...”

The Number of Shots

Senator Russell Long: “Those fellows on the Warren Commission were dead wrong. There’s no way in the world that one man could have shot up Jack Kennedy that way.”

Testimony from the Grassy Knoll

James Simmons: “It sounded like it came from the left and in front of us from the left and in front of us towards the wooden fence. And there was a puff of smoke that came underneath the trees.”

Richard Calvin Dodd: “We all three seen about the same thing; the shots. The smoke came from behind the hedge.”

Jean Hill: “His head was blown off right in front of me.” “It [the shooter] was right up there. The man was shooting from right just this side of that tree. That large tree and that’s where I saw the shot come from.” “All I know is what I saw from the knoll, and I defiantly saw the man shooting from the knoll.”

Orville Orhel Nix: “They [the shots] came from a fence between the book depository and the rail road track. I know that’s where they came from. I know that’s where the shots came from.”

Robert Breckenridge MacNeil: “I noticed that policemen were running up the hill, the grassy slope, the Grassy Knoll as it came to be known and that there were people sitting looking dazed, some sort of half crouched over their children.” “There were two shots very close together.”

Lee Edward Bowers, Jr.: “These two men were standing back from the street somewhat at the top of the incline and were very near two trees which were in the area. And one of them, from time to time as he walked back and forth, disappeared behind a wooden fence which is also slightly to the west of that. These two men to the best of my knowledge were standing there at the time of the shooting.”

Ed Hoffman: “The man took the gun apart and put it in a bag behind the railroad control box and walked away.”

Sam M. Holland: “There was a shot, a report; I don’t know whether it was a shot. I can’t say that. And a puff of smoke came out about 6 or 8 feet above the ground right out from under those trees. And at just about this location from where I was standing you could see that puff of smoke, like someone had thrown a firecracker, or something out, and that is just about the way it sounded. It wasn’t as loud as the previous reports or shots... they were so close together... It could have been the third or fourth, but there were definitely four reports.”

Jesse C. Price: [The shots came from] “just behind the picket fence where it joins the [triple] underpass”.

William Eugene Newman: “By this time he was directly in front of us and I was looking directly at him when he was hit in the side of the head. Then he fell back and Governor Connally was holding his middle section. Then we fell down on the grass as it seemed we were in direct path of fire. It looked like Mrs. Kennedy jumped on top of the President. He kinda fell back and it looked like she was holding him. Then the car sped away and everybody in that area had run upon top of that little mound [Grassy Knoll]. I thought the shot had come from the garden directly behind me, that it was on an elevation from where I was as I was right on the curb. I do not recall looking toward the Texas School Book Depository. I looked back in the vicinity of the garden.”

Testimony from Governor John B. Connally

“There were either two or three people involved, or more, in this – or someone was shooting with an automatic rifle.” “In my judgment, it just couldn’t conceivably have been the first one [rifle shot that hit him] because I heard the sound of the shot... and after I heard that shot, I had the time to turn to my right, and start to turn to my left before I felt anything. It is not conceivable to me that I could have been hit by the first bullet.”

Testimony from the Murder Victims

Lee Harvey Oswald: “I really don’t know what this situation is about, nobody has told me anything besides that I am accused of murder of a policeman. I know nothing more than that. I do request that ah... someone to come forward to give me legal assistance.”

(Murder Kennedy?) “No! I have not been charged with that. In fact, nobody has said that to me yet. The first thing I heard about it was when the newspaper reporters in the hall asked me that question. I don’t know what this is all about.”

“I emphatically deny these charges.”

“A policeman hit me!”

(Murder Kennedy?) “No sir I didn’t. People keep asking me that.” “I didn’t shoot anybody. They’ve taken me in because of the fact that I lived in the Soviet Union.” “I’m just a patsy!”

(Book Depository?) “I work in that building. Naturally if I work in that building, yes sir.”

(Backyard photograph?) “It’s fake and I can prove it. I will prove it in time.”

Dorothy Kilgallen: “There was a connection between Jack Ruby, Dallas police officer J. D. Tippit and a Texas oil millionaire” “Oswald had linkage to U.S. intelligence and U.S. intelligence was nervous about it and covering up about their relationship with him.”

Jack Ruby: “It was a complete conspiracy and if you knew the true facts you would be amazed.”

Warren Commission

Senator Richard Schweiker: “...Warren Commission was set up at the time to feed pabulum to the America public... one of the biggest cover-ups in the history of our country occurred at that time.”

Senate Investigator Harold Weisberg: “...the Commission refused to accept in evidence any photographs taken the moment of the assassination that showed the front of the Texas School Book Depository building and the surrounding grounds.”

Forged Photographs

Mark Lane: “I would like to indicate to the Commission at this time that the pictures which have been distributed throughout the country included doctored and forged photographs.” “I would suggest that that is an identical picture with the other two pictures in every respect, except that it has no telescopic sight on the rifle, and there is a great deal of metallic materials present on that rifle clearly not present in the other two pictures. Just below the hand, the left hand of Lee Harvey Oswald, there is clearly visible a series of pieces of metal, allegedly part of the rifle, which are in no way clear – which are in no way present in the other pictures.”



Oswald looks directly at Jack Ruby (with hat on far right of the image) and then looks away moments before he is shot by Ruby.

[END PART 22]

R. Michael Gordon, 2021

[Next week: Part 23: The Oswald murder trial - If Oswald why...]