THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY 35TH PRESIDENT UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OR NONE DARE CALL IT CONSPIRACY

Mark Oliver Smith

INTRODUCTORY LETTER

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INTRODUCTORY LETTER

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I have gathered these few references and thoughts together to prepare my mind for a U3A Course I intend to do later in the year. While I am not an 'Assassination Buff' I have attempted to follow the course of the disclosures about the three major assassinations in the USA during my lifetime. These are the murders of JFK, Martin Luther King, and Robert Kennedy (the brother of JFK). While these notes are directed towards explaining the details of the conspiracy of the JFK assassination there are elements of conspiracy associated with the other two assassinations.



John F. Kennedy





Martin Luther King

Robert Kennedy

I began my investigations after reading Mark Lane's *Rush to Judgement* in 1968. This book became the basis of a movie starring Burt Lancaster and Robert Ryan – *Executive Action*. A limited edition of a home video was sold through Warner Communications Inc. and subsequently withdrawn from sale. Over the years a whole library of books and films has been spawned about the JFK assassination. The bibliography lists a sample of the books that have been written. It would take me too long to read all of the available books.

The following three paragraphs provide an account of my own journey into the assassination event. Eventually it led to my disillusionment with the official explanation.

Cracks in Camelot

At the time of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy we were living at 4 Dakin Place, Hackett, ACT. It was a Saturday afternoon when we heard the news by radio. He was actually shot at 12.30 pm on Friday 22nd November 1963 (American time). I remember that the announcement of his death had a great impact on most Australians. He was the youngest President ever elected and the first Catholic to hold office. His relative youth, boyish good looks, and his attractive, socialite wife, Jacqueline, projected optimism. The office of the Presidency took on the trappings of a New Camelot with all the courtly glamour and rhetoric of a debutante ball. His death signalled the end of innocence as far as most Australians were concerned. Our grief was real and we agonised over the assassination because we had believed implicitly in the fairyland of Camelot and its promises of hope. We had not distinguished between the glamour of American show business and the reality of political life.



John and Jacqueline Kennedy

The 'Lone Nut' Assassin

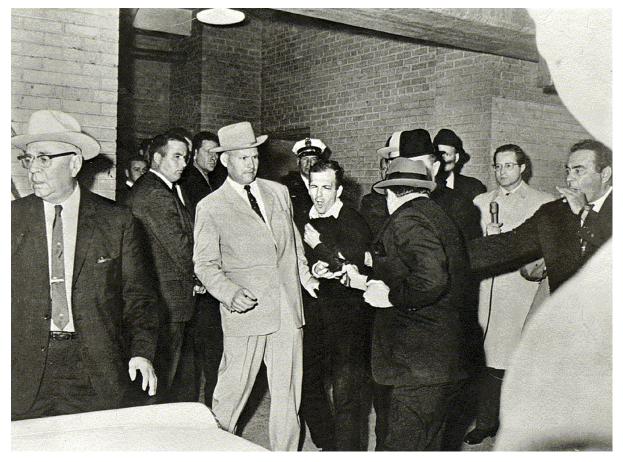
When news of the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald as the 'lone nut' suspect assassin reached our ears there was a great sense of relief among the populace. The beautiful dream was still intact and had not become a nightmare. However, when the suspect himself was assassinated (on prime television) the age of innocence collapsed. It became clear that something was radically wrong with the image we had of the American Camelot.



Lee Harvey Oswald

Paradise Lost

After Jack Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald while the television cameras rolled, American innocence was expelled from the Garden of Eden. The suspect assassin could no longer be examined! Not only Americans but the whole world began to wonder what was there to hide? Why did Jack Ruby shoot Oswald? Who was Oswald? Was there a conspiracy to hide the truth?



My Investigation

I have tried to keep this work in summary form. There are so many facets to the JFK conspiracy and the attempts to cover it up that this outline could easily become another lengthy tome. This would only make the investigation tedious and repetitious. I do not seek to justify my observations. You will have to take them at face value. My summary chart on p. 36 gives **my** answers about who participated in the conspiracy and the cover-up.

My Regards

WANTED FOR TREASON

'It is now a matter of record that when the assassination of the President was announced at a Dallas High School, the students cheered, and when the United States, in mourning, cancelled its sporting fixtures for the weekend following the murder, Dallas did not'.

> JFK, The Second Plot *The Hate Capital of Dixie* by Matthew Smith p. 21

CHAPTER 1 WANTED FOR TREASON

The Australian Perception of JFK

Prior to his assassination there was little awareness in Australia that President Kennedy was anything but a likeable, well-intentioned, wealthy and benevolent dogooder. He had the status in Australia of a popular film star who had faithfully and loyally served his country in the second world war and as a Senator in Congress. His *Profiles in Courage* gave him an heroic quality and his refusal to accept a Presidential salary endeared him to the public.

The Image and the Reality

The Kennedy PR machine had hidden from public gaze a number of unpleasant realities. These included:

- the hidden direction of a father with an insatiable ambition and a dubious background in gaining wealth and social standing;
- a failed marriage propped up by a payment of 'hush money' to Jacqueline Kennedy by Joseph Kennedy Snr.;
- a number of disabling physical conditions including recurring back pain and Addison's Disease;
- a drug problem associated with his back injury;
- a long-term relationship with Judith Exner who had slept with the Chicago mobster Sam Giancana;
- a brother (Robert) who was intent on prosecuting organised crime including James Hoffa, Carlos Marcello, Johnny Rosselli, Santo Trafficante and Mafia boss Sam Giancana;
- an ongoing plot with the CIA to stage a coup against Cuba's Fidel Castro set for December 1, 1963. This coup was engineered by Richard Helms who initially covered up information about JFK's assassination to protect national security and previous clandestine operations of the CIA.



Joseph Kennedy



Judith Exner



Sam Giancana



James Hoffa



Carlos Marcello



Johnny Rosselli



Santo Trafficante



Fidel Castro



Richard Helms

The Ambivalent American Attitude Towards JFK

The Australian perception of the JFK presidency was tinged with Hollywood glamour. This was not the same as the American view. Half of the Americans voted Republican and disliked the boy from Boston who had inherited his wealth. 'John F. Kennedy's presidency of 1,026 days stirred the emotions of nearly every American. Hardly anyone was neutral about Kennedy. They either loved him or hated him.'

Crossfire, p. 2

The Hate Capital of Dixie

There were particular places in America where President Kennedy was hated.

'Dallas had grown from a small way station for pioneers to a centre of corporate business, insurance, banking, and oil and gas. By 1963, Dallas already was the most influential city in the Lone Star State, next to Houston. Dallas also had a reputation for being the stronghold of archconservatives, if not outright right-wing extremists. If a man wanted a job as a Dallas policeman, it helped if he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan or, at least, the John Birch Society'.

Crossfire, p. 1

JFK's Indifference to Parochial Issues

Matthew Smith characterises Kennedy's attitude to his southern extremists in the following manner:

'Kennedy seemed oblivious to the controversies surrounding him. Perhaps due to his wealthy background, he appeared more concerned with great historical issues such as civil rights, war and peace rather than parochial matters of business and politics'.

Crossfire, p. 2



WANTED

FOR

TREASON

THIS MAN is wanted for treasonous activities against the United States:

 Betraying the Constitution (which he swore to uphold):

He is turning the sovereignty of the U.S. over to the communist controlled United Nations. He is betraying our friends(Cuba, Katanga, Portugal) and befriending our enemies (Russia, Yugoslavia, Poland).

2. He has been WRONG on innumerable issues affecting the security of the U.S. (United Nations-Berlin wall-Missle removal-Cuba-Wheat deals-Test Ban Treaty, etc.)

- He has been lax in enforcing Communist Registration laws.
- He has given support and encouragement to the Communist inspired racial riots.
- He has illegally invaded a sovereign State with federal troops.
- He has consistantly appointed Anti-Christians to Federal office: Upholds the Supreme Court in its Anti-Christian rulings. Aliens and known Communists abound in Federal offices.
- He has been caught in fantastic LIES to the American people (including personal ones like his previous marraige and divorce).

The infamous 'Wanted for Treason' handbill handed out in Dallas before the President arrived on his visit (Courtesy National Archives)

JFK The Second Plot by Matthew Smith, p. 18

WELCOME MR. KENNEDY TO DALLAS...

- ... A CITY is disposed by a reservice shere in an attempt that its citizen have but shered two more Conservative. Assertions to public afflice
- A CITY that is an exercise "house trees," not factance of Fadoral hardwate, but through tomarvative excentions and business practices.
- ... A CITY that will matches to grow and proper depths offers by you and your administration to persities it for its remainducery by "New Frantasian"
- A CITY that injuried your philosophy and policies in 1955 and +8 do to apply in 1956-even more emphatically that before

MR. KENNEDY, despite contentions on the part of your administration, the State Department, the Mayor of Dallas, the Dallas City Council, and members of your party, we free-thinking and America-thinking citizens of Dallas still have, through a Constitution largely ignored by you, the right to address our grievances, to question you, to disagree with you, and to criticize you.

In asserting this constitutional right, we wish to ask you publicly the following questions—indeed, questions of paramount importance and interest to all free peoples everywhere—which we trust you will answer... In public, without sophistry. These questions are:

WHY is Latin America turning either anti-American or Communistic, or both, despite increased U.S. foreign eid, State Department policy, and your own hy-Tower pronouncements?

WHY do you say we have built a "wall of freedom" around Cuba when there is no freedom in Cuba today? Because of your policy, thousands of Cubans have been imprisoned, are starving and being persecuted --with thousands already murdlered and thousands more awaiting execution and, in addition, the entire population of almost 7,000,000 Cubans are living in slavery.

WHY have you approved the sale of wheat and corn to our enemies when you know the Communist soldiers "travel on their stomachs" just as ours do? Communist soldiers are daily wounding and/or killing American soldiers in South Viet Nam.

WHY did you host, salute and entertain Tito - Moscow's Trojan Horsa - just a short time after our sworn enemy, Khrushchev, embraced the Yugoslav dictator as a great haro and leader of Communism?

WHY have you unged greater aid, comfort, recognition, and understanding for Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, and anti-Communist countries, while turning your back on the pleas of Hungarian, East German, Cuban and other anti-Communist freedom fighters?

WHY did Cambodia kick the U.S. out of its country after we poured nearly 400 Million Dollars of aid into its ultraleftist government?

WHY has Gus Hall, head of the U.S. Communist Party praised almost every one of your policies and announced that the party will endorse and support your re-election in 19647

WHY have you banned the showing at U.S. military bases of the film "Operation Abelition"---the movie by the House Committee on Un-American Activities exposing Communism in America?

WHY have you ordered or permitted your brother Bobby, the Attorney General, to go soft on Communists, fellowtravelers, and ultra-lefticts in America, while permitting him to persecute loyal Americans who criticize you, your administration, and your leadership?

WHY are you in favor of the U.S. continuing to give economic aid to Argentine, in spite of that fact that Argentine has just seized almost 400 Million Dollars of American private property?

WHY has the Foreign Policy of the United States degenerated to the point that the C.I.A. is arranging coups and having stounch Anti-Communist Allies of the U.S. bloodily exterminated.

WHY have you scrapped the Monroe Destrine in favor of the "Spirit of Moscow"?

KR. KENNEDY, as citizens of these United States of America, we DEMAND answers to these questions, and we want them NOW.

THE AMERICAN FACT - FINDING COMMITTEE "An unoffiliated and non- partisan group of citizens who wish truth"

BERNARD WEISSMAN

Chairman

Constitutes Santhies 30, 1033

P.O. Box 1792-Dallas 21, Texas

The Dallas Morning News carried this full-page 'advertisement' on 22 November 1963, the day of the President's visit (Courtesy National Archives)

CHAPTER 2

THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION OF THE ASSASSINATION

White House Executive Order 11130 spelt out the terms of reference of the President's Commission. This Commission later became known as <u>The Warren Commission</u> after its chairman.

'The purpose of the Commission is to examine the evidence developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and any additional evidence that may hereafter come to light or be uncovered by federal or state authorities; to make further investigation as the Commission finds desirable; to evaluate all the facts and circumstances surrounding such assassination, including the subsequent violent death of the man charged with the assassination, and to report, to me its findings and conclusions'.

> Quoted from Jim Marrs Crossfire, p. 468

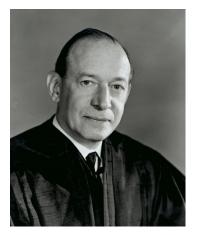
CHAPTER 2

THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION OF THE ASSASSINATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SEVEN-MAN WARREN COMMISSION BY PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON

Abraham Fortas' List of Nominees

Johnson's old friend and family lawyer, Abe Fortas and Deputy Attorney General Nicholas D. Katzenbach prepared a list of seven prominent persons to serve on the new presidential commission. These were:

Chairman: Earl Warren (Chief Justice of the Supreme Court) Hale Boggs D/LA (House Majority Leader) Allen W. Dulles (Ex-Director CIA) Gerald Ford (Rep. Michigan) John J. McCloy (Disarmaments Committee) Sen. Richard Russell (D/GA and Chairman of Senate Armed Services Committee) Sen. John Sherman Cooper (R. Ky)



Abe Fortas



Nicholas D. Katzenbach

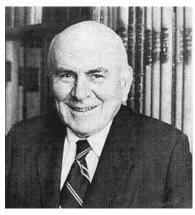


Earl Warren



Hale Boggs

Allen W. Dulles



John J. McCloy

Richard Russell

Gerald Ford



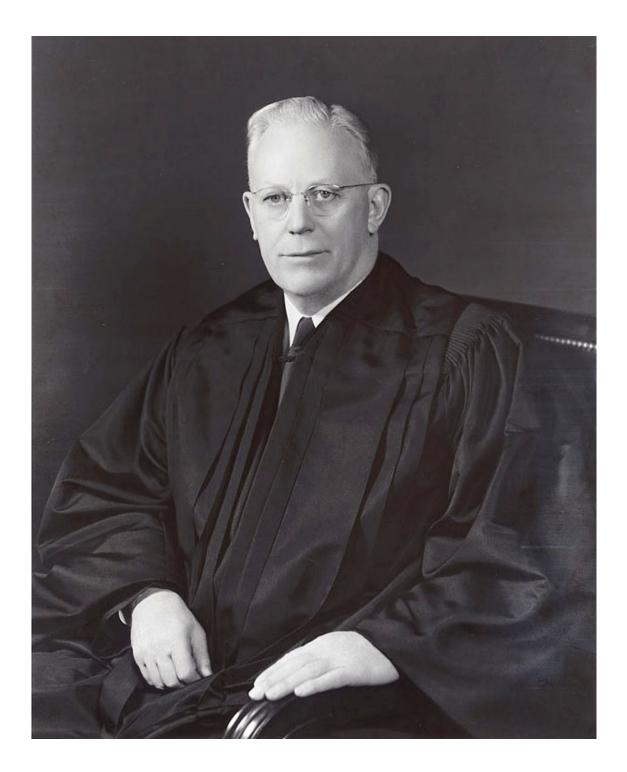
John Sherman Cooper

Warren's Statement on Appointment to Head Commission of Investigation

'Speaking of his meeting with Johnson Warren explained, 'The President stated that rumours of the exaggerated kind were circulating in this country and overseas. Some rumours went as far as attributing the assassination to a faction within the Government wishing the Presidency assumed by President Johnson. Others, if not quenched, could conceivably lead the country into a war which would cost 40 million lives. No one could refuse to do something which might help prevent such a possibility'.

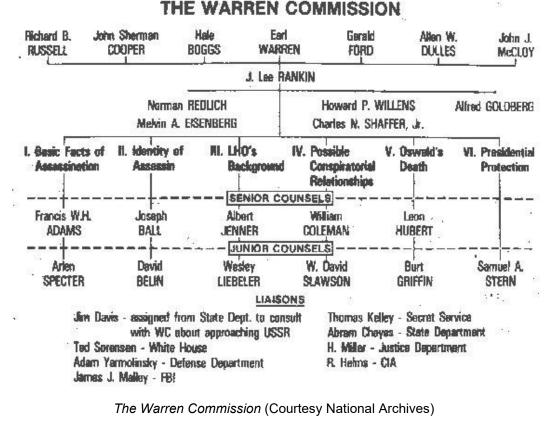
JFK The Second Plot, by Mathew Smith, pps. 64-65

15



The Warren Commission Convened Sat. 29 Nov. 1965 – 24 Sept. 1964

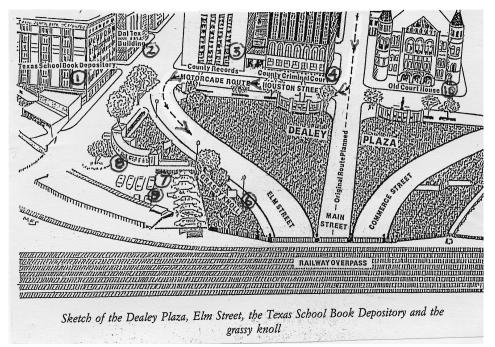
Chief Justice Earl Warren



JFK The Second Plot, p. 65

Summary Details of the Official Explanation

Location



JFK The Second Plot, p. 106

DEALEY PLAZA, DALLAS, TEXAS

- 1. Texas School Book Depository (now the Dallas County Annex)
- 2. The Dal-Tex Building (Now 801 Elm Building)
- 3. The Dallas County Records Building
- 4. The County Criminal Courts Building (which houses the County Jail and the Sheriff's Office)
- 5. The Union Terminal North Tower
- 6. The Grassy Knoll
- 7. Wooden, picket fence
- 8. Concrete pergola
- 9. Parking area
- 10. Old Court House
- 11. Union Terminal Building

Crossfire, p. 309

The Grassy Knoll

JFK The Second Plot, p. 106

The Official Explanation – Only 3 Bullets Fired by Single Assassin

'ASSASSINATION OUTCOME: Kennedy was shot in the neck and head, and his wounds were so grave that there was no chance of recovery. He was pronounced dead at Parkland Memorial Hospital 30 minutes after he was shot. Lee Harvey Oswald fired three shots at the presidential motorcade from an open window on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository. The first shot missed completely, and it is believed that oak trees and a traffic light pole blocked Oswald's view. The only evidence of the first bullet was a nick on a concrete curb near the Triple Underpass. A piece of flying concrete from the first shot cut witness James Tague on the cheek. The second shot entered the back of the president's neck and exited through his throat, chipping a vertebra in his neck. This shot caused the president's arms to fly up, elbows out, with his hands at his chin. This is a neurological reflex common in spinal-cord injuries called the Thorburn Reflex. This bullet, after exiting the president, then struck Governor Connally in the right shoulder, shattered his right rib, and exited below his right nipple. The bullet then fractured Connally's right wrist and came to a stop in Connally's left thigh. **The third shot**, the most devastating, struck Kennedy in the back of the head above the right ear and exited at the right front of his head, blowing off part of his skull and destroying the right front section of his brain. From the Warren Report:'

In the Crosshairs, p. 124

Path of 2nd Bullet

The Government's lone-assassin theory rests on the idea of a single bullet acting in the manner described in this diagram and remaining virtually intact afterward.

Diagram showing an artist's indication of the path the 'magic bullet' would have had to have taken.

Medical Indications

'Dr Carrico was in the emergency area, examining another patient, when he was notified that President Kennedy was en route to the hospital. Approximately 2 minutes later, Dr. Carrico saw the President on his back, being wheeled into the emergency area. He noted that the President was blue-white or ashen in colour; had slow, spasmodic, agonal respiration without any coordination; made no voluntary movements; had his eyes open with the pupils dilated without any reaction to light; evidenced no palpable pulse; and had a few chest sounds which were thought to be heart beats. On the basis of these findings, Dr Carrico concluded that the President Kennedy was still alive.

His clothes and back brace were cut off, a breathing tube was inserted into his throat, and he was placed on a respirator. Three IVs were inserted for drugs and fluids, and he was hooked up to an electrocardiogram. Dr Malcolm Perry then performed a tracheotomy, creating an artificial airway in the president's throat. This

procedure obliterated the neck exit wound. A tube was also inserted into Kennedy's chest to drain blood and fluid. Kennedy was then administered 300 milligrams of steroids, specifically a cortisone drug called Solu-Cortef.

Because the president's pulse was still erratic, one of the doctors began closedchest massage. Opening the president's chest for open heart massage was considered but later rejected.

The doctors concluded that Kennedy was beyond resuscitation and asked a priest to perform Last Rites before pronouncing him dead. The priest did as requested, and Kennedy was pronounced dead at 1 p.m. The doctors had worked on him for approximately 20 minutes before giving up.

The room emptied, and First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy then kissed the president's toe, stomach, and his lips. She then removed one of her rings and placed it on her husband's little finger.

Several nurses and residents then re-entered the room. The tracheotomy, IVs, and EKG leads were removed. The nurses and residents then wrapped the president's body in white sheets, a plastic mattress cover, and several pillowcases. The body was then placed in a casket, transported to Air Force One, and flown to Washington.' *In the Crosshairs,* p. 125

Sven Legitimate Questions

'Some theories ask legitimate questions:

- If the shots came from above and behind, then why is there video evidence of several people turning towards the grassy knoll in front and to the right of the presidential limousine after the shots were fired? (The echoing of Oswald's shots is believed to have been responsible for this response by witnesses).
- Isn't it possible that the KGB ordered Kennedy's assassination as payback for Russian humiliation during the Cuban Missile Crisis?

- Couldn't Castro have ordered the assassination as retribution for the failed Bay of Pigs invasion?
- We know that Kennedy and his brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy (page 128), were cracking down on organised crime. Couldn't the Mob have decided to get rid of JFK to scare Bobby into backing down?
- Reportedly, the CIA was concerned that Kennedy was going soft on Communism and that he was considering pulling the United States out of Vietnam. Getting rid of him would make Lyndon Johnson president, along with, it is assumed, policies concerning these matters of which the CIA approved.
- Isn't the Single Bullet Theory (that is, that a single bullet hit both Kennedy and Connally, a seeming impossibility) a valid rejection of the Lone Assassin theory? (No, as was disproved convincingly, and in great detail, in *Case Closed*).
- Why was the Press Car, which is usually in front of the presidential limousine in order to facilitate photographic documentation of presidential visits, several cars back in the procession that day in Dallas (an explainable, logistical mixup)? This resulted in the Zapruder film being the only visual record of the assassination.'

In the Crosshairs, p. 126

Judicial Outcome

'JUDICIAL OUTCOME: Oswald (Chapter 55), Kennedy's presumed assassin, did not survive to stand trial. He was assassinated two days after Kennedy's assassination by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby while being transferred by the police. The Warren Commission released a 26-volume report that concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone. Many conspiracy theories suggesting that others were involved in Kennedy's killing have been put forth over the years, but no one has ever been successfully charged with the murder of John F. Kennedy and the wounding of Governor John Connally, and no one other than Lee Harvey Oswald has ever been officially regarded as the assassin of the president. The case against Clay Shaw by New Orleans D.A. Jim Garrison failed.

Alternative Theories

'Hundreds of books have been written about the assassination, and dozens of theories have been offered to explain what happened. The Mafia, Fidel Castro, the Russian KGB, the CIA, and even Lyndon Johnson and the Secret Service have all been hinted at as being responsible for Kennedy's death.

A great deal of the controversy and madness surrounding the assassination could have easily been prevented if a thorough autopsy on the president had been performed. The brief post-mortem examination, which should have taken two or three days, was rushed through in a few hours because Bobby and Jacqueline Kennedy insisted on staying at Bethesda Naval Hospital during the autopsy, and they reportedly made it known that they wanted it done quickly. Also, it is believed that Kennedy's brain, which would have provided answers to many questions about the head shot (and which was discovered missing from the National Archives in 1966), was believed to have been disposed of by Robert Kennedy for fear it would become 'a lurid public exhibition'.

The assassination of John F. Kennedy was a seminal movement in American history, and its mysteries continue to fascinate.

Postscript: Abraham Zapruder received \$25,000 from *Life* magazine for his colour footage of the assassination of President Kennedy. Zapruder gave the entire \$25,000 to the widow of Dallas Police Officer J.D. Tippit, who was supposedly slain by Lee Harvey Oswald shortly after he shot the president. In 1999, the US Government paid the Zapruder family \$16 million for the film, which was declared a permanent possession of the American people in 1997.'

In the Crosshairs, p. 127

Official Conclusion

There are logical common-sense answers to almost all of the questions raised by disbelievers in the 'lone nut' theory. The most recent attempt to calm the hysterical

and debunk the wild theories permeating this American tragedy is Gerald Posner's aforementioned book *Case Closed*. Here he analyses all the major conspiracy theories and comes to the conclusion that, the American people's suspicions aside, the Warren Report was correct and Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin.

CHAPTER 3 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (H.S.C.A.) 17 Sept. 1976 – March 1979

Breaking the Silence, p. 6

CHAPTER 3

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (H.S.C.A.) 17 September 1976 – March 1979

Public Misgivings

A conference, *The Politics of Conspiracy,* held at the Boston University in early 1975, fanned the flames of public disquiet about the Warren Commission's Report. Mark Lane's Citizens' Commission of Inquiry also pressured Congress to re-investigate Kennedy's murder. There was a growing suspicion that the CIA had deliberately withheld evidence from the Warren Commission and that the investigation should be re-opened.

Mandate and Terms of Reference of H.S.C.A.

'Four mandates were given to the Committee: Who killed President Kennedy? Did the Killer(s) receive any assistance? Did the government agencies adequately collect and share information prior to the assassination, protect the President properly, and conduct a thorough investigation into the assassination? Should new legislation on these matters be enacted by Congress?'

> *JFK The Second Plot,* p. 140 Matthew Smith

The Zapruder Footage

Abraham Zapruder who was a dress manufacturer, shot a record of the entire assassination with an 8 mm camera. The Commission had not viewed the film in sequence and two vital frames, Z155 and Z156, were missing. Two other frames were printed in reverse order. The missing frames were the very ones that revealed that another shot had occurred. Another splice was introduced at frame Z207. Frames Z208, Z209, Z210 and Z211 were also found to be missing. The public had never seen the Zapruder film. *Time Incorporated* had reputedly purchased it and sequestered it away. The film was only ever shown publicly for a brief period during the trial of Clay Shaw in New Orleans (1967-69). Attorney Jim Garrison had subpoenaed the Zapruder film from *Time-Life Corp*. Finally, in March 1975, a copy of the film was aired nationally on ABC's *Goodnight America*.

Today, the Zapruder film's integrity is under attack. David Lifton suspects that the Zapruder film was at the CIA's National Photo Interpretation Centre (NPIC) on the night of the assassination!

The Dictabelt and Acoustic Data

While the original Zapruder film allowed the dimension of 'time' to be accurately established (frames/second) the acoustic record of police motorcyclist H.B. McLain could not be ignored by the HSCA. McLain's microphone had stuck in the 'open' position and 'a continuous recording' existed of the period during which the motorcade made its way through Dealey Plaza. Dr James E. Barger analysed the acoustic data and reported:

- a 95 percent probability that two of the shots came from the School Book Depository;
- a 75 percent probability that three shots came from that building;
- and an incredible 50 percent probability that one shot came from the grassy knoll.'

JFK The Second Plot, p. 146

These conclusions were further refined when Chief Counsel Robert Blakey crossexamined the experts. Blakey now established that:

- the first, second and fourth shots came from the School Book Depository;
- the third came from the grassy knoll with a confidence level of 95 percent or higher.'

It should be noted that Professor Blakey had taken Robert Groden aside and ordered him not to express to the Committee (HSCA) any conclusions that he had drawn from the Zapruder Film and the tapes. Despite this warning Chief Counsel Robert Blakey is quoted by Groden as saying, 'There are six or seven shots on the tape'.

JFK The Second Plot, see p. 149

Two Lee Harvey Oswalds

JACK WHITE: Photoanaly

Above, Texas researcher Jack White has combined the left-hand side of a photograph of Marine Lee Harvey Oswald with the right-hand side of a photo reportedly made in Russia. Lee Harvey Oswald was a perfect choice as a 'Patsy'. A false history of his movements prior to the assassination was established by a 'look-a-like'. There is little doubt that he was controlled by George de Mohrenschildt and ultimately E. Howard Hunt. Both of these men were sub-contractors to the CIA, but operated as independent agents for the Mafia.

Shortcoming of HSCA

'Placed first in the Committee's brief was a mandate to discover who killed President John F. Kennedy, and in this it failed. For the most part it turned the question around and declared who HAD NOT killed the President.' *JFK The Second Plot,* p. 149 by Matthew Smith

Conclusion in Relation to the Assassination of JFK

'When it finished with its hearings the House investigators concluded that Kennedy's murder was 'probably' the result of a conspiracy.

But if one conspiracy killed JFK then it was followed by a second, even greater conspiracy – in the form of a massive cover-up.'

Breaking the Silence, p. 6 Bill Sloan

Other Findings in Relation to Martin Luther King

Regarding Martin Luther King, the HSCA

'concluded that there was a likelihood of conspiracy in the assassination of Dr King' and that 'the expectation of financial gain was Ray's primary motivation'. *Legacy of Secrecy,* see p. 746 Lamar Waldron.

CHAPTER 4 THE ANATOMY OF CONSPIRACY

'What Hoover said publicly could be different to what Hoover said in private.

Hoover told Bobby Kennedy Oswald had killed JFK.

Only sixteen hours later Hoover would tell the New Presdient Lyndon Johnson that 'the evidence that they have at the present time is not very, very strong against Oswald.'

The Legacy of Secrecy, see p. 171 by Lamar Waldron

CHAPTER 4 THE ANATOMY OF CONSPIRACY

Definition of Conspiracy

A conspiracy is essentially the collusion of two or more persons to commit a crime. When the crime to be committed is to be the assassination of the President of the United States of America the dimensions of the collusion assume such staggering proportions that few people want to believe it.

Conspiracy and 'Rounding-up of the Usual Suspects'

Conspiracy theories are usually ridiculed by state authorities when prominent people are murdered or assassinated. This is not because the authorities do not suspect a conspiracy. It is because the general public clamours for a quick solution. This clamouring has spawned the phrase 'round-up the usual suspects'. Conspiracies take time to unravel and there is no telling where they will lead.

The 'Lone-Nut' Approach to Assassinations

Classic gangland methodology has perfected the executing of the 'Lone Nut' approach to assassinations.

'David Scheim's book *Contract on America* outlines this technique on the Mafia assassinations of Chicago Mayor Anton Ceruak and Robert F. Kennedy.

In basic terms, an individual not connected with the organisation, providing an irrelevant but believable motive, is put in position to 'assassinate' the official. All the while, a professional contract killer is also in position, waiting for the 'nut' to open fire. Taking advantage of the momentary confusion and terror, he, in turn, guarantees the actual killing. Fading into the crowd, the assassin leaves the 'nut' to take the blame. For a visual, and rather adroit, demonstration of this technique, one need only view the closing minutes of an

obscure Italian film entitled *The Seduction of Mimi*. This picture details the 'seduction' of one man into the ranks of the Sicilian Mafia, by way of assassination of a local official. A domestic film involving a concealed shooter is *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*. Undoubtedly Marcello's own situation calls for the use of the 'lone-nut' approach if it is to have any chance at success. To do otherwise will only ensure direct exposure and the very destruction he is seeking to avoid.'

Act of Treason. p. 184 by Mark North

Conspiratorial Prerequisites for the Assassination of a President

The following outline may be used as a guide to the planning of the conspiracy.

1. Necessary Elements of a Master Plan

Motivation Executive Planning, Direction and Control Secrecy and Extensive Knowledge Funding Identification of Lone Nut/Patsy Assignment of Patsy Controller Issuing of Contracts for Two Teams Training of Team A and Team B Escape Planning for Rifle Teams Elimination of Patsy

2. Contingency Provisioning

Dissemination of False Clues Spread of Disinformation Elimination of Dissonance Maintenance of Lone Nut Propaganda

Failure of One Key Element

While the conspiracy met the requirements on nearly 100% of the pre-requisites it nearly came to grief on one important key element viz **Elimination of the 'Patsy'**. Police Constable Tippit failed to kill Oswald. He was killed himself although not necessarily by Oswald. This slip-up threatened to expose the existence of the conspiracy and bring the law down very heavily on Marcello. He could not allow this to happen. Marcello drew on his credit which was his investment in Jack Ruby. He had not only bank-rolled Ruby but probably guaranteed Ruby could meet his IRS debt (a small fortune) if he eliminated Oswald (see p. 53 *Legacy of Secrecy*).

CHAPTER 5 THE USUAL SUSPECTS

'The first task tackled by Cornwell and the forty-five attorneys, researchers, and investigators was to come up with an investigating plan We asked ourselves who had the motive, the opportunity and the means to carry out the assassination and a number of major groups quickly became obvious – anti-Castro Cubans, the Castro regime itself, right-wing south extremists, the Mafia, the Soviets, and elements of our own government.'

> Gary Cornwell Dep. Chief Counsel H.S.C.A. in *JFK Breaking the Silence* pps. 212-213

CHAPTER 5 THE USUAL SUSPECTS

There were many suspects who had the motivation, funding, skill and experience to implement an assassination of the President of the United States. They include:

Suspect List of Possible Conspirators

- Communist Russia
- Communist Cuba
- The F.B.I.
- The C.I.A.
- The Military Industrialists
- The Dallas Police Department
- Anti-Castro Cubans
- Right-wing Southern Extremists
- The Underworld/Mafia
- The Teamster's Union/James Hoffa
- Vice-President Lyndon Baynes Johnson
- Oil Magnates

Most Likely Conspirators

Although strong cases can be made for each of the factions listed above by far the strongest case can be made for the Underworld and the Mafia. This claim was made before the House Select Committee on Assassinations deliberated and has been considerably strengthened by subsequent admissions and confessions (see below). The following list of Key Players may not cover the full gamut of underworld figures but does sample most of them:

Key Underworld Figures

- Johnny Rosselli (Chicago)
- Frank Costello (New York)
- Angelo Bruno (Philadelphia)
- Carlos Marcello (New Orleans)
- Santo Trafficante (Miami)
- Edward Levinson (Mafia gambler horse-racing)
- Benjamin Sigelbaum (Gambler)
- Meyer Lansky (Financier)
- Sam Giancana (Chicago)
- Joseph Valachi (Informer)
- Jimmy Hoffa (Teamsters Union)
- Gilbert Beckley (Bookmaker)



Johnny Rosselli



Frank Costello



Angelo Bruno



Carlos Marcello



Santo Trafficante



Meyer Lansky



Sam Giancana



Joseph Valachi



Jimmy Hoffa



Gilbert Beckley

The Leading Suspects

Lamar Waldron highlights the leading roles in JFK's assassination by Carlos Marcello, Santo Trafficante and Johnny Rosselli. Each of them had faced 'an unprecedented onslaught throughout JFK's administration through the intense pressure applied by Robert Kennedy (Attorney-General). This pressure reached its peak by November 1963.'

CAMTEX and the Trusted F.B.I. Informant

Waldron's claims about Marcello being the chief conspirator have arisen from an operation known as CAMTEX (for Carlos Marcello, Texas) by a trusted FBI informant who had bugged a special transistor radio while Marcello was in prison during 1985.

Marcello, Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby

Marcello told the FBI informant that he had been introduced to Oswald by David Ferris (Ferrie), his pilot. He also claimed that he had set-up Jack Ruby in the bar business. Ruby reported to Marcello at Churchill Farms and kept him informed of any Dallas police who were 'on the take'. A private detective, Guy Bannister, also did work for Marcello. Bannister was a former head of the Chicago FBI office. Six witnesses saw Oswald with Ferrie or Bannister in the summer of 1963. (*Legacy of Secrecy,* see, p. 50).

Marcello's Confession

The informant reported that Marcello finally blurted:

'Yeah, I had the little son of a bitch killed, and I would do it again; he was a thorn in my side. I wish I could have done it myself'.

Legacy of Secrecy, see p. 50

Four Levels of Operation

First Level or Key Conspirators

While Marcello, Trafficante and Rosselli were the key conspirators, there were at least two levels of conspirators beneath them who actually implemented the orders.

Second Level

At the Planning Executive Level were such shadowy operatives as E. Howard Hunt, Guy Bannister, and David Ferrie. The CIA informant, Clay Shaw (alias Clay Bertrand), also had contacts with Ferrie and Oswald and could also be included in this second level of operation.



E. Howard Hunt



Guy Bannister



David Ferrie



Clay Shaw

Third Level

At the non-Executive level were such resource personnel as Jack Ruby, Lee Oswald, George de Mohrenschildt, Police Constable J.D. Tippit, and Wayne January.

• Lee Harvey Oswald was identified as the designated 'Patsy' from the beginning.

- Oswald's minder was George de Mohrenchildt who answered to E. Howard Hunt.
- Wayne January was ostensibly Oswald's escape pilot.
- Tippit was employed to drive Oswald to an airport.
- An unknown assassin was employed to kill both Tippit and Oswald.
- Jack Ruby was a final 'fall-back' or 'fail-safe' resource person to cover-up any mistakes.









Jack Ruby

Lee Harvey Oswald

George Mohrenschildt

J.D. Tippit

Fourth Level

At this level were the actual assassins who formed two teams:

'The Grassy Knoll Team

 Assassin Number One was Charles Harrelson, an experienced hit man who had worked for several syndicate groups and who is now serving a life sentence in prison for the murder of a federal judge in San Antonio. Harrelson was one of three 'tramps' briefly detained by Dallas police, and carried papers that day identifying him as John Forrester Gedney. He fired from a position atop the grassy knoll then slipped into the adjoining railroad yards. ("I knew Harrelson personally," says Huggins, "and he was capable of killing anybody.")



Charles Harrelson

Assassin Number Two was Frank Sturgis, a CIA contract agent who was later convicted and sent to prison as one of the burglars in the Watergate break-in. Sturgis fired from a sewer drain in the curb of Elm Street, taking advantage of almost point-blank range. Sturgis is now living very quietly in South Florida.



Frank Sturgis

Assassin Number Three was Charles Rogers, another of the 'tramps' who carried papers identifying him as Harold Doyle, and who fired at least one shot from the roof of the Dallas County Records Building. Rogers, who lived in Houston, was known in espionage circles as 'the Traveller' and went under various aliases including 'Carlos Montoya.' He disappeared in 1965 after being charged in the murder of his parents in Houston, and his whereabouts today are unknown. ("He was one mean so-and-so," says Huggins).



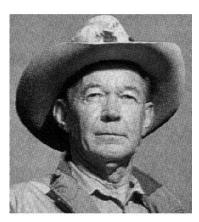
Charles Rogers (Harold Doyle)

The Texas School Book Depository Team

• The identity of Assassin Number Four, who fired from the Texas School Book Depository, has never been established. ("It wasn't

Dallas police officer Roscoe White, as some have claimed," says Huggins, "although White *did* do work for the CIA. It wasn't the third 'tramp', whose name was Chauncey Holt (and who carried papers identifying him as Gus W. Abrams', although Holt was hired to be there just to confuse matters. And it wasn't Oswald, either. Oswald was one of the poorest marksmen ever to come out of the marines. He would never have been hired for a hit like this one.")'







Roscoe WhiteChauncey HoltLee Harvey Oswaldsee The Assassin's Tale, The Dark Secrets of a CIA Hit Manbeing Chapter 9 of Bill Sloan's Breaking the Silence and theaccount of Hugh Huggins (Alias Hugh Howells) an undercoveragent for the CIA, in the 'Kennedy Group'.

Notes

- It is important to understand that a person occupies <u>several roles</u> in life.
 Thus a person may have been an ex-FBI agent who is now willing to accept assignments from the FBI on a contract basis or be on a retainer.
- An Ex-Army Officer may become a CIA Agent. He does not cease to be in contact with his Army mates. Many key operators in this conspiracy were widely <u>networked.</u>

SUMMARY CHART



J. Edgar Hoover FBI Head



Carlos Marcello James Hoffa

L



Johnny Rosselli



John F. Kennedy (THE VICTIM)

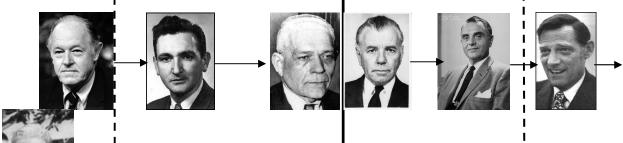


Allan Dulles CIA Head



Santo Trafficante

(PERPETRATORS)



E. Howard David Morales Hunt Phillips



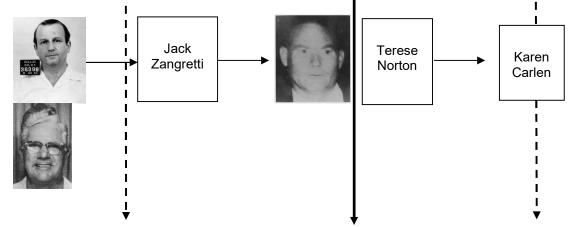
ie Clay Shaw

aw Guy Bannister George

Mohrenschildt Atlee-

David

(EXECUTIVES)



Jack Ruby Joseph Milteer Hank Killam

(RESOURCE PERSONNEL)





Hugh Maurice Ward Gatlin



Thomas Davis

Lee. H. Oswald J.D. Tippit Gary Underhill Oswald (2) (RESOURCE PERSONNEL) (Patsy) Charles Rogers Charles Harrelson Frank Sturgis Roscoe White? Chauncey Holt? (ASSASSINS) FBI J. EDGAR HOOVER LYNDON B. JOHNSON CIA RICHARD HELMS BENEFICIARY BENEFICIARY BENEFICIARY

CHAPTER 6

FOREKNOWLEDGE and LATER CONVENIENT DEATHS

'Officials had uncovered plots to assassinate JFK during his planned motorcades in Chicago on November 2 and in Tampa on November 18. Apparently, JFK and Bobby decided that sharing information about the attempts with the Cuba Contingency Committee could compromise the security of the entire coup plan.'

Legacy of Secrecy, p. 26 by Lamar Waldron

CHAPTER 6 FOREKNOWLEDGE and LATER CONVENIENT DEATHS

Foreknowledge

President Kennedy's Foreknowledge

There can be little doubt that President Kennedy had more than premonitional knowledge of plans to assassinate him. Indeed, JFK did much to engender antagonism toward himself through his disagreements with J. Edgar Hoover and his systematic program of replacing agency and departmental directors, top officials of the Secret Service, C.I.A., Immigration and Naturalization Service, National Security Agency, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Bureau of Narcotics. Many of these had been former FBI agents. The President also increased his personal security and in the early days of his presidency he introduced a certain unpredictability about his movements. These actions indicate that he suspected hostility towards himself especially by the Mafia elements who were openly critical of Hoover's large-scale surveillance of casinos in Las Vegas.

F.B.I.I Director J. Edgar Hoover's Foreknowledge

Hoover often used the term 'adulterer' and 'adulteress' to describe the President and his wife. Hoover was also aware of the criminal source of Kennedy's wealth which had been amassed from illegal trade in Scotch Whiskey during prohibition. The President's father had used organised crime networks to distribute his imported whiskey. Hoover found Kennedy's association with Frank Sinatra and Kennedy's association with Judith Campbell, a Mafia call-girl, very distasteful.

In his book *Act of Treason*, Mark North outlines a strong case for arguing that Hoover had knowledge of a plot to assassinate the President as early as 1962. 'In September 1962 ... Hoover learned that the Marcello family in New Orleans, Louisiana, had put out a contract on the life of John Kennedy. Despite specific statutory requirement, and his duty as an American citizen, Hoover did not inform his superiors within the Justice Department ... He withheld the data, in part, ... because JFK had made it known that he intended, by the end of his term in office, to retire the Director and replace him with a man of his own.'

Act of Treason, p. 13

Lyndon Baynes Johnson

LBJ is sometimes accused of being the man behind the assassination plot to murder JFK. This argument is largely based on Johnson's animosity to JFK and his brother Robert, the fact that the assassination occurred in his home state, his well-known friendship and personal communication with J. Edgar Hoover, his questionable dealings with both Bobby Baker and Billie Sol Estes (both of whom were under FBI surveillance and had associated with Jimmy Hoffa), and that he stood to gain the most from the assassination of the President. Johnson's long-time mistress, Madeline Brown told the author Matthew Smith that on the morning of the assassination she had received a phone call from LBJ. She said:

'Johnson was furious ... In an apparently unguarded moment he remarked, 'After today those damned Kennedys will never make fun of me again.' *JFK The Second Plot*, p. 319

Johnson, almost certainly knew that an assassination attempt would take place on the day that it did. Indeed, Richard M. Nixon probably did too. Their foreknowledge need not imply any complicity.

Later Convenient Deaths

Deaths of Material Witnesses

'In the three years following the death of President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald, 18 material witnesses died – six by gunfire, three in motor accidents, two by suicide, one from a cut throat, one from a karate chop to the neck, five from natural causes'. (*Crossfire*, p. 555, by Jim Marrs).

Marrs provides an extensive list of persons whose death may be described as 'convenient' for anyone not wishing the truth of the JFK assassination to become public.

Date	Name/Cause	Comment
5/64	Gary Underhill	CIA Agent who claimed Agency was
	Gunshot in head	involved
6/69	Guy Bannister	Ex-FBI agent connected to Ferrie, CIA,
	Heart Attack	Marcello and Oswald
5/65	Maurice Gatlin Fatal fall	Pilot for Bannister
5/64	Hugh Ward	Private investigator working with Guy
	Plane crash in Mexico	Bannister and David Ferrie
2/67	David Ferrie Blow to neck	Acquaintance of Oswald and employee of Guy Bannister
11/63	Karyn Kupcinet Murdered	Overheard telling of JFK's death prior to 22 November 1963
12/63	Jack Zangretti Gunshot victim	Expressed foreknowledge of Ruby shooting Oswald
3/64	Hank Killam	Oswald acquaintance and husband of
	Throat cut	Ruby employee

Summary List of Violent/Unexplained Deaths

8/64	Teresa Norton	Ruby employee
	Fatally shot	
9/65	Rose Cheramie Hit-run victim	Had advance knowledge of assassination
1966	Karen Carlin Gunshot victim	Ruby employee
2/67	Harold Russell Killed by cop in brawl	Saw escape of Tippit killer
2/67	Eladio Del Valle Blow to neck	Acquaintance of Oswald and associate of David Ferrie
9/73	Thomas E. Davis Electrocuted	Gun runner connected to both Ruby and CIA
2/74	J.A. Milteer Heater explosion	Miami right-winger who predicted death of JFK and capture of Patsy
1974	Dave Yaras Murdered	Close friend to both Hoffa and Jack Ruby

The above details can be found on pps. 558 to 566 in Jim Marrs *Crossfire*. A similar account can be found in Matthew Smith's *JFK The Second Plot* in Ch. 12 'Sudden Death'.

The Convenient Mafia Deaths

'Chicago-based Mafia boss Sam Giancana and his hit-man Johnny Rosselli had been involved in a scandalous partnership with the CIA to kill Fidel Castro. Giancana was shot in the brain by unknown assailants in 1976 while the House Committee was in session. Johnny Rosselli, due to be questioned by the Committee, was killed before he could testify. His body was found floating in an oil drum off the Florida coast'. (*JFK The Second Plot,* p. 177).

The JFK Act (1992)

In 1992 Congress passed the JFK Act. This created the JFK Assassination Records Review Board. This Board continued to release files relating to the assassination but there still remains more than a million relevant files to be released. The amount of material yet to be declassified is vast.

'The most obvious example is the hundreds of hours of MARCELLO tapes recorded in 1985 and the confessions of MARCELLO, TRAFFICANTE, ROSSELLI, DAVID MORALES, JOHN MARTINO, E. HOWARD HUNT, DAVID ATLEE PHILLIPS, DESMOND FITZGERALD and GEORGE JOANNIDES.'

Legacy of Secrecy, pps. 770-771

CHAPTER 7 MY CONCLUSIONS

After reading the literature listed in the bibliography and watching the numerous documentaries and films on the assassination of JFK I have come to the following conclusions:

- 1. There were two major conspiracies concerning the assassinations. The first was the actual assassination which involved a knowledge of the planning and execution at a very high level within the government. The second was the conspiracy which was involved in the cover-up.
- 2. Lee Harvey Oswald never fired a shot in the assassination. He was a 'patsy' as he claimed before his subsequent assassination by Jack Ruby. Oswald was to be shot by Constable Tippet but he shot Tippet instead. Oswald was a CIA operative masquerading as a Castro supporter.
- 3. The actual assassination was perpetrated and financed by Carlos Marcello and implemented by E. Howard Hunt, Guy Bannister, David Ferrie. These conspirators used resource people to be 'minders' of those who were more directly involved. Some of the minders included George Mohrenschildt, David Ferrie, Gary Underhill, Guy Bannister.
- Jack Ruby and Constable Tippit were part of the 'back-up' system of the plan.
 They were to be used if events failed in some respect.
- 5. LBJ, Richard Nixon, J. Edgar Hoover and JFK knew that the assassination was likely to take place. This does not mean they were directly implicated.
- 6. The assassination was 'mafia inspired' but those who implemented the plan were sub-contractors who had at one time been CIA and FBI operatives.

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Books

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- 2. North, Mark; *The Role of J. Edgar Hoover in the Assassination of President Kennedy Acts of Treason.* Carrol and Graf Publishers, Inc., N.Y.; 1991. This highly annotated book of 671 pages contains 7 major chapters with copious notes and references.

Chapter	Number of Notes
1	188
2	44
3	36
4	34
5	
6	92, 18, 442, 842, 610
Notes in total	2306

This book also contains an Appendix (A) which contains copies of a selection of personal correspondence between Vice-President L.B. Johnson and Director J.E. Hoover between July 1960 and May 1964 (16 letters). The Bibliography lists Articles (23), Books (63), Government Publications and Reports (29), Legal Publications (6), Newspapers (37), Radio, Television, Videocassette (8).

3. Sloan, Bill; *JFK – Breaking the Silence*. Taylor Publishing Coy, Dallas, Texas, 1993.

This book contains 12 startling conspiracy stories 'that can now be told'. These stories were 'overlooked' by the Warren Commission. The accounts told to the author were by Ed. Hoffman (witness), Dwayne Payne and the Zapruder film, Jim Koethe and Bill Hunter (reporters), Dr Joe D. Goldstrich (hospital witness), John Norris (finger-print expert and Secret Service Officer), Jim Tague (innocent victim of assassin's stray bullet), Roy Vaughan (Midlothian Police Chief), Bill and Gayle Newman(ignored witnesses), Sergeant Hugh Huggins (Undercover Agent for CIA attached to 'Kennedy Group' for 10 years), Billy Fowler (partner to Patrolman J.D. Tippit), Jesse Curry (Dallas Police Chief), Cary Cornwell (Deputy Chief Counsel for the House Select Committee on Assassinations) (231 pages).

 Marrs, Jim; Crossfire – The Plot That Killed Kennedy. Carroll and Graf Publishers, Inc. N.Y. 1989-90.
 This book was used as a basis for Oliver Stone's movie JFK. It was the New York Times Bestseller. 'Veteran Texas journalist Jim Marrs pulls together a stunning wealth of facts and new evidence to reveal the glaring defects in official versions of what happened that fateful day in November 1963 when President Kennedy was shot.' (Duskjacket) (625 pages)

5. Smith, Matthew. *JFK – The Second Plot*. Mainstream Publishing; Edinburgh; 2002.

The author of this book distinguishes between the first 'main tier' plot to assassinate the President by a team of marksmen and a second plot providing for the escape of the marksmen and the 'Patsy' Oswald. Wayne January of the Red Bird Airport is quoted as having seen Oswald while two other agents tried to negotiate a charter flight to Cuba. The author also claims Constable J.D. Tippit was scheduled to pick up Oswald to take him to the Red Bird Airfield on Friday, 22 November. (336 pages).

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- 8. Waldron, Lamar with Hartmann, Thom. Legacy of Secrecy The Long Shadow of the J.F.K. Assassination. Scribe Publications, 2009. This latest book provides data on the JFK assassination made public after Congress unanimously passed the 1992 JFK Act, creating the JFK Assassination Records Review Board. The authors provide new insights into the relevance of the secret coup against Cuba's Fidel Castro – set for December 1, 1963, i.e. 10 days after JFK's Dallas trip. The Kennedys had banned the Mafia from the operation and forbidden them from re-opening their casinos if the coup succeeded.

Films

- *Executive Action*, directed by David Miller and Screenplay by Dalton Trumbo, based on the novel *Rush to Judgement* by Mark Lane and Donald Freed. Starring Burt Lancaster and Robert Ryan. Video cassette screening time 90 mins. Warner Communications inc., No. 0206.
- JFK, starring Kevin Costner as Jim Garrison; Warner Bros, DVD 1991, 206 mins.
- *Hoffa*, starring Jack Nicholson as Jimmy Hoffa; 20th Century Fox, DVD 1992, 137 mins.
- Ruby, life story of Jack Ruby.
- *J. Edgar Hoover Personal and Confidential*. Biography on DVD, Rajon Distributors, 90 mins.