



YOUR KINDLE NOTES FOR:

Never Again!: The Government Conspiracy in the JFK Assassination

Harold Weisberg

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34 Highlight(s) | 0 Note(s)

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On the simplest basis, if a crime is beyond the capability of any one person, it is a conspiracy. No marksman, not the world's best shots, not the master riflemen that the National Rifle Association (NRA) provided for the Warren Commission's tests, has ever been able to duplicate the shooting skill attributed to Lee Harvey Oswald, the officially ordained assassin who was a "rather poor" shot in the evaluation of the Marine Corps in which he served. There were two sets of tests for the Commission at the Army's Edgewood Arsenal proving grounds in Aberdeen, Maryland. One, under greatly improved conditions, failed to duplicate the accuracy of Oswald's alleged shooting within the time permitted, from 4.6 to 6.5 seconds. The second set of shooting tests was supposed to establish whether or not what came to be known as "the single-bullet theory" was possible. This subtheory of the official theory, invented by Commission assistant counsel Arlen Specter, now a United States Senator, requires that a single bullet of the alleged manufacture enter the back of the President's neck, exit the front of his neck, then enter the body of Texas Governor John F. Connally (who was in the jump seat of the Presidential limousine on the President's side) under his right armpit, smashing four inches of Connally's fifth rib before emerging from under his right nipple to enter the dorsal side of his right hand, wreaking havoc with his right wrist bones, and then once entering his left thigh, and after penetrating more or less parallel with its surface for several inches, just to come to rest there. The test of this theory used masonite and animal bones to replicate human bones, and it used gelatin blocks as a substitute for human tissue. It was so well-known that the alleged bullet did not have the penetrating power required by this theory that the experts at Aberdeen did not even try. Instead the supposed duplication was addressed by dividing the parts of the bizarre theory of the magical

bullet into separate sections in separate tests and then making “computations” to compute, not prove, whether one of those bullets had that much power. If the answer had not been known from the beginning, it would have been a simple matter to line up the right thicknesses of masonite and gelatin, etc., and fire a bullet at them. This was never done! This is not all the Commission theorized. Its entire Report is but a theory. Its defenders, like Lundberg, Breo, Humes, and Boswell, denounce private persons who say there was a conspiracy as mere theorists. They lack the integrity to admit that what they themselves defend is no more than a theory. Even the FBI and the Secret Service do not agree with the Warren Report. Their disagreement is over this single-bullet theory. But don’t look for this in the Warren Report or in its twenty-six volume appendix. The Commission knew the fallacy of the single bullet theory not later than December 9, 1963, the day it received an FBI special report. In...

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The FBI and the Secret Service never agreed to the Commission’s theorized solution. Each organization was just as determined to hold that there had not been any conspiracy, that Oswald was the lone assassin. But each also knew that the career the Commission invented for its first shot was absolutely impossible. The FBI’s instant theory, and again it is only a theory, is that the first bullet hit the President only, inflicting all his nonfatal wounds; that the second hit Connally and no one else; and that the third was the fatal shot to the President’s head. The Secret Service agrees with the FBI’s theory. I have seen no record of either agency changing its adherence to this theory. Both agencies just ignored the wounding of Jim Tague.

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The Commission began with the FBI’s theory, which it got from the FBI, but soon realized that it could not ignore Tague’s wound, so it adopted the “solution” of its assistant counsel, Arlen Specter, that the first bullet was supermagical. Both agencies and the Commission, as well as the AMA, ignore the fact that nobody in the entire world has been able to duplicate the fantastic shooting attributed to the duffer Oswald. As I wrote earlier, the Commission got the best shots the National Rifle Association could provide. Under vastly easier conditions they were unsuccessful in their attempts to duplicate the

shooting attributed to Oswald. With 912 pages for its Report, the Commission found no space for this definitive testing of the theory it presented to the nation as fact, as its solution

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to the most terrible and subversive of crimes. Profound in his ignorance, which is the kindest comment Lundberg's intrusion into the assassination controversy permits, he proclaimed the correctness of the Warren Commission's theorized conclusions and told the world that his interviews of the two autopsy pathologists prove them. Lundberg actually said that because Humes and

Note:

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On a single page of this lengthy memo covering what transpired at the Manchester interview, DeLoach stated that on three different occasions Hoover told Manchester that he had entered the case without any legal authority to do so. In a sentence referring to Hoover's second call on the afternoon of the assassination to Robert Kennedy, brother and attorney general, DeLoach wrote that Hoover "once again told him [Kennedy] that the FBI was moving into the investigation. The Director advised Manchester that the FBI took this action despite the fact that there was no law making it a Federal violation to assassinate the President."

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The fourth paragraph on this second page begins, "The Director told Manchester that the FBI immediately entered the case, despite nonjurisdiction ..." In the same paragraph, referring to a conversation with the new President, DeLoach wrote, "The Director stated [to Manchester] he advised the President that the FBI had already entered the case." This third repetition of the FBI's involvement refers to what Hoover told LBJ when LBJ phoned him about 7:25 P.M., not long after he had reached his office after returning from Dallas. Beginning with DeLoach's flourish "D" and including

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The FBI's control of all investigations continued legally once LBJ asked Hoover to investigate and report the findings of its investigation to him. Presidents may legally request the FBI to make investigations of crimes that are not...

Note:

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When the New Orleans Secret Service investigation led it to the Jones Printing Company, the printer of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee handbills Oswald had distributed, and the Secret Service was on the verge of learning, as I later learned, that it was not Oswald who picked up those handbills, the New Orleans FBI at once contacted FBIHQ. The FBI immediately leaned on the Secret Service headquarters and immediately the New Orleans Secret Service was ordered to desist. For all practical purposes, that ended the Secret Service investigation of the JFK assassination—the moment it was about to...

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When the Dallas FBI Oswald case agent, James P. Hosty, Jr., in an emotional moment early on the afternoon of the assassination, blurted out to Lieutenant Jack Revill of Dallas police intelligence that the FBI knew Oswald had the potential but did not believe he would do anything like kill the President, Chief Jesse Curry directed Revill to prepare an affidavit stating this under oath. This information reached the press. Hoover then ordered that Curry be made to apologize on live TV, coast-to-coast, and Curry, humbly and on nationwide TV did apologize—for telling the truth. The FBI was able to suppress this truth for thirteen years. Then, when the retirement of J. Gordon Shanklin, Dallas FBI special agent-in-charge, was secure, the truth was leaked to the Dallas Times Herald, the more conservative of the city's two daily newspapers. Leaked by someone inside the Dallas FBI office, it resulted in a belated and phony FBI investigation of the FBI. This self-investigation could not avoid confirming the fact that had been suppressed in the FBIHQ and field-office files, but had existed in other hidden and undisclosed records: Oswald had threatened bombings of the FBI's Dallas office, of the Dallas police...

Note:

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It is most remarkable that brutal as the FBI's assertion of raw power was, no inkling of its employment was ever complained about or even leaked by those dominated and controlled by it. Not by the Secret Service, not by the Dallas police, and not even by the Warren Commission or by any of its staff. The staff learned of it when the members, in secret, confessed awareness of the fact that the FBI was controlling it and what it dared do during an executive session on the evening of January 22, 1964. The staff was barred from the executive sessions, and the transcripts were classified TOP SECRET even though the Commission had no authority to classify anything. The Commission ordered the January 22 transcript destroyed. When I learned that the stenotypist's tape escaped the memory hole and that it was hidden in the Commission's files, I was able to compel its transcription and disclosure to me under the FOIA. I published this transcript in facsimile in *Post Mortem* (page 475 ff.). I published a related transcript of the executive session of five days later, also in facsimile, in *Whitewash IV* along with other formerly suppressed and relevant records. Hoover and his top echelon of skilled political operators, particularly DeLoach, first tried to prevent the appointment of the Commission. Failing in that, they controlled appointments, such as the chairman's general counsel. Hoover did not like Chairman/Chief Justice Earl Warren's choice for general counsel, a Justice Department lawyer from the Criminal Division, Warren Olney. Through Commission member Gerald Ford, then House minority leader, Hoover got his way. This is established in other Commission executive session transcripts that I obtained under the compulsion of the FOIA.

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Written early on the morning of the first working day after the assassination, Monday, November 25, Evans wrote that "Katzenbach handed to me this morning the attached memorandum which he has sent to Bill Moyers, who will be the principal assistant to President Johnson in the White House. Katzenbach said that this memorandum was prepared by him after his discussion with the Director yesterday." "Yesterday" is when Ruby killed Oswald. The policy Katzenbach urged on the new President begins with: 1. The public must be satisfied that Oswald was the assassin; that he did not have confederates who are still at large; and that the evidence was such that he would have been convicted at trial. The penultimate paragraph begins as follows: "The

only other step would be the appointment of a Presidential Commission of unimpeachable personnel to review and examine the evidence and to announce its conclusions." Although Katzenbach employs quiet words in an

Note:

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Not that the FBI ever intended to investigate the crime itself. It only wanted to get away with ordaining Oswald the lone-nut assassin. In his 7:25 P.M. phone call to Hoover on November 22, LBJ ordered the FBI to make a full investigation and then report to him. By the time Katzenbach drafted this memo, nothing like a real investigation had been possible, regardless of the manpower assigned to it by the FBI or the diligence and competence with which the agents worked. The FBI did complete its interpretation of what LBJ ordered of it rapidly. It also leaked it before it was delivered to the Commission, on December 9, 1963. Its first of many leaks of which I have records was carried out a week before the Commission first saw, and then was stunned by, what the FBI did, in five fancy volumes. The first volume is the text of its report. The last is its report on Ruby. The others are its alleged evidence.

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In reading this supposedly definitive investigative report, there is no way to know how many shots were fired or even how many wounds the President had. There is an elaborate index, but it has no entries for anyone with the illusion that he can learn something about the crime from the vaunted FBI's report on it that was to have raised and answered all questions. As the report itself is a diatribe against Oswald, so is even the index a diatribe against Oswald. This poisoning of national and world opinion against Oswald was the FBI's carefully hidden but known intention. This is revealed in the one passage Katzenbach edited out of his handwritten draft of his memo to LBJ through Moyers. It refers to this "definitive" report not as an exhaustive report on the crime itself but as a report on Oswald, referring to it as "a thorough FBI report on Oswald."

Note:

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How paranoid was the Commission? It classified as TOP SECRET all the stenographic transcripts of all the testimony it took, testimony that it was to have published! It held that classification until printing, too! That the Commission lacked the legal right to classify anything did not prevent it from doing so. There was to have been a public trial. Would the government have dared withhold that from the defense, with all the risks and other hazards with which that would have been fraught? Withholding such information, available under the court's "discovery" procedures, could have gotten the case thrown out of court. What a scandal the withholding and the dismissal would have been! It clearly was not within the National Archives

Note:

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"And then you destroyed them?" Cornwell repeated. Humes responded, "Destroyed the ones that were stained with the President's blood." No interest at all in the destruction of evidence. Or, in the alleged copies not existing, either.

Note:

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THE JFK AUTOPSY REPORT WAS WRITTEN BEFORE IT WAS KNOWN THAT there would be no trial, when the only official suspect had not yet been killed, but it was revised as soon as it was known that Oswald had been shot and killed. This is what lends particular importance to Humes's untoward burning of his original draft of the autopsy report. As drafted, it was intended to survive rigorous examination and cross-examination, but it was rewritten to conform

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warfare. The bullets Oswald was said to have used are about an inch long and a tiny fraction more than a quarter of an inch in diameter. It is not a particularly big bullet, and much of its bulk is of copper alloy that does not tend to fragment into such tiny particles. Those thirty to forty dustlike particles have to have come from the lead-alloy core. They could not be deposited unless the core jacket was missing and then missing in a way that would not influence the flight path of these bits, that were as tiny as dust and of relatively very little energy. Unlikely as this seems, it is a virtual impossibility for that hardened,

full-jacketed military ammunition to have deposited anything like those thirty to forty dustlike particles and to have clustered them in tissue as soft as human brain. There is no question that there existed these thirty to forty particles—particles so tiny Humes himself described them as like dust—and that they were in the head on a front-to-back as well as back-to-front axis. They could not have come from the American manufactured bullets for the World War II Italian Mannlicher-Carcano rifle. And that alone means that even if Oswald were an assassin, he was not alone because this deposit of ultrafine particles means there was another shooter other than Oswald. And that means there was a conspiracy.

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The Report states: "There is very persuasive evidence from the experts to indicate that the same bullet which pierced the President also caused Governor Connally's wounds." This even Connally and his wife disputed. There is no such "evidence," "persuasive" or of any other kind. What actually happened is that in questioning the many doctors, Specter told each, "not this bullet, any bullet," and then followed with his imagined career of his single-bullet theory. What this part of the Report then does is to pretend that the hypothetical responses are addressed to the real bullet, CE 399!

Note:

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This picture of the shirt collar proves two central and controlling evidentiary points without question. One is that the damage to the shirt collar was not and could not have been by any bullet, regardless of its original direction, and the other is that the wound in the front of the President's neck was higher than in any of the official fictions. *
* *

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As fundamentally important as the single-bullet theory is to the Commission's conclusion and large as its Report is, it is surprising how little there is in the Report about the Commission's nonconspiracy, Oswald-alone, single-bullet theory it dignifies and inflates by referring to it as its "conclusion." In addition to the scanty mention of

it in the Report's "Summary and Conclusions," a single paragraph, quoted earlier from Whitewash, the Report admits that the possibility is controlled by the positions of the bodies of the two victims—which was not known. It then refers to one of the several sets of tests made for the Commission at the Army's Edgewood Arsenal at its Aberdeen, Maryland, proving grounds, saying it "suggested" the possibility. That work there was based not on pictures taken during the autopsy, but on crude artist's renditions of them, based on, of all imprecise and dubious information, Humes's verbal description of what he later believed were the locations of the wounds on JFK. The Report's language here is tricky and evasive. It turns out that only two of the four experts considered it likely. The Report makes no mention

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of a fourth here, referring to three only. The fourth was Dr. Joseph Dolce (see Post Mortem, pages 55-56, 91 and 503-4). Once Specter learned of the strength of Dolce's expert opinion, in disagreement with Specter's indispensable theory, Dolce disappeared entirely from the Commission's records and was no longer one of its consultants. The Report does not mention him. Dr. F. W. Light was chief of the biophysics division

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For some time during the assassination, relatively, because time is in seconds and fractions of seconds, a live oak tree blocked the President from the man presumed to have been Oswald in the TSBD window. He had to have sighted and fired the weapon accurately and so fast that nobody, not even the country's best shots, has been able to duplicate the shooting attributed to this one duffer. The Commission could not say it saw in the Zapruder film what was precluded by the time it permitted. The camera ran at eighteen frames per second. So, if Oswald had aimed and fired with super rapidity, in two and a half seconds, that meant that it must be at least forty-four frames before or after the Commission said it saw a shot. The Commission said the first shot was at Zapruder frame 210. This meant the next shot could not have been fired until at least forty-four frames later, or after frame 254. However, the movie shows Governor Connally reacting severely at frame 237. How did the Commission handle that? It merely ordained Connally's reaction was

not to his being shot, wounded five times in three parts of his body! With five inches of his fourth rib and his right wrist smashed! The Commission staged a reenactment with a photographic record made by FBI lab photographic expert Lyndal Shaneyfelt situated in the alleged window manning a camera mounted on a rifle. The immediate problem, and there were others for which we do not have the time, is that the camera's first vision of the President was blocked from that nefarious window by a live oak tree, from Zapruder frames 166 to 210. From Zapruder's grassy knoll position, at frame 210, a large road sign blocked the President from Zapruder's camera until he is seen again emerging from behind it, at frame 225. JFK then is seen raising both hands to the front of his neck. (Some of the many additional problems are presented in Whitewash II on pages 169-72 and 207-18. These include the fact that Shaneyfelt's photographed reenactment with a movie camera did not coincide in time with what Zapruder had filmed. Shaneyfelt testified that his motion-picture film took "a shorter time than in the actual [or Zapruder] film," as it turned out, considerably shorter [Whitewash II, page 180]. Shaneyfelt told the Commission not to be troubled because he had stained his reenactment film to mark where it should have shown frames from the Zapruder film to be—but it did not!) So, how was Oswald able to see and fire the first shot at the President? As the camera moved to keep up with the limousine when it was blocked from the camera by the live oak tree, not until frame 210, for the first time, does the President come into view from that window. So, based on a May 23, 1964, "reenactment" that presumed every leaf on that tree was positioned on May 23 exactly as each had been on November 22, at frame 210, without needing any time to sight the rifle or to squeeze the trigger, the Commission decided that Oswald fired the Commission's...

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These quotations from Post Mortem explain in advance the quintessential importance of the FBI picture of the President's shirt collar. I believe also that it explains why Specter and the Commission were not interested in having a clear picture of this shirt collar, the existence of which was pointed out to them, as it was to me, in the FBI's Exhibit 60 of CD1, the definitive investigation President Johnson directed it to make the evening of the day of the assassination. Specter's failure to get and use this picture is consistent with his

avoidance in asking Carrico, the only physician in the world who knew, where the anterior-neck wound was on the President before his clothing was removed, and how his clothing was removed.

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With the back wound several inches lower and the front correctly an unknown distance higher, nobody would possibly have swallowed and kept down the fiction that the bullet also started more than sixty feet up in the air, at that TSBD window. That would have required it to have come down steeply and then, once inside the President, to have somehow immediately soared steeply upward. Without bullet holes in the front of the shirt, the single-bullet theory is an absolute impossibility. Without a hole through the knot of the tie, not merely the tiny nick on it as far away from the center as it could be; and without that hole through the knot coinciding with holes through the center of the shirt collar, which are not holes in any event, on this additional basis the single-bullet theory is an impossibility. And then the holes through the shirt collar, which are not holes and do not coincide, and the hole through the knot, which does not exist, had to have coincided perfectly with the wound in the front of the President's neck, which none of it does. Even as baloney it is all phony. Any departure from the absolute requirements of this single-bullet baloney, at the very least, required an additional shot. When the best shots in the country could not duplicate the shooting attributed to Oswald in the official three-shots-only scenario, that a fourth shot would be attributed to the duffer Oswald with that rifle known as "Mussolini's contribution to humanitarian warfare" was improbable. So, at the very least these pictures, each separately and even more, both together, prove that more than three shots were fired. That means no one person could have been shooting at the President.

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In its report the FBI branded Oswald as a "red," the false line the Commission adopted. Yet the Commission knew that Oswald hated the USSR and denounced the United States Communist Party. The former he called "fat, stinking politicians," the latter, "betrayers of the working class" and stooges for the USSR (Whitewash, page 122). He was anti-Soviet while in the USSR. The KGB suspected he was a

United States agent in place or a "sleeper" agent. (See Whitewash, pages 1, 10, 19, 72, 119-21, 123, 137, and 146, for Oswald's politics and Post Mortem, pages 627-29, for the KGB's beliefs and suspicions

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This theory requires that one bullet, CE 399, inflicted all seven nonfatal injuries on both victims by transiting the President's neck, without striking bone, then smashing Connally's rib and wrist before traveling about three inches inside his left thigh to lurk there until deciding the time for its reappearance had come. Finck's first demolition of this foundation of the entire official solution was in saying he saw Connally hit by a separate bullet, after President Kennedy was hit. His second was in saying that after Connally's right wrist was supposedly smashed by this fantastically capable bullet, there was no sign of this or blood on that wrist at the required point in the Zapruder film which shows Connally and his wrist clearly. What Finck did not say is also quite visible: After that wrist was supposedly struck and demolished, Connally's hand was still holding that Texas ten-gallon hat aloft. Or, Connally was struck by at least two bullets! The most apparent reason for this secret hearing was for indoctrinating the prosecutors, convincing them of the single-bullet theory and reinforcing their confidence in their JFK autopsy testimony. Remember, they all believed and testified that the quintessential single-bullet theory was not possible. (They did not have the transcript of their testimony. That was not published until seven months after this hearing, two months after the Report was published.) Until this Finck memo was available, there had

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Dolce was so preeminent an expert on the medical aspects of gunshot wounds that "in the event of any injury, serious injury to any VIP in Congress" or "to any in the administration" he "was to be called to go over the case." The President, certainly, is a VIP. But, Dolce was not called. Instead, as he said twice, "The Army and the Navy took over." This, of course, is not in even the secret Commission memo! When the department's lawyers (he probably meant the Commission's) got "answers" that "did not fit," which Dolce also referred to disparagingly as "the proper answers," they asked the Army for "their top ballistics man."

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As we saw earlier, all the doctors told the commission that the single-bullet theory was impossible, and the Report merely lied and said they all agreed that it was possible. Again, that was Specter's part of the Report. He prepared for it by substituting "not this bullet, Doctor," referring to Exhibit 399, "any bullet, can any bullet" followed by his conjecture career of that supermagical 399. Dolce confirms that they did not agree and that the lawyers were unhappy about his strongly expressed disagreement.

Note:

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Although Specter and the Commission did not call Dolce, the most important and most highly qualified expert of them all to testify, he did question Light (6H94-7). That testimony Specter kept remarkably brief, and even more remarkable, selective. It is less than four printed pages long. In his questions of others Specter did not ask a single question about the deformity of all ten of the bullets fired into cadaver wrists. Not one volunteered that information either, although from their employment they were certainly aware of it. This is part of the three-monkeys type of investigating, speak no evil, see no evil, hear no evil, in which, when on the Commission, Specter specialized. When the President was assassinated, and Dolce was his most authoritative expert witness, Specter did not call him to establish the truth because he did not want the truth that, as we have seen, Dolce would have sworn to. Without Specter's suppression of what he learned from Dolce, the Report as written would have been impossible.

Note:

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With the official solution having the shots come from more than sixty feet in the air, from that sixth-floor TSBD window, the Army built a platform at Aberdeen that was only thirty feet high. With Oswald allegedly shooting at a moving target, the Army had fixed targets planted in the ground at the distances the Commission said the limousine was from that window. While this reduced the serious shooting problems of that steep angle and a moving target, the Army,

in its test with “master” riflemen, still encountered a serious problem when the riflemen moved the rifle from one still target to the next. This caused misses. The Mannlicher-Carcano rifle when compared to our rifles is a piece of junk. It was in poor condition when it reached the FBI in Washington. The FBI overhauled it and put it in its best possible condition. But even then the Aberdeen tests required additional improvement. As Simmons testified, his shooters “could not sight the weapon in using the telescopic sight” in some tests. So, “we did adjust the telescopic sight by the addition of two shims,” one to adjust it vertically, the other side to side [3H443]. Even then, to begin with, “for the first four attempts the firers [i.e., the best shots in the country] missed the second target” [3H446]. In part this was because they had to reorient the rifle, and at that a to still target they’d had time to adjust to, not at a moving target without time to make any adjustment. In part these misses were because “of the amount of effort required to open the bolt” to remove the empty shell after a bullet was fired and close the bolt to chamber another time to be fired and because of “the trigger pull ... a two-stage operation where the first—in the first stage the trigger is relatively free, and it suddenly required a greater pull to actually fire the weapon” [3H447]. This would “obviously require considerable experience . . . because of the amount of effort required to work the bolt” [3H449]. How serious a problem was this for the country’s very best riflemen under the vastly improved and easier conditions? “In our experiments,” Simmons testified, “the pressure to open the bolt was so great we tended to move the rifle off target” [3H449]. With all that shooting expertise, the very greatest in the country, with all that improvement in the rifle and its sight and the shooting conditions, at a distance of 270 feet, the estimated distance of the rifle from the President’s head when blown apart by the fatal shot, the country’s very best riflemen could not duplicate the shooting attributed to Oswald. Simmons was asked by Melvin Eisenberg, the Commission counsel who questioned him, about an answer he had expressed in a tiny decimal, an evaluation of 0.4, Does 0.4 mean you have four chances in 10 of hitting?” Simmon said merely, “Yes” [3H449]. This means that unlike the poor shot Oswald, these “masters” missed—under vastly improved conditions—six times out of ten! And even this is not all. Could they...

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Of a master rifleman whose name is given only as "Mr. Hendrix" in Simmons's testimony, his "time for the first exercise was 8.25 seconds; the time for the second exercise was 7.0 seconds." The second master rifleman whose name Simmons gave only as "Mr. Staley" did "6 3/4 seconds" on his first try and 6.45 for the second (3H446). This is 15 percent more time, regardless of his misses, than Oswald had. The third master rifleman did not use the telescopic sight so that did not count for Simmons (3H446). Remember that missing of the fatal shot six times out of ten? Here the first four shots at the second target also missed. And these "masters" could not even approach the extremely rapid shooting attributed to as poor a shot as ever disgraced the Marines, Lee Harvey Oswald, the Commission's and Specter's William Tell. Conspicuously Commissioner McCloy, the wily, worldly international lawyer, did not ask for a tabulation of the time required by each master for each series of shots. Eisenberg did not even ask if such a tabulation had been prepared or could be prepared. For all the hemming and hawing, all the discussion of the arcane and irrelevant that could be impressive to the uninformed, the record that between them McCloy and Eisenberg made is that the very best riflemen in the land could not begin to duplicate the shooting performance officially attributed to Oswald. Shooting is a mechanical skill. Good shooting requires regular practice. Oswald is known to have fired a rifle, a different and a much better weapon, only twice, years earlier, when he was in the Marines. Save for hunting squirrels with his brother, Robert, one time with a boy's .22 caliber rifle—and then he could not hit the side of a barn—Oswald is not known to have ever fired any rifle at any other time in his entire life. This includes that Mannlicher-Carcano he supposedly fired in the assassination. There is no evidence that he ever fired it and no reason to believe that he did. The Army knew its tests proved the official "solution" was impossible. Neither Simmons nor any other witnesses testified to this shocking truth, that they knew the official concoction was an absolute impossibility. They all were careful in their testimony to steer clear of that. This means that whatever its reason the Army knew there was a conspiracy, and it protected the conspirators. If it did not know earlier, it knew there had to have been a conspiracy because at Aberdeen it proved exactly that.

Note:

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There also is no answer in any of the evidence to the question: Why in

the autopsy under military control were the prescribed rules for autopsies by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology not followed in the autopsy on the President? To this Dolce added that it was in the Army's rules that "in the event of injury to any VIP ... I was to be called in to go over the case. I was not called." yet he was the Army's number one expert in the field. How many explanations can there be other than that the military wanted to control what the autopsy could disclose and what its report would state about the shooting in the assassination? Why should it want to control what could be known about the shooting other than to hide the fact that there had been a conspiracy to kill the President? A second assassin meant there certainly had been a conspiracy. The shooting was impossible for a single assassin. Absent any other explanation for the military immediately "taking over" control of the autopsy that was supposed to have been completely independent and uncontrolled in any way and its refusal to call its own preeminent expert, Dolce, "in to go over the case," the only apparent explanation for these gross and incredible improprieties was that the military wanted to hide the fact that there had been a conspiracy. This it began doing immediately. Does this not suggest that the conspiracy being hidden was a military conspiracy? What other reasonable explanations can there be?

Note:

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What I did not know when I wrote my first book in which this was brought to light for the first time is that three authorities, who were intimately involved, also did not believe it. They are Richard Russell, Commission member and Senator; Jesse Curry, the Dallas chief of police; and Henry Wade, Dallas district attorney, who would have prosecuted Oswald.

Note:

Yellow highlight | Location: 6,101

The Dallas police made the usual tests to determine whether Oswald's hands and face held traces of the gases that are blown back when a rifle is fired. They are known as paraffin tests because molten paraffin is placed on the hands and face and allowed to harden. It should be understood that the deposits are of common substances, that are found in such items as soaps and inks. The mere presence of these substances on the casts is, therefore, not incriminating. But their absence is exculpatory. Traces were detected on Oswald's hands.

However, they did not necessarily come from the discharge of a rifle. Of the many materials that leave the same deposits, one was the ink on the books and cartons he handled on the job. Another could have been soap if he had washed his hands. Traces were not detected on the paraffin casts of his face. This means he did not fire a rifle. It also meant that tests were kept official hush-hush until the very last minute of the Commission's life. The FBI was forced to have neutron-activation analysis made when, only a few days after the assassination, Paul Aebersold, then in charge of this area of the work of the Energy and Research and Development Administration (ERDA), successor to the Atomic Energy Commission, wrote the Criminal Division of the department urging that they be done on the bullet and fragments of bullet. He recommended an expert to perform the test.

Note:
