

expert. It may be that the deaths are within the normal rates, despite the appearance of an epidemic, or it may be that they are radically out of line.

Mr. Chairman, Jacqueline Hess, the committee's chief of research for the Kennedy assassination investigation, has been in charge of the mysterious deaths project. Her report, on which she is prepared to testify today, contains the findings of the project.

It would be appropriate at this time, Mr. Chairman, to call Ms. Hess.

Chairman STOKES. The committee calls Miss Hess.

Stand and raise your right hand and be sworn.

Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

TESTIMONY OF JACQUELINE HESS

Ms. HESS. I do.

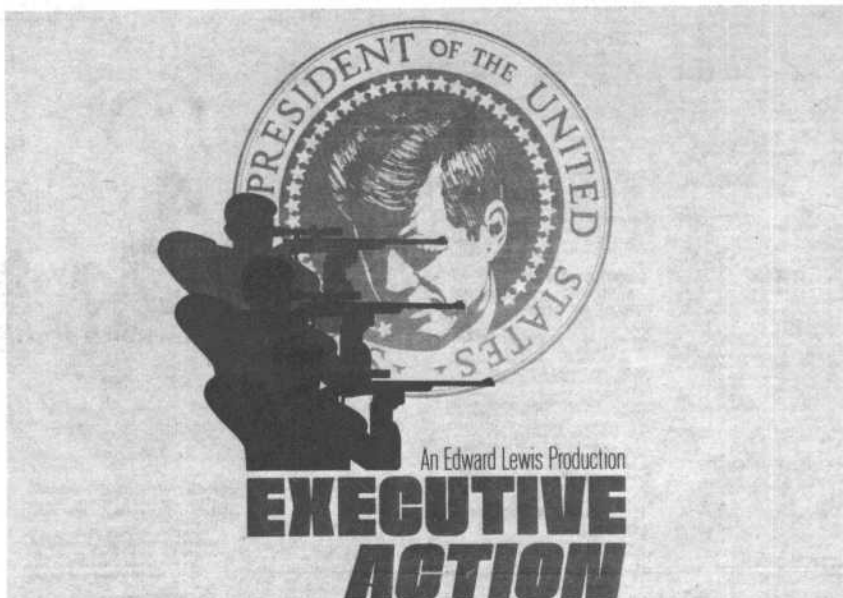
Chairman STOKES. Thank you. You may be seated.

Ms. HESS. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. The issue of mysterious deaths, that is, that a statistically improbable number of individuals with some direct or peripheral association with the Kennedy assassination died as a result of that assassination, thereby raising the specter of conspiracy, was first brought to national attention as the result of a promotional campaign for the movie "Executive Action" which was based on Mark Lane's novel, "Rush to Judgment."

Mr. Chairman, I would direct your attention to JFK exhibit F-544 and ask that it be admitted into the record at this time.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection.

[The information follows:]



FACTS BEHIND THE MAKING OF THIS FILM

Introduction

"EXECUTIVE ACTION" is a film of fiction—based on fact.

Ten years ago—on Friday, November 22, 1963, at 12:30 P.M.—President John F. Kennedy rode in an open limousine through the streets of Dallas. At a place known as Dealey Plaza, he was shot to death.

This event, which abruptly and severely altered the course of history, has been the source of intense and continuing controversy. The haunting questions still remain. "Who did it?" "Why did they do it?" "How was it done?"

The official answers have never satisfied a majority among us. A Gallup Poll on the Warren Report asked, "Do you think one man alone was responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy or do you think others were involved?"

64% of those polled believed that others were involved.

This film dramatizes the story of how a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy could have taken place.

This background material came from many sources. Exhibits and testimony gathered by the Warren Commission, the FBI, the CIA, the State Department, the Secret Service, the Dallas Police Department and Sheriff's office, Newspaper and magazine articles. Radio and television tapes. Evidence uncovered by private investigators.

This does not purport to be a definite document on the assassination of JFK. It is solely a bibliography for the film which deals with only limited aspects of the event.

The dialogues in the film are, for the most part, fictional. However, substantial portions are based upon the documented material.

References to the Warren Commission Report (WCR) its testimony and exhibits, will be made by citing the number of the Volume (there are 26 in all) and the page number. For example, 19H102 would refer to Volume 19 of the Hearings' published record, page 102.

Further citations will use Commission Exhibit numbers (for example, CE 399) or Commission Document numbers (e.g. CD 7). Many of these documents are available in the Archives. Some are still classified. Only declassified evidence available to the public will be cited in these pages.

Additional source materials cited are available in public libraries and newspaper files.

Scenes in the motion picture based on historical facts are noted. Other scenes taken from actual films of events are noted as 'matters of historical record.'

PRESIDENT JOHNSON DOUBTS WARREN REPORT CONCLUSION

David Wise, author of *The Politics Of Lying* made the following statement: "Three interviews were filmed for CBS at the LBJ ranch in Texas in September and October, 1969. When the third Johnson interview was shown on May 2, 1970, it included this message about thirty seconds into the program: 'Certain material has been deleted from this broadcast at President Johnson's request, not in the interests of national security.' During the filming of the interview Johnson had expressed some misgivings about the Warren Commission's central finding that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, had killed President Kennedy. Johnson indicated to Cronkite that he still retained some doubts and that, possibly, a conspiracy had been involved."

Later Johnson apparently thought the better of these remarks, but he did not ask to delete them until several weeks had gone by. Cronkite, backed by Richard S. Salant, president of CBS News, opposed the deletion, arguing that the request had come too late. But they were overruled, possibly by CBS president Frank Stanton. Cronkite, a newsmen of great integrity and high professional standards, had been unhappy from the start with Johnson's right to edit the tapes. In this case he felt that Johnson was misusing his right to make deletions, since it was difficult to see how, six years after the assassination, any national security was involved. (11)

Leo James, former aide to President Johnson, now a correspondent for *Time Magazine*, said that Johnson told him in a conversation at the LBJ ranch a few months before he died: "I never believed Oswald acted alone." (12)

PRESIDENT KENNEDY ARRIVES AT EL PASO, TEXAS

President Kennedy's arrival at El Paso Airport June 2, 1963 is a matter of historical record.

THE MEN OF THE VIRGINIA "GROUP"

The characters of the group of men who assemble in a Virginia mansion are fictional, their personalities and professions as we may know them, actual living persons. Portions of their dialogue are based

upon supportive material which will be treated below.

JFK'S ADMINISTRATION

President Kennedy's administration was regarded as a strong contender for reelection in 1964. His intention to revive the Old Depression tax allocation with the plan to reduce it, his opposition to certain merger under the anti-trust act, his intention to shut down domestic military bases and some overseas, his support of the Black Movement, his support of a Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and subsequent establishment thereof, and his intention to remove all U.S. forces from Vietnam are all matters of historical record. (13)

PREVIOUS ASSASSINATIONS

Discussion of previous assassinations and attempted assassinations of Presidents Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, and Franklin Roosevelt, are all a matter of historical record.

PROTECTION OF PRESIDENT AND OTHER HEADS OF STATE

Reference is made to the protection of President de Gaulle during his motorcade. These details are true as described by the Director of the French Secret Service. (14) The conditions of protection during the motorcade of President Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963 are indicated by the records of the U.S. Secret Service for that trip (15) and observed as easily less secure than with the de Gaulle motorcade from the photograph supplied by the French Secret Service (right) when compared with the precautions and security as seen in the photograph of James Ahrens, Assistant Press, of the Presidential motorcade in Dallas.

THE "INTELLIGENCE" COMMUNITY

The mood of the Central Intelligence Agency after the Bay of Pigs fiasco was lower and, according to Roger Hilsman, Assistant Secretary of State, the President caused many changes to take place in ending the resignation of the Director and the Assistant Director of the CIA. (16) The characterization of the spy world is described according to the documents of former intelligence agents and others. (17)



THE PRESIDENT GOES TO TEXAS

President Kennedy was extremely reluctant to go to Texas but was convinced he had to go in order to mend warring political factions within his own party, namely Governor Connally and Senator Yarborough, or risk losing the State in the 1964 election (18). Kennedy went over the objections of his closest advisers. Connally disputed these accounts in an article, stating he objected to the trip (19).

JFK MOTORCADE AND APPEARANCE AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN WASHINGTON

A matter of historical record. (107)

LEE HARVEY OSWALD— BACKGROUND

The descriptions of Lee Harvey Oswald are all supported by documents which were published in the record of the Hearings and Library of the Warren Commission. Apart from the biographical data (1) it is significant that Oswald did have a "CONFIDENTIAL" security clearance (12) and was authorized to handle confidential material while in the Marine Corps less than a year. He was sent to Atsugi, Japan where he had access to radar and radio codes and also new MPS-16 light

finding radar (13). Oswald's commanding officer, Capt. John E. Doneman, suggested that he (LHO) even had a higher "secret" clearance.

Oswald was uncharacteristically twice in the Marine Corps, once for possession of a weapon (14) when he was found guilty but his sentence and loss of rank were suspended and the second time for carrying an officer (15).

He later requested a "hardship" discharge due to illness of his mother (16) and based this upon a letter which a doctor wrote on September 3, 1959 saying he had been treating Mrs. Oswald since Sept. 5, 1959 (17).

Instead of aiding his sick mother, Oswald was discharged and immediately applied for a passport (18). Oswald received his passport shortly on September 10, 1959 (19). Although he gave his reason for applying for the passport that he wanted to attend Albert Schweitzer College in Europe, he traveled instead to Russia, with the State Department's approval (20).

Analysis of Oswald's financial situation shows no record of large savings and estimates indicate he had no more than \$350 at the time he sailed from New Orleans on the S.S. *Marine Link* (21) when he reached Southampton, England on October 9, 1959 he declared cash in his possession of \$760.00 (22).

Oswald arrived in Moscow on October 16, 1959 (23) and upon being ordered to leave the USSR (24) attempted suicide by cutting his wrist and was taken to Botkin Hospital. He was released a week later (25) in an effort to restrain the USSR Oswald visited the U.S. Embassy on October 31, 1959 saying he determined to remain there and revoke



(1) David Wise, *The Politics Of Lying* (Random House, Inc., 1971).

(2) *Atlantic Monthly*, July, 1973, UFS, 8/17/73.

(3) Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., *A Thousand Days* (Boston, Houghton, Mifflin Co., 1965).

(4) Theodore C. Sorenson, *Kennedy*, (New York, Harper & Row, 1965).

(5) Roger Hilsman, *To Move A Nation*, (New York, Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1967).

(6) Pierre Salinger, *With Kennedy*, (New York, Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1964).

(7) David Wise and Thomas B. Ross, *The Invisible Government*, (New York, Random House, Inc., 1965).

(8) Interview with Theodore Andre Doucet by Stephen Jaffe, June, 1968.

(9) 179151-502, 179161-1/17, CD 3, CD 8/18.

(10) Roger Hilsman, *To Move A Nation*, (New York, Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1967), p. 861.

(11) David Wise and Thomas B. Ross, *The Invisible Government*, (New York, Random House, Inc., 1965).

(12) Andrew Tully, *CIA—The Inside Story*, (New York, Fawcett Crest, 1962, p. 214).

(13) Ibid.

(14) William Manchester, *Deeds of A President*, Harper and Row, New York, 1967, p. 1-21.

(15) Pierre Salinger, *With Kennedy*, p. 39 (paperback).

(16) Philip Lipsett, *Kennedy & Johnson*, (New York, Holt Rinehart & Winston, 1968), p. 205.

(17) U.S. News & World Report 1/2/67, New York Times 1/8/67, p. 1.

(18) New York Times 7/11/67, p. 20.

(19) Life Magazine, "Why Kennedy Went to Texas" by John Connally, 11/24/67.

(20) Ibid. June 10, 1963.

(21) CD 10, p. 2, p. 41.

(22) CD 978, 196165.

(23) 179164, CD 36, p. 6, CD 8, p. 437.

(24) CD 1024, p. 2.

(25) 196737, WCR pp. 683-684.

(26) 196738, WCR pp. 683-684.

(27) 196739, WCR pp. 685-686.

(28) 196740, WCR pp. 687-688.

(29) 196741, WCR pp. 689-690.

(30) 196742, WCR pp. 691-692.

(31) 196743, WCR pp. 693-694.

(32) 196744, WCR pp. 695-696.

(33) 196745, WCR pp. 697-698.

(34) 196746, WCR pp. 699-700.

(35) 196747, WCR pp. 701-702.

(36) 196748, WCR pp. 703-704.

(37) 196749, WCR pp. 705-706.

(38) 196750, WCR pp. 707-708.

(39) 196751, WCR pp. 709-710.

(40) 196752, WCR pp. 711-712.

(41) 196753, WCR pp. 713-714.

(42) 196754, WCR pp. 715-716.

(43) 196755, WCR pp. 717-718.

(44) 196756, WCR pp. 719-720.

(45) 196757, WCR pp. 721-722.

(46) 196758, WCR pp. 723-724.

(47) 196759, WCR pp. 725-726.

(48) 196760, WCR pp. 727-728.

(49) 196761, WCR pp. 729-730.

(50) 196762, WCR pp. 731-732.

(51) 196763, WCR pp. 733-734.

(52) 196764, WCR pp. 735-736.

(53) 196765, WCR pp. 737-738.

(54) 196766, WCR pp. 739-740.

American citizenship as well as turning "Classified" information over to the Russians (26).

Oswald's Marine Corps Commanding Officer, Capt. John E. Donovan, testified about the Classified information. He said, "We received word he (LHO) had showed up in Moscow. This represented a lot of change of aircraft call signs, codes, radio frequencies. He had the access to the location of all bases in the West Coast area, all radio frequencies for all squadrons, number and type of aircraft in a squadron, who was the commanding officer, the authentication code of entering and exiting the ADIZ, which stands for Air Defense Identification Zone (27).

From October 31, 1959 until April 9, 1960 there were no U-2 flights over the USSR. Francis Gary Powers, U-2 pilot whose flight was shot down on May 1, 1960, strongly implies that Oswald's knowledge thus transferred to the Russians may have resulted in the incident (28). One CIA document explored Oswald's access to information regarding the U-2 (29). Other documents which might shed light on this remain sealed off from researchers at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. (30).

Oswald wrote to the U.S. Embassy requesting revocation of his citizenship (31). The information was then transmitted to the State Department which notified the Office of Naval Intelligence, the FBI and the CIA (32).

On January 4, 1960, Oswald received permission to remain in the USSR. His permission to remain was extended in 1961 (33).

On January 5, 1960, Oswald was given 5,000 rubles and assigned to work at the Belorussian Radio and Television Factory in Minsk (34).

On January 8, 1960 Oswald was welcomed by the Mayor of Minsk (35).

On March 17, 1960 Oswald met Marina Nikolaevna Prusakova, a graduate pianist,

musician, age 19. Six weeks later they were married and on February 15, 1962, their daughter, June Lee Oswald was born in Minsk (36).

Although he had first written to his brother that he would never leave Minsk and handed the United States, Oswald later wrote that he had to return to the U.S. (37). The State Department informed the Embassy that for "security reasons" Oswald should be given a passport, provided the Embassy was convinced he had been legally abandoned by his American citizenship which was, in fact, the Embassy's conclusion (38).

On February 28, 1962, the U.S. office of Immigration and Naturalization notified Oswald that Marina's visa petition was approved (39).

The U.S. Embassy gave Oswald a passport good only for the United States and sent him \$435 for traveling expenses (40) and the Oswalds passed through United States Immigration on June 13, 1962, en route to Fort Worth, Texas (41).

When the Oswalds landed a representative of the Traveler's Aid Society, Professor Spore T. Raikin, met them (42).

The FBI had an extensive post-arrival dossier on Oswald (43). In fact, when Oswald was arrested in New Orleans, instead of asking for an attorney, he requested to be interviewed by the FBI (44).

It was noted in the book, *Portrait of the Assassin*, by the honorabile Congressman Gerald Ford (R-Mich.) that the Warren Commission's first "shock" was an emergency session called on January 22, 1964, by Mr. J. Lee Rankin, General Counsel for the Commission, to deal with a most important report (45).

The Attorney General of Texas, Waggoner Carr, telephoned them to report that he, and the District Attorney of Dallas, Henry Wade, had information that Lee Harvey Oswald was an "undercover agent" on the payroll of the FBI (46).

The two Texas officials were summoned

to Washington, D.C. to meet with Rankin and Commission staffers. They informed the Commission that, "Lee Oswald was actually hired by the FBI, that he was assigned the under-cover agent number 179, that he was on the FBI payroll at \$200 a month starting in September 1962 and that he was with on their payroll the day he was apprehended in the Texas Theater (on November 22, 1963)..." (47).

A Secret Service Report supported the disclosure of Congressman Ford and cited another source. Houston Post reporter, Abner H. Hinkins, was interviewed and told the investigator that he had received the same information from the Chief of the Criminal Division of the Dallas Sheriff's Office (48).

On January 22, 1963, someone using the alias "A. J. Hidell" mail-ordered a J.B. Smith & Western pistol from Seaport Traders, Inc., a mail order company in Los Angeles. The return address on the order was P.O. Box 2915, Dallas, Texas, the post office box of Lee Harvey Oswald (49).

In March, a similar order—this time for a rifle—was received by Klein's Department Store in Chicago. Again, the alias Hidell was used, and again, the return address was P.O. Box 2915, Dallas, Texas (50).

In April of 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald was distributing Fair Play For Cuba literature in Dallas, Texas (51).

On June 24, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald applied for a new passport in New Orleans (52).

Despite the fact that Lee Harvey Oswald appeared at the American Embassy in Moscow at the end of October, 1959 and handed Consul Richard E. Snyder his passport and a written statement to the effect that he wished to renounce his U.S. Citizenship and affirm his allegiance to the Soviet Union as well as offer them all information he had in his possession on

radar operations that he had acquired while in the Marine Corps, Oswald's new passport was issued 24 hours after the application was filed in New Orleans on June 25, 1963 (53 & 54).

No review or consideration of denying Oswald this passport was made, despite the fact that he indicated on the application that his previous passport had been cancelled by the State Department (55), although Oswald's renunciation of citizenship and disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" military information was serious enough for the Marine Corps to change his Honorable Discharge to "Unfavorable."

On July 1, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald wrote a letter to the Soviet Embassy requesting a visa to change his Honorable Discharge to "Unfavorable."

On August 9, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald, who was later to seek a visa to Cuba, was handing out "Fair Play For Cuba" leaflets on Canal Street in New Orleans (57).

The address on one of the leaflets listed as the office for the "Fair Play For Cuba Committee" was 544 Camp Street, New Orleans, Louisiana (58).

Oswald's anti-Cuban, FPCC organization was the target of criticism and Oswald himself was to get into a fight that day for waving the Cuban flag (59).

The FBI feared that an anti-Cuban organization, "The Cuban Revolutionary Council," worked out of an office at 544 Camp Street (59) and that Guy Banister, a former FBI agent, associated with anti-Castro Cubans, had an office at 531 Lafayette St., New Orleans (60).

Due to the FBI's misleading reports, the Warren Commission never discovered that both addresses, 544 Camp St. and 531 Lafayette St., were for the same building on the corner of Camp and Lafayette Streets. Oswald's FPCC office and Banister's office, thus, were in the same building (61).

On August 16, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald hired two men at \$2.00 per hour a piece to help him distribute the Fair Play For Cuba Committee literature (62).

Following this distribution of literature Oswald appeared on radio and in television newscast clips. The footage in the film taken from an actual interview with Oswald (63).

When Oswald was in jail, after his arrest on August 9th for fighting with two anti-Castro Cubans, he requested the FBI interview which was granted (64).

FREEDOM MARCH ON WASHINGTON D.C. — AUGUST 28, 1963

250,000 Americans marched on Washington and formed in front of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963 to hear the famous speech "I have a dream..." by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. After the gathering President Kennedy met with the leaders of the march at the White House telling them, "This nation can properly be proud." (65)

TEST BAN TREATY WITH USSR DEBATED

President Kennedy made several speeches during August, 1963 urging Congress to pass the Test Ban Treaty with the USSR.

Many authorities from the military and scientific communities appeared before the Senate Committee considering the Treaty in August to oppose, vehemently, President Kennedy's words of support for the measure (66).



This building at 544 Camp Street in New Orleans housed the detective agency of Guy Banister and the headquarters of Sergio Arcacha Smith's anti-Castro organization. It was also the address given by Lee Harvey Oswald for his Fair Play for Cuba group.

- (26) 18H259.
- (27) 18H257-258.
- (28) Francis Gary Powers, *Operation Overflight* (New York, Toker Books, p. 360).
- (29) CD No. 931, "Oswald's Access to Information About the U-2."
- (30) President Johnson ordered some documents classified until 2039 A.D.
- (31) CD 1132.
- (32) WCR p. 749.
- (33) 18H258.
- (34) WCR p. 697, CD 1, p. 31.
- (35) WCR p. 697, CD 1, p. 31.
- (36) CD 1, p. 31.
- (37) 22H120, 22H748, 18H602, 23H407

- (Oswald meets Marina), 18H5, 2H73, 18H118, 18H606, 22H48, 26H4 (Marriage), 18H5, 14H567, 22H73, 22H748 (Birth of Oswald child).
- (37) CD 206, p. 336, CD 206, p. 352.
- (38) 22H62, 22H485.
- (39) 22H13.
- (40) 22H47, 22H122, 24H335, 18H182, 26H4.
- (41) 22H204.
- (42) 26H34.
- (43) CE 634 (FBI Dossier).
- (44) 48H48, 10H36, 26H95-99.
- (45) Oswald Ford, *Portrait of the Assassin* (Ballantine Books, New York, 1963, p. 16).

- (46) Ibid.
- (47) Ibid.
- (48) CD 120, 85 (united number) 72.
- (49) 14H517, 22H118, 24H700, WCR pp. 172-174.
- (50) 72H25, 72H26, 71H63, 71H77, 22H115, 23H415, 23H506, WCR pp. 118-122.
- (51) 20H11, 10H87-88, 22H796.
- (52) 22H12, 24H309, 24H177.
- (53) WCR, Chapter VII, Appendix XIII and Appendix XV, 3H711.
- (54) 24H309.
- (55) 18H283, WCR p. 710.
- (56) 18H30.
- (57) 14H548, 22H620, WCR pp. 728-729.

- (58) 22H781, p. 18.
- (59) 22H820, FBI Report 11/25/63, by SA Ernest C. Wall, Jr., New Orleans Bureau Office.
- (60) Ibid.
- (61) Summary James and Jack Wardlaw, *Plot or Politics*, Pelican Publishing House, New Orleans, 1967, p. 118, photographs.
- (62) 10H64, 21H139.
- (63) *Life*, New Orleans, La. WDSU-TV.
- (64) 24H75-76, WCR p. 487.
- (65) Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., *A Thousand Days*, p. 837.
- (66) *A Matter of Historical Record*.

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF JFK'S PLANNED DALLAS VISIT

On September 13, 1963 the Dallas Times Herald newspaper announced that President Kennedy would visit the city but made no details of the forthcoming visit available other than the date to be visited.

On September 26, 1963 both Dallas newspapers indicated that the President would visit the city on November 21 or November 22 (61).

OSWALD STARTS WORK AT BOOK DEPOSITORY

Lee Harvey Oswald started work at the Texas School Book Depository on October 18, 1963 (44).

MOTORCADE ROUTE PLANNED FOR DALLAS LUNCHEON AT TRADE MART

President Kennedy's "advance man" was concerned with planning the trip and his main objective was often to produce large crowds to demonstrate the popularity of the President (68).

Jerry Bruno, who was the White House

and filling that position, was also concerned with security since his plans were often those ultimately accepted and employed by the Secret Service (70).

The most direct route through Dealey Plaza was down Main Street, which was the street the motorcade would already be taking through downtown Dallas. This route entailed the motorcade to travel to the Trade Mart over boulevard (71) instead of by the Commerce Freeway, thereby giving many people a chance to see the President and satisfying the objective of Mr. Bruno by having more crowds along the streets to show the President's strength among the people. The travel time difference between the two routes was negligible.

Initially, there were two locations under

consideration for the luncheon speech of the President, one was the Women's Building, a "strikingly unimpressive" which could seat four thousand, Bruno states, and the other was the Trade Mart which presented serious security risks in comparison, was closed off and did not fit the desires of the President (72).

"There was another point about the Women's Building and that didn't seem important to anyone at the time. If Kennedy had been going there instead of to the Trade Mart, he would have been traveling two blocks farther away from the School Book Depository—and at a much faster rate of speed. At that speed and distance, it would have been almost impossible for a sniper to hit him from the Depository," Bruno states (73).

Bruno wrote that there was a political difference over the selection of the luncheon site and therefore the final decision was left open until later than it would have normally been placed.

The Women's Building was a better choice from the standpoint of security and Kennedy's desire to speak to as many of the people of Dallas as possible, including different factions including labor groups, Catholics, women and blacks, all of which would have been able to be present in the larger auditorium. The Kennedy-Johnson supporters wanted the smaller Trade Mart for which would restrict the luncheon to Dallas' wealthy party backers.

Bruno decided to use his influence and the argument of better security to get the Secret Service to finally rule that the Women's Building would be the site.

"I asked Jerry Bruno, the head of the Secret Service at the White House, to pass the word to the Texas agents to wrap it up."



View of the Grassy Knoll



View from behind the fence at the Grassy Knoll

but somehow or other that word never got through. We heard back from Texas that the Secret Service had O.K.'ed the Trade Mart as acceptable from a security point of view," Bruno said (74).

On November 18, 1963 Bruno got the news from Kenny O'Donnell, the President's Special Assistant, that they would be the Trade Mart be the site. Reluctantly, O'Donnell told Bruno, "We're going to let Dallas go, Jerry" (75).

"It struck me at the time that this was one of the few fights like this I had lost. I was no inner counselor to John Kennedy or anything like that, but usually, if I fought hard enough, I could generally get my way about what was to be done, at least at politically. On things like this my judgment was usually taken. This time it wasn't," Bruno (76).

OSWALD AT PARKLAND HOSPITAL

Oswald went to Parkland Hospital on October 21, 1963 to see his wife and their new baby born the previous night (77).

OSWALD AT GENERAL EDWIN A. WALKER RALLY

Oswald attended General Walker's "USA Day Rally" on the evening prior to Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson's scheduled address in the same auditorium for "United Nations Day." The audience was well attended by people who were extremely conservative in their political views according to the signs which were carried by some of them and the text of General Walker's talk (78).

OSWALD ATTENDS STEVENSON UNITED NATIONS DAY SPEECH

In contrast to Oswald's activities of the time before, he allegedly attended the United Nations Day Speech on October 24, 1963 of Ambassador Stevenson when Stevenson was actually struck by one of the pistol shots carried by a demonstrator and several others had to be forced to leave by police (79).

OCTOBER, 1963 "VIETNAM TROOP PULL-OUT" ANNOUNCEMENT

A White House statement announced on October 27 that President Kennedy was going to withdraw 1,000 U.S. military personnel from South Vietnam which was, perhaps, his last formal executive order, thus reducing the U.S. troop strength there to approximately 14,500 men (80).

"All Gls Out OF VIETNAM BY XMAS"—JFK

Secretary of Defense McNamara made a public statement that all American personnel would be brought back home from Vietnam by 1965. His announcement came from the White House (81). President Kennedy said Kenneth O'Donnell in the Spring of 1963 of his determination to withdraw American forces from Vietnam taking up military action for his reelection. "In 1965," the President said, "I'll be damned everywhere as a Communist appeaser, but I don't care." (82)

UNREST IN SAIGON

An riot, intimidation, and terror in Saigon. President Clinton attempted to calm the agitated people. There were demonstrations, police attacks on Buddhist priests, several of them were killed, and one imprisoned himself in protest (83).

"OSWALD" REQUESTS RIFLE REPAIRS

Two ladies, Mrs. Geraldine Hunter and Mrs. Edith Whitworth testified that Oswald, his wife and two daughters had come into the furniture store of Mrs. Whitworth looking for a gunsmith, as a result of having sent a sign in the window which said "Gun." Mrs. Whitworth had forgotten to remove the sign when a gunsmith, indeed, telephoned there (84). "Oswald" said that his daughter had been on October 20 and, according to the testimony, wanted to repair the Remington or "plunger" of his rifle. He was carrying an object 15 inches long. She directed him to the Irving Sports Shop (85). Mrs. Hunter corroborated Mrs. Whitworth's account of the incident (86).

Gustafson told Ryder worked at the Irving Sports Shop. His wife and the owner of the shop, Mr. Charles Gustafson, could not recall Oswald from his photographs but they did have a repair ticket with the name Oswald on it in their store. The ticket had no date on it but they estimated the date to be November 4, to November 8th. They do not recall making the kind of repairs that from photographs were made on the rifle of the Mannlicher-Carcano which was allegedly Oswald's rifle (88).

An anonymous phone call to a television newscaster stated that "Oswald had had a rifle sighted on Thursday, November 21, at a gun shop on 211 or 212 Irving Boulevard in Irving. Said said Detective F. M. Turner to the gunning of Mr. Gustafson (89).

If this was Oswald it would mean that Marina Oswald committed perjury when she testified denying the entire incident (90). It would further suggest the culpability, if not the complicity, on her part in a crime which Oswald planned to commit, but the knowingly committed him on an expedition to repair a rifle, after the alleged attempt on General Walker and Robert F. Kennedy. It would mean that Oswald intended to turn Oswald in if he ever showed signs of repeating such adventures (91). If it wasn't Oswald (who was at work at the Texas School Book Depository all the afternoon of the month) then the alternative is that someone was impersonating Oswald, thereby incriminating him by linking him directly to the rifle prior to the assassination.

THE ITALIAN MANNLICHER-CARCANO RIFLE

The rifle that is linked to Lee Harvey Oswald by the slits A. J. Hixson, an Italian Mannlicher-Carcano 6.5 mm rifle, is, according to FBI rifle expert Sebastian Latona, a "cheap old weapon" (92).

This inferior weapon was described in more detail by rifle expert Walter H. B. Smith in *The Basic Manual of Military Small Arms*, as "poor military weapon in comparison with United States, British, German, or Russian equipment" (93). And by a magazine which specializes in such equipment, the Mannlicher-Carcano was described as "crudely made, poorly designed, dangerous and inaccurate" (94).

The Mannlicher-Carcano, according to the Italian soldiers who used it during World War II, was known as "the humanitarian rifle" on the grounds that it could not hurt anyone on purpose (95).

(87) WCR p. 45.

(88) WCR p. 738, 38214, 228163.

(89) Jerry Bruno and Jeff Greenfield, *The Advance Man*, (New York: Morrow and Company, Inc., New York, 1971), p. 286.

(90) Ibid. p. 92.

(91) See Dallas Bureau Map.

(92) Bruno, *The Advance Man*, pp. 80-82.

(93) Ibid.

(94) Bruno, *The Advance Man*, p. 92.

(95) Ibid.

(96) Ibid.

(97) CD210, p. 5, 228230, 228198, 38500.

(98) 118225, 238496.

(99) 228403, 238177, 59196, 1181401.

(100) CD 215, p. 10, WCR p. 736.

(101) 28412.

(102) Historical record.

(103) Historical record.

(104) Kenneth O'Donnell and David Powers,

Johnny We Hardly Knew Ye (Little Brown, New York, 1972) p. 18.

(105) Historical record.

(106) 118263-77, 118278.

(107) Ibid.

(108) 118253-81.

(109) 280, 235-34.

(110) 71215, 238499, 248128, CD 1066.

(111) Ibid.

(112) Sylvia Magher, *Assassins After The Fact*, p. 367.

(113) 118285.

(114) Sylvia Magher, *Assassins After The Fact*, pp. 367-369.

(115) Matt Lane, *South To Judgment* (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, New York, 1964), p. 122.

(116) Mechanics Illustrated, October, 1964.

(117) Sylvia Magher, *Assassins After The Fact*, p. 101.

"OSWALD" AT THE USED CAR LOT—DALLAS—NOVEMBER 9, 1963

Someone identifying himself as Lee Harvey Oswald appeared at the automobile sales and used car lot at Downtown Lincoln Mercury on November 9, 1963, according to an employee there, Albert Guy Bogard (96). Bogard identified the man as Lee Oswald and said that he had tested a car with him driving at high speeds on the Stemmons Freeway, Sales Manager, Frank Pizzo, suggested that the hairline of Oswald, according to photographs shown him, did not match that of the man who was at the lot (97).

The story of Bogard was supported in part by Pizzo and by Oran Brown and Eugene Wilson, salesman at the lot. Brown wrote the name "Oswald" on a paper which both he and his wife remembered as being in his possession prior to the assassination (98).

Bogard took a lie-detector test, or a polygraph test as it is otherwise known, and his answers were consistent with someone who was telling the truth (99). According to Bogard, he had a comment about returning to Russia and also said that he would be coming into some money shortly, enough to buy the car he was considering (100).

OSWALD PHOTOGRAPH WITH RIFLE AND HANDGUN

An incriminating piece of evidence in the case against Lee Harvey Oswald was a photograph discovered by police among the possessions which were allegedly Oswald's at the home of Ruth Paine. This photograph was not listed on the report of the Dallas Police (listing all of the possessions) (101) even though a number of items, including photographs, were described in the testimony of the officers regarding who discovered the photographs (102).

The photograph was published as the cover of Life Magazine on February 21, 1964, several months before the official investigation of the Warren Commission was completed (103). It was published, in fact, in magazines and newspapers all over the world described as "Lee Harvey Oswald with the weapons he used to kill President Kennedy and Officer Tippit" (104).

The photograph apparently supplied more than simply the evidence to link Oswald with the weapons allegedly used in both homicides, it provided evidence of a motive since the newspapers in the hands of the person allegedly photographed as Oswald, were the radical publications of "The Worker" and "The Militant" (105). Testimony was introduced to show that the photograph had been retouched prior to publication (106) and it was alleged that the photograph was a composite, or a false photograph as well (107).

Research has been done since the time this photograph, and another similar photograph were allegedly found (both designated as Communism Exhibit 133 A & B) (108) which indicates that both photographs are composites, falsely portraying Oswald.

Oswald, himself was asked about the photographs while he was being interrogated by Dallas Police Captain Will Fritz (109).

"I showed Oswald an enlarged picture of him holding a rifle and wearing a pistol. This picture had been enlarged by our Crime Lab from a picture found in the garage at Mrs. Paine's home. He (Oswald) said the picture was not his, that the face was his face, but that his picture had been made by someone superimposing his face, the other part of the picture was not him at all and that he had never seen the picture before." (110)

OSWALD INTERROGATION

Captain Fritz did not call for a stenographer, court reporter, or tape recorder to have Oswald's invaluable interrogation properly recorded (111). Fritz kept notes, and his notes are the best evidence of what Oswald told him before others who observed the interrogation, including FBI agent Jim Bookham, Homicide officers, and Inspector Kelly, of the Secret Service (112).

Captain Fritz continued, "He (Oswald) told me that he understood photography real well, and that in time, he would be able to show that it was not his picture, and that it had been made by someone else. At this time he said that he did not want to answer any more questions and he was returned to the jail about 7:15 p.m." (113).

MOTORCADE ROUTE FOR NOVEMBER 22, 1963 VISIT OF PRESIDENT DISCLOSED

On November 16, 1963 the Dallas Times-Herald and Dallas Morning News announced that November 22nd visit of the President, details of the motorcade route and indicated it would pass through Dealey Plaza and continue on to the Trade Mart (114).

"OSWALD" AT THE RIFLE RANGE

Someone who was recognized immediately following the assassination as being identical with Lee Harvey Oswald appeared at the Sports Drome Rifle Range in Dallas on several occasions in September, October and November 1963 (115).



Mr. Garland G. Mack testified, along with others, that a man who he identified as Oswald was at the Sports Drome Rifle Range on November 10, 1963 and that he became involved in an altercation with "Oswald" because he was firing at his (Mack's) target (116).

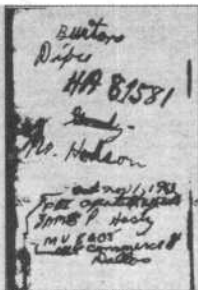
OSWALD'S ADDRESS BOOK CONTAINED FBI AGENT'S NUMBER

Although the Secret Service had no record of Lee Harvey Oswald in its files, particularly in the Protective Research Section which determined whether or not a person might be a threat to the President, the Warren Commission was not able to explain how Oswald learned of Hosty's auto license or why he had this information in his address book. Apparently none of the FBI's extensive information on Oswald was passed on to the U.S. Secret Service (120).

The name, auto license number and telephone number of FBI agent James P. Hosty appears in Lee Harvey Oswald's address book (118) and Hosty had interviewed Martin Oswald and Ruth Paine (119) as close to the date of the assassination as October 29, November 1st, and November 16th as well as their neighbors. The Warren Commission was not able to explain how Oswald learned of Hosty's auto license or why he had this information in his address book. Apparently none of the FBI's extensive information on Oswald was passed on to the U.S. Secret Service (120).

WHITE HOUSE SECRET SERVICE CHIEF REMAINS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

White House Secret Service detail Chief, Gerald A. Behn remained in Washington, D.C. during the President's Texas trip and Special Agent in Charge Roy Kellerman went to Dallas with the President instead (121).



Agent listed in Oswald book

PROTECTIVE RESEARCH SECTION OF SECRET SERVICE IN DALLAS

As of November 8, 1963, a check of the Secret Service Files revealed there was not one person considered to be a threat to the life of the President in the entire Dallas-Fort Worth area, despite the earlier assault on Ambassador Stevenson (122).

DALLAS MOTORCADE LEAD CAR

The lead car of the President's motorcade carried Dallas Police Chief Jesse E. Curry, Secret Service SAIC Forrest S. Scales, SAIC Wendell G. Lawson Sheriff Bill Decker (123). Preceding them was the pilot car, also a hand-top, carrying Deputy Police Chief G. L. Lumpkin, Detective P. M. Turner, Detective B. L. Senkel, assistant man Jack Pittsburgh, and Army Lt. Col. George Whinnery (124).

SECRET SERVICE AGENTS AT FORT WORTH BAR UNTIL LATE HOURS

Nine special agents of the Secret Service went, according to their own reports (125) and that of the Secret Service Agency (126) in charge of the Presidential detail in Texas, present at The Keller nightclub in Fort Worth, some of them until 1:00 a.m., the night before the assassination of the President. In specific violation of the Secret Service's own regulations (U.S. Secret Service Manual, Section 10, Chapter 1, page 7, (127) some of the agents did consume and consume intoxicating beverages (128).

"WANTED FOR TREASON": JOHN F. KENNEDY

This poster was widely distributed throughout the city of Dallas on the day of President Kennedy's visit, by anti-Kennedy persons (129).

PRESIDENTIAL PLANE ARRIVES AT LOVE FIELD, DALLAS

According to the records of the Secret Service, public accounts and journals, President Kennedy's plane, Air Force One, touched in Dallas at Love Field at 11:40 a.m. on Friday, November 22, 1963 (130).

(96) K214140-412, 10H152-156.
(97) WCR 720-321.
(98) Sylvia Maguire, *Accusations After The Fact*, p. 352.
(99) WCR, p. 840.
(100) C.E. 509, CE 3091, CE 3002, 10H152-156, 24H544.
(101) 24H132-146, Steinhilber Exhibit B.
(102) TRENZ, 7H215, 7H194, 7H221.
(103) WCR, CE 334.

(104) Life Magazine, 2/21/64, 21H437, 21H459, 21H460.
(105) 21H440, WCR 125, 287, 289.
(106) 21H445, 21H450, 21H451, 21H438.
(107) 287-34-18.
(108) 10H510.
(109) 24H264-270.
(110) 24H260.
(111) WCR 180.
(112) 24H260.

(113) 24H260.
(114) WCR pp. 39-40.
(115) 10H157-177, 24H104.
(116) 10H178, 24H100.
(117) 28109, WCR 318.
(118) 18H544, C.E. 18, p. 761.
(119) 40H416, 40H447, 40H453.
(120) 28109.
(121) 28H63, 28H105.
(122) 28H108, 7H1850-632.

(123) 24H249, 24H334, 7H1315, 24H285.
(124) 21H578.
(125) 18H462-690, 18H666-669, CE 1019.
(126) 18H662.
(127) 18H663.
(128) 18H662-690.
(129) CE 509, 18H664, 7H1247.
(130) 28H67.

The reason Governor Connally's testimony is so crucial to the determination of how many assassins there were is that he could determine best whether or not he was hit by the first bullet which was fired. If he was not, as his testimony indicates, then the assassination was the result of a conspiracy.

COND SHOT: Struck Governor Connally in the back, exited through his chest after shattering his fifth rib, penetrated his right wrist and ultimately lodged in his left thigh. (143)

It is not clear if there were two shots which hit the President in the head almost simultaneously or not, although there is

There is support for only one conclusion: there were at least two gunmen firing from behind the President and the Governor (159). From the angle of trajectory established for the wounds it is probable that one of the assassins shot from the Texas School Book Depository and another from the roof of the County Records Building. (160)



p. 82-114.
(153) *Life Magazine* 11/25/66; Thompson, *Six Seconds in Dallas*, p. 115-140, 1881-79.
(154) 58160.
(155) *Life Magazine* 11/25/66.
(156) *Ibid.*, 1524696-697; Thompson, *ib.*, 35.
(157) *Ibid.*
(158) *Esquire, Inquest*, p. 43.
(159) *Ibid.*
(160) 48138, CD 827, Thompson, p. 129.

POLICEMEN RUSH INTO THE BOOK DEPOSITORY BUILDING

Immediately following the shots Dallas Policeman M. L. Baker rushed into the Texas School Book Depository and, with Roy Truly, confronted Lee Harvey Oswald drinking a coke on the second floor. (161).

PARKING LOT BEHIND THE GRASSY KNOLL—ESCAPE

A key witness in the assassination was Lee J. Bowers, Jr. who testified that he saw "something occurred in this particular spot" pinpointing the spot behind the fence on the Grassy Knoll behind which he watched from his tower (162). He continued:

"At the time of the shooting, in the vicinity of where the two men I have described were, there was a flash of light, so far as I am concerned, something I could not identify, but there was something which occurred which caught my eye in this immediate area on the embankment." (163)

S. M. Holland, an employee of the Union Terminal Company (in charge of the railroad track area behind the Grassy Knoll) gave an interesting description of what he saw behind the fence:

"And I got over to the spot where I saw the smoke come from and heard the shot. I was looking for empty shells or some indication that there was a rifleman or someone over there. Well, you know it'd been raining that morning and behind the station wagon from one end of the bumper to the other, I expect you could've counted four or five hundred footprints down there. And on the bumper, oh about twelve or eighteen inches apart, it looked like someone had raked their shoes off; there were muddy spots up there, like someone had been standing up there." (164)

Holland continued:

"Just to the west of the station wagon, there were two sets of footprints that left... I noticed these two footprints leaving; now they could have stepped out between the second and third cars on the gravel or they could've got in the trunk compartment of this car and pulled the lid down, which would have been very, very easy." (165)

J. C. Prior who saw the assassination from the roof of the Terminal Annex building terms Dwyer Plaza said in an affidavit filed November 22, 1963 (166)



JFK Autopsy diagram - CE 197

(161) 312249, 11/22/64, 1781501.

(162) 482335.

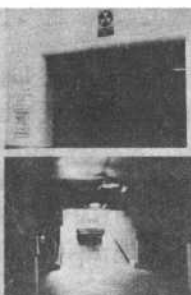
(163) Filmed and taped interview by Mark Lane, 3/31/66. *Rush To Judgment*, p. 32.

(164) Jewish Thompson interview, Nov. 30, 1964. 462425-246.

(165) Thompson interview, 11/30/66.

(166) 1951492.

(167) Lane, *Rush To Judgment*, p. 33.



Dallas Police Station - Main St. ramp

"I saw one man run towards the passenger cars on the railroad siding after the volley of shots. This man had a white dress shirt, no tie, and khaki colored trousers. His hair appeared to be long and dark and his agility running could be about 25 years of age. He had something in his hand. I couldn't be sure but it may have been a head piece."

He later said: "the man was carrying something in his right hand" which "could have been a gun." (167)

OFFICERS RUSH TO THE GRASSY KNOLL AREA

Two motorcycle officers rushed up the Grassy Knoll after the shooting, apparently in pursuit of gunmen (168). The officers, Hargis and Haygood testified that they thought that was the direction from which shots had been fired. (169)

MEN POSING AS SECRET SERVICE AGENTS SHOW IDENTIFICATION

The Secret Service and the official report indicate that there were no Secret Service agents in the area of Dealey Plaza after the shots were fired (170). And yet, three police officers were given Secret Service identification by men who were on the Grassy Knoll and in front of the Texas School Book Depository Building (171). These alleged Secret Service Agents were never accounted for in Secret Service reports and were never seen again.

THE PHONES GO OUT IN WASHINGTON D.C.

In a crucial and astonishing breakdown in communications systems the telephone system went out immediately after the shots were fired in Dallas, but the breakdown didn't occur in Texas, it occurred in Washington D.C. Senator Ted Kennedy, brother of the President, was forced to go from house to house asking to use strangers' phones before he realized that the phone system was out. (172)

CABINET PLANE OVER THE PACIFIC—CODE BOOK MISSING

Another curious coincidence was that most of the members of the Cabinet were on their way to Japan when the assassina-

(168) 482395, 481209.

(169) 161.

(170) WCR 32.

(171) 781107, 483112, 128235.

(172) William Manchester (Harper & Row, New York, 1967, p. 198), *Death of a President*, pp. 168-169.

(173) *Los Angeles Times*, Nov. 18, 1963, with Kennedy, Pierre Salinger, p. 3.

(174) Manchester, *Death of a President*.



Jack Ruby

tion occurred. Some of the most powerful men in the administration were out of touch including: Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Treasury Secretary Douglas Dillon, Interior Secretary Stewart Udall, Labor Secretary W. Willard Wirtz, the Chairman of President Kennedy's Council of Economic Advisors, Arthur Heller, and Presidential Press Secretary Pierre Salinger. (175)

When the teletype showed the plane of the Cabinet members carried the earliest wire notice that the President had been shot in Dallas, there was a moment of panic but then, fearing an international plot, and with specific orders and procedures to take effect in such an emergency, the Secretary of State and Press Secretary to the President attempted to contact the White House to confirm the shocking report. They were able to do so, but prohibited from making certain confirmation of data because the official Code Book was not aboard the plane. After a long period of searching for it and not finding it, the Secretary of State was forced to break procedures designed specifically to protect against such interference with coded communications, break the code and communicate with the White House in plain English. (174)

LEE HARVEY OSWALD DECLARED PUBLICLY HE WAS A PATSY

As the world watched on television, Lee Harvey Oswald got one of his rare chances to speak publicly during a transfer down a hallway in the Dallas Jail to Police Headquarters. He was asked if he had shot the President, which he denied, saying at 7:35 p.m. on Friday, November 22, 1963, "I'm just a patsy." (175)



"I'm just a patsy"

p. 193-195, p. 224. Pierre Salinger, *WFO Interview*, Good Housekeeping Magazine, p. 61.

(176) 208156, *Kaiser Ex. 3*.

(178) 281181-231, 1483504-570.

(177) 1283557-372.

(178) Interview of N. J. Daniels by Stephen Jaffe, August, 1973, 1281225-234.

(179) Lane, *Rush To Judgment*, pp. 221-226.

(179) *Press Index*, *He Forgoes My Good*.

JACK RUBY IS PERMITTED TO ENTER BASEMENT AND SHOOT OSWALD

Jack Ruby testified that he entered the basement of the Dallas Police Station on November 24, 1963 and shot Lee Harvey Oswald to death (176). He said that he entered through the Main St. ramp although there was an officer of the Dallas Police specifically stationed in that ramp, which was a little wider than a car width, to keep anyone who hadn't been able to present the proper identification of being either police or press, expressly out of that basement (177). N. J. Daniels, himself a former police officer on the Dallas Police Force, happened to be in the area and stepped to see his friend, Officer Vaughn, who was guarding that entrance. Shortly before the shooting, Daniels saw Officer Vaughn acknowledging a man and allow him to pass into the basement without stopping him or asking him for his credentials. This man appeared to Daniels to be holding a hard object like a gun, in his pocket, yet Vaughn did not stop him. A few minutes, if not seconds later, Oswald was shot. Daniels later identified the man who he had seen walk past Vaughn and into the basement as Jack Ruby (178).



THE DEATH OF 18 MATERIAL WITNESSES IN A SHORT TIME

In the past decade more than 40 people who were directly, or indirectly connected with the assassination either as witnesses or participants in the lives of those involved, have died strangely (179). A list of 18 "material witnesses," that is, people who could have been called to testify in the event that Lee Harvey Oswald had stood trial, perished in a shorter period of time. The list, and the methods which caused the death of these witnesses, provides some important data.

Of the 18 witnesses, 5 died of natural deaths, and 13 were the victims of accident, suicide or murder. The unnatural causes constitute 71.5 per cent of the total. There were 6 murders, 1 manslaughter, 2 suicides, 3 motor vehicle accidents, and 1 presumed accident (or suicide) by a fall through a plate-glass window. (180)

An actuary of the London Sunday Times computed the life expectancy of 13 of the deceased witnesses and concluded that on November 22, 1963 the odds against all 13 being dead by February 1967 were 100,000,000,000,000 to 1 (181).

A. H. III, *McLouth Press*.

(180) *Memphis, Accounts After The Fact*, p. 299.

(181) *London Sunday Times*, Feb. 16, 1967.

Appendix of supportive material.

By Stephen Jaffe.

Special research by Martin Gans and David Liffman.

In the three-year period which followed the murder of President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald, eighteen 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, three from heart attacks, and two from natural causes.

An actuary, engaged by the London Sunday Times concluded that on November 22, 1963, the odds against these witnesses being dead by February, 1967, were one hundred thousand trillion to one.



**BURT
LANCASTER
ROBERT
RYAN
WILL GEER**

They are the conspirators in the plot to assassinate an American President.

An Edward Lewis Production
**EXECUTIVE
ACTION**

Probably the most controversial film of our time!

Screenplay by DALTON TRUMBO Based on Novel by MARK LANE and DONALD FREED Co-Produced by DAN BESSIE and GARY HOROWITZ Produced by EDWARD LEWIS Directed by DAVID MILLER COLOR A National General Pictures Release



On April 27, 1978, the committee obtained a copy of an article printed in the London Sunday Times on February 26, 1967. Mr. Chairman, at this time I ask that the article be admitted into the record as JFK exhibit F-541, and I direct your attention to the enlargement of the article which is on the easel. The chart in the article lists 19 individuals as being the victims of mysterious deaths, including Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby. The article states that the London Sunday Times asked an actuary to compute the life expectancy of 15 of these individuals. It further states that the actuary concluded that on November 22, 1963, the odds against all 15 being dead by February 1976 were about 1 in 10 to the 29th power, or 100,000 trillion to 1.

Chairman STOKES. Without objection JFK exhibits F-541 and F-542 may be entered into the record.

THE SUNDAY TIMES, 26 FEBRUARY 1967



LOUIS STOKES, OHIO, CHAIRMAN
 RICHARDSON PREYER, R.C.
 WALTER E. PAINTOFF, D.C.
 YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURNS, CALIF.
 CHRISTOPHER J. DOGOL, CONN.
 HAROLD S. FORD, TENN.
 FLOYD J. FITHIAN, IND.
 ROBERT W. EGGAN, PA.
 SAMUEL L. DEVINE, OHIO
 STEWART B. ACKINNEY, CONN.
 CHARLES THONE, NEBR.
 HAROLD S. SAWYER, MICH.

(202) 225-4624

Select Committee on Assassinations

U.S. House of Representatives

3331 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

April 25, 1978

Librarian
 London Sunday Times
 P. O. Box 7
 200 Gray's Inn Road
 London, England WC1X 8E2

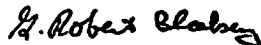
Dear Sir:

In connection with its investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of President Kennedy, the Select Committee on Assassinations of the U. S. House of Representatives requests a copy of the actuarial study referenced in the attached February 26, 1967 London Sunday Times article and of all documents relating to the preparation of the study.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

We appreciate the cooperation of your Washington and New York offices, particularly that of Ms. Katherine Grayson of the Washington Office.

Sincerely,



G. Robert Blakey
 Chief Counsel and Director

GRB:jhd

Enclosure

cc: Katherine Grayson

JFK EXHIBIT F-542

Ms. HESS. On May 19, 1978, the committee received a response from the London Sunday Times. I direct your attention again to the easel, to JFK exhibit F-543, an enlargement of that letter. I would now like to read that letter into the record. It is directed to Mr. G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel and director, Select Committee on Assassinations, and it is entitled, Kennedy deaths statistics—The Sunday Times, February 26, 1967.

The Editor has passed me your letter of 25th April.

Our piece about the odds against the deaths of the Kennedy witnesses was, I regret to say, based on a careless journalistic mistake and should not have been published. This was realized by The Sunday Times' editorial staff after the first edition—the one which goes to the United States and which I believe you have—had gone out, and later editions were amended.

There was no question of our actuary having got his answer wrong: It was simply that we asked him the wrong question. He was asked what were the odds against 15 named people out of the population of the United States dying within a short period

of time, to which he replied—correctly—that they were very high. However, if one asks what are the odds against 15 of those included in the Warren Commission index dying within a given period, the answer is, of course, that they are much lower. Our mistake was to treat the reply to the former question as if it dealt with the latter—hence the fundamental error in our first edition report, for which we apologize.

None of the editorial staff involved in this story can remember the name of the actuary we consulted, but in view of what happened you will, I imagine, agree that his identity is hardly material.

Yours sincerely, Antony Whitaker, Legal Manager.

Even though the London Sunday Times had not structured its actuarial inquiry properly and, therefore, the 100,000 trillion to 1 odds were invalid, the committee staff looked into the possibility of conducting a valid study, contracting with our own actuarial firms here in the District of Columbia: Edward H. Friend & Co., Towers, Perrin, Forster & Co., and the Wyatt Co. We then had meetings with representatives of each company and each subsequently submitted a proposal, addressing both the general issue of which actuarial principles did or did not apply, and the specific issue of the practical problems which would be encountered in attempting to apply those principles to this particular case. As a result of these conversations and of a review of the proposals, we determined the following facts concerning the validity and feasibility of attempting to apply actuarial odds to the group of deaths.

One, to compute valid actuarial statistics, one must be able to determine to a reasonable degree of specificity, the universe of individuals to which the specific group is being compared. In other words, we would have to determine the total number of individuals who exist in each of the categories into which those individuals who have mysteriously died, fall. This means that we would need to establish the number of individuals who in any manner could be considered witnesses to the assassination of President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald, the number of individuals who had any contact with Oswald or Ruby or with Ruby's nightclubs, the number of individuals who professed to have material knowledge of the case or of the major figures in the case, all news reporters who had expressed interest, taken interviews or investigated the case, and all Members of Congress who sought to introduce legislation concerning the investigation of the case. This, as you can imagine, would have been an impossible task.

Two, in addition, for each of the individuals identified in the groups I have just listed, we would have to establish age, sex, race, occupation, geographical location, and any other extraordinary factors which have to be taken into consideration in order to compute mortality rates. Again, this was judged to be an impossible job.

Three, we would need to determine the number of individuals in these categories who have, in fact, died and the number of individuals who, according to actuarial mortality rates, should have died.

We had thus established the impossibility of attempting to establish, through the application of actuarial principles, any meaningful implications about the existence or absence of a conspiracy. Despite the fact that an inference of conspiracy, as here postulated by the critics, did not exist, we nevertheless decided not to dismiss the cited deaths out of hand, but rather, to look more closely at the nature of certain specific deaths to determine whether or not they

could individually be considered mysterious or in some other manner, a reflection of some sort of conspiracy.

In an attempt to investigate the circumstances of the deaths individually, we did several things. First, we compiled a more comprehensive list of those individuals whose deaths were considered by the critics to be mysterious. In some cases, it proved difficult to determine which deaths the critics considered mysterious. In many cases, instead of statements of fact, we found unsubstantiated inference and innuendo, with little concrete information provided. For example, David Goldstein and FNU Levens are both included in Sylvia Meagher's book, "Accessories After the Fact," as mysterious deaths. Goldstein is described as having helped the FBI trace the revolver used in the murder of Officer Tippit. Levens is described as a Fort Worth burlesque theater operator who employed some of the same entertainers as Jack Ruby. Meagher notes that both of their deaths have been officially ascribed to natural causes and lists the places of death as unknown. No conspiracy theory which would include Goldstein and Levens is put forth; it is unclear why their deaths are to be considered mysterious. And while Ms. Meagher may have had no way of knowing it, the FBI's file on the Kennedy case includes dozens of reports and letters from citizens offering clues in the identification of the revolver in question, as, of course, there are undoubtedly a number of persons who would have employed some of the same entertainers as Ruby.

Penn Jones, in his book, "Forgive My Grief," volume I, states that Earlene Roberts, the manager of the roominghouse in which Lee Harvey Oswald lived at the time of the assassination, died. He then states that she had important evidence to contribute. The implication is that Mrs. Roberts' death is mysterious. While it is clear that Mrs. Roberts did indeed have important evidence to contribute, there is no indication in the records relating to her death, or in Mr. Jones' book, as to what exactly was mysterious about a 61-year-old woman with large calcium deposits and a case of pneumonia, dying of acute heart failure. The same is the case with other deaths cited in the same book, for example, Dr. Nicholas Chetta, the coroner who served at David Ferrie's death, and Thomas Howard, Jack Ruby's attorney, both of whom died of heart attacks.

Despite this problem, we compiled a list of individuals from the books and articles of Meagher, Jones, Bernard Fensterwald, David Martindale, and David Welsh. We added to the list Sam Giancana and John Roselli, both of whom had died too recently to be included in most of the critical literature.

We then asked the Library of Congress to compile all newspaper articles which had appeared concerning any and all of the individuals. We further asked them to give us their evaluation of the critical literature and the press accounts on each individual and to make recommendations with respect to further investigation in each case. Independently, we sent requests to the Bureau of Vital Statistics, the medical examiners' offices and the police departments in the jurisdiction in which each death was believed to have occurred, for the death certificates, medical records, police reports, and any other documents which might exist concerning the death. Because there were many cases in which there was no information

indicating the appropriate jurisdiction, we sent letters to the pertinent offices in Dallas and Fort Worth, Tex., in New Orleans, La., and in Miami, Fla., listing all the names on which we desired information. In the case of some of the individuals, information was requested from Federal investigative agencies. In the cases of Roselli and Giancana, we requested and received a briefing on the Justice Department investigations of those deaths. In the cases in which further investigation was deemed necessary, it was initiated.

Our final conclusion on the issue is that the available evidence does not establish anything about the nature of these deaths which would indicate that the deaths were in some manner, either direct or peripheral, caused by the assassination of President Kennedy or by any aspect of the subsequent investigation.

Chairman STOKES. Is your report completed?

Ms. HESS. Yes; it is.

Chairman STOKES. The gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. Ford.

Mr. FORD. I have no questions. I will yield back my time to the Chair.

Chairman STOKES. The gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. FITHIAN. Just one question. Miss Hess, is it your feeling, having gone through this, there is no statistical significance to this? Is that what I am to understand?

Ms. HESS. That is correct.

Mr. FITHIAN. Is it possible, then, that any death which is remotely related to this gets reported more than others, therefore there is an appearance of a kind of unusual gathering of deaths?

Ms. HESS. It is possible. That is one of the bases for the development of the issue; yes. You understand the problem in establishing the statistical inference is that you cannot establish any type of universe. While it may seem like these people come from a very small group of people, they come from a very, very large universe of people.

Mr. FITHIAN. I have no other questions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Devine.

Mr. DEVINE. No questions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman STOKES. The gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. Edgar.

Mr. EDGAR. Will you provide for the record a detailed listing of the 21 names and the evidence you have found relating to their deaths?

Ms. HESS. Yes. Do you want me to read them for the record?

Mr. EDGAR. It might be helpful.

Ms. HESS. Edward Benairdes, Albert Guy Bogard, Hale Boggs, Lee Bowers, Jr., Bill Chesher, Nicholas J. Chetta, David Goldstein, Thomas Hale Howard, William Hunter, Clyde Johnson, Dorothy Kilgallen, Thomas Henry Killam, Jim Koethe, FNU Levens, Nancy Jane Mooney, Teresa Norton, Earlene Roberts, Harold Russell, Marilyn April Walle, a.k.a. Betty McDonald, William W. Whaley, James R. Worrell, Sam Giancana, John Roselli.

Mr. EDGAR. Thank you. I think it very helpful for the record that those names be included.

Can you indicate why Mr. DeMohrenschildt's name was not included?

Ms. HESS. His was one of those which deemed further investigation and became part of a great investigative effort.

Mr. EDGAR. That was not part of the exact study?

Ms. HESS. It was in terms of the compilation of data. I compiled the data on his death and any police reports, et cetera, as part of this project. But then in terms of subsequent investigation that was done by the investigators.

Mr. EDGAR. I think it would be helpful in terms of our final analysis to have a chance to review the material you compiled. I thank you for your report.

Chairman STOKES. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. Sawyer.

Mr. SAWYER. No Questions.

Chairman STOKES. There being nothing further, Miss Hess, thank you very much for your testimony. You are excused.

The Chair will suspend for just a moment.

[Brief recess.]

Chairman STOKES. Because of a heavy schedule tomorrow of witnesses, along with the fact the committee must vacate the room at an early hour for an affair to be held in this room later tomorrow evening, the committee today will adjourn until 8:30 tomorrow morning.

[Whereupon, at 4:30 p.m., the committee was adjourned, to reconvene at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, September 26, 1978.]