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Plot to Kill the President: A Novel

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PLOT TO KILL THE PRESIDENT

A Novel

by

Arthur Scott and Brian Heath

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Preface

I was always skeptical of *The Warren Report* as were countless other Americans over the decades.

This skepticism was heightened by the release of the Zapruder film, 1975, on national TV's, *Goodnight America* ; by Oliver Stone's 1991 film *JFK*, and then by the failure of the *assassination records review board* (ARRB) over the last 4 decades to release any pertinent documents related to the Dealey Plaza tragedy not heavily redacted.

This skepticism was heightened by the Vietnam war of the 60s, by the release of *the pentagon papers* ,1972, by the blatant lie of 'weapons of mass destruction,'2003, leading to the Iraq war/ destabilization of the middle east, and ultimately to Russian aggression into Ukraine, 2022.

I was reenergized to look more closely at November 22,1963, by a chance encounter with Brian heath, a *JFK* aficionado, who had made some startling discoveries about the assassination. He had studied meticulously the Nix film and concluded that the fatal shot came from within the presidential limousine from the driver, William Greer.

Similarly, that many of JFK's cabinet members consisted of former OSS spooks, who dominated the CIA, and were major spokesman for the national security state and America's global dominance.

They saw JFK's rapprochement with Khrushchev after the Cuban missile crisis a threat to their world view. Vietnam was the breaking point as they saw in his policy of gradual withdrawal, the fall Ho Chi Minh City, as heralding the collapse of all of southeast Asia to the Chinese, described as the *domino theory*. Ironically, the latter never occurred.

At any rate, Brian and I teamed up, and did a series of presentations about the Kennedy assassination in the Bay Area through emeritus college umbrella of Foothill College, located at Concord, CA. The responses were always good.

But we soon realized that the old platforms for learning had dramatically changed because of technology and that to reach a larger audience about what really happened at Dealey plaza was imperative, before it faded away from the collective memory.

Indeed, the conspiracy required a broader electronic brush stroke.

JFK, the Death of President, is our answer to keeping alive the idealism of *the new frontier and the coup d'état that transpired*. Recent events around *January 6* under Trump show how fragile democracy and its institutions are.

These weaknesses were apparent during the JFK's period when there rose a groundswell of powerful forces that called for his removal and dramatically altered the trajectory of American history.

Enjoy the story.

Chapter 1 Dorothy Kilgallen Death

It is almost Thanksgiving, 1965, and there was a festive air in Pop's neighborhood bar. Family, turkey, and Army-Navy football dominated conversation. Vietnam was a more serious topic.

Pop's is known for its great bar. A west Philly hang-out, around for decades. Friendly and Irish, although its composition is changing as Martin Luther king and civil rights of Black Americans has become central generating a racial change in the neighborhood.

This afternoon three high school friends descended on Pop's, because of the news that Dorothy Kilgallen had died of an apparent overdose in her New York apartment. Raising suspicion was the autopsy report comment that the cause of death required further study?

They were Kennedy watchers and had become increasingly skeptical of the Warren Report.

Frank Scott was a history prof at La Salle, Brian Smith had earned his Law Degree at Temple, whereas Joanne Jones had become an attractive investigative reporter. They were New Frontier enthusiasts devastated by the events of November 22, 1963.

"Can you believe the news release about Kilgallen?", query the Professor. Brian and Joanne both paused, sucked on their drinks.

Joanne, "She was on to something." Brian broke in, "It was she who said that the JFK assassination will never die if 'there is a real reporter alive. She walked her talk."

"I remember watching her on *What's My Line* 'suggesting that it was odd how so many people connected with Kennedy had suddenly disappeared? "

"It's spooky," chimed in the Professor. "There have been a series of deaths of people connected either with Ruby, Oswald, New Orleans, the Zapruder film and even the CIA."

"Wasn't Mary Pinchot Meyer targeted last year? Mary was an intimate of JFK who reportedly kept a diary of their liaison that was never recovered. Her former husband was a big shot at the CIA, who hated Kennedy."

“You know Dorothy was always skeptical of the Warren Report, of Marina Oswald’s testimony, and had a private meeting with Ruby which she later published embarrassing the government. Apparently, Hoover was keeping a close watch on her.”

“Hey,” Joanne interjected, “let’s catch our breath with another round. This is heavy stuff. Waiter, another scotch for the Professor, for Brian, a martini with a twist, and a gin/tonic for me.”

Taking a deep breath, the Professor suggests that the Kilgallen mystery needs a deeper probe. “Brian why don’t you take your investigative skills to Dallas looking deeper into Ruby and his Mafia connections. Joanne went off to Washington by train to get a bead on Hoover’s involvement. And I will head to New Orleans to see if I can get a bead on Dorothy’s desire to investigate the Trafficante/Ruby connection. It’s rumored that Dorothy passed her notes on to her confidante, Florence Pritchett or Mrs. Earl Smith, who died two days later.”

“The notes,” Brian interjected, “were never recovered. Hoover probably buried them fearful of rumored Ruby ties to FBI.”

“Let’s return to Pop’s by the second week of December to update what we uncover.”

Chapter 2 What Did Ruby Know?

As Brian caught his breath on the American Air flight from Philly to Dallas, he couldn't help but play the nationally TV scene of Ruby shooting Oswald. It was simply unbelievable how incompetent the Dallas police were that Sunday, nor the degree of access that Ruby had in the Department. His Carousel Club was frequented by many police officers with free drinks being part of the Ruby treatment.

Upon landing at Love Field, Brian hailed a Taxi, and directed, "take me to Dealey Plaza." Though reading about much about the assassination, he wanted to see it firsthand.

It was early afternoon. Rather quiet at Houston/Elm, where the Presidential cavalcade made its fatal turn. It was claimed in the Warren Report that Oswald shot the President from sixth floor of the Texas Depository Building. "He was one hell of a shooter," Brian thought.

Walking down Elm and the sharp curve leading into Houston, he thought it was a perfect spot for an assassination. Apparently, Kennedy's Secret Service, Greer, and Kellerman, slowed down to 5 miles an hour by the Greasy Knoll, where the kill shot occurred raising suspicions among spectators. The role of the Secret Service is another thread to the story as well as how and by whom the route was chosen.

Brian grabs a taxi desiring to contact Ruby, who Dorothy interviewed prior to her death. She never revealed the gist of her conversation, perhaps holding off until she released her planned book, *Murder One*. Making the matter more intriguing; her notes and writings were never recovered.

Pulling out a Camel cigarette, Brian sighs "Another dam mystery; they just keep piling up. Driver, take me to Sheraton Downtown, not too far from University of Texas and Baylor."

Showering and eating Brian now reviewed his Ruby material. Highlights included being Jewish, mob affiliated with Chicago, Giancana, and New Orleans, Trafficante. His Carousel Club was a center for mob /political/police activities. Ruby claims that he shot Oswald to avenge Jackie, though many reported seeing him and Oswald at the Carousel Club in '63. Oswald-Ruby connection doesn't make sense.

I like to run down these eyewitnesses, and to get hold of the Warren interview of Ruby. Apparently, he told the Commission that his life was in danger, and he wanted to be transferred to Washington. His plea was ignored. He warned that “you won’t ever see me again/a whole new form of gov’t will take over...”

Frank called. “How’s it going in Dallas?” ‘Pretty depressing. Went to Dealey Plaza and tomorrow off to the Carousel Club to run down known Ruby associates. I’ll fly back after Thanksgiving to miss the travel madness.”

Next morning is over casted in Dallas. Brian enters the closed Carousel Club on Commerce St. Ironically, it was to be turned into a boxing gym for the Dallas Police Association. He looks around hoping to encounter someone who was there during its halcyon days.

An old gruff security guard approached Brian and asked, “Can I help you.”

“This must have been the in-place before Ruby was arrested.”

“You could say that.”

“Is it true this was a mob hangout? I heard that even Oswald frequented it.”

“It’s been rumored that he was here more than once.”

“Have you ever heard of an attorney, Carroll Jarnagin?”

“No. But I am aware that Ruby’s brother has been talking with Jack. You might want to seek him out.”

“Thanks for the tip.”

Luckily, the next day I ran into brother, Earl, who averred that Ruby had smuggled out notes as a kind of Last Testament in which he pointed the finger at LBJ. He insisted that there was a military-industrial coup with war as the primary motive, that Dealey Plaza was a well-conceived ‘executive action. ‘

“Neither Russia nor Cuba wanted to see the president killed.”

“Why not,” I pressed. “They had nothing to gain from Kennedy’s death.”

One thing Jack Ruby said which has remained with me was “he doesn’t remember shooting Oswald.”

A kind of Manchurian Candidate thing, I thought.

I sat there in silence trying to make heads/sense of it as I am sure Dorothy Kilgallen did before her premature death?

One final question, “Is it true that Jack and Oswald knew one another. That Oswald had been spotted in the Carousel club?”

“Really don’t know.” “You might want to talk with Ester Ann Mash, a hostess at the Club.”

I discovered that she had moved to Phoenix after having a falling out with Jack. Graciously she agreed to meet me at Phoenix Airport. We ordered coffee and mentioned that Dorothy Kilgallen brought me to Dallas where I was looking at the Ruby-Oswald connection, “and would appreciate any light you can throw on it.”

Her story was that in Spring of 63 she provided drinks to “swarthy, mob types.”

“There was another person present who “I later realized when watching the Sunday shooting was Lee Harvey Oswald, the very man, I saw at the Carousel Club.”

“Are you sure,” I asked.

“It was him, no doubt. He was so out of place.”

“Wow, that must have been quite upsetting.”

“Yes, being scared I moved to Phoenix.”

I thanked her and headed to the airport for my return flight to Philly. Reminiscing over the last several days, I found myself perplexed by the complexities of the investigation; it was becoming a Chinese puzzle, circles within circles. Dorothy-Ruby-Oswald-Kennedy.

One thing learned was that my inquiries pointed to New Orleans as key to the Kennedy story. Apparently, Dorothy was planning a trip to Crescent City before her sudden death.

Chapter 3 Mafia Involvement?

Frank headed to Philadelphia airport by taxi to catch Eastern Flight to the Big Easy. Brian had briefed him about Dallas/Ruby/Oswald. He took out his pipe to gather his thoughts. He got comfortable over the wing and watched the plane taxi out.

Being a historian meant he always saw the hand of the past. As Faulkner had expressed it, 'the past isn't even present yet. 'There was lots to be uncovered about the assassination. The Warren Commission was a joke.

From Brian he developed a Mafia itch. Its connection intrigued him. Geographically, Dallas, New Orleans and Havana were tied together by drugs, gambling, prostitution, and money laundering going back to pre-Castro Days when Havana was wide open. Meyer Lansky paved the way to Baptista.

Frank planned to have dinner with a university colleague, Bill Bennett, who was well versed with the politics of New Orleans and could throw light on the reach of Carlos Marcello, the Sicilian Don. Bill taught at Loyola University. Political science was his specialty and he had numerous contacts. They had met at Marquette pursuing their master's degree.

They decided to meet at the Café du Monde for the atmosphere and the beignet pastry.

"Hi Bill, it's been a long time."

He paused, "It's good seeing you. You are caught-up in the Kennedy mess, no. And Dorothy Kilgallen alleged suicide. From what I read she was on the verge of doing an expose which linked Ruby to the Mafia."

"Yes," I replied, "that's it. What do you know about the Mafia's involvement in Cuba?"

"Well, it began with Meyer Lansky and the Dons wanting a cut of the profits, including Jimmy Hoffa. Things were great throughout the 50s until Castro appeared. He closed down all Mafia operations and humiliated Santos Trafficante, Jr., of Florida by throwing him out."

"Wow they must have loved the Castro revolution. Can't imagine their anger and desire to get even."

Bill responded with the quip, "It becomes even more interesting and intriguing as Eisenhower/Nixon, too, were looking for a way to overthrow Castro for geopolitical reasons. They turned the matter over to the CIA, which throughout the 50s had become rather good at regime change. It was a state within a state, a loose cannon, and like the Mafia saw Cuba as a cash cow of untraceable monies for their nefarious activities like Paper Clip. Today the CIA has become deeply involved with events in southeast Asia."

"What in the hell is Paper Clip," I asked.

"Paperclip was the OSS/CIA program of secretly smuggling German Nazi scientist to America to enhance our nuclear/missile capacity against the Soviet Union. Through it many Nazis affiliated with the holocaust escaped to South America like Eichmann."

"The American public would be shocked by this information as a betrayal of all those sacrificed to free Europe from the Nazi tyranny. Can we take a walk, I need to clear my head, get some fresh air?"

Absorbing the architecture in the French Quarter, I turn to Frank and asked, "are you implying that the CIA and Mafia were in bed with one another plotting Castro's overthrow?"

"Yes, this was the backdrop to "Operation Mongoose."

"What happened to it after the Bay of Pigs failure. It was dissolved by RFK in Spring '62 but was secretly kept alive by rogue CIA agents led by William Harvey."

"Whose Harvey?" A major CIA player who hated the Kennedys, but was protected by Jesus Angleton, head of CIA Counterintelligence, and Richard Helms, Deputy Director."

"Well, here I am at the Inn on St. Peter. Thanks for a lesson in the Black arts. Let's meet tomorrow. A name that has come-up is Guy Banister. Like to discuss with him Oswald's activities in New Orleans?"

"Unfortunately, he died at the time of the Warren Commission release. We could, however, catch-up with Attorney General Jim Garrison, who has been looking closely at the New Orleans connection to Dealey Plaza. I'll call Garrison tomorrow."

The next morning, we took a cab to Poydras St. where the Distich Court Building was located, Garrison had his office there, and had agreed to meet. He was a big man,

who had grown suspicions of the Warren Report when Russell Long had indicated “that the Warren Report was dead wrong.”

We asked him about Banister. “Well, what I uncovered was that Banister had FBI ties, was an anti-Castro Birchite, and forced to leave New Orleans police force. He then established his own detective agency at 531 Lafayette which was conveniently located to the Newman Building, the headquarters of anti-Castro activities. It, too, was adjacent to the CIA/FBI office, and to Reilly Coffee Company, which employed Lee Harvey Oswald. Too many threads to be accidental.”

“How did Banister get on your radar,” Bill asked.

“Well right after JFK assassination, Banister had a fallen out with one of his own investigators by the name of Jack Martin. He roughed him up and Martin began to claim that Banister and his friend, David Ferrie, were instrumental in the Kennedy assassination. Before I could pursue the matter, Banister died.”

“What about Ferrie?” Frank inquired.

“He was a pilot who flew for Carlos Marcello and CIA during Bay of Pigs, and mentored Oswald in the New Orleans Civil Air Patrol. It’s claimed he drove to Dallas on the 22nd to provide air escape for the JFK shooters out of Dallas.”

Frank, visibly shaken asked “Are you kidding me. Where is Ferrie now?”

Garrison answered, “Released by FBI on the grounds of National Security.”

Bill exploded, “Even the government doesn’t want the truth to be known. Thanks for your time, and good luck on your investigations.”

I turned to Bill and said “I better get ready to return to Philly and update my colleagues. This trip to New Orleans was a revelation, especially the ties to Oswald. There seems to be many Oswald’s or false flags. Let’s stay in touch. Take care.”

Heading to the airport, I thought I better contact Joanne about what I learned regarding the governmental web connecting Marcello, Banister and Ferrie. I know that she was going to explore the strange death of Mary Pinchot Meyer as a harbinger of Dorothy’s death this November.

Chapter 4 Mary Pinchot Meyers Mystery

Joanne boarded the Washington train at 30th St. Station. It was a beautiful Classical building with marble floors and statuary, although weathered over the years through use and neglect. Taking the train, however, beat driving down interstate #95. The beauty was it led to Union Station in downtown Washington within walking distance to the Capitol Mall where MLK had given his famous "*I have a Dream Speech*," just months prior to the Kennedy assassination.

Joanne had taken her degree in communications from the University of Pennsylvania and was hired by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* upon graduation. She became a political writer, following the example of her heroine Dorothy Kilgallen, and like many of her ilk, got caught up with the magic of the New Frontier. She saw on November 22 something darker than Oswald.

Washington, the national capital, Joanne thought, was a gossipy city. It lived on rumor, and there was lots of gossip about Mary Pinchot Meyer and her untimely death in Fall, '64. Mary's body was found along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal towpath in Georgetown. She was dead with two bullets: one in brain, and the other in the heart. It had all the markings of a professional hit.

Let me see what's this is all about. I will call my colleague Bill Smith at the Washington Post.

"Taxi, take me to St. Gregory Hotel near DuPont Circle."

It's centrally located, I thought, and makes moving about easy. I'll meet Bill in Georgetown tomorrow for breakfast at Martin's Tavern where JFK allegedly proposed to Jackie.

Washington is damp, windy, and cold in December as it was this grey day taxing out to Georgetown. Martins was quiet as I entered the restaurant and saw Bill in the back. He waved. We had become friends at a seminar about the role of a free press in America.

He gave me a hug and said, "nice seeing you. What brings you to Washington during the x-mas Holidays. It's dead at this time of year. Congress is gone. Recovering from the Johnson treatment and passage of Civil Rights Package. Now there's even talk about voting rights. Vietnam, however, is ominous."

I responded, "Mary Pinchot Meyer."

"Wow, you are caught up in the Warren Report."

"Well, Bill there are too many questions about it, made even more suspicious by Dorothy Kilgallen death. What do you hear?"

"It's rumored that Mary was intimate with JFK. Did you know that she was the sister-in-law of my boss, Ben Bradlee, of *Washington Post*? Besides, being wife of Cord Meyer, a big player at CIA, whom she divorced."

"So, what happened to the investigation about her death. I read; the crime was blamed on a Black person who was fishing on the Canal. Later dropped and remains open."

"Is there a CIA connection to her premature death? I heard that she was close to Timothy Leary and saw in the drug culture an antidote to toning down the aggressiveness of the National Security apparatus. Jack seemed to be shifting from hawk to dove, especially after the Cuban Missile Crisis. She was an important part of this transformation."

"Mary was a promising artist. She came from money and was an integral part of the Georgetown social elite. It involved the Kennedys, the Bradlees, the Meyers, Alan Dulles, the Alsop's, even J. Edgar Hoover, along with LBJ and Nixon, were often invited to their dinner parties. They were in and out of each other homes gossiping, drinking, and plotting."

"So, what's the Cord Meyer's story."

"After the war, he became a peace advocate. But as the Cold War heated up, he shifted to the right, and joined the CIA becoming head of a branch called *Mockingbird* which sought to manipulate the media for the CIA's advantage. His 'McCarthyism, 'of course, doomed his marriage with Mary, who was a pacifist liberal often critical of CIA initiatives at parties."

At that moment, Bill looks up and exclaims, "Guess who has just come in? Jesus Angleton, the Ghost."

Joanne responded, "so what?"

"He is a CIA legend/spook. Head of counterintelligence, friend to Allen Dulles and Cord Meyer. There's a rumor that Mary kept a *Diary* of the JFK affair. That diary was

never found. The great concern was that it might be embarrassing to the Company and to the Warren Commission.”

Joanne looked at Angleton briefly and was struck by his gaunt suspicious ‘spidery’ bearing. “A really scary person.” She thought.

“So, what happened to the *Diary*?”

“No one knows?”

“It seems to me that as we dig deeper into the Kennedy matter that governmental involvement grows. It was more than simply a deranged hit by Oswald. Didn’t Kennedy’s firing of Alan Dulles and Richard Bissell following the Bay of Pigs alienate many in the Agency?”

“Another place to look is Hoover and FBI. Hoover hated the Kennedy’s with their civil rights agenda. Many agents come from the South and Hoover excoriated desegregation, MLK, SCLC and the courts. Well, I must go now. Take care. Safe returns to Philly.”

“Thanks, Bill.” Feeling overwhelmed by the information.

Next morning, I decided to go to Georgetown University. It was a Fed conduit as many of its graduates went into government service: State/ FBI/CIA. I decided to do some sleuthing regarding Hoover/Kennedy/Johnson.

Georgetown had a fine journalism school. I was looking for someone who had ties to the FBI and had heard of a person by the name of Peggy Grant who likes political puzzles. Peggy was Black from the south side of Chicago, swept up in Civil Rights as it moved north. She was critical of the FBI.

We decided to have lunch. I asked her about the FBI relationship with the Kennedys’ and she indicated “that it was very acerbic, to put it mildly.”

Peggy started by insisting “this conversation is off the record.”

Continuing, “Hoover was a Republican who hated especially the ‘Whiz Kid’ brand of liberalism. The Kennedy’s hated Hoover’s pattern of getting dirt on the powerful and going public. Jack was no saint when it came to women.”

Pausing, Peggy continued, “They strongly disagreed about civil rights, and about organized crime. Bobby was relentless against the Mafia and Teamsters, whereas

Hoover winked and threw his resources around the 'Red Scare, 'claiming that MLK was a communist."

"Finally, it was rumored that Kennedy was going to force Hoover out in '64, as he would be at mandatory retirement age of 70. The loss of Hoover at the FBI, however, was considered dangerous to the interest of powerful forces."

Joanne pressed Peggy, "Can you be more explicit."

"Well, there is the Texas crowd led by Johnson and Murchison. There was no love lost there. Organized crime is not thrilling. And the entire Military-Industrial Apparatus was not happy about the Kennedy drift after the Cuban Missile Crisis, especially Langley."

"I guess none of these players would be happy about the actions of Mary Pinchot Meyer or Dorothy Kilgallen."

Peggy rose to leave, and as she did whisper, "Look at Oswald/ FBI relations."

With that comment, I hailed a taxi for Union Station and the Philly train. Couldn't wait to get back to Pops and share what I had uncovered in D.C. about the far-reaching implications of the Meyer mystery.

Chapter 5 Is Oswald Real or a Phantom?

It was cold, windy, and snowy as the trio gathered at Pops to share their findings. The X-mas season was peaking with lights and shoppers bustling about. Excitement was in the air, too, about the upcoming Browns-Packers Championship game.

After ordering coffee and sharing the ups/downs of travel Brian began to share his Dallas experience. "What surprised me was that Oswald and Ruby knew each other, he had spent time at the Carousel Club. This snippet of information was ignored in the Warren Report?"

Joanne piped in by sharing her thoughts about the strange death of Mary Pinchot Meyer in Georgetown. "What is scary is Mary's missing *Diary* which is remarkably similar to Dorothy's notes. Apparently, the *Diary* shows that JFK was rapidly changing from Hawk to Dove after the Cuban Missile Crisis."

"Many within the National Security State feared this change," Frank chimed in.

"Another significant tidbit was that Oswald may have worked for the FBI as double agent. Can you imagine how convoluted this story is becoming?"

"While in New Orleans," Frank interjected, "as I was investigating mob connections to events in Cuba, I uncovered from District Attorney Jim Garrison, that Oswald was very active in New Orleans being closely associated with Guy Bannister and David Ferrie. Both related to CIA and very anti-Castro."

Everyone paused to digest the meanings from the trips to Dallas, Washington, and New Orleans.

Frank looks up and asks, "Where are we; what's the next step?"

Brian and Joanne answer, "Let's dig in closer on Oswald. He claimed 'to be a patsy' when arrested. His suspected CIA/FBI military ties give a phantom quality to his existence."

Brian pointed out, "The next two weeks will be dead because of the holidays. Let's do individual research and get back after LBJ's State of the Union Speech."

"Take care. Happy 1966", Joanne called out as we left Pops waving.

"Well, here we are. I was disappointed by the Packer's victory over the Browns. Lombardi scores again," Frank an Eagle fan laments.

Brian interjects, "Did you hear LBJ 's argument that America is rich enough to afford War in Vietnam and the War on Poverty. Questionable, no? JFK would never have agreed to that."

"Well," Frank responds, "will have to see. I am sure that his analysis was not welcomed by the Black community, by MLK, or by the students. Let's discuss the Oswald phenomenon."

"Here's are some highlights," Brian shared. "Oswald was born in 1939. One of three. Orphaned for a while, moved from Louisiana to Bronx to Texas. Followed his older brother's Frank example, and joined the Marines in 1957, where he became a radar specialist. He would be assigned to Atsugi, Japan, home of the CIA U-2 reconnaissance."

Joanne then broke in with, "It really gets interesting from here on. Apparently, Oswald was recruited for military/CIA intelligence work. He was a rabid fan of *I Lived Three Lives*, got caught up in the Cold War mystique. By the way, he was befriended by David Ferrie in the Louisiana Civil Air Patrol."

"Ferrie, we found out from Garrison, flew for the Company in and out of Cuba, and worked for Guy Banister, OSS/FBI, who had his own detective agency in New Orleans besides being close to Carlos Marcello and Myer Lansky."

Frank reading from his notes continues, "Oswald then heads for Russia in '59, where he will marry Marina, and be sent to Minsk, a Russian Intelligence center. He will remain there for two years returning to the States in 1962 on the ground 'that Soviet socialism was not all it was crack-up to be. ' "

It's then that Oswald's identity becomes blurred. His brother claimed 'he was darker/shorter/balder, 'when he returned. The matter of 'Oswald look-a-likes 'becomes critical to the assassination but ignored by the Warren Commission as was Oswald's FBI connection."

'Making the matter more confusing, false flags in espionage parlance, was that a heavier Oswald, too, was photographed in México City in September 1963. Much thinner than the Oswald arrested in Dallas."

"Also," Brian added, "Deputy Sheriff Roger Craig insisted he saw Oswald get into a 'green/gray station wagon' after the assassination. This vehicle was apparently owned

by Ruth Paine, a friend of Oswald's. Yet the official version was that Oswald got on a bus leading ultimately to the Tippit debacle, and his arrest at the Texas Theater.

Marguerite, the mother of Oswald, always claimed her son worked for the US Government, and "that charges against Lee were false."

"What can be speculated, Frank continued, "was that Oswald got caught-up in a CIA rogue plot that was well over his pay grad. Being 'a patsy' lead to his arrest at the Texas Theater, as he stumbled about seeking a contact, who probably was hired to either get him out of the country, or to kill him. Ruby would finish the botched affair."

Joanne chime in, "544 Camp St in New Orleans seems then to be a center of the Oswald deception. Besides Guy Banister another key figure is Clay Shaw. Shaw, like so many others, was OSS connected and was active in Permindex (Permanent Industrial Exposition), which had numerous ties with ex-Nazis/Fascists, and probably behind various attempts to assassinate De Gaulle. Shaw, too, had CIA tied going as high as Richard Helms, Director."

Brian points out: "All that we have learned raises serious doubts about the integrity of Warren Report. It is smelling increasingly like whitewash. Let us give the Report a real 'sweating' regarding purpose, membership, and testimony."

LBJ was the Wizard of Oz that orchestrated the Warren Commission inquiry. He was committed to creating the story that Kennedy was killed by a lone shooter, Oswald, who was emotionally aggrieved, took his frustration out on the President."

"Can we use," Frank urges, "our multiple contacts to penetrate the Warren Report, and to see whether or not, there was a cover-up or even worse a coup d'état on November 22, 1963?"

"Wow what are we getting ourselves into. Pretty scary stuff," Joanne exclaims. Let's plan to gather at Pops over St Patty's Day to share our findings, and if they are too depressing to find some escape in a Shamrock drink."

"Remember drive carefully," Brian urges. "Roads are slick."

Chapter 6 Warren Commission Cover-Up

March in Philly was always cold, windy, and often snowy. St. Patty's Day provided a temporary whiskey relief, as the three Kennedy sleuths, Frank, Brian, and Joanne, gathered at the back table of Pop's calling for Green Beer, within a backdrop of Irish song and merriment.

As the noise lowered, Joanne, who had flown to Washington, had discovered that there was never an autopsy of Kennedy's body in Dallas. But rather that, "it had been commandeered by the same Secret Service drivers, Greer and Kellerman, who had driven the bloodied limousine on Elm."

"And can you imagined," she continues, "they had the audacity to have it washed, returned to Ford for refurbishment, thereby destroying the forensic evidence."

Brian chimes in, "The cover-up begins. The body in Washington was taken to Bethesda Navy Hospital for an autopsy to confirm the single shot, lone shooter theory, spun by LBJ's inner circle. Lots of questions, however, have been raised since, about the how the entry point of the fatal shot, was portrayed."

Frank, pulling on his pipe, broke in and stated,

"That the official narrative about Oswald, as lone gunman, began with deputy attorney general, Nicholas Katzenbach, memo to Bill Moyers, in which he urges the appointment of a Blue-Ribbon panel so as to prevent a false narrative of a conspiracy to gain currency among Americans; thereby, undermining the credibility of the Johnson Presidency."

"Wild stuff," Brian comments, "as it raises the question again, where is Bobby during this critical moment."

Joanne answers, "Probably in a state of shock after hearing from Hoover about the assassination. embarrassed, too, by his inability to rein in the CIA 's Castro operation.

Leading him to cry "I killed my brother."

"What about Jackie?" Frank asks.

"Though still in shock aboard Airforce #1, she insisted on wearing her blood-stained dress 'to let the world see what they've done. 'Earl Warren during the

Commission was solicitous of Jackie sparing questions about the head wound, or what she witnessed?"

"By the way, Frank continues, "I have it on good authority that LBJ's inner circle: Walt Rostow, Cliff Carter, Walter Jenkins, Jack Valenti, along with Hoover, urged LBJ to put a lid on a Congressional investigation through the appointment of Earl Warren, Supreme Court Justice, as its head. Warren reluctantly agreed to head the inquiry, which from the very beginning was never an investigation, as it was a political cover-up in which Oswald was targeted as the scapegoat."

Brian enters the conversation, "What makes the Warren Commission suspect is that Hoover was given carte blanche over the Oswald investigation, even though the Director knew there were questions regarding Oswald's identity coming out of Mexico. The goal was never an investigation, as it was to mislead the American public about what really happened at Dealey Plaza."

"This truth," Frank interjected, "was confirmed by its membership, most of whom were pals of LBJ, politically savvy going back to OSS/Council on Foreign Relations."

Frank continues, they were very much a part of the Military-Industrial-Intelligence complex shaping the Imperial Presidency/ American Empire. Members were Senator Richard Russell Jr, Georgia, Senator John Cooper, Kentucky; Representatives, Hale Boggs of Louisiana, and Gerald Ford of Michigan; John J. McCloy, OSS/World Bank President/ High Commissioner for Germany, 1949-52; and ironically, Allen Dulles, fired by Kennedy as CIA director. Putting Dulles on it was like putting the fox in the chicken coop."

"Also," Joanne added, "J. Lee Rankin, in January, '64, was appointed General Counsel for the Commission, tipped his hand when he outlined the approach to the investigation: Oswald was targeted as lone gunman, even though Marguerite Oswald had pleaded with LBJ and Rankin that her son at least be represented by counsel. Marguerite's request was ignored."

Frank got everyone's attention by calling for another Irish round and taking a pause from all the heavy talk. They turned to Spring madness of NCAA basketball, and the unexpected victory of the first all-Black Texas Western team defeating Kentucky in the final.

“What a great victory for Black civil rights,” echoed Frank, who had attended West Catholic High School and LaSalle College which had rather good basketball. “I watched, Wilt Chamberlain, play West Catholic for city Championship twice.”

They soon returned to the Warren Commission with Joanne pointing out “That attorney Mark Lane was in town, criticizing the Warren Report in no uncertain terms.”

Frank interjected, “Let’s invite him to La Salle for a meeting to discuss his concerns. I know, he was approached by Marguerite Oswald to represent her son. Let me run him down, he’s here promoting his new book, *Rush to Judgment*. “

Two weeks later they met Lane at the 20th Olney Campus in the Conference room, with Frank sharing tidbits about the history of the College, and the reputation of Dr. Roland Holroyd in biology making LaSalle a major pre-med player.

Brian asked, “What were your key concerns with the Warren Commission finding?”

Lane humorously responded with the quip, “It had nothing to do with the truth, there were too many contradictions about Oswald’s identity, where he was when JFK was shot, who saw him, the weapon or weapons used, number of shots fire, and the fact that key documents were never shown like the Zapruder/Nix films, and that many key witnesses never called to testify.”

Joanne commented, “We have heard that Oswald was connected with FBI/CIA. Is that true?”

Lane with a twinkle responded, “What do you think?”

“Well, I assume so, it’s probable he had CIA/FBI contacts.”

“Let me provide a concrete example. Oswald, a few weeks before the assassination, left a note for Dallas Special Agent, James Hosty, which was quickly destroyed by the Bureau, so as not to compromise the integrity of the FBI.”

“So, what more can we do here, “Joanne asks.

“Talk to the members Boggs and Russell. And then pursue the involvement of the CIA in all of this.”

“Will do, Brian responded, “and thanks for your insights about the Warren Commission, and CIA.”

Joanne interjected. "I made these discoveries in Washington with my political contacts about Boggs and Russell. It's been rumored that Boggs was extremely critical of Hoover. He even accused him of acting in 'Gestapo fashion' in the FBI's handling of the information."

Another source close to Senator Russell thought the single bullet theory, that Kennedy and Governor Connally, were hit by the same bullet, ridiculous. He pushed the matter so hard that the Commission to get consensus acknowledge within the report on page 22, "The possibility of others involved with either Oswald or Ruby cannot be rejected categorically."

Finally, an emergency meeting of the Commissioners was held on September 18, 1964, to reconcile these differences, but oddly no transcript of this meeting exists.

Frank looked up smiling and said "We can beat the Warren Commission to death, but it won't change the desired outcome of having LBJ as president, and the geopolitical war goals of the National Security State in southeast Asia unfolding. The same two questions remain, who and why."

Brian, "let's pick-up on Lane's suggestion about CIA. Too many threads connecting Oswald, Ruby, Meyers, and Kilgallen perhaps to the Agency. They all knew too much, and one of the scary aspects of the entire business is how complacent national news was about the Warren Commission findings. Even Walter Cronkite became a major supporter."

Joanne asks, "Why is that?"

Let us find out Brian urge, "Indeed, did the CIA have something on major news players: *NYT*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*."

Chapter 7 The Georgetown Circuit

“One of the ironies that struck me hard,” said Brian, “was that Kennedy’s murder took place at the Dealey Plaza, named for the Dealey family that owned, *The Dallas Morning News*, but which under Ted Dealey, had gone Birchite, circulating a picture on the day of their arrival, which demanded JFK’s arrest for treason.”

“It seems to me,” broke in Frank, “that the mainstream press was much too acquiescent of the Warren Commission findings, and we might want to know why? Mark lane raised this point. What’s the tie in?”

Joanne jumped in “Maybe, there is a governmental connection; perhaps CIA, which needs to be explored? Let’s look at the early days of the CIA, which originated with ‘Wild’ Bill Donovan, and the founding of OSS, Office of Strategic Services, under FDR. The OSS operation must have left its imprint on CIA.”

“In fact,” Brian continued, “Many OSS/CIA leaders became part of what was known as the ‘Georgetown Crowd. ‘ They were key power brokers, caught up in global politics of the Cold War, and saw it as their duty to curtail the threat of the Soviet Union, no matter what.”

Frank interjected, “One of the fascinating aspects of the spy game was that it came to be monopolized by the wealthy. Brahmins were considered suitable candidates as it’s a profession that requires brains, linguistics, and cunning.

“This bias, that spying is a gentleman’s /elitist game, went back to TR, and explains why Donovan recruited so heavily the Ivy Leagues, especially the Skull & Bones fraternity, of Yale. In addition, there was a conservative/republican thread that ran through the spying community that called for America to dominate the post-World War II, to defeat Soviet Russia, and to create a pax Americana.”

Brian added, “Here is a partial list of OSS Yale’s recruited: Roger Blough, Henry Ford, John Hay Whitney, William F. Buckley Jr., Chester Bowles, Dean Acheson, George Herbert Walker Bush and McGeorge Bundy. Most came from the Eastern Establishment and had close ties with the Council on Foreign Relations, which historically dominated American foreign policy thinking under the Rockefellers and Big Oil.”

“A key player in all of this” Joanne interjected, ‘was Allen Dulles, who from his OSS post in Switzerland, became an expert on the German scientific community, and its importance to America at the end of WWII. It’s rumored that he facilitated the movement of many prominent German scientist to America through a secret OSS program.

“Dulles, too, was part of the enormously powerful Georgetown circle which came to dominate the CIA, set foreign policy, and saw the world in apocalyptic black/white terms as America and Russia battled for global domination. He and many of his associates were either members of or had developed close relationships within OSS during WWII.

Frank elaborated “They also belonged to the “Lost Generation,” born between 1880-1904. Called “lost” because their beliefs in progress, science, and democracy, shattered by the horrors of World War I, made them skeptical and pragmatic about human nature.

Brian elaborated, “As a generation they were tough, amoral, and committed to winning against fascism and communism by any means necessary. They were the builders of the new American Century based upon an imperial presidency and a military-industrial-intelligence complex.

“Following the war, many x-OSS players began to settle in Georgetown where they met regularly to discuss the machinations of the Cold War. They were highly educated, many were journalists and writers, and came to occupy powerful positions within/without the government and the CIA. Joseph and Stewart Alsop were two leading conservative cold war warriors calling for American dominance.”

Joanne picks up on the conversation, “A partial list of names reads like a’ Who’s Who ‘of the Washington power structure. It’s scary the concentration of power in Georgetown. It included Frank Wisner, Richard Bissell, Cord Meyer, Richard Helms, Desmond FitzGerald, Tracy Barnes, Philip Graham, Clark Clifford, Walt Rostow, Eugene Rostow, William Bundy, William Averell Harriman, John McCloy, Felix Frankfurter, John Sherman Cooper, James Reston, Paul Nitze, Adlai Stevenson, James Forrestal, William O. Douglas, Dean Acheson, and George Kennan.”

“And by the way,” Frank chimes in, “Jack Kennedy. The Kennedys were major players here and became quite close to Ben and Tony Pinchot Bradlee of the *Washington Post*. Bradlee was instrumental in the purchase of *Newsweek* and would replace Phil Graham as editor of the *Washington Post*, under Katherine Graham, upon his suicide in 1963.

“One of the important legacies of Donovan’s OSS was the importance of controlling the media, the propaganda war. Goebbels was the expert here, and the OSS followed suit. Donovan quickly co-opted the media under the phrase of ‘national security, ‘defending freedom, democracy, and protecting the American way.

“This was apparently expanded in the 50s under Frank Wisner ‘who decided to co-opt the media for CIA purposes and appointed Frank Graham, *Washington Post*, to legitimize the effort. It quickly expanded to William Paley (CBS), Henry Luce (Time/Life Magazine), Arthur Hays Sulzberger (NY Times), and many others, including Walter Cronkite.”

“This explains,” Frank interjected, “why the media was so supportive of the Warren Report. It became an active participant in the cover-up. It could not reveal its intimate CIA ties without damaging its integrity and credibility before the American public. This secret CIA tie in makes a mockery of the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights which guarantees freedom of religion, speech, and press. It would have shocked the nation, which heretofore always assumed that government spoke truthfully to the people.”

We all looked at each other, and with a collective sigh released the pain felt by the realization that the press was neither free nor above politics but had been manipulated for two decades beginning with the OSS.

“One matter, “Joanne expressed,” stands out is how *Life Magazine* manipulated the Zapruder film by purchasing it and putting it away until it was released and made public in 1975. Can you imagine the impact it would have had in 1963.”

“It also,” Frank opined, “makes the Meyers and Kilgallen deaths even more suspicious.”

“Well let’s go to the bar and scotch down our sorrows and discuss our next step.”
It looks to me that the CIA becomes a primary suspect and perhaps the best way to look at it is through the Meyer, Bradlee and Angleton connection, the Georgetown set.”

Chapter 8 Meyer, Bradlee & Angleton

The three sleuths gathered at Brian's office on Chestnut St. to catch-up and share what they had uncovered about the suspicious murder of Mary Pinchot Meyer in October 1964. She was found murdered on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal towpath in Georgetown.

Joanne began, "Through a contact with the *Post*, I discovered that she was shot in the head at close range. The murder was imputed to Ray Crump, a Black person fishing in the area, but the evidence was insufficient. There are numerous speculations within the Georgetown set about her death. Some describe it as a professional hit."

Brian continued, "Mary was an artist, journalist, and graduate of Vassar. Her politics were quite progressive as were her family. She was niece to two term Pennsylvania governor Gifford Pinchot, founder of the National Forest Service under President Teddy Roosevelt.

"She was a pacifist, who even drew the suspicion of Hoover. During War World II she met Cord Meyer, a Yale, who later joined the CIA in 1951, and became responsible for working with the media which can be traced back to the OSS.

"The Meyer's quickly became part of the Georgetown set, even neighbors to the Kennedys. She was at the center of everything. One of Mary's Vassar close friends, Cicely d'Autremont married James Angleton, a scary CIA spook/head. Her sister, Antoinette (Tony), married Ben Bradlee later of the *Washington Post*.

"In 1956," Frank shared, "Mary's middle child died in a car accident leading to her divorce from Cord Meyer, who had become a rigid cold War Warrior. They divorced two years later. She then took up painting in a converted garage studio at her sister's Georgetown home.

"Apparently JFK and Mary became intimate in 1961. Because of her liaison with JFK, and her radical beliefs, I suspect she was watched over by Angleton, who spent lots of time with her sons fishing. I would hazard the guess; he probably even tapped her phone.

Brian then commented, "It can be speculated that Mary's pacifism influenced the actions of JFK, post- October Missile Crisis. He certainly became more Dovish. You have American University, Civil Rights Speech in June, Hot Line installation, limited

nuclear test ban treaty with Khrushchev in August, and in Oct., NSAM #263, calling for American withdrawal from Vietnam.”

Joanne pick-up, “It was rumored that Mary kept a *Diary* of their affair. recording their indulgence in drugs. Drugs in question were LSD and psilocybin, both legal and quite popular in artistic circles. In fact, Timothy Leary of Harvard, the guru of psychedelic drugs, was a friend of Mary’s.”

Frank concluded, “I am sure that whatever was in the *Diary* was politically explosive, and in all probability was buried or destroyed by Bradlee, Tony, or Angleton. I doubt it will ever come to light.”

“It’s another goddam dead end,” Brian yelled. “So, what do we do now?”

Joanne response, “Let’s see if we can find a deeper connection between the media and government, which explains why it is so accepting of the Warren Report. What is it that accounts for its silence?”

“Let’s also look more closely at Cord Meyer.” Brian urged. “Who is he, what does he actually do for the CIA? He certainly was an intimate part of the Georgetown Circuit. Hated Kennedy over his wife. Let’s do more research.”

Frank jumped in, “I’ll run some history on him, and maybe Joanne can find someone disillusioned with the CIA, who knows where the bodies are buried, and is willing to share. Two weeks should be enough time to get the ball rolling. Let’s meet at JFK’s favorite place in Georgetown, Martin’s Tavern.”

“At last,” Joanne screamed with joy, “I have contacted Jack Anderson, a protégé of Walter Winchell, who also wonders about governmental ties with the media. Especially its uncritical embrace of the Warren Report.”

“What have you learned from Anderson,” asks Frank.

“Well, going back to Donovan that the media was critical to winning the mind game, and it had to be co-opted. This became the strategy of Director Dulles and Frank Wesner, number 2, head of special ops at CIA.

“Digging deeper it appears that Cord Meyer, became responsible for an activity entitled *Operation Mockingbird*. The metaphor itself is insulting as it mocks the democratic values of a free press.”

Turning to Brian, “Have you anything to add to *Mockingbird*. How extensive was it.”

Brian pauses, “It’s very scary. All major newspapers and magazines were affected: *NYT*, *Washington Post*, *Wall St Journal*, *LA Times*; *Time*, *Life*, *Newsweek*, as well as the major networks, *CBS*, *NBC*, *ABC*, and others. *Mockingbird* expanded into an octopus that promoted the world view of a National Security State, and its military-industrial, and intelligence allies. The media, in short, become a tool of CIA disinformation under the umbrella of nationalism, security and power.”

“By the way, Joanne added, “Anderson provided more insights into Meyer. He became a major player at the CIA developing an extensive European network even with the Corsican Marseille cartel. Apparently, drug monies were being used to fund off-board ops.”

“Making him even more dangerous was his connection with Jesus Angleton head of Counterintelligence,” added Brian. “Remember, he was married to Cicely d’Autremont, close to Mary Meyer, and became a close family friend. He was a heavy smoker, scary looking, quite gaunt, and after Dulles, the most intimidating player at the CIA. He was often described as the ‘Ghost’ or the ‘Spider.’ He was obsessed with fear of KGB penetration.”

“Moreover, Angleton,” according to Anderson, “played an important role in the Warren hearing by being a conduit with Dulles of CIA materials to the Commission about particular aspects of the JFK inquiry, especially Oswald-CIA connection, and his alleged trip to Mexico.”

Frank paused “This stuff about Bradlee, Meyer and Angleton are explosive material, and raises the question, are we getting in over our head. Even more, is America ready for the truth about the JFK assassination? It’s looking increasingly like a coup. That there were deeper forces in play.”

Brian concluded the luncheon with the observation, ‘We need to pursue CIA-Mafia connection. I am getting the unhealthy feeling that these two institutions were merging. Let’s look at their liaison more closely, realizing that we may be placing ourselves in danger as did Mary Pinchot Meyer and Dorothy Kilgallen.’

Joanne suggested, "Let's meet in August in Atlantic City to discuss our next move. We can get out of Philly and check out the Mafia controlled gaming scene there."

Chapter 9 CIA-Mafia Ties

It's a beautiful day on the Boardwalk.

The three sleuths are enjoying the sun, salt air, and the sound of the ocean waves gently sweeping on to the beach. Lots of families, as August is always humid and hot in the greater Philadelphia area.

Joanne looking on the Beach thought, it was a happy time, although the Vietnam War was a dark cloud hanging over the festivities. "Search & Destroy' was the American tactic to hold back the North Vietnamese."

"I hope it works," Frank expressed, as though completing her thought.

He was reflecting on the CIA-Mafia connection, realizing that it was a dangerous game they were playing.

Turning to Joanne and Brian, "Let's get out of the sun and have lunch at the Pier. I hear that the Rolling Stones are appearing there."

After ordering lunch, Frank led the conversation by sharing the findings of his American History class at La Salle.

"They produced several fascinating insights. One was that Mafia- OSS ties go back to World War II and the Sicilian invasion. Apparently Lucky Luciano and Vito Genovese were approached by OSS to assist their Italian operation in exchange for lighter sentences."

The irony here is that the Mafia in Italy had been pretty much stamped out by Mussolini but would re-emerge as a powerful political force going all the way to the Vatican. During the war OSS operative, Jesus Angleton, was deeply entwined in activities in Naples.

"Simultaneously," Joanne added, "the mob was able to co-opt Hoover, through the compromising pictures that Meyer Lansky had of him and his paramour, Clyde Tolson, going back to the 30s. This explains why Hoover was soft on them, but hard on communists and civil rights.

"Another significant OSS/CIA program uncovered," Brian interjected, "was one called *Operation Paper Clip*, orchestrated by Bill Donovan and Allen Dulles in 1944. It involved Americanizing many German scientists despite their Nazi past in the name of National Security and building the atomic bomb. It became full bloom in 1947 with the

creation of the Central Intelligence Agency under Truman. Lots of x-Nazis got a free pass because of Cold War histrionics.”

“All of these programs,” Frank commented, “were off the books, not even known by Truman, who in some ways had a naive view of the role of the CIA. He saw it primarily as an intelligence gathering operation, rather than as black ops instrument to further American foreign policy goals, especially to contain the Soviets. Under Eisenhower ‘black ops’ became the preferred method to expand US national goals in the Middle East and Central America, especially Cuba.”

Joanne added, “It often led to CIA/Mafia cooperation as it had in WW II. And both would coalesce around Cuba. In fact, Mafia ties with Cuba accelerated during the Presidency of Batista in the 50s. Meyer Lansky and Luciano were close to El Presidente and saw Havana as a perfect city to make millions in gaming, entertainment, drugs, and prostitution. All the major players were there: Giancana, Trafficante, Rosselli, Hoffa, Sinatra, and ITT. It was a gold mine at the expense of the Cuban people, and to marketing drugs to the US.”

Brian commented, “Even JFK was aware of how incredibly corrupt Cuba had become. Transformed into an outlaw state by a combination of American industrialists, landowners, the military, and the mob. But this gross corruption gave birth to Fidel Castro, July 26, Movement, which led to the toppling of Batista, Xmas, 1958-59. One can only imagine how upset Lansky, Trafficante, and Giancana were by the revolution. And their desire to get even with Castro.”

Frank motioned for a timeout, ‘Let’s take a breather from this heavy stuff, and stretch by taking a walk toward where the Mustang Car Exhibit is being held. Mustangs are hot this year, lots of young people are drawn to them. Hey, here is sidewalk café, let’s slide in there, and continue our discussion about Cuba.’”

Continuing, “By 1960, the Eisenhower administration was becoming nervous about the nature of Castro’s revolution, seeing it as a potential threat to American dominance of the Western Hemisphere Many Cubans fled ending up in Miami, turning it into’ Little Havana. ”

Joanne enters the conversation, “By 1960, Washington had developed a strategy of ‘black ops’ to contain communism beginning with Iran, Guatemala, and now Cuba.

Nixon in conjunction with the CIA, took charge of orchestrating a coup against Castro, called Zapata.”

Brian continued, “It quickly was taken over by CIA, Deputy Director of Plans, Richard Bissell and Tracy Barnes. Barnes, Bissell and Director, Allen Dulles, apparently overestimated what 1500 Cubans could do at the Bay of Pigs in April '61, against Fidel and Je Guevara. More important, they had assumed, if the operation went south, that Kennedy, like Eisenhower, would invoke the military to intervene.”

Joanne concluded: “The invasion was a disaster leading JFK to call for “breaking the Agency up into a thousand pieces. Dulles and Bissell resigned, and many other CIA operatives, who were involved with Zapata, blamed Kennedy for not providing military assistance. Keep in mind these were political operatives who had orchestrated global coups since WWII and operated pretty much outside regular governmental channels.”

Brian pointed out, “They can barely be described as friendly to the Kennedy’s, especially when Robert was placed to watch the CIA, and oversee Operation Mongoose- a program to eliminate Castro by any means necessary. And there were many exotics scenarios to lay Castro to rest.”

But it becomes even more convoluted as CIA/MAFIA combine to bring Castro down. Apparently, Allen Dulles had contacted key Mafia bosses including Sam Giancana, Carlos Marcello, Santos Trafficante and Meyer Lansky prior to Bay of Pigs.

My students discovered, “That their relationship deepens after Mongoose. The handling of the Black Ops rests with CIA operatives who were critical of Kennedy, protective of the Agency, rogue, and looking for pay back. These include Ted Shackley, Bill Harvey, David Atlee Phillips, David Sanchez Morales, E. Howard Hunt and of course, Cord Meyer.”

“Wow,” Joanne opined, it’s getting scarier and scarier. It looks like a coup in the making. Are there deeper forces in play? Perhaps the Military- Industrial- Banking community, even the Vice-President.”

Let’s focus on Dallas as a significant hub of industrial power that was hostile to Kennedy. What’s happening there and how it became an ideal setting for an assassination.

Chapter 10 Dallas/Houston/LBJ

Late summer in Dallas can be hot. The three sleuths had decided to maximize their resources by dividing them up as they researched the inner working of Austin-Dallas-Houston. Austin was where University of Texas was located, Dallas, the new commercial/information center, and Houston, Texas, its oil capital.

Frank, over lunch and a cold beer suggested, "Let's identify the Texas power elite and its ties to LBJ. LBJ becomes a national political player through his Texas contacts. Knowing who they are would be helpful.

"Texas began its modern ascent after WWII. It became a major center for the Military-Industrial complex with an emphasis on Information Technology, computers, oil, space, aircraft, and construction."

Joanne pointed out, "These Texan tycoons were very conservative, caught up in Cold War politics, seeing in it an opportunity to make billions of dollars. Dallas became the 'Big D.' They were rabid supporters of McCarthy's Red Scare, Birchers, and hated Kennedy's liberalism.

Brian interjected, "They see themselves above the law; the Federal government as nothing more than a pawn to meet their power and economic needs. LBJ became their man in Washington."

Frank commented, "He turned the Federal largess of military contracts in their direction. In Washington he projected a liberal persona which masked his true innate conservatism and insatiable need for money and power. For instance, there is the TFX fighter jet scandal in which Boeing lost the \$7 billion contract to General Dynamics of Fort Worth due to Johnson's wheeling /dealing."

Joanne reminded, "These Texans are tough, have their own power playbook. We need to be careful. Keep in mind that Johnson is president. I have heard the name Mac Wallace--Johnson's hatchet man, who has been associated with deaths of political opponents to LBJ. We are playing a dangerous game here in Texas. Must be careful."

Brian, "I have heard a rumor about a meeting place called Suite 8F in Houston where the power elite gathers to relax and discuss their socioeconomic and political agenda. It would be nice to have an inside contact who could let us in on the members."

Frank, "One possibility I hear is Clint Peoples, Texas Ranger, who doubted the death of Henry Marshall at the Department of Agriculture in 1961. Marshall was looking into the cotton Ponzi scheme of Billie Sol Estes, a close LBJ associate. Peoples might provide insight into Suite 8F."

Well let's talk to Peoples ASAP.

Arriving in Austin, they caught up with Clint Peoples to discuss the ins/outs of the Texas power structure. Peoples had been pivotal in getting Billie Sol Estes, a Texas entrepreneur and friend of LBJ, convicted, but the Marshall murder remained open.

He greeted us with Texas grace: "How can I help you?"

"Well," Frank responded, "We are looking into JFK assassination, and the role of the Texas power elite in it. Any help you can provide would be great."

"That's a big question, where do you want me to begin."

Brian asked, "How about Suite #8F. Who are these guys?"

"Well, Suite #8F is named for Herman Brown of Brown & Root, one of the biggest construction companies in Texas closely allied with military-industrial complex. I once heard Madeline Brown, LBJ's consort, describe Herman Brown 'as the great, white father of Texas. 'Nothing happens in Texas without the Browns. Other contractors, are Raymond/Morrison/ Knudson and Halliburton

"I am sure they were excited by the escalating Vietnam War. "Who else belongs to this power group," Joanne asks.

"Big oil primarily including Clint Murchison, H.L. Hunt, Sid Richardson, and David Harold Byrd. Byrd established the Civil Air Patrol, and was owner of the Texas Book Depository, where Oswald allegedly shot the President from the sixth floor. They were close to the Johnson's and the Halliburtons."

Joanne asks, "What did they want?"

"Their agenda was to maintain the oil depletion allowance of 27.5% which gave them a tremendous tax windfall. Kennedy made them nervous as he sought to remove this Federal largess. One thing that most people do not know is that Big Oil was tight with the CIA, FBI, and Carlos Marcello.

"Richardson and Murchison became close with Hoover in the 40s. Hoover with his companion, Clyde Tolson, often spent time with them at the Murchison Hotel del

Charro in la Jolla while gambling at the Del Mar Racetrack. They, too, were concerned about Castro, and his impact on their strategic holdings in Central America.”

“Where does Johnson fit in with this group,” Brian quipped.

It was they who backed LBJ’s political rise in Texas and in Washington. They saw him as the lynchpin to expand their power and keep their influence.

Continuing, “The key here was LBJ’s personal attorney Ed Clark and Mac Wallace. Ed Clark was often called ‘the secret boss of Texas.’ He had carte blanche entry into Suite #8F. Very quickly the Johnson group became incorporated into #8F, so that by the mid-50’s when LBJ became Majority Leader of the Senate, their oil / Cold War industrial interests were amply protected.

“In 1960, when LBJ lost to JFK as Democratic Presidential candidate Suite #8F, Ed Clark, and House Speaker Rayburn urged him to take second spot as VP to Kennedy, ‘only a heartbeat from the Presidency, ‘to preserve Texas interests.

What about Bobby Baker and Billie Sol Estes? They were part of this elite power group as was Governor John Connally who was LBJ’s legislative assistant/campaign manager.

JFK reluctantly accepted Johnson as running mate but made his later days difficult. Kennedy was planning to drop him in ’64 around the pending corruption charges that *Life Magazine* was preparing to release about Bobby Baker and Billie Sol Estes in Fall 1963. The ax was falling on LBJ’s career, but miraculously saved by Dealey Plaza.

“Very fortuitous,” Frank quipped.

Joanne, “Wouldn’t it be terrific if we could speak to Madeline Brown. She knows where all the bodies are buried.”

Peoples, “I doubt that very much as it’s rumored, she has a child by LBJ, and is well taken care of by the President. It’s getting late, I need to go. Have a safe trip back to Philly and do keep me informed about how your investigation goes. Be careful.”

Flying back, they realized that the Kennedy assassination involved more forces than suspected, that the Rabbit Hole was widening. What they were witnessing was the emergence of a carefully scripted coup d’état.

“The challenge,” Frank asked, “was can we identify the political/personal forces converging on Nov. 22?”

Chapter 11 Deeper Forces in Play

Fall semester 1966 has opened at La Salle College. “It’s my favorite time” Frank share with his colleagues. “There is so much hope and promise in the air with the new freshman class. Besides it’s a presidential election year which will give us a better read on Johnson’s program.”

Brian continues, “Our research shows that by fall ‘63, there was a gathering storm developing against the Kennedy White House by powerful Far Right forces fearful of a Kennedy dynasty as a threat to their power.”

Joanne jumped in, “For them, the Kennedy’s were too dovish about Khrushchev and Vietnam, Cuba and Latin America, dislike his Civil Rights agenda, his war against Mafia, FBI and CIA, as well as his economic policies which not only threatened Big Oil.”

Frank points out “it likewise threatened the power of the Rockefeller/Morgan eastern establishment which had reasserted itself through the Council on Foreign Relations, which had morphed into state within the National Security State.”

“There is an awful lot here that needs to be unpacked,” Frank continues. “We need to go to New York to explore its reach and looking more closely at the Rockefeller-Morgan nexus and their influence on economic and foreign policy.”

“Let’s go by train from 30th St. to Penn Station,” Brian urged. “From there it is a short distance to Wall St., Chase Manhattan Executive offices at 270 Park Ave; Rockefeller Foundation, on 5th St.; and Council on Foreign Relation at 58 East 68 St.”

“Wow, what a concentration of power,” Joanne exploded.

Frank, “Let us first go to NY Public Library, a powerhouse of information to dig deeper into nature of the Eastern Establishment dominated by Morgan-Rockefeller and affiliates. Start with the Billion Dollar Directory that list major American Corporate Families and their extensive holdings.”

What’s truly amazing is how interlock they are: go to same Ivy League Schools, sit on similar Boards, intermarried, and share the same philosophy that corporate America/Wall Street is the dominant global entity governed by a plutocracy that sees itself above the law.”

Brian interjected, "One can only imagine how they hated JFK with his New Frontier, Alliance for Progress, Peace Corp. All aimed at democratizing wealth and getting America out of the imperialism game implemented by Britain, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

Joanne, "We discovered that the Eastern Establishment had a powerful chorus of media advocates; Luce Press, including *Time*, *Fortune*, *Life*, as well as *Wall Street Journal*, and even the alleged liberal *Washington Post*. All were intimately tied to Morgan-Rockefeller whether through loans, corporate boards, or marriages. It included. Chase, Chemical, National City Bank, Morgan guaranty Trust, Morgan Stanley and London Morgan-Grenfell with strong ties to Thomas Watson and IBM."

"Apparently," Frank commented, "the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank were established by Rockefellers as vehicle to maintain US economic control over the 'Third World.' "

"But what came as a shocker to me is how powerful and influential the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) was and is in setting American foreign policies that reflect the international goals of Rockefeller/Morgan power elite.

"As 'Globalist' they have powerful ties with wealth in Britain, France, Riyadh, and Kuwait. For instance, the Swiss Bank of Settlement had close ties with the Nazis, but the CFR was protected by Allen Dulles, a CFR member, who later became CIA head during the Eisenhower administration."

Frank interjected, "A power figure within the Eastern Establishment was John J. McCloy, who at one time or other was chair of Chase Manhattan, CFR, president of World Bank, OSS/CIA, Ford Foundation and High Commissioner in Germany. He left his fingerprints on many important national issues that had profound consequences on the emerging National Security State. For instance, he intervened on behalf of I.G. Farben at Nuremberg in which many Nazis were acquitted or received early releases including Klaus Barbie, butcher of Lyon.

Similarly, McCloy cultivated ties to the 'Dallas Raj' headed by Murchison, who were committed to maintaining the oil depletion allowance and making tons of money in Brazil's uranium mines. Their predatory action triggered the JFK comment, "Those robbing bastards I am going to murder them."

Can you imagine Joanne expressed, “He even served on the Warren Commission?”

“Continuing, the spokesman for the Eastern Establishment was David Rockefeller, who as president of Chase Manhattan Bank and vice-president of CFR called JFK out in 1962 through a series of articles published in *Life*. He disliked the President’s Alliance for Progress/Peace Corp as being too revolutionary calling as it did for socio-economic reform in Latin America which meant ending America’s economic strangle hold on their resources, and its close ties with the ruling oligarchy of Church, property owners and indigenous bankers.

“Kennedy was aware that the attraction of Fidel was because of the economic inequity that the US profited from through its imperial/corporate interest, and the policies of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Tools of the Eastern Establishment.”

Brian “The other matter that threatened Rockefeller-Morgan was JFK’s decision to limit the money-making power of the Federal Reserve, that they dominated, through Executive Order 11110, by which Federal Reserve Notes would be replaced by silver certificates emanating from Department of Treasury. This presidential action dramatically shifted the locus of power away from Rockefeller-Morgan private banks to the public sector thereby enhancing the need for more serious action.”

Frank finishes, “This explains why JFK was reluctant to get bogged down in Vietnam, Laos, Africa. He desired to shift the global trajectory of American foreign policy from one of capitalistic greed to that of democratic nationalism by which the one percenter had to share more equitably the political-economic goodies acquired since 1492.”

“It also,” Joanne argued “was the primary motive behind his Secret Societies speech in spring 1961, in which he argued about the threat to democracy of secret societies.”

“Well,” Brian declared, “that is enough research for a week. Let’s return to Philly, relax at Pops’ and catch our breath. Will pick this matter up by looking at JFK’s Cabinet members, their politics, and affiliations. Was always struck by the ease in which the transition to LBJ was achieved.”

Chapter 12 The Inner Circle/Enemy Within

“Well, the Holidays are fast appearing,” Frank opined. “Hopefully, we can take our minds off the ugly Vietnam War, which is triggering a powerful push back, from young people and students in many of the major cities.”

Brian interjected, “Just read that support for the war has dropped from 52% to 37%, complicated by Civil Rights, which has come North under the auspices of Martin Luther King.”

Joanne, “Hope you had no difficulty in finding my center city Town House, it’s conveniently close to the *Inquirer* offices. As you can see, my decor is eclectic with lots of Kennedy memorabilia. My favorite piece being Bobby /Jack in the White House pondering some challenge.

“At our last meeting, the matter of an inner circle within the administration with a different agenda was raised. We guessed that JFK was aware of it, but not the specifics as reflected in his *Secret Society Speech*.

“I have done more investigating about JFK’s speech to the American Newspaper Publishers Association meeting on April 27, 1961, a few days after the Bay of Pigs debacle occurred. There appear to be two lines of inquiry, one pointing to the threat posed by the Soviet Union, but the other, even more dangerous, represented by different power centers inside and outside the US government. Major points were:

- The very word "secrecy" is repugnant in a free and open society.
- And we are, as a people, inherently and historically opposed to secret societies, to secret oaths, and to secret proceedings.
- Likewise, we decided, long ago, that the dangers of excessive and unwarranted concealment of pertinent facts far outweigh the dangers which are cited to justify it.

Finally, "...There is a very grave danger that an announced need for increased security will be seized upon those anxious to expand its meaning to the very limits of official censorship and concealment.

Frank interjected, “What makes these points meaningful was that JFK had just been burned by the CIA over Cuba, and certainly was sensitive to the implications in

Eisenhower's Farewell Address in which he warns America of the 'danger posed by a vast emerging military-industrial complex.'"

"Now the question becomes," Brian asks, "what it is, what does it look like, and if it existed, was it so positioned under the rubric of National Security that it remained unseen.

"By '63, Kennedy sensed that his own government was less than loyal to the global aspirations of the New Frontier made evident by the politics of Vietnam leading him to complain that his 'own government was out of control.'"

Joanne interjected "When in New York I heard that besides the machinations of the CIA there was another agency of National Security that had been created by FDR to battle the Nazis and Japanese called OSS or the Office of Strategic Service.

"OSS was founded by Wild Bill Donovan which morphed into the CIA with many of its members becoming leading CIA figures such as Allen Dulles, CIA head. Donovan transformed it into an elite organization recruiting from Ivy League schools, especially Yale."

Brian picks up the thread, "What makes this so fascinating is that the OSS was made up of individuals from an earlier generation called Lost They were dubbed Lost because of World War I, which saw the shattering of nineteenth optimism in progress and perfectibility. Then compounded by the Depression, and the rise of the nightmare of Fascism/Nazism/Communism/Cold War."

Brian continues, "These events made them cynical realist who concluded that life was a struggle, and in the 'struggle for existence' only the strong survive. The ending of communism justified any means. They became experts in the political dark arts of disinformation, special ops, assassinations, magic bullets, and blackmail. They had little respect for Washington, seeing themselves as above the law. In the fifties toppling Latin American/Middle East regimes in the name of National Security with impunity became their calling card.

Joanne "What I gathered in New York was that OSS personnel morphed into CIA, Council on Foreign Relations and other key agencies thus becoming a state within a state subtly influencing policy through controlling the actual agenda a la Cuba and

Vietnam. It's likely that JFK was surrounded by OSS members even at the Cabinet level.

Brian, "We should take a close look at his advisors for OSS ties. I always have been suspicious of the Bundy's influence over foreign affairs considering how quickly, after the assassination the government moved from being dovish to hawkish in Vietnam."

"Yes," Frank, interjected, "the Bundy brothers had great influence on foreign affairs. Both were hawks with Mac as National Security Advisor and Bill, former CIA, and Undersecretary for Defense for Eastern Affairs. They opposed Kennedy's desire to leave Vietnam as outlined in NSAM 263 replacing it with NSAM 273 immediately after his assassination. Under LBJ, 273, called for holding the line against Communist advances, and it would lead the country down the Rabbit Hole of Vietnam."

Besides the Bundy's, other former OSS/ CFR/CIA personnel, who had a subtle influence on the Kennedy White House included John J. McCloy, chair of CFR and head of Chase Manhattan Bank/Ford Foundation; Allen Dulles, CIA Director, Doug Dillon of Treasury/Secret Service, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, and Walt Rostow, Director of State Department Planning."

"There were others OSS members," Brian commented, who often met at the Jamaica Tryall Club where Doug Dillon had his retreat. A frequent guest and participant were Ian Fleming, creator of James Bond. MI5 played a significant role in the creation of OSS."

These shadowy forces were becoming concerned about the dovish shift in Kennedy's position after the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962. That they could not control him, and he was a threat to their National Security State agenda and needed to be removed.

"One can trace their shift in belligerency as occurring during winter of '62-63 as Kennedy's popularity swelled following the Cuban Missile settlement which they view as pyrrhic. There was growing concern that 'executive action' had to be taken compounded by the growing communist threat in Vietnam."

"Let's take a closer look at these two events, and how they hardened the opposition to JFK," Joanne concluded.

Chapter 13 Cuba/Vietnam

“Well,” Frank aired, “it is nice to be at Pops again and to catch-up on our Kennedy inquiry. Let us order green beer in honor of St. Pat with a shot of Irish whiskey along with cabbage/beef. Jack would love it, given the Irishman he was.”

Joanne commented, “He just had the wonderful Irish visit in the summer of ’63.”

Brian, “I see, where our esteem law/order, Mayor Rizzo, is in the news again as he does battle against SNCC over educational opportunity for Blacks, and high school Black studies curriculum.”

UCLA looks formidable this spring to take the 1967 NCCA championship. If they did it, it would be their fourth. Coach Wooden is building a dynasty in Southern California.

“Unfortunately,” Brian reminded us, “that by August ’63, the gods began to turn on JFK beginning with the premature death of his youngest son, Patrick. Jack/Jackie, however, did draw closer together over their loss predisposing her to go to Dallas.”

“Our scholar,” Frank, “though relations with Moscow improved the situation in Cuba remained fluid even though JFK had agreed to acknowledge the legitimacy of the Castro regime by dismantling Operation Mongoose under Robert Kennedy. As McNamara put it ‘we were hysterical about Castro. General Lyman Lemnitzer, at one time, even suggested implementing a false flag terror event on Miami to justify a military invasion of Cuba. JFK categorically denied this event happened. But ending it completely was challenging because of Mafia/CIA/Cuban machinations.”

“Mongoose becomes more complicated,” according to Frank, “when Edward Lansdale of CIA/Vietnam fame was given operational management over the Castro matter, but failed, and soon ran afoul of Robert Kennedy. Another attempt was led by ex-FBI, William King Harvey, a notorious drinker, and pistol wielding conspirator. He had been assigned by the White House to manage a program known as ZRRIFLE/Executive Action that for time used Mafia players to assassinate the Cuban dictator. Harvey’s Task Force failed.”

Joanne picks up the story with the observation “Although the government disbanded Operation Mongoose, the Kennedys may have followed a ‘two track’ Cuba policy in which they transferred the Cuban project to other clandestine groups. In the

autumn of 1963, JFK initiated secret talks with Castro through Desmond Fitzgerald – a Kennedy confidante put in charge of Cuban operations in 1963 – was meeting up with AM/LASH (the cryptonym given by the CIA to the senior Cuban official, thought to be Rolando Cubela), whom it had recruited to kill Castro. It is likely that extreme CIA-Cuban exile elements misinterpreted JFK's ambivalent 'two track' Cuba policy as betrayal of their cause and went rogue. "

Brian points out "JFK's life made more challenging with the upcoming Presidential election, Goldwater, the Far Right, growing disarray in Texas, as well as racial push back on Civil Rights by white supremist, who argued that the Federal government was penalizing hard working whites to meet the needs of welfare Blacks.

"More ominous was the emergence of right-wing talk radio in the '50's, wedded to conspiracy theories inimical to democracy, that often parroted the hyperbole of the John Birch society. Harold Hunt and Clint Murchison contributed money to the Birch Society. Texas power establishment was especially ultra-right grounded in oil, the Military-Industrial complex, and the ultimate defeat of communism.

"This led JFK, in a Fall 1961 Los Angeles speech, to address this dangerous virus in which he stated that the Far Right was looking for 'a man on horseback' to rescue America from the threat of communism."

Joanne interjected, "Remember the matter of patriotism was compounded by the actions of Major General Edwin A. Walker, who broke with JFK over the communist threat, returning to Dallas and given a hero's welcome by Mayor Earle Cabell, brother to CIA Deputy Director, Charles Cabell, during the Bay of Pigs. Walker joined the Birchers and as a white nationalist even challenged Kennedy over the admission of James Meredith to the University of Mississippi.

Anti-Kennedy feelings reached such intensity that when he went to Dallas to heal the rift in the Democratic Party he was accused of treason. The charges which were floated against Kennedy appeared on the infamous billboard, prepared by Robert Allan Surrey, a friend to Walker, on the day of his assassination:



WANTED
FOR
TREASON

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

1. **Betraying the Constitution** (which he swore to uphold):
He is turning the sovereignty of the U. S. over to the communist controlled United Nations.
He is betraying our friends (Cuba, Katanga, Portugal) and befriend-
ing our enemies (Russia, Yugoslavia, Poland).
2. He has been **WRONG** on innumerable issues affecting the security of the U S. (United Nations-Berlin wall-Missile removal-Cuba-Wheat deals-Test Ban Treaty, etc.)

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

Figure 1 A "Wanted for Treason" poster for JFK that was distributed around Dallas days before November 23rd.

“Making the Walker story even more bizarre was the intersection at this moment with Oswald, who was walking both sides of the Cuban question, sometimes pro-Castro and at other, anti-Castro. On the night of April 10, 1963, Oswald attempted to assassinate anti-Castro Walker, but failed. One can only speculate why?”

“What a mess,” Frank exasperated chortled, “the Dallas climate was toxic, but JFK was persuaded by LBJ and Governor John Connally that his presence was essential to holding Texas in 1964 despite warning from Ambassador Adlai Stephenson not to go. In October, a motorcade was added, and then its route changed on that fatal Friday putting the President at even greater risk as it would turn on Elm St., ideal for a hit rather than following Main to the Trade Mart.”

“Besides, Vietnam was becoming problematic leading the President to call for troop reductions and ultimate withdrawal. His views created a crisis within the National Security Council between Doves/Hawks. Kennedy found himself in the minority. Johnson, Rusk, and the Bundy’s were committed to a domino theory calling for escalation. So also, was the CIA which saw Vietnam as its war and were alienate to Kennedy over Vietnam and his handling of Cuba. Ambassador, John Cabot Lodge, who green lighted the fall of Diem, was another hawk. Diem’s fall led Kennedy to cry ‘he had lost control over his own government.’”

Joanne elaborated, “The situation in Vietnam worsened with the fall of Diem and the emergence of the Generals heightening the split in Washington, as well as the internal debate over Kennedy’s, October 11, NSAM # 263. It called for reducing American presence in Vietnam with an eye to full withdrawal by 1964. Kennedy indicated in a TV interview with Walter Cronkite that Vietnamizing the conflict was the goal. As he said, ‘In the final analysis, it is their [the South Vietnamese] war. They are the ones who must win it or lose it. ‘

“My research, Frank opined,” indicates that his desire to leave Vietnam was being undermined by powerful members on the Council for Foreign Relations: Averill Harriman, Michael Forrestal, Henry Luce, and Roger Hilsman, Asst. Sec. State/Far Eastern Affairs, who encouraged Lodge to enter negotiation with the Generals to plot the overthrow of Diem over Buddhist opposition.

“While Kennedy was preparing for Dallas his National Security advisors were off to Honolulu to reframe the Vietnam issue. Apparently, the substance of NSAM # 263 calling for withdrawal was secretly being replaced by NSAM #273 which soon became the policy of LBJ. It would plunge America into the debacle of Vietnam by stepping up the American war effort by launching CIA attacks on North Vietnam and its emphasis on winning, not withdrawing. This new policy was framed by Hawk, McGeorge Bundy, National Security Advisor, in Honolulu. It was never seen by JFK, as he was assassinated, on November 22, 1963.

“This radical change in policy between Kennedy and Johnson, between #263 and #273, does raise the question about the loyalty of key National Security advisors, who perhaps were aware that something ‘Big ‘was in motion. By February 26 ,1964, under LBJ, the dye was cast, ‘America was in Vietnam to win. ‘As LBJ put it to Ambassador Lodge: “I am not going to be the President who saw Southeast Asia go the way China went.”

“What a disastrous turn of events I feel for America,” Joanne cried out.

Chapter 14 The Big Event

Making matters worse for JFK was his philandering jeopardized his presidency as the John Profumo Affair with Christine Keeler in London demonstrated. In July 1963, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover informed Bobby Kennedy that he knew about the president's past relationship with an alleged East German spy named Ellen Rometsch. Ellen was the wife of an army officer who was assigned to the West German embassy, Rometsch supplemented her income by turning tricks for Washington's best and brightest. Her pimp was a high-profile Senate aide, Bobby Baker, Lyndon Johnson's fixer. In late August 1963, Rometsch was flown back to Germany on a U.S. Air Force transport plane at the behest of the State Department. According to author Seymour Hersh, she was accompanied by Lavern Duffy, one of Bobby Kennedy's colleagues from his days on the McClellan Committee. Records related to Rometsch deportation have either vanished or were never created in the first place.

The other pressing matter was Texas politics and the riff between liberal & conservative Democrats. There was a growing concern that without Texas Kennedy would not be returned. He was urged to make a visit to Dallas to heal the split. The problem being that ultra-conservative Dallas was critical of the President seeing his actions in Cuba and Vietnam as traitorous. Dallas was the citadel of LBJ's strength grounded in the Murchison's and other powerful energy plutocrats. Adelia Stevenson, who had visited Dallas earlier, warned Kennedy of the danger it presented.

"What a mess," Frank exasperated chortled, "the Dallas climate was toxic, but LBJ and Governor John Connally persuaded JFK that his presence was essential to holding Texas in 1964. In October, a motorcade was added to the itinerary, and then making matters worse the route was changed on that fatal Friday putting the President at even greater risk as it turned on Elm St., ideal for a hit, rather than following Main to the Trade Mart, where he was scheduled to make a speech."

"In fact," Frank mused, "there was a growing consensus by the right that JFK was too unpredictable, that his peace policy with Russia was undermining the geopolitical and economic interest of the Military-Industrial complex, endangering the foreign policy priorities of the Rockefeller's Eastern Establishment. the Council on Foreign Relations, Rockefeller's mouthpiece was committed to winning in Vietnam and maintaining American imperial dominance in Central/South America. Indeed, CFR was responsible for developing the Domino Theory which stated that if Vietnam fell so would all

Southeast Asia along with its rich oil resources. They saw Kennedy's Alliance for Progress as undermining US imperial control and paving the way for a rash of Castro's imitators across the region.

'In addition, within his own government there were powerful forces/agencies that wanted his removal. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, including General Curtis LeMay, head of the Strategic Air Command, felt JFK was weak, and questioned his patriotism/leadership during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Kennedy was aware of deep military opposition explaining why he promoted the film *7 Days in May* which portrayed a military coup d'état. He felt the military was too quick on the nuclear trigger, a la the Cuban Missile Crisis, and that they had an exaggerated view of their competence. Explains why he touted the reading of Barbara Tuchman *Guns of August*, how Europe fell into the nightmare of World War I, because of military miscalculations."

Brian pointed out, 'he was always skeptical of military assessment on Vietnam. 'If I tried to pull out completely now from Vietnam, we would have another Joe McCarthy 'Red Scare' in our hands, but I can do it after I'm reelected. So, we had better make damn sure I am reelected. 'Harnessing the military was an ongoing challenge complicated by the generational difference between its leadership and the personnel of the New Frontier who were born in the twentieth century and looked at the world from a more inclusive perspective."

"Further," Brian continued, "was the intelligence community angered by JFK's handling of the Bay of Pigs and firing of Allan Dulles and other CIA officials. Following the Bay of Pigs fiasco Kennedy promised to shatter the CIA into a 'thousand pieces. ' He fired Director, Allan Dulles, and Richard Bissell, responsible for planning the Castro coup. Dulles remained a legend at headquarters and continues to exercise tremendous informal influence as a master sleuth. He and LBJ often met for drinks and complained about the 'whiz kids 'style, their brashness.

"In addition," Joanne chimed in, "there were other company members who held personal grudges against Kennedy like Cord Meyer, the ex of Mary Pinchot Meyer, and Jesus Angleton, head of counterintelligence, who was concern with protecting the Agency's 'Family Jewels' from being exposed during the Warren hearing. Finally, there

were a whole host of CIA operators including David Morales and E. Howard Hunt who blamed Kennedy for Bay of Pigs failure and were sharpening their knives.”

‘Our investigative reporting,” Joanne elaborated, “shows that Hoover/FBI hated the Kennedys, especially his boss Bobby, who as Attorney General wished to shift FBI priorities away from communism to Civil Rights and organized crime. Hoover from the south resisted on the grounds that Martin Luther King did not have the ability to effectively lead the Black movement and was being duped by the communists. This shift in FBI priorities was made more difficult because of JFK’s philandering, and Hoover’s Kennedy book, including Rometsch affair, making negotiations with him difficult. Hoover even forced RFK to agree reluctantly to MLK’s wiretapping grounded on the belief that MLK was a communist agent. Hoover often luncheon with LBJ, and both commiserated about the policies of the New Frontier as being too radical and revolutionary.”

“And then,” Joanne continued, “was the Mafia and its CIA/FBI ties. It was a gold mine in gaming, entertainment, drugs, and prostitution at the expense of the Cuban people. Key figures included: - Meyer Lansky, Johnny Roselli, Santo Trafficante, Sam Giancana, Bill Harvey, Jimmy Hoffa - all of whom were angered by the rise of Castro and its impact on drugs/gambling in Havana. In addition, the Mafia had brought victory to Kennedy in the pivotal state of Illinois. They expected that the Justice Department, like Hoover, would go easy on them, whereas RFK relentlessly pursued Hoffa and other mob players. Many bosses felt betrayed by the Kennedys and plotted payback. Carlos Marcello alluded to marginalizing Bobby’ by killing the head, ‘Jack. In fact, they had gone legitimate focusing on the entertainment gaming/ drug industries focusing on Las Vegas and Reno, Miami, and New Orleans. To strengthen their hand, they cozy up to Hoover and Alan Dulles as well as the Murchison bunch of Texas.”

Frank chimed in “another powerful group aligned against JFK was the military-industrial complex that had made billions in armaments off the Cold /Hot war. They saw Vietnam and Southeast Asia has literal gold mines. Eisenhower in his ‘Farewell Address’ in 1960 warn America of its growing power and influences inimical to a democratic society. Texas had become a major part of this vast complex led by oil magnates Clint Murchison, Harold L. Hunt, Sid Richardson, and David Harold Byrd, who

established the Civil Air Patrol and was the owner of the Texas Book Depository, where Oswald allegedly shot the President from the sixth floor. They were particularly incensed by Kennedy's desire to eliminate the oil depletion allowance, which meant a loss of \$100 million dollars per/year in revenue. Another part of its expanding role was the rise of Herman and George Brown, founders of Brown & Root, aligned to Johnson would acquire lucrative military contracts to build airports, bases and medical facilities in Vietnam. Suite 8F, Lamar Hotel, in Houston is where these hawkish moguls met to scheme against Kennedy."

Another factor that often goes under the radar is the presence of former OSS personnel in the Kennedy cabinet who were scattered at powerful government points. They belonged to the Lost Generation (1884-1904) and had managed America through the Great Depression/WWII. They thought Kennedy was too soft on communism and his questioning of the imperatives of the national Security State and its military-industrial was bordering on treason. Paradoxically many of Kennedys' major advisors were of this generation with OSS experience who disliked his foreign affair policies. Dean Rusk, Sec. State, James Rowley, Head Secret Service, McGeorge Bundy, National Security Advisor, and Generals Lemnitzer, Lansdale, & LeMay. In days following Kennedy's death his Vietnam policy of withdrawing was reversed by Johnson's NSAM #273, which ultimately plunged America into Vietnam War

"Last, but not last was LBJ, who had been marginalized by the Kennedys into being a token spokesman for the Moon Landing Project and speaking on behalf of civil rights. By fall of '63, he was on the way out over the Bobby Baker and Billie Sol Estes affairs in which close Johnson's confidants were involved in black mailing and bribery. His inner circle consisting of Ed Clark, Malcolm Wallace, Murchison, and Hunt, were not going to let him go down. One charge was that LBJ had received a \$100,000 cash payoff for his role in assuring that General Dynamics of Fort Worth received the navy contract for the building the controversial TFX fighter. But just as these scandals were about to break, Kennedy's *deus ex machina* was murdered at Dealey Plaza and LBJ became president. Apparently, the night before the assassination at a Clint Murchison party, LBJ intimated to his mistress Madeline Brown, "After tomorrow those goddamn Kennedys will never embarrass me again - that's no threat - that's a promise."

In fact, Frank interjects, “All these scenarios make Dealey Plaza inevitable. In fact, there were several dry runs prior to Dallas Kennedy weakness - had both the motive and the means to turn on JFK. Whether they did so remain in dispute. The coalition involved in these plots – Texas oil magnates, mob figures beset by RFK's war on organized crime, Cuban exiles frustrated with Kennedy's inaction on Cuba, and CIA officers similarly dismayed by perceived failures and betrayals.

JFK assumed the torch of civil rights in a way that no other President did throughout the 20th century. His embrace of the Civil Rights Movement drew many who would try to sabotage his efforts “by all means necessary.” As the Great White Hope, JFK (and RFK) were a threat to those who would divide and rule through stoking racial hatreds. The Deep South was therefore a conducive environment to stage the assassination, just as southerners murdered Abraham Lincoln post-Civil War.

JFK had serious and powerful enemies in the form of Lyndon B. Johnson, George H. W. Bush, Richard N. Nixon, J. Edgar Hoover, Allen Dulles, Dean Acheson, as well as the British Crown whose intentions were well known by his ambassador father, Joseph P. Kennedy. The entire global power structure, particularly the US Military-Industrial Complex, and its many secret societies and covert organizations, were vastly arrayed against him. The World Shadow Government was determined to make an [UNFORGETTABLE] example of him.



Figure 2 The 8 sniper's nests (see sniper icons above) strategically located around Dealey Plaza in Dallas on November 22, 1963

Chapter 15 The Cover-Up

Well Brian declares “Here we are at Pops crying in our Irish beers over the third anniversary of JFK assassination, as well as the unravelling of LBJ’s presidency over Vietnam, and the re-emergence of Richard M. Nixon on a law-and-order agenda. The country is literally having a nervous breakdown since 1963.”

Joanne “Don’t forget Student protests over the war, a more assertive Civil Rights movement echoing the voice of Stokely Carmichael around Black Power, and MLK organizing a Poor Peoples/March on Washington calling for social justice. These actions have driven the older generation to the right in which flag, country, and respect for authority matter.”

What does the professor have to say, “The turmoil the country is undergoing can be traced back to what some critics have described as the ‘cover-up’ of the assassination which shattered America’s beliefs in its political institutions.”

Brian interjects, “The question becomes how was the ‘cover-up’ masterminded and for what purpose. We know that LBJ and J. Edgar Hoover were at the center of it. It is Hoover who notifies LBJ & Robert Kennedy of the assassination indicating that early information pointed to a lone shooter by the name of Lee Harvey Oswald. To prevent mass hysteria and Congressional involvement LBJ gave carte blanche authority to the FBI over the investigation trumping all Texas authorities including the right of the medical staff to conduct a thorough autopsy of the President’s wounds at Parkland Memorial Hospital.”

Joanne chimed in, “At Parkland the Secret Service seized the body for transport to Bethesda Hospital via Airforce #1 while LBJ waited for Jackie to witness/authenticate his swearing in ceremony. In Washington, the body and family would be taken to Bethesda for a final autopsy which triggered much speculation about the entrance or egress of the kill shot, and who was present and in charge. Apparently, General Curtis LeMay was there.”

Frank added, “In Washington, among the National Security apparatus there was concern about the global/national implications of the assassination for the US, Cuba, Vietnam, and the Soviet Union. It was feared that the Kennedy detente could quickly unravel depending on the nature of the findings. Moscow and Paris were already

speculating it as a far-right conspiracy, whereas American hawks saw it as a communist/Cuban hit.”

“This growing debate,” Frank points out, “between Doves/Hawks led Attorney General Katzenbach to urge LBJ to control the scope of the investigation by establishing a Presidential Commission of esteem Americans focusing on Oswald as the assassin led by the FBI.”

“Hence,” Joanne interjects “This leads to the appointment of a Presidential Commission led by Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren who reluctantly agrees to chair. Members were Hale Boggs/Democratic Rep from Louisiana, John Sherman Cooper/Republican Senator from Kentucky, Gerald R. Ford/ Republican Rep. from Michigan, Richard B. Russell/Democratic Senator/Georgia, John J McCloy, former High Commissioner/Germany and former President of the World Bank, Allen W. Dulles, former Director of CIA and chair, and Earl Warren, Supreme Court.”

Frank commented, “Biasing its work, was Hoover’s Presidential appointment appointed to be the exclusive channel pointing to Oswald as the lone shooter. Most, except for Ford/McCloy/Warren, came from and were conservative in their views about the Cold War/Soviet détente, civil rights, and the liberal orientation of the New Frontier.”

Brian added, “Weakening its objectivity was the close relationship between Ford/Hoover/Nixon, who often skewed the information and influences who were questioned. Even more surprising was the appointment of Allen Dulles to the Commission considering his firing by Kennedy and the CIA’s role in Bay of Pigs and Operation Mongoose. Many within the Company hated Kennedys, including Cord Meyer, managed Operation Mockingbird/ Directorate of Plans, who was angered by JFK affair with his ex-wife Mary Pinchot Meyer. Other CIA suspects who disagreed vehemently with JFK include James Angleton, David Atlee Phillips, William Harvey, William (Rip) Robertson, David Morales, and E. Howard Hunt.”

Joanne sums it up best, “Putting Hoover and Dulles on the Commission was like letting the fox into the chicken coop. It ensured that Oswald ended up as the patsy, and that any possibility of conspiracy marginalized. In short, it meant that the Warren investigation morphed into a cover-up with key evidence ignored.”

“Two shocking examples,” interjected Brian, “revolved around the Presidential limousine and the Zapruder film. The limousine was seized by the Secret Service, washed immediately thereby destroying all forensic evidence, and shipped back to

Detroit. Adding insult to injury the Zapruder film, which caught the 'Big Event, ' vanished from public viewing, ending up in the vaults of *Life Magazine* where it lie dormant. Apparently two other copies were seized by the Secret Service."

Joanne comments, "Then there is the Orville Nix filming which apparently mirrors Zapruder's film from the other side of Dealey Plaza. A copy was turned over to the FBI, the original sold to UPI and certain frames viewed by the Warren Commission. But like Zapruder, the original has disappeared. This begs the question why?"

Creating even greater doubt about the Commissions integrity was the confusion over who is Oswald, his governmental ties, his movements before/during November 22, and his killing by mobster, Jack Ruby, on Sunday, November 24.

From the get-go, Hoover indicated to LBJ that the Oswald spotted in Mexico did not match the Oswald arrested for JFK assassination, nor did he ever admit to the Commission that Oswald had ties to the FBI. Congressman Hale Boggs later claimed that "Hoover lied his eyes out." Similarly true of Allan Dulles, who to protect the Company of any embarrassing revelations about Operation Mongoose/Mafia, and its Oswald relationship likewise sanitized its information."

Brian suggested, "Let us seek out Mark Lane, who has a been critic of the Warren Report, and just published his bestseller critique *Rush to Judgement*. Maybe Joanne with her media contacts can get us a meeting with Mark?"

Joanne, "He lives in New York. We can go by Amtrack and be there in hours. Let me set up an appointment through a mutual contact."

Arriving at Mark Lane's office, we were struck by the detailed map he had of Dealey Plaza hanging in his office which showed the various County Offices including the Texas Book Depository, as well as other significant points like the Grassy Knoll, which he coined as the metaphor to describe where the fatal head shot came taking down 'Lancer. '

Mark greeted us by saying "I am sure you, too, have questions about what happened that day. Let me begin by putting the matter into a larger context; namely, from which direction did the kill shot came. Everything flows from it. At Parkland, the preliminary medical finding was this shot came from the front leaving a large hole in the back of JFK's head. If true, it points to another site/shooter other than the Texas

Depository. The 'Grassy Knoll' destroys the Warren Commission argument that Oswald was the lone shooter. In my analysis, we are indeed looking at a political conspiracy.”

Mark continues, “Then there is absurdity of Arlen Specter’s single/magic bullet theory that the same bullet which killed the president hit Governor John B. Connally Jr. Connally never accepted the theory implying that there were more shots fired. In fact, he claimed, ‘There were either two or three people involved, or more, in this – or someone was shooting with an automatic rifle. More bullets, more cases of conspiracy.

Brian chimed “Wasn’t Ford, J. Edgar Hoover’s and Nixon’s informant on the commission and did their bidding to squelch the investigation from naming other assassins by pressing the panel to change its description of the bullet wound in President Kennedy’s back as being higher to make “the magic bullet” theory plausible.”

Lane “Pointed out that many Commission members privately were uneasy about the Oswald conclusion including Senators Russell and Cooper as well as Representative Boggs, and John McCloy. It is rumored that in a private session with Senator Richard Russell even LBJ was skeptical.

Frank asks, “Were there not doubts fueled by the fact that many of the fifty-one witnesses, who claimed that the critical shots came from the direction of the Grassy Knoll, were never called to testify. Mudding the picture was that there were individuals posing as Secret Service agents at Dealey Plaza including Howard Hunt, Frank Sturgis, and Cuban, Bernard Barker, who was identify by Dallas County Officer Seymour Weitzman, as being at the Grassy Knoll.”

“I heard that even Dave Powers, Kennedy’s Special Assistant, who rode in the Secret Service follow-up car with Ken O’Donnell, believes fire came from the front: “My first impression was that the shots came from the right and overhead, but I also had a fleeting impression that the noise appeared to come from the triple overpass. This may have resulted from my feeling, when I looked forward toward the over-pass, that we might have ridden into an ambush.” He was pressured to change this statement and support the government’s Oswald theory.”

Mark summed it up, “It was a cover-up, plain and simple. Leaving major doubts in the minds of Americans about the credibility of its government and the future of democracy.”

We wish to thank you for your time. It was quite sobering and disconcerting. If you are ever in the Philadelphia area let us know so that we can show you our wonderful sites.

As we left Mark's office, we all were shaken by the visit and held our own counsel to Philly.

Arriving home Frank suggested "Let's meet at La Salle next week after digesting all of this info and see if we can come up with a Dealey Plaza scenario that answers the why and perhaps the how."

They gather in the Faculty Conference room and Frank begins the topic of why JFK was taken out. "It seems to me that the Kennedys foreign/domestic initiatives, especially detente with the Soviet Union and Civil Rights, had rattled the Wasp National Security Intelligence/Energy state to a such a degree that by Fall of '63 the hit was on. It was made more imperative by the Bobby Baker scandal, a scandal engulfing Johnson presaging his fall. LBJ sidelined was busy gathering support within the FBI/ CIA and Texas oil men. They certainly had the money and the contacts to orchestrate Dealey Plaza."

Brian interjected, "Too much money and power were at stake for the 'Lost Generation' to tolerate another four years or even worse a Kennedy dynasty. They found the Kennedy style to be too flashy and unpredictable. JFK will not be controlled even though Hoover threatened the White House with exposure of his sexual escapades."

"In addition," Joanne added, "LBJ sidelined was busy gathering support within the FBI/ CIA and Texas oil men. They saw Kennedy as weak on communism/Cuba, and certainly had the money and the contacts to orchestrate Dealey Plaza. Since the early '50s America had become expert at eliminating foreign treats through special ops which led to the 1954 fall of Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala. Indeed, even hooking up with the Mafia to eliminate Castro through Mongoose. Mongoose probably explains Robert Kennedy's response on hearing of the news of the assassination, 'I killed my brother. '"

Frank continued, "Once Kennedy was persuaded to go to Dallas to heal the Democratic Party break the 'Big Event' unfolded. The motor-cade route was perfect for an Executive Action. There were many public offices with multiple floors as well as a

railroad overpass and a grassy knoll covered with trees along with a picket fence and pergola. All ideal for an assassination.

The Warren Commission acknowledged only three shots, but evidence puts to more than three. Perhaps as many as 8 or 9. Kennedy hit 3 times, Connally 3, involving wrist, left thigh and right armpit. One missed at Elm St. curb, and another hit the south curb of Main Street near the Triple Underpass, and wounded James Tague on the right cheek." Brian points out suspiciously, "The city of Dallas removed the Stemmons Freeway sign shortly after the assassination as well as the Elm St curb. Why becomes the question?"

"Oswald was nothing more than a scapegoat. To probe deeply into his motivations, who controlled and ran him, is going down a rabbit hole of false flags. What can be said was that he had ties to the CIA/FBI and Mafia. Oswald was silenced by Ruby. It was part of the cover-up. They could not allow him to live and to testify. The matter of Ruby would cost Dorothy Kilgallen her life.

Regarding the 'Big Event, Clint Murchison and H.L. Hunt had the money, and connections to CIA/Mafia to find expert assassins. A probable scenario involves CIA Cord Meyer initiating the Big Event for political /personal reasons by contacting David Atlee Phillips and Bill Harvey to contract out the hit."

Frank summed it up, "It was professionally planned with shooters placed at Texas Book Depository, Dal-Tech Building, Grassy Knoll/ Picket Fence and Triple Overpass. They include the Corsican, Lucien Sarti, identified as Badge Man, Malcolm Wallace, LBJ's enforcer, Tony Rosselli, Mafia/Giancana hitman, Frank Sturgis, CIA anti-Castro ops. Eyewitnesses also spoke of individuals with badges claiming to be special agents and waving spectators off from the Triple Over Pass or the Grassy Knoll or Wooden Picket Fence, where shots/smoke arose."

Joanne captured it, "America was in a state of shock with the loss of Camelot, it was the death of innocence's, expectations had run so high, and were now shattered. The national morning and confusion over November 22 were made more intense that going back to FDR America implicitly had trusted their governmental institutions, especially the Chief Justice and head of the FBI, who were national icons of trustfulness and integrity."

Yet what was witnessed was a cover-up, worse, a coup d'état, in which power was retained by White Protestant military-industrial-intelligence elite. America was leaving the high of post-World War II optimism for a painful cycle of awareness in which deep contradiction within the social fabric were to emerge around governmental integrity/concentration power, war/peace, civil rights/ white dominance, the American Empire/global dominance.”

Key Questions Left Unresolved About Assassination:

- a) Did Oswald act alone or was it a conspiracy: two films, Zapruder/Nix.
- b) How many shots were fired: Warren Commission said three; others, 8/9 shots.
- c) JFK hit three times, Connolly twice.
- d) No clear indication of shots from Texas Book Depository. Oswald was seen taking lunch at the time of the assassination. A patsy.
- e) Direction of shots/ front or back or side important as more indicate conspiracy.
- f) Who is the umbrella man at the sign pointing to the Triple Underpass/Stemmons Freeway
- g) Kill shot in all probability came from Grassy Knoll/ Wooden Picket Fence /entered from front & left a major hole behind the head. Jackie gathered up what was left of his head as the limousine sped off to Parkland Hospital. Another from Secret Service driver, William Greer, who was driving the Limousine.
- h) Perfect spot for an assassination as the turn from Houston to Elm (Tex. Bld./ Bk Depository) is quite sharp forcing Secret Service drivers, Kellerman/Greer, to come almost to a complete stop at the Grassy Knoll heading towards the Triple Underpass.
- i) Other bullets discovered: on the stretcher at Parkland, on the curb and on the Presidential window and by James Tague at the Triple Underpass (RR Bridge).
- j) Very well planned/executed: misdirection, distraction, and triangulation.
- k) cover-up orchestrated by LBJ, J Edgar Hoover and Alan Dulles & Cord Meyer CIA. Goal was to pin it on Oswald, the act of loner. The House Select Committee on Assassination concluded in 1979, that there was a probable conspiracy. Called by many a brilliant deception; 61% still do not accept its findings. Ironically

LBJ was saved by the assassination as JFK was going to dump him over issues of corruption that had caught up with him that Fall.

Chapter 16 They Got Away with It

“Well,” frank said, “here we are again, I see we have gotten longer in the tooth and move slower, although Joanne has retained her youthful spirit.”

Joanne’s smiles. “You frank aren’t doing so bad yourself. I hear you are still teaching and continuing to research the Kennedy matter regardless of the political /cultural pushback. It reminds me of the line from the film *A Few Good Men*, “you (America) can’t handle the truth!”

Joanne with a winning smile turns to Brian and asks, “How are you, what investigative matter are you pursuing?”

“Got caught up in the January 6, 2021, insurrection which just about brought America to its knees. Looking at the political insiders who facilitated it. They should be called out, tried, and imprisoned. Will have to await the outcome of the Pelosi/January 6 hearings. High political theater, something that the warren commission never did.”

Frank returns to Dealey plaza, “It certainly dramatically reshaped the country. America has undergone a political free fall from the heady expectations of the new frontier in 1960 to the moral bankruptcy of the trump presidency in 2020.”

Joanne comments, “Trump shattered the fragile union into red/blue states, exploited division divided over who won the 2020 election, Black Lives Matter, income inequity, climate, and the corona virus.”

Brian speaks up, “The moral implosion of the republican party is painful to watch as it has sold its soul for power rather than defending democratic values. Lincoln must be turning in his grave. ‘Moscow Mitch, ‘ ‘The Grim Reaper, ‘ has allowed Trump’s virus to corrupt the senate.”

Frank interjects, “His obstructionism is reminiscent of the 1850s ‘do nothing party, ‘or the 1920’s rise of the KKK in the south and Midwest with its emphasis on white supremacy, rejection of science and women’s right to vote culminating with the monkey scopes trial in Tennessee in which Darwinism was ban from being taught.”

Joanne “What really compromised the warren commission was its transformation from an investigation into political theater meant to mislead and placate the American public by focusing on the distraction of Oswald, ruby, and in some ways even the JFK burial at Arlington.”

“This magic show,” Brian interjects, “was choreographed from the white house, and was abetted by the lies, and deceits of the FBI/CIA to cover up their connection to Dealey, and to scapegoat Oswald as the lone ‘nut shooter. “

“Making it even worse is that LBJ, Hoover and Dulles knew that their time as political power brokers was running out as the ‘64 election approached, because of either monetary scandal, Bay of Pigs farce, or in Hoover’s case his mandatory federal retirement.

Frank finished “by ‘63, the military-industrial- intelligence complex soured by the Cuban missile agreement. It saw JFK’s campaign trip to Dallas as a perfect answer to their geopolitical concerns about the future of the American empire. In addition, it was an ideal place for an assassination, given Texas far right politics, and the geography of Dealey plaza.”

Brian pointed out, “Unfortunately, for the next ten years the JFK matter was overshadowed by Vietnam, civil rights, drug/hippie culture, student demonstrations, and, of course, Nixon/Watergate.”

“Interest in the Kennedy assassination,” Joanne said, “re-emerged with the Garrison investigation in the late 60s. Jim Garrison, New Orleans district attorney, had come upon information that pointed to a Kennedy plot originating in New Orleans involving Guy Banister, Clay Shaw, David Ferrie and Oswald. All were rabid anti-Castroists even having close ties with New Orleans mafia boss Carlos Marcello.”

Joanne continued, “Garrison saw in this cabal the workings of the CIA. But his investigation was undermined by the CIA who planted its own people on his staff and used powerful media people like Jack Anderson to question Garrison’s methods.”

“But then,” Brian interjects ‘in ‘75 the assassination will recapture the attention of the American public with the national showing of the Zapruder film hosted by Geraldo Rivera and Warren critics Robert Groden and Dick Gregory. Americans are shocked by the violence of Dealey: JFK’s brain scattered across the back of the limousine with Jackie crawling to retrieve what remained.”

Frank summarized, “The nation was so shocked by it and Watergate that it led to the church hearings, named for Sen. Frank Church of Idaho. It likewise investigated American intelligence abuses within CIA, FBI, NSA and recognized that they had lied

under oath to the warren commission by withholding data about Oswald working for both FBI and CIA. Worse was the involvement of the CIA/Mafia in exotic plots to assassinate Castro.”

Joanne picks up “Even the elusive James Angleton, head of counter-intelligence, would lose his CIA job over it. The hearings soon morphed into the house select committee on assassinations (HSCA) in 1976. Created to investigate the assassinations of JFK and Martin Luther King.”

“But,” frank elaborated, “ like the warren commission and church it got bogged down in politics, personalities, and false flags ad nauseum thus adding no clarity to why and how of Dealey. The mafia now became a major target with an emphasis on johnny Rosselli who before appearing was found dead in Miami. His death shifted the focus away from the CIA.

Brian picks up, “HSCA did, however, come to the tentative conclusion ‘that there was a 95% possibility that a fourth shot was fired from the direction of the grassy knoll, ‘based on acoustics taken from a Dallas policeman’s motorcycle radio. ‘

“But” frank grimaced, “it still hedged its finding by indicating that Oswald was still the major culprit even though 60% of the country then and still believes that Kennedy was the victim of assassination plot.”

Joanne screams “and the big lie of the warren commission continues similar to the big lie of trump today that the 2020 election was stolen.”

“Again,” Brian, expanded, “the matter faded during the 80’s under Reagan, The Iran-Contra Scandal, only to surface again with the 1991 Oliver Stone film *JFK*. It focused on the investigative efforts of Jim Garrison in New Orleans in the mid-60s.

“Stone implied that the assassination was a coup d’état orchestrated by powerful forces within the United States, including a hawkish press, which disliked Kennedy’s 1963 rapprochement with the Soviet Union, and his growing equivocation on Vietnam as manifested by NSAM #263 calling for troop reduction.”

Mary Pinchot Meyer said it best, “he was changing too fast” for the military-industrial–intelligence complex and had to be removed.

Ultimately, the film led to the assassination records collection act, 1992, by which all materials were to be housed at college park, Maryland under the supervision of the

national archives and records administration. But the release of information over twenty years has been inconsistent, often redacted, and troubling adding to more questions about the assassination.

“Indeed,” Brian angrily comments, “even under trump the government held back release of remaining documents in the name of national security. These involved James Angleton’s lies about CIA’s involvement in conspiring against Castro, Johnson’s complicity, and Oswald’s Mexico trip prior to Dealey.”

“No wonder,” Joanne concludes “that most Americans still doubt the warren version of what happened leading to the crisis in government credibility. It was magnified by the trump presidency leading to the coup d’état of January 6, 2021. Trumps ‘big lie’ is a continuation of ‘the big lie’ of 1963. Our democracy has been threatened by a series of lies: Vietnam, Watergate, Iran-Contra, 9/11, Bin Laden, Iraq.”

“Here we are in 2021 and Dealey plaza again resurfaces with the stone documentary JFK: revisited. Tom Hanks, likewise, plans to produce parkland focusing on events leading up to the assassination and the Zapruder film.”

Joanne closes with the observation that historians, too, have contributed to the Kennedy coverup by their continued silence and reluctance to entertain even the possibility of a coup. S are LBJ apologists: Robert Caro, Doris Kearns Goodwin. Others are popular historians like Michael Be Schloss, and Jon Meacham who in their reluctance to speak out contributes to the collective doubt about Dealey.

Frank finishes with, “their collective silence speaks volumes.”

Brian, “one other matter remains to be explored: namely, the role of the secret service. Specifically, William Greer/driver and Roy Kellerman companion at Dealey. There are some who point to them as assassins. This conclusion comes from viewing the nix tape which shows Greer braking and apparently firing the fatal shot which entered his left temple and led Jackie to scream out ‘my god he has been hit.’

“Kenney O’Donnell, JFK’s special assistant, had this to say about the secret service, ‘if they had reacted faster to the first two shots, if the driver had stepped on the gas before ... the fatal third shot was fired, would President Kennedy be alive today? ’”

“Dealey plaza still haunts the collective American consciousness.”

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