



KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION: A SYSTEM IN CRISIS

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT - Nov. 27, 1963

The assassination of President Kennedy, by a still unknown assailant, not only reflects the existence of serious political contradictions for the U.S. ruling class, but raises these contradictions to new heights. Evidences of oncoming crisis and of a growing instability and ruthlessness within the small circle of the U.S. ruling class include:

INSTABILITY

****The apparently well-planned execution of the late President, revealing more than the work of some deranged individual;**

****The complete break-down of the bourgeois democratic process in dealing with the alleged assassin, Lee H. Oswald;**

****The obvious complicity of the local police and the national security forces in establishing the frame-up of Oswald, and their failure to adequately protect the President;**

****The subsequent contradictions between the local officials and the national officials in the ever-growing crudeness in attempting to turn the slaying of the President into a red-baiting circus;**

****The U.S. ruling class has made an arduous effort to portray itself to the world, and especially to its allies, as a symbol of stability and "freedom." The assassination and all subsequent events tend to undermine this thesis.**

RUTHLESSNESS

****The vicious attempt by many forces within the ruling class to use the assassination, in whipping up an anti-communist hysteria, to incite further acts of aggression against the Cuban people;**

****The mounting pressure on the working people of this country, in order to halt their demands for progress in this period of crisis;**

****The campaign of violence and terror against the Negro people, especially in the South, to quell the rising demands for jobs and freedom;**

****The resort to open counter-revolution, with no attempt to cover up, in Cuba and south Viet Nam;**

****The attempt to use this "lull" to prevent the working people from renewing their struggle in the future;**

****The conversion of the assassination of the late President into some kind of third-rate spectacle by the ruling class, indicates their fundamental cynicism and their utter contempt on the American people.**

(Continued on P. 2)

OSWALD CASE -- HISTORY'S BIGGEST FRAME-UP?

"This is lynch law which mocks civil rights and frustrates solution of the murder of a President." Editorial in New York World Telegram and Sun, Nov. 25, 1963, on the murder of Oswald.

"La Monde's New York correspondent, Phillip Ben, wrote that certain characteristics of American life were in question. He cited 'the animosity between the races, the tolerance of violence, the enormous publicity given to the most fantastic accusation devoid of any foundation.'" (N. Y. Post, Nov. 26, 1963).

"I've sent men to the electric chair on less evidence than we have against Lee Harvey Oswald." (Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade, quoted in the N. Y. Journal American, Nov. 25, 1963).

A STAGGERING AMOUNT of evidence--within four days of the President's assassination--already points to the possibility that the most colossal fraud and frame-up in history is being perpetrated on the Ameri-

can people.

Not one single detail of the so-called case against Lee Harvey Oswald has been described without serious conflicts in the "official" accounts. Not one of the multiple "witnesses" who ostensibly placed Oswald at the scene of the crimes has been identified by Dallas police.

The murder of Oswald--who denied to the end not only any connection with the assassination or the death of Officer Trippett, but that he was even in the building from where the assassin fired--was carried out with the obvious complicity of the Dallas police.

As the Pandora's Box of this case opens, angry grows with doubt. Whatever the final outcome, one thing is clear: the load of lies and distortions dumped on the public by the authorities and eagerly delivered by the press--sometimes printed directly contradictory reports in two different editions of the same day's paper!--shows the contempt which the police, politicians, press and TV have for the American public.

Just a limited sampling of the press in the N. Y. area

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The average American is, of course, a Texan. He eats lots of breakfast and gets fat so he has to go on a diet because he likes to look skinny. He calls everyone "sweetheart" and is bad to colored people. If he doesn't like who is his president, he usually shoots him. His children spill food on their best clothes and he doesn't even spank them. On the contrary, he takes them to Disneyland.

These observations, and a great many others—some less and some more flattering, some amusingly misinformed and others too astutely true for comfort—I have on the authority of more than a hundred European school children, aged five to nine, with whom I spoke on a recent trip through France, Italy and England. REDBOOK was curious to find out what youngsters in the countries that are our closest friends and allies think about us. Now that we know, we are not entirely sure that we should have asked.

Embarrassment: If it had not been for a recent quirk of events, one new face near Mr. Johnson might have belonged to Bobby G. Baker, the get-rich-quick Secretary to the Senate Majority whose resignation under a conflict-of-interest cloud set off a far-reaching inquiry in recent weeks. Mr. Johnson leaned heavily on Baker in the Senate and in the 1960 campaign.

Though there will be new faces, in other respects the new Administration is expected to continue on the general course—both domestically and in foreign

Newsweek, December 2, 1963

(Continued from P. 1)

While it is essential that revolutionaries evaluate all of the political aspects of the assassination, it is also necessary for revolutionaries to reject assassination as a conceivable form of political struggle. The killing of one man cannot alter the course of history. Only efforts by millions to change the particular political and economic system can be decisive. Mass efforts by the people to establish their own political institutions can only be accomplished over relatively long periods of time. No single flash of a bullet is powerful enough to free the workers from oppression, and win them political and economic security. Finally, assassination only tends to confuse the real issues that face the workers. It encourages the ruling class to step up the oppression of the people.

Assassination and individual violence, however, is part and parcel of the Capitalist system. All forms of its "culture" are used to inculcate the people to accept and expect violence from the ruling class as a way of life. Little children, from the moment of their first intellectual comprehension, are spoon-fed on violence. TV, comics, movies -- the children's "culture" in this sick society -- reek of violence and hatred. Our entire political structure is built on racism and chauvinism among people. This is the "accepted" way of life in modern America. To be sure, large amounts of hypocritical posturing are mouthed in attempting to disassociate from this culture. But the greater the amount of hypocrisy, the more our children and our people are filled with the poison of racial hatred and social brutality.

The past Administration of the late President was one which intensified violence against the people at home and the People of the world. It was within this context, of stepped-up repression and terror, that Kennedy himself was murdered.

Here at home, terror against the Negro people was intensified, culminating in the unpunished murder of four Negro children in the Birmingham church. It followed on the heels of the murder of Medgar Evers in Mississippi. One could list endless examples of violence against the forces of freedom, including the killing of two people in the events surrounding the entrance of James Meredith into the University of Mississippi. Richard Moore, murdered white Postman, was another victim of oppression. His killer was acquitted. This martyr's assassination went unpunished. The past Administration took no action to punish the murderers. Terror has always been the by-product of racism against the Negro people. The Negro people of our country have always had to contend with the ruling class' version of "Law and order".

The Kennedy Administration never acted against the racists, and thereby encouraged more terror. Southern racists could only draw one conclusion from the present indictments of militant integrationists by Robert Kennedy, in Albany, Georgia: that the Administration, which had yet to indict a single racist, was out to destroy the enemies of racism. Under these circumstances, the racists were emboldened to act with impunity against Negroes.

In the Northern cities, police brutality against the Negro and Puerto Rican people increased, as Southern police went scot free. Fighters for integration were mercilessly attacked by police horses and clubs. In New York City—two young Puerto Ricans were wantonly assassinated by police in their patrol car. The police were exonerated by Mayor Wagner, and his police commissioner, although all evidence clearly points to a brutal assassination. When the Puerto Rican people protested these murders, they, too, were met with riot squads and clubs.

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Recently, white and Negro peace walkers, members of the Quebec-To-Cuba Peace Walk, were brutally tortured by police in Griffin, Georgia. One such "walker" Ray Robinson, Jr., a 29 year old Negro from Washington, was stretched full length on the floor while police burned his legs, arms and spine. They shifted the electric prod into his genitals and held it firmly in place. (National Guardian, Nov. 21). Robert Kennedy's "Justice" Department has yet to act against the terrorism of such forces.

Abroad, the Kennedy Administration's policies have become more ferocious. The brutal war of genocide against the people of South Viet-Nam could only further encourage more openly fascist forces in this country. Similarly, the Administration's support of Nazis in Germany, and fascists in Spain, Portugal, South Africa, Iraq, the Dominican Republic and the Congo made this ideology the order of the day at home.

The Administration's constant effort to destroy the Cuban government was, and is, a consistent campaign of brutality and terror against the Cuban people. It has included invasion, bringing death to thousands. It includes an embargo, producing hardship and is attempting to create starvation. It consists of bombings and raids, killing scores, and compelling the entire Cuban population to live under combat readiness. More dangerous is the fact that Kennedy's policies on Cuba almost brought the world to nuclear war. Only days before his death, the late President called upon the Cuban people to overthrow their government, which would necessarily include the assassination of their revolutionary leaders.

All of the policies of the Administration concerning the peoples of the world were fraught with oppression, even those policies cloaked with liberal connotations. The "Alliance for Progress", which was hailed as a boon to the people of Latin America, actually further depressed the already impoverished conditions of the people.

And finally, on several occasions our government has engineered or supported actual organized assassinations with great relish. The assassination of Patrice Lumumba was warmly welcomed by the Kennedy Administration. Furthermore, assassination has also been a way of eliminating friends who have outlived their usefulness to the Administration. Only weeks before the Kennedy assassination, the Administration (and many who now cry hypocritical tears for Kennedy) were laughing up their sleeves over the U.S. - inspired assassination of Diem and his brother in South Viet-Nam.

Thousands of young Americans have been trained in "advanced" techniques of political assassination, guerrilla warfare, wars of terror behind the "enemy" lines, and extreme forms of brutality against oppressed peoples. Kennedy hailed these "special forces". These trained killers symbolically held special prominence at his funeral. The military mentality more and more has permeated our country. The ultimate terror of nuclear blackmail has impelled a fantastic over-kill atomic stockpile, produced through an arms budget which increased by more than ten billion dollars during the first year of the Kennedy Administration.

It is within this very soil of the Administration's own policies that the forces were nourished to snuff out the President's life. President Johnson now pledges faithfully to carry out these very same policies. Johnson calls on the people to "unite" around this program -- a program that is not only rife with terror and violence, but with continued economic oppression of the American people. It would mean uniting for more unemployment, uniting for lower wages, uniting to allow automation to snuff out 40,000 jobs each week -- already the editorialists are warning the railroad workers to accept the Administrations' slash of 80,000 operating craft jobs, in the name of "unity". It would also mean uniting to oppose the shorter work day and uniting to smash any militants in the labor movement, such as Hoffa.

In short, this is "unity" to oppose progress for U.S. workers. No wonder, with Kennedy barely in his grave, Tuesday's papers report the stock market "soaring": Johnson promises to carry out his predecessor's policies with a vengeance.

The immediate reaction to the assassination of Kennedy was that it was the work of open fascist forces in Dallas. This was based on the well known strength of these people in the area, and the recent attack on Adlai Stevenson when he spoke in Dallas. Along with this reaction came the notion that "extremes of all forms" in the U.S., had to be eliminated.

In this manner, the groundwork was being laid for the equation of the Left and the militant sections of the Negro Movement with the fascist Right. Thus, even if it is positively proven that a Rightist killed Kennedy, Negro and Puerto Rican street demonstrations will become labeled "extreme" that sow the seeds of hate, rather than the direct challenge that they are to the racists and oppressive ruling class. Under any circumstance, the militants among the people would be victimized. However, the Oswald frame-up provides the perfect foil: Obscure the role of the Right. Wipe out the Left. Resurrect the anti-Cuban hysteria. Use this mood to smash every progressive development in the country.

The well-developed crusade of anti-communism (which has been one of the strongest elements in the "streak of violence" developed in the U.S. in the past eighteen years) was used to convict Oswald on TV and in the Press. He was convicted without ever having a chance to establish his own defense. So virulent was the anti-communist onslaught that it compelled the new Johnson Administration to rebuke the Dallas District Attorney for wanting to claim in the indictment that Oswald was part of a communist international conspiracy to kill Kennedy. (For

this would conflict with their policy of softening up the Soviet Union, and splitting the social world).

Many contradictory factors arose to temporarily blunt this anti-communist crusade. Firstly, Oswald stood firm and denied his guilt. Secondly, there was little tangible, and totally conflicting "evidence". Thirdly, the predominant section of the ruling class was chagrined by the loss of its most able spokesmen and leaders. It may be unwilling to allow the Dallas police and Texas politicians to determine the immediate course of the ruling class. Kennedy had the unique ability to carry much of the working class (and so-called Marxists) along with his reactionary program.

If the open fascists refuse to follow the leadership of the dominant section of the ruling class, it could lead to a sharper internal struggle within the ruling class.

Fourthly, the people all over the world have reacted with shock in regard to the assassination and with suspicion and disbelief to all subsequent events. This feeling of disbelief, undermining U.S. prestige abroad, was summed up in reports from Europe in the New York World Telegram Nov. 26th:

French Voice Doubts About Oswald Case

Paris, Nov. 26 (Reuters)—A conservative Paris newspaper last night asked if the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald as the assassin of President Kennedy was a frame-up.

Paris Presse headlined its front page "A Tragic Doubt" and asked: "Was Oswald the real guilty one? Was it not a frame-up? Did they not want him to keep quiet?"

The independent newspaper Le Monde said:

"Even before the suspect [Oswald] was killed, certain observ-

ers had pointed out the contradictions and inadequate reports of the Dallas police, several of whom were quick to say the affair was 'in the bag' and Oswald promised the electric chair."

Le Monde added that the killing of Oswald reinforced these views and supported those "who see in it not an act of civic loyal-

ty but the elimination of a man who knew too much."

Le Monde's New York correspondent, Philippe Ben, wrote that certain characteristics of American life were in question.

He cited "the animosity between the races, the tolerance of violence, the enormous publicity given to the most fantastic accusation devoid of any foundation."

Europeans See Plot In Killings

By R. H. SHACKFORD
Scripps-Howard Newspapers

PARIS, Nov. 26.—Ugly suspicions spread like wildfire in Western Europe today that attempts have been made in Dallas to hide or blur the real

story behind President Kennedy's assassination.

"It will take a lot of doing for the United States to persuade its friends abroad that behind the Kennedy murder are not right-wing extremists of the type who spat on Adlai Stevenson in Dallas a few weeks ago; the kind who bombed a Negro Sunday school in Birmingham, and who assassinated Negro leader Medgar Evers in Mississippi.

— NEW YORK POST, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1963 —

This has helped to compel the ruling class to begin to challenge, at least, the Dallas version of the murders.

Finally, the murder of Oswald, engineered by the Dallas police, publicly established their complicity in the assassination of the President. The Oswald murder was a sharp blow to millions of Americans who did feel affection, did genuinely believe in Kennedy, and were sorrowful over the murder of the President. In effect, they were told that they were naive suckers, that the assassination was a matter for ruthless politicians, already lining up their forces for the immediate period and the 1964 campaign. A ruthless, partly-open political struggle, was shaping up at the very moment many ordinary people were expressing genuine grief.

If the present Administration feels compelled, out of its own self interest, to expose the role of the open fascists in the assassination, we would welcome it. However, this could be used as a diversion, simply to draw peoples attention from the continuing anti-labor, anti-Negro, pro-war policies of the entire ruling class.

In the face of this continued ruthlessness and terror, the people and especially those who consider themselves fighters for socialism, should not be caught up in the whirl-wind of ruling class contradictions. The people should utilize every moment for pressing their demands. They should not wait for the Johnson Administration to resume the offensive as it will-- against the peoples' fight for a better life. Johnson's record is part and parcel of the oppression of the ruling class-- with a dash of Southern seasoning added for good measure.

The People are still faced with racism, unemployment, poor housing and schooling, high rents and high-priced (or no) medical services. The People, if they are really to unite, should unite around programs dealing with their problems.

In many areas, particularly the Negro areas, the people are more able to draw positive conclusions from the assassination. They are able to relate it to their own experiences. It will not hold them back. In Harlem, a typical reaction was "If they had has many cops in Dallas as they did up here on 116th Street this summer, he wouldn't have been shot". Another said "perhaps now white America knows what went through Negroes when Evers was killed and those four little girls were blown up in Birmingham". (New York Post, Nov. 24, 1963).

To the extent the people organize around program geared to their needs, to that extent will it lay the basis for the defeat of repression from all quarters.

.....

(Continued from P. 1)

revealed the following:

1. Oswald's Whereabouts:

WAITING AT THE WINDOW?

"The killer was stationed at a fifth floor window of a warehouse overlooking the area--police later found traces of a fried chicken he apparently munched while waiting". (N. Y. Post Nov. 22).

AT WORK ON HIS JOB?

"The events preceeding Oswald's arrest was sketched in by a Dallas detective, Ed Hicks. He said Oswald was at work at his job on the fifth floor from which the fatal shots were fired. Shortly before the Presidential motorcade was to pass by the warehouse, a co-worker said, 'Oswald, let's go see the President.'"

"Oswald answered, 'no, you go down and send the elevator back up.'" (N. Y. Post Nov. 24)

ON THE TOP FLOOR?

"An elevator operator, the chief said, recalled having taken Oswald to the top floor before the motorcade passed by." (N. Y. Times, Nov. 24)

STOPPED OUTSIDE THE BUILDING?

"Oswald emerged from the building after the shooting. He was then stopped by a Dallas officer, who was apparently unaware that the shots had come from the warehouse. Oswald told him, Hicks related, that he worked in the depository and was going out to see what was happening."-- (N. Y. Post, Nov. 24).

IN A CORNER OF THE BUILDING?

"A police officer, immediately after the assassination, ran in the building and saw this man in a corner and tried to arrest him; but the manager of the building said he was an employee and it was all right. Every other employee was located but this defendant... A description and name of him went out by police to look for him". (New York Times, Nov. 26).

IN THE LUNCHROOM?

"The first officer to reach the six-story building, Lieut. Curry said, found Oswald among other persons in a lunchroom. He said the building manager identified Oswald as an employee of the book-distribution concern that used the building. Oswald was not questioned then. (New York Times, Nov. 24).

OR WHERE? ...

"There were small conflicts in times and details as federal and state officials pieced together the tragic story. Mrs. R. C. Roberts, who works at the rooming house where Oswald lives, said he dashed in soon after 12:45 P.M. Police said the suspect was seen in the Texas Schoolbook Depository Building, from which the sniper fired, 12 blocks from his rooming house at 12:45." (N. Y. World Telegram, Nov. 23).

POLICE SAID.....

"After about five hours of questioning Oswald acknowledged that he was in the schoolbook warehouse at the time a bullet, fired from a Mauser rifle equipped with a sharp-shooter's telescopic sight,..." (N. Y. Journal American, Nov. 23).

...AND POLICE SAID:

"Police said Oswald was in the building when the motorcade went past. Oswald denied it. He said he was at the

movies in the Texas Theatre in Oak Cliff." (New York World Telegram, Nov. 23).

2. The Gun:

GERMAN MAUSER?

"The rifle which killed the President was a 7.65 mm. Mauser, the military weapon made in Germany long before world war II, first produced in 1891, and made obsolete by other Mauser models adopted in 1895 and 1909.

"Pictures of the murder weapon show it to be well-preserved and fitted with a high-mounted telescope sight of moderate cost....

"The Mauser rifle is not automatic; it requires the shooter to operate a bolt to fire each round." (N. Y. World Telegram, Nov. 23).

AN ITALIAN RIFLE? OSBCURE ORIGIN?

"Captain Fritz said it was of obscure foreign origin, possibly Italian, of about 1940 vintage, and of an unusual, determined caliber." (N. Y. Times, Nov. 23).

"He said Oswald bought the Italian-made assassination rifle last March from a Chicago mail order firm, at a cost of slightly more than \$12.00." (N. Y. Journal American, Nov. 24).

5.4?

"The assassination rifle was an Italian 5.4mm. Carcano bolt action weapon with a 4-power telescopic sight." (N. Y. World Telegram, Nov. 25).

6.5? LATE MILITARY ISSUE?

(Description of rifle shown in a photo of a mail order catalogue.): "6.5 ITALIAN CARBINE. Late military issue. Only 40" overall. Weighs 7 lbs...turned down bolt." (N. Y. Herald Tribune, Nov. 25). (Other reports indicated the rifle was Argentinian or Australian).

...OR NONE OF THESE?

CBS Television news reported on the afternoon of November 25th that a movie made of the assassination showed that three shots hit President Kennedy and Governor Connolly in a period of "five seconds". If a bolt action rifle was used by the assassin--whether Mauser, Carcano or any other make--this means the assassin would have had to take aim, fire, pull the bolt to eject the shell, take aim again, fire again, etc., and take aim and fire a third time, all within five seconds. He would have had to do all this without reducing the accuracy of his shots--at a target moving 25 miles per hour!

A rifle like the one that killed President Kennedy might be able to fire three shots in two seconds, a gun expert indicated after tests.

The elapsed time from the moment Mr. Kennedy was first struck until the car disappeared in an underpass was about five seconds.

(FROM DALLAS)

N. Y. TIMES 11/27/63

The Italian newspaper, Corriere Lombardo of Milan, said yesterday that if the Model 38 were used and that if more than one shot were fired "there must have been a second attacker."

In France, the Paris Jour said that a nonautomatic rifle could not have been used to fire two bullets into President Kennedy and one into Gov. John B. Connally Jr. of Texas.

In Vienna, the Olympics champion shot, Hubert Hammerer, said that the initial shot could have been made under the conditions in Dallas when Mr. Kennedy was killed. But he considered it unlikely that one man could have triggered three shots within five seconds with the weapon used, according to Re...

(FROM NEW YORK)

WHERE WAS THE GUN?

"The Dallas Sheriff's Department said a rifle had been found in a staircase on the fifth floor of the building near the scene of the assassination. (N. Y. World Telegram, Nov. 22).

"The rifle was found near a sixth-floor window of the warehouse shortly after the crime." (N. Y.

Times, Nov. 24).

"Under the fifth-floor staircase was the murder weapon--a 7.65 Mauser with a telescopic sight." (N.Y. Post, Nov. 22).

"The 7.65 (roughly 30-caliber) bolt action mauser German army rifle with four-power sniperscope was found tucked among books on that floor". (N.Y. World Telegram, Nov. 23).

"The gun was hidden on this same floor behind some boxes and bookcases." (N.Y. Times, Nov. 26).

Marksmanship:

"Oswald, an expert marksman in the Marine Corps..." (New York Herald Tribune, Nov. 25).

"As Marines go, Lee Harvey Oswald was not highly regarded as a rifleman." (N.Y. Times, Nov. 23).

3. Patrolman Tippet:

SHOT TWICE?

"Patrolling in Oak Cliff was Officer J. D. Tippet, 38... He was about five blocks from the Texas Theater..."

"Tippet fell to the street, shot twice. How he accosted his slayer is not known." (N.Y. World Telegram & Sun, Nov. 23).

SHOT THREE TIMES? WHILE WALKING?

"...three witnesses saw a police officer... Officer Tippet motioned to him or said something to him. He walked up to the car. Officer Tippet stepped out of the car and started around it. He shot him three times and killed him." (N.Y. Times, Nov. 26).

...OR IN THE THEATER?

"Oswald was chased into a movie theater by a patrolman who was shot to death, the police said, by the suspect. Another policeman subdued Oswald, who was 24 years old.

"Within moments (of the search of the building) the police received a tip that a man in a brown shirt had just dashed into a movie theater a short distance from the building where the rifle was found, the Texas School Book Depository.

"Patrolman J. D. Tippet and M. N. MacDonald ran into the rear of the theater in close pursuit. When they spotted the man, Patrolman Tippet fired a shot. It was returned by the suspect, identified as Oswald.

"The Patrolman was hit by the return fire and died instantly. Patrolman MacDonald rushed Oswald and grappled with him in the seats. (N.Y. Times, Nov. 23, City Edition).

OR WAS IT LIKE THIS...?

Within hours of this last report, the N.Y. Times published a totally different report of events in the theater, with no mention of the first report:

"Then another call came to police headquarters from Julie Postal, cashier of the Texas Theater at 231 West Jefferson Boulevard, 6 blocks from the scene of the policeman's slaying.

"She said an usher had told her that a man had just entered the theater and was acting peculiarly.

"The investigating police officers were dispatched to the theater. They began checking patrons, starting at the front of the house.

"One of the officers, Sgt. Jerry Hill, said that when they came to Oswald, sitting in the rear, four

seats in from the aisle, the suspect jumped up and exclaimed: 'This is it!'" (N.Y. Times, Nov. 23, Late City Edition).

4. Fingerprints:

NO PRINTS....

"Police also found the imported rifle with the telescopic sight which fired the fatal bullet into Kennedy's brain. They said there were no fingerprints on it." (N.Y. World Telegram, Nov. 23).

NO COMMENT....

"Wade would not say whether any fingerprints had been found on the high-power rifle, a 7.65 Mauser." (N.Y. Post, Nov. 24).

....NO DOUBT

"Fingerprints of Oswald, Wade added, also were found on the foreign-made rifle..." (N.Y. Post, Nov. 25).

"Mr. Wade said that the Dallas police had obtained a palm print from the rifle that matched Oswald's hand." (N.Y. Times, Nov. 26).

"The evidence produced by the FBI, the local police and the Secret Service, included finger and palm prints showing that Oswald was near the window where the assassin's bullet was fired." (N.Y. Times, Nov. 25).

"The palm print was identical with the right palm print of Oswald, said Mr. Shanklin." (Dallas FBI Director) --- (N.Y. Times, Nov. 25).

FBI Disputes DA On Rifle Palm Print

Scripps-Howard Newspapers

DALLAS, Nov. 25.—There is a behind-the-scenes rift today between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade after Wade last night gave reporters and TV viewers across the nation "unconfirmed information" that appeared to clinch the fact that Lee Harvey Oswald was President Kennedy's killer.

Wade said Oswald's palm print was found on the metal of the rifle which killed the President. Federal authorities have confided that no readable print was found on the murder weapon when it was flown to Washington for laboratory study. Dallas police authorities, who were in close contact with Wade for more than an hour before he made his national TV appearance, urged him not to disclose evidence compiled against Oswald at the time.

Dallas Det. Fritz, who has been in the extensive investigation into the President's murder, wanted to keep compiling all material evidence and present it in mid-January during the trial of Jack Ruby, who yesterday shot and killed Oswald in the Dallas police station basement.

Wade ticked off a long list of "hard" evidence against Oswald, but his statement that Oswald's palm print had been found on the foreign-made murder rifle was the most conclusive piece of evidence he presented.

"Hard" Evidence

Wade said he was making the evidence public because he had been getting "phone calls all day long" from all parts of the world seeking proof that Oswald was President Kennedy's assassin, after Oswald, the only suspect, was murdered.

Even those who believe or would like to believe that Oswald is guilty cannot defend the treatment he was given. The noted trial lawyer Emile Zola Berman, quoted in the New York Journal American of November 26th, first pointed out that none of the so-called evidence against Oswald was conclusive, and then declared:

"All that I am saying is that under the law he was presumed to be innocent and entitled to a fair trial. This is no longer possible and

we are left only with the unilateral statement of the district attorney that he was the guilty man."

Editorials in every daily newspaper and papers all over the country were sharply critical of what the N. Y. World Telegram & Sun called, "An Outrageous Miscarriage of Justice."

Who ever is guilty of pulling the trigger in the assassination of Kennedy, the police force of Dallas and the FBI stand exposed as incompetent security guards at best. At worst, there is evidence pointing to an official assassination plot.

Some of the questions which remain unanswered are:

- 1) Why didn't the Secret Service, the FBI or the Dallas police keep an eye on all suspicious elements in the community, who were possible assassins? Why didn't they have Oswald under surveillance if he was such an obvious suspect? And why didn't they have the open right-wing fascists elements in Dallas -- who had given out leaflets attacking Kennedy on the morning of his assassination -- under surveillance?
- 2) Why wasn't Oswald apprehended in the building from which the assassin fired -- if indeed, he was in the building? And if he wasn't in the building why wasn't the man who really fired the fatal shot apprehended?
- 3) Why was Ruby allowed to kill Oswald? Or why was he set up to kill Oswald?
- 4) Did the FBI question Oswald, as reported, about a week before the assassination, and if so, why?

N. Y. TIMES NOVEMBER 25, 1963

by Valachi Guard Recalled
 id. There was disgust, too, with sh
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 as like Joe Valachi but they let the
 id whole world know where this
 p. Oswald was going?"
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 ce vinced one woman on East p
 ce "..... 6th Street of the utter C

N. Y. TIMES NOVEMBER 26, 1963

Called a Police "Buff"
 NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 26
 (UPI)—A former business as-
 sociate of Jack Ruby said last
 night he believed Ruby had
 killed Lee H. Oswald to avenge
 the slaying of a Dallas police-
 man rather than President
 Kennedy.
 "Patriotic he wasn't, a police
 buff he was," said Herbert C. D.
 Kelly, once part owner of the
 Carousel Club in Dallas.
 "Ruby wasn't very interest-
 in politics, I doubt that he
 voted."

5) Why was the route of the Presidential motorcade changed to bring the President's car down Elm Street, directly passed the sniper's window?

"In view of possible hostility on the part of right-wing extremists, one group proposed that the Presidential motorcade proceed from the Dallas airport at a fast clip directly to the building where Kennedy was to address a luncheon.

"Instead, the motorcade made a roundabout 10-mile tour of downtown Dallas and the neighborhood where the sniper lurked."

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Who made the decision to change the route, and who knew about it? The most direct route for the motorcade would have been straight down Main Street, yet the cars "turned right to head directly toward the book depository, then turned left under the sniper's window." (N. Y. Herald Tribune, Nov. 24).

These questions and others like them will not evaporate. If suspicions of a fascist plot can arise simply from a careful reading of the published newspaper reports, those in high places in Washington undoubtedly know the truth. Whether or not they will do anything about it is another question, but there is every likelihood that we will see a sharp power struggle developed in the coming period.

Johnson has already ordered a full investigation by the FBI, which may indicate something about where the new President stands in this intrigue. Texas Attorney General Waggoner Carr has ordered a state probe into the mess. The New York Times is calling for an impartial federal investigation. It seems that who controls the fact-finders in this case may also control the facts.

One thing is clear: the Johnson Administration will need something to cover up its policies of wage-freeze, appeasement of the dixiecrats, tax write-offs for big business and continued genocide in Vietnam.

If the administration makes no move against the open fascist forces in Dallas and the rest of the country it will be encouraging them to more terror and assassinations.

Kennedy's assassination and the criminal behavior of the lawmen have shaken the U.S. policies

of the lawmen have shaken the U.S. ruling structure to its roots. In the power struggle ahead, the American — people may well be exposed to still more shocks shattering the phony front of the "Free World." When thieves fall out, honest men can learn alot.

POLICE PROTECTION

Dorothy Kilgallen, N. Y. Journal American 11/26/63



Photo by Jack Jones. Copyright The Dallas Morning News, 1963

AS A TOKEN OF ESTEEM, I give to President Johnson the information that his countrymen are gravely concerned about this happening. The killing of President Kennedy shocked and grieved them, but the murder of Oswald made them bitter, ashamed and a little afraid. People who have never been to Texas, who were miles away from the place where it happened, feel queasy, as if they had just walked away from a lynching.

The case is closed, is it? Well, Tex, write a footnote for me will you?

I'd like to know how in a big smart town like Dallas,

a man like Jack Ruby—a shady operator of a strip-tease honky tonk—could stroll in and out of police headquarters as if it were a health club at a time when a small army of law-enforcers, including the Texas Rangers, were keeping a "tight security guard" on the blackest criminal since John Wilkes Booth.

★

SECURITY—what a word for it! Ruby had been hanging around the scene of the interrogation since Friday, and the police knew him and knew who he was, and everyone knew he habitually carried a gun, but they didn't even frisk him before they let him in to watch the excitement.

What's the answer to that one, Tex? The police check the credentials of the reporters and the guys pushing the television cameras around, but good ole Jack is such a buddy he just blends in with the scenery and they plumb forget to ask him to check his gun at the door.



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