

From Dallas to Watergate:

**LEON
JAWORSKI**

JFK: Jaworski was appointed as Special Counsel to the Texas Court of Inquiry on December 2, 1963. When LBJ was talked out of a Texas probe, Jaworski became an informal adviser to the Commission and a press flak for them. His speech to the Trial Lawyers convention in March of '64 could have been written by David Belin: "I have been impressed by the thoroughness of the work performed by the staff serving the commission." On Oswald he sounded like Posner: "When interrogated by the authorities he was surly, arrogant and scoffed at their efforts to discuss the assassination with him. 'I know my rights,' he sneered." Jaworski also conveyed messages from accommodating Texas reporters volunteering to cover-up Oswald's ties to intelligence. In the same time period, Jaworski was one of the trustees of the M. D. Anderson Foundation which had been a secret conduit for CIA money since 1958.

WATERGATE: Seemed to have his mind made up five months before his appointment as special prosecutor. In May '73 praised the press and Judge Sirica and said that people in "high official positions" had resorted to trickery, and abominable behavior. Purposefully ignored specific actions of the original break-in by saying that "Nixon created an atmosphere around the White House" that made it seem proper. Resorted to some highly questionable tactics by letting lower level people like David Young off in exchange for questionable testimony against bigger fish like Ehrlichman. In 1981, Reagan recognized his "valuable" service by appointing him to the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board along with Admiral Thomas Moorer, another Nixon antagonist who employed a spy—Charles Radford—in the White House.

**PAUL
GAYNOR**

JFK: Chief of the Security Research Staff (SRS) component of the CIA's Office of Security. SRS's primary function was to seek out and expose security risks to the CIA. Known in the agency for his file on homosexuals who could be blackmailed, as well as for his interest in the notion of a "Manchurian Candidate," it is significant that he was in charge of the SRS Oswald files. Another person actively involved in handling Oswald's file in the CIA was James Jesus Angleton, former Counterintelligence Chief for CIA. Interestingly, when Angleton made his very famous comment "A mansion has many rooms ... I'm not privy to who struck John," it was Gaynor to the rescue. In congressional testimony that was "discovered" after Angleton's comment, Gaynor had allegedly dropped the line "who struck John" and explained it away as CIA code for "all the details." But given that Gaynor's job at CIA was to protect against the kind of security leaks that Angleton's comment suggested, it seems a tad too convenient that testimony predating Angleton's faux pas surfaced after the fact to negate the impact of Angleton's amazing statement. And isn't it curious that Angleton never availed himself of this simple explanation when given the opportunity.

WATERGATE: A friend of James McCord's. After the break-in, McCord wrote Gaynor notes from jail, signed only "Jim." Howard Osborn, Director of the Office of Security, recognized McCord's handwriting and wanted to turn over these notes to those investigating the break-in. Helms said don't. Gaynor was also a friend of the cop Shoffler who just happened to be the nearest car to the break-in when the police call came; who just happened to have pulled a double shift that night, even though his birthday was the next morning, and he was going to join his family to celebrate it out of state.

**RICHARD
HELMS**

JFK: In the Kennedy White House, presciently kept his nose completely clean on the Bay of Pigs. When it failed, he took arch-rival Dick Bissell's job as covert ops chief. While there, he deliberately kept the Kennedys in the dark about the ongoing plots to kill Castro. Upon creation of the Warren Commission, he became chief liaison with that body while being supplied with paperwork by James Angleton. Those two, plus Commissioner Dulles seem to have formed a bond to hide Oswald's real career from both the public and Earl Warren. Also seems to have been involved in the ridiculing and scuttling of the Garrison investigation a few years later. A recent anecdote typifies Helms. On the set of the 1993 PBS special on Oswald, he still denied that the Company had debriefed him on his return from Russia in 1962. When the camera stopped, John Newman asked him what would have been so awful if they would have? That was their job. Helms thought about it, then said, "You're right. Start the camera, this time I'll say we did interview him."

WATERGATE: As with the JFK case, and in spite of a mountain of evidence, has always denied any CIA involvement in the episode. Yet, by all accounts was quite close to both Hunt and McCord while they were in the Agency. Under oath he tried to downplay his relationship to both. Denied to Haldeman and Pat Gray that any of the burglars were on CIA payroll at the time. Yet, Martinez was on a CIA retainer, and he, and probably Hunt, reported to CIA case officers. According to Robert Mullen, it was Helms who foisted Hunt on him at the Mullen Company. The first lawyer Hunt called after the arrests also worked at the Mullen Company. There are two reports, by Carl Rowan and Andrew St. George, that Helms knew of the break-in soon after the arrests, before the suspects had been identified. Also, Helms tried to keep letters that McCord had written to himself and Paul Gaynor at CIA from going to Justice Department investigators.

It's Deja Vu All Over Again

JAMES MCCORD

JFK: When McCord was (dutifully?) arrested at the Watergate, and then became the first witness against the White House, his cultivated image was that of an Agency technical expert and deeply religious man. The more one delves into McCord's 19 year CIA career, the more stilted this seems. Fred Thompson found out that McCord worked SRS (Security Research Staff) within the Office of Security. OS has more domestic functions than any other CIA division. SRS was even more secret, and worked pure counter-intelligence against security risks. McCord, along with David Phillips, originated the CIA counter program to the FPCC. It is very likely that McCord knew who Oswald really was. His immediate superior at SRS was Paul Gaynor who had one of the two most extensive files on Oswald (the other being Angleton's Counterintelligence unit.) And although CIA tried to convey the fact that McCord's prime responsibilities were at CIA HQ in Virginia, there are sources that place McCord at JM/WAVE and Mexico City in the 60's. As Angleton said, "McCord was an operator, not merely a technician."

WATERGATE: When McCord was working for CREEP, the photo on the wall was not Nixon's but Helms'. It was inscribed "To Jim/ With deep appreciation" (emphasis in original). McCord then seems to have been hiring CIA retirees and detailing them to White House Secret Service duty. Some of them seem to have been assigned to the taping system. Inadvertently (?) tipped off both the Democrats and FBI that the break-in was being contemplated. Unknown to the rest of the burglars, seems to have hired friend Lou Russell to monitor the break-in. Another friend, Lee Pennington, longtime SRS contract agent, went to McCord's home and burned any evidence connecting McCord to CIA. Gordon Liddy states that he got sick of McCord's bitterness in jail. Somehow Liddy couldn't put this together with McCord's bad tape job and subsequent letter to Sirica to see the big picture. McCord, more than anyone else, was responsible not only for the burglars being caught, but for broadening the scandal. Like Oswald, one can make a strong case for McCord being an agent provocateur inside Nixon's camp.

E. HOWARD HUNT

JFK: Worked 21 years for the CIA and had strong ties to the operational "Old Boys" side of the Agency, namely Dulles, Helms, Angleton, and Phillips. He and Phillips both worked the Miami, New Orleans, Dallas corridor in preparation for the Bay of Pigs. Both were crushed when Kennedy failed to escalate the invasion. Since Hunt was fluent in Spanish, he then worked at organizing many of the Cuban exiles in the southeast into Operation MONGOOSE. Reported to have been at the Balter Building in 1962, home of Guy Banister and Sergio Arcacha Smith. His itinerary in '62-'63— JM/WAVE, New Orleans, Mexico City— make it likely that he knew who Oswald was. Close friend of Manuel Artime, Cuban exile leader who hated Kennedy. Incredibly, Hunt still can't come up with a solid alibi as to his whereabouts on 11/22/63.

WATERGATE: Supposedly retired from CIA in 1970. Problem here is he had retired twice before. Before he quit, asked Colson for a job in White House. When he couldn't comply, Helms placed him at Robert Mullen's CIA cover firm. While a supposed ad man, had covert security clearance (see p. 21), implying operational use. He and Bob Bennett assiduously ingratiated themselves with Colson, finally working Hunt into the White House. Immediately got into contact with some of his Cuban exile friends like Barker and Martinez for some black bag excursions. But for two years, every operation Hunt instigated either failed flatly or backfired disastrously. Even his loyal Cubans noticed that the covert operator's professionalism had wilted on his way to the White House. This record contrasts obviously and interestingly with his long service under Tracy Barnes domestic ops unit during which the top people above him were pleased with his work. At the Watergate, while McCord bungled the mechanics of the break-in, Hunt ensured that the arrest record would lead back to the White House. And his previous "failures" (such as the break-in of Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office) guaranteed that the scandal would broaden.

BUD FENSTERWALD

JFK: Came from wealthy Tennessee family and opened a D.C. area law firm. Seems to be open to debate whether he worked for or with Walter Sheridan on the Long Committee and the Three Eyes (Intertal) case. Was friendly with Bill Boxley during the Garrison investigation. Later opened up the Committee to Investigate Assassinations to press for a new probe. Founded the AARC to house documents on the case. His management of that office was open to question. Worked with Mike Ewing (Blakey's acolyte) on his book. Was at the Roscoe White fiasco (along with John Stockwell) in Dallas. Found that classic piece of CIA disinformation, the Torbitt Document, compelling. Always held that Oswald was ONI.

WATERGATE: Late in the proceedings against McCord, Fensterwald replaced Gerald Alch as McCord's new defense attorney. (He was also a lawyer for John Paisley, James Earl Ray, and Mitch Werbell). The reason: Alch suggested the (truthful) defense that the Watergate break-in had CIA involvement. Fensterwald then switched strategy and reportedly said, "We're going after the President." Even more tantalizing, Fensterwald cashed checks through his Committee to Investigate Assassinations (CtIA) paid to Lou Russell from James McCord. This makes McCord either a contributor to Fensterwald's Kennedy research group, or Fensterwald the paymaster to Russell, who monitored the break-in for McCord. At the end of a McCord interview before the Ervin committee, one of only two copies of McCord's statement was missing. Fensterwald gave it to Ervin's investigator. The investigator said he gave it back. After a search, and about to be asked to swear that he did not have it, Fensterwald fumbled the copy out from an inner jacket pocket.