

**Interview with Jim Garrison, District Attorney for Parish of Orleans, Louisiana,
May 27th, 1969**

(The journalist and his or her affiliation are not indicated in this file reproduced at the National Archives and released on June 7, 2004)

About Jim Garrison, adapted from the jacket of his book *On the Trail of the Assassins* (Skyhorse Publishing, 1988, 2008):

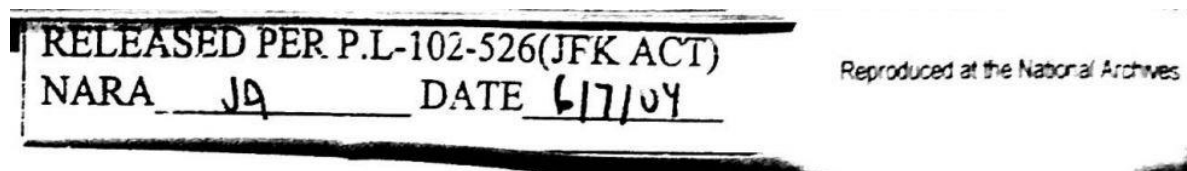
On the Trail of the Assassins—the primary source material for Oliver Stone’s hit film *JFK*—is Garrison’s own account of his investigations into the background of Lee Harvey Oswald and the assassination of President Kennedy, and his prosecution of Clay Shaw in the trial that followed.

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy continues to haunt the American psyche and stands as a turning point in the nation’s history. The Warren Commission rushed out its report in 1964, but questions continue to linger: Was there a conspiracy? Was there a coup at the highest levels of government?

On March 1, 1967, New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison shocked the world by arresting local businessman Clay Shaw for conspiracy to murder the president. His alleged co-conspirator, David Ferrie, had been found dead a few days before. Garrison charged that elements of the United States government, in particular the CIA, were behind the crime. From the beginning, his probe was virulently attacked in the media and violently denounced from Washington. His office was infiltrated and sabotaged, and witnesses disappeared and died strangely. Eventually, Shaw was acquitted after the briefest of jury deliberation and the only prosecution ever brought for the murder of President Kennedy was over. In 1979, after Shaw’s death, Richard Helms, Director of Covert Operations in 1963 (Director of Central Intelligence 1966 to 1973), admitted under oath to the US Senate’s Church Committee that Clay Shaw had worked for the CIA. This statement vindicated Garrison and showed that Shaw had committed perjury when he said in his trial that he had never had any association with the CIA.

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**Some Unauthorized Comments on the State of the Union: Questions and Answers
Concerning the Assassination of President Kennedy and Its Implications**

Q.1. Mr. Garrison, you have been kind enough to grant me this first interview that you have given any newspaperman since the verdict in the Clay Shaw trial. Can you tell me why you have decided at this time to make a public statement?

It has not been possible for a long time to make any public statement to the national press in America without having it distorted or completely misunderstood. Yours was the first request from Europe since the Clay Shaw trial, so I decided to see if there was somewhere in the world where it is possible to have the truth about the assassination printed. Europeans have been through the phenomenon—unbelievable to those first undergoing the experience—of the warfare state and its concealed as well as its apparent manifestations of repression.

Q.2. Who killed President Kennedy?

President Kennedy was killed in a coup d'état—a government sponsored assassination. The preparation for the assassination and the creation of a tableau to make it appear to be a meaningless incident, caused by a single demented young man, were accomplished by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The CIA, it must be understood, had long since ceased to be merely an intelligence coordinating agency and had become, as well, the clandestine arm of the warfare interests in the United States government.

Q.3. What was the political objective of the people who conspired to kill the President of the United States in 1963?

The objective was to remove from office a man who was taking steps to end the Cold War, and who would have thereby reduced the economic and political power of the industrial warfare complex in America. The Cold War had become by far America's biggest business. The military industrial complex had become by far the most powerful force in America.

On the other hand, beginning with the Bay of Pigs disaster in Cuba, John Kennedy had acquired an early and significant disenchantment with the military-intelligence combine. The split grew larger by the time of the Cuban missile crisis when Kennedy refused to take the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (with the notable exception of General Shoup of the Marine Corps) to bomb Cuba. By the Summer of 1963 President Kennedy was on a clear collision course with the military-industrial complex—a collision course so ineluctable that, in retrospect, it is apparent that if one survived the other would not.

On September 1, 1963—against the advice of a majority of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—he caused to be signed the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in Moscow. He initiated the beginning of peace talks with Cuba.

Then, most unforgiveable of all to the proponents of maintaining peace by violence, President Kennedy began the removal of troops from Viet Nam. Between August 1, 1963, and October 1, 1963, he reduced the then small contingent of military advisors from 15,000 down to 14,000. He ordered Secretary of Defense McNamara to have all of the American troops out of Viet Nam by 1965. This would have left no foothold in Asia and would have eliminated the best market on the horizon for military hardware—and would have eliminated as well a major source of the monstrous Pentagon-CIA power in Washington.

What John Kennedy was really doing was to reverse the steady thrust of American foreign policy of the proceeding years which had resulted in the establishment of a Pax Americana throughout much of the world. He had begun a program of steady reduction in American military power—a program of abrogation not merely inconceivable but unacceptable to what had become the center of gravity of power in the United States. While his course would have

done much to end the Cold War and would have been a most important advance in the interest of peace, such accomplishments were in direct opposition to the interests of the most powerful force in America—the warfare interests which repeatedly urge us to the expenditure of more and more billions in defense of “national security.” Consequently, they disposed of the president in an ambush at Dealey Plaza in Dallas.

The Central Intelligence Agency carefully set Lee Harvey Oswald up as the scapegoat by assigning him to engage in “pro-Castro” demonstrations in New Orleans. The deed in Dallas was done as simply as removing the head of a chicken, and a fraudulent federal investigation was followed by a fraudulent inquiry by a commission of government-oriented dignitaries.

The real function of the FBI investigation and the Warren Commission inquiry was to conceal the involvement of United States intelligence agents in the murder of John Kennedy, although in fairness it must be stated that it is quite possible that not all of the members of the Warren Commission were aware of how they were being used. It is not likely that such mitigation fairly can be applied to Mr. Allen Dulles, the former head of the CIA who opposed publication of the results of the Warren Commission inquiry.

The American press unwittingly disseminated the series of fraudulent official pronouncements and news leaks to the people of the country so that the president’s death appeared to be just an unfortunate accident which occurred during the course of a parade.

Actually, Oswald clearly did not shoot anyone that day nor was there the slightest evidence to that effect against him even as late as the time when he in turn was removed. However, this mattered little because by then the false information from the government, having been whirled around the world by the electronic media, had jelled into history. It was at this point, when the scapegoat’s voice was stilled forever, that being accused of assassinating the president became very much the same thing as having assassinated him. In either case, the funeral ceremony was the same.

Q.4. Have you any reason to suspect that the murders of President Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King are linked?

In terms of probability, they are all linked and have all been authorized by the same force—the military industrial coalescence which now dominates America. The particular missions apparently were all accomplished or instigated by the Central Intelligence Agency—the hidden alter ego of our nominal democracy which, by virtue of its clandestine character, its totalitarian philosophy and its secret marriage to the high command of the military is free to do many things our traditions would never tolerate. Each of these victims were effective opponents of the Viet Nam war and each of them had a large following in the United States. Thus, the warfare complex in recent years quite apparently has accomplished the systematic elimination of eloquent opponents of the Viet Nam war, such men being more genuinely dangerous to the warfare machinery itself than the worldwide communist conspiracy with which it justifies its expensive existence. This has not been apparent to most people in America because the mass news media will not print statements which suggest that such a thing could happen here.

The timing of Senator Kennedy’s assassination indicates that he had to be removed because it was apparent that he would be another John Kennedy—which is to say that he shared President Kennedy’s view that the Pentagon should not be determining the foreign policy of

the United States. Within minutes after he won the California primary he was shot by a “lone assassin” and a major opponent of the Viet Nam war was removed from the presidential race. While the *modus operandi* in Robert Kennedy’s murder is different from that in John Kennedy’s assassination, this is merely a matter of detail to a powerful intelligence agency.

Even in Robert Kennedy’s assassination, however, once again we find that international factor which does not quite fit the rest of the picture. Once again we encounter a man who—however joyless his boyhood might have been—has a background of international travel not shared by most Americans. Just as Lee Oswald had been to Russia and Mexico, and James Earl Ray had been to Canada and Portugal and England, Sirhan Sirhan had traveled from the Mediterranean to Los Angeles. The “loneliness” of our assassins seems not to have prevented them from seeing the world more than most lonely people do.

In the case of Martin Luther King, the *modus operandi* in many cases resembles that used in John Kennedy’s murder. The similarities between the Kennedy and King assassinations—the obviously professional marksmanship, the prompt government announcements prior to any investigation that no conspiracy existed, the transparent use of scapegoats, and the immediate dissemination of jackstraws of misleading data—are too familiar to require elaboration. In my considered judgment there is no doubt that the murder of John Kennedy and Martin Luther King were accomplished by the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States—an agency which specializes in deception and is also in the business of assassination,

I would add to that observation that it is a probability that Senator Robert Kennedy was removed by the same organization although by a slightly different technique—this being more likely a case of instigation and motivation rather than an apparatus project.

At the present the Cold War, including the Viet Nam conflict, is a business grossing eighty billion dollars a year in America. The men who profit from this business and the men who have acquired incredible power as a result of the perennial war tensions will not tolerate for very long any peace talk from individuals whose charisma or whose political power make them a threat to the continuation of the economic and power benefits of the Cold War. Inasmuch as this force, powerful as it is, is not equipped to assert itself in any public forum, it must physically remove those who can in order to survive.

Furthermore, this force, which presently is in control of America, believes that violence is the ultimate solution to any problem. This is why the present period is a most dangerous one not merely for America but for the world.

Q.5. How would you have handled the investigation of the Martin Luther King assassination, if it had occurred within your jurisdiction?

It is almost impossible to conduct an effective investigation of a sophisticated intelligence operation with ordinary law enforcement machinery. All you really see are the results: a torn head or severed vertebrae, followed by the seizure of a scapegoat and the distribution of an endless amount of irrelevant information to cause confusion in the minds of those who might attempt a serious inquiry.

For example, the only reason we succeeded in our investigation—and we did succeed, although the national media has very effectively made it appear otherwise—was because we had a great deal of luck at the outset.

We literally stumbled across Central Intelligence Agency employees in New Orleans who were helping to set Lee Oswald up by giving him intelligence assignments which make it appear as if he were a communist. With regard to the Martin Luther King assassination, the first thing which would have to be done would be to discount all pronouncements concerning the matter by the United States government since they are plainly designed to conceal the facts of the assassination. The prompt announcements from the Justice Department that no conspiracy existed should be recognized as an early indication that there indeed was a conspiracy. As the result of what we learned the hard way in the assassination of President Kennedy, I would be inclined to evaluate most of the “information” which has been disseminated in connection with King’s assassination as intentional misinformation manufactured by the government intelligence apparatus involved. This is plainly a standard intelligence technique, and a most effective one, to distract the attentions of those individuals who do not accept the basic cover explanation of the assassination. The result is that even those who seek to inquire and dig below the surface end up with a complicated jumble of facts which lead only to confusion and, ultimately, to abandonment of the problem by persons who otherwise might have analyzed it effectively.

The military air base near Memphis would be a worthwhile area of inquiry because the likelihood is that the assassination team—and I do not mean the scapegoat nor individuals traveling cross-country in white Ford Mustangs—most likely would have been removed from the area by plane from that air base. Even here, however, the pickings would be slim because it is unlikely that there would be any records of its departure.

Of course, all eyewitnesses would be interviewed, although any descriptions obtained would be of persons long since transported to another part of the country.

I might add that anyone seriously attempting such an inquiry would encounter escalating interference from the federal government. Their telephones would be monitored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. If they continued their investigative enterprise it would not be long before Internal Revenue agents appeared and informed them that an investigation for criminal violation of the income tax laws was being conducted against them.

Q.6. What happened in the Clay Shaw case in which he was charged with conspiracy to murder President Kennedy?

In the Clay Shaw case I learned the lesson that it is not possible to present a sophisticated clandestine intelligence operation in an Anglo-Saxon courtroom, in which—properly enough—the rules of procedure are designed to safeguard a variety of defendant’s rights. I would not change our system because I think that the highest importance should be attached to this emphasis on the protection of defendant’s rights and to the presumption of his innocence.

However, the elaborate camouflage and the clandestine nature of an intelligence operation make it virtually impossible to communicate in a forum of law the necessary cause and effect relative to the charge. If one, for example, considers a Len Deighton novel or a John le Carré novel about espionage, and then attempts in his mind to transfer it into a trial courtroom, he will find that it cannot be done. A jury simply expects to see more than what an intelligence operation has left for it to see, or expects to hear one of the participants break down and

confess his wrongdoing—and that doesn't happen because such participants are fearful of getting killed if they talk.

Ideally, the most effective reply to an intelligence assassination would be investigation by counter-intelligence machinery. However, when your own government is involved in the assassination, there is no counter-intelligence machinery to conduct the investigation. At all events, a county operation cannot effectively bring to trial within the county men who have participated in a national coup d'état.

Q.7. Clay Shaw has told the press that he was one of Kennedy's political supporters. It will be recalled that Oswald's murderer, Jack Ruby, said the same thing. From your own investigation, what was Shaw's political affiliation in November, 1963? Lee Harvey Oswald's? Jack Ruby's? David Ferrie's?

The political affiliation of individuals working for a powerful intelligence agency is not always relevant with regard to a single mission. In my judgment the primary motivating factor on the part of each individual involved in the assassination was simply the fact that he was participating in a mission. This has been particularly evident to us with regard to the agents of the federal government who penetrated our office and interfered with our efforts to get at the truth. There was no apparent concern on their part with regard to the fate that befell John Kennedy. They were each performing a mission.

To a technician working for a super-state, a mission is neither moral nor immoral—one performs it because he has received orders and because he likes his position as part of a powerful organization. Eichmann, for example, did not hate the Jews in Germany, although he transported millions of them to be killed. He was a technician, pleased with his role as part of a powerful and important operation. America has become a nation of Eichmanns. It has become a nation swarming with technicians executing orders from the headquarters of the warfare interests—and it does not make a great deal of difference to the technicians whether the orders concern the monitoring of telephones or the manufacture of napalm or the writing of articles confirming that the assassinations were caused by men with joyless childhoods.

Q. 8. Has the change in the administration in Washington [Johnson to Nixon] affected your relations with the federal agencies whose cooperation until now has been denied you?

There has been no change of any kind in the power base in Washington. There have been seeming changes, but the warfare machine and its extensive intelligence tentacles, domestic as well as foreign, remain untouched. Congress is free to debate concerning daylight savings time, and the president is free to re-paint the rooms of the White House any color he chooses, but there is not likely to be any diminution in the power of the warrior chieftains and their allies in the government.

The President of the United States is a transient official in the regard of the warfare conglomerate. His assignment is to act as master of ceremonies in the awarding of posthumous medals, to serve when needed as a salesman for the military hardware manufacturers, and to speak as often as possible about the nation's desire for peace.

He is not free to trespass on the preserve of the war interests nor even to acknowledge that such an organism exists. He is not free because of the collective power to remove the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff nor the heads of the Central Intelligence Agency and

the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He must re-appoint them because of their amazing efficiency. That is his assignment in the game. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff used to be required to be replaced every two years. No such change has been made since November 22nd, 1963. Nor has there ever been any mention in the mass media of the curious end of what once was not merely custom but a requirement of law. Apparently, like so much else that has happened since 1963, it is not newsworthy.

It must be understood that in the age of the Pax Americana, in the age of the eighty billion dollar a year military budget, control over foreign policy becomes the equivalent of control of the country. The power to make foreign policy continues to be a fief held feudally by the war interests. This was the essential meaning of the assassination of President Kennedy; that this power which holds America in its grip will not tolerate interference with its control of American foreign policy, with its programs of foreign military adventure and over-reaction to supposed external threats. The great injury done by the Warren Commission to this country was that it authenticated the transfer of the foreign policy-making power from the representatives of the people to these autocratic interests. It authenticated the conversion of the real government of the United States to an invisible government.

Q. 9. What was David Ferrie's role in the activities occurring in New Orleans?

David Ferrie, a talented pilot capable of handling almost any assignment with an airplane, had been a contract employee of the Central Intelligence Agency since the mid-1950's. He had flown for the CIA in Nicaragua and at Swan Island in the Caribbean. Prior to the Bay of Pigs he had trained Cuban pilots in Guatemala. He had made night flights into Cuba for the CIA with weapons and passengers on special assignments. On one such occasion Ferrie was stabbed in the stomach when they were almost trapped in Cuba.

Ferrie's relationship with Lee Oswald dates back to the 1950's when he was a captain in the Civil Air Patrol and Oswald was a cadet. In 1963, when Oswald returned to New Orleans from Dallas for his assignment to engage in "left wing" activities, he was seen frequently in Ferrie's company by a number of witnesses. When Oswald was busy with his "Fair Play for Cuba" activity he operated out of 544 Camp Street, the location of the office of Guy Banister, former head of the Chicago office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Banister also was engaged in clandestine activities for government intelligence, being involved in operations relating to the Caribbean area. When Oswald absent-mindedly printed the address of 544 Camp Street on the bottom of some of his literature he placed the government in a corner from which it has yet to extricate itself. Prior to Oswald's use of 544 Camp Street, David Ferric helped operate the "Cuban Revolutionary Front" from the same address. This was a Central Intelligence Agency operation with no serious support by the Cuban exiles in New Orleans.

On the evening of the assassination, Ferrie drove nine hours through a thunderstorm into Texas, later explaining that he made the trip to go ice-skating. On the afternoon of Saturday, November 23rd, 1963, he stood by a pay phone in a Houston skating rink where he made and received phone calls. That night he drove to Galveston. Ferrie was in Galveston Saturday night when Jack Ruby made his call there shortly before midnight.

During the course of the investigation by the New Orleans District Attorney's Office, just prior to his intended arrest, Ferrie suddenly died. The New Orleans coroner concluded that

death was due to natural causes. Prior to his death, however, Ferrie wrote two lengthy suicide notes, leaving one on his piano and one on his table. His signature on each note was typed.

Q.10. Was Clay Shaw connected with the intelligence apparatus of the United States government?

I would prefer not to make any direct comment about Mr. Shaw because he is still charged with perjury in testifying that he was not in association with Lee Harvey Oswald in New Orleans in 1963. Actually, there would be nothing legally wrong with my replying to the question. However, I would rather let the forthcoming perjury trial speak for itself.

Q.11. Was the International Trade Mart, which Clay Shaw managed for eighteen years, of any special interest to the government intelligence forces which you have described?

Yes. The International Trade Mart in 1963 was not an ordinary office building, although many of us in New Orleans were not aware of it at the time. The International Trade Mart, with the exception of a few offices, was a building virtually filled with foreign consuls, other representatives of foreign governments, import agencies, export agencies and CIA cover operations. Consequently, the forces which President Eisenhower described as the “industrial warfare complex” necessarily would regard control of such a building as a routine objective for domestic intelligence.

When our office stumbled across the fact that the director of this unusual building was having clandestine meetings with Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination, we stumbled across a governmental domestic intelligence operation, although we did not know it at the time. Needless to say, the federal pressure on our office ever since has been indescribable.

Although massive discreditation with regard to our efforts has been accomplished in the national press, the government pressures on us have not ended in any way. Steady probing continues in an apparent effort to determine what progress we have made concerning the involvement of the military-intelligence combine in the president’s assassination.

As for the International Trade Mart, this is now a new office building in a new location. Today it houses a much larger variety of occupants and is not as confined to foreign-connected offices. In 1963, however, it was a building the contents of which might well have been designed by Deighton or le Carré. Incidentally, this is the building shown behind Lee Oswald in most of the photographs of him giving out “Fair Play for Cuba” literature. It is also the building where Oswald got his steamship ticket to Europe, from which he went to Russia, in 1959.

Q.12. One of the mysteries about President Kennedy’s murder is just where the “lone assassin” theory originated.

It is common knowledge by now that most of the people in Dealey Plaza heard shooting from more than one direction, most of the shooting being heard from the grassy knoll to the president’s front. Yet if one examines the news service stories in the press several days after the assassination, the official account of the “lone assassin” to the rear is as firmly jelled as if no other facts had ever been available. The first dissemination of the “lone assassin” story was broadcast to Air Force One, carrying the new president back to the nation’s capital

shortly before 6:00 o'clock p.m. (EST) on the afternoon of the assassination. Yet at this time back in Dallas all of the evidence distinctly pointed to the involvement of a number of men in the president's ambush. The historic news that one man alone had done everything—and, inferentially therefore, there was no political meaning to the president's assassination—originated not in Dallas but in Washington, D . C.

The confusion of Dallas law enforcement authorities about the assassination did not interfere with the clear vision from Washington as to what the official solution was going to be. The amazingly prescient government broadcast to Air Force One told not only of the capture of the lonesome, motiveless assassin but added the good news that no one else was involved, that no conspiracy existed.

Announcing that a lone assassin did it all and that there was no conspiracy—on the very afternoon of the assassination, before any investigation had begun—was roughly equivalent to announcing the final score of a football game right after the opening kick-off.

The source of this prophetic announcement was the Joint Chiefs Communications Center in Washington, DC, from which the messages to the returning Air Force One were being transmitted.

By now the government has destroyed the original tape of this transmission just as it has destroyed everything which contradicts history's greatest fairy tale. However, the fact of the transmission was caught inadvertently and is recorded forever in Theodore White's "The Making of the President," 1964:

There is a tape-recording in the archives of the government which best captures the sound of the horrors as it waited for leadership. It is a recording of all the conversations in the air, monitored by the Signal Corps Midwestern center 'Liberty,' between Air Force One in Dallas, the Cabinet plane over the Pacific, the Joint Chiefs Communication Center in Washington. The voices wore superbly flat, calm, controlled, . . . one receives the ETA 6:00 P.M. Washington. It is a masking of emotionless voices in the air, performing with mechanical perfection. . .

Then later we read of the substance of the prophetic message from the Pentagon's communication center:

On the flight the party learned that there was no conspiracy, learned of the identity of Oswald and his arrest, and the president's mind turned to the duties of consoling the stricken and guiding the quick.

While the superbly flat, calm, controlled voices of our military were announcing that all was well and there was no conspiracy, the top law enforcement official back in Dallas was still under the impression that a number of men were involved. As late as the following morning, on November 23rd, District Attorney Henry Wade was quoted as saying that "... preliminary reports indicated more than one person was involved in the shooting. . ."

The District Attorney of Dallas did not yet know what the name of the game was. However, the intelligence machinery of the federal government could have told him. This invisible extension of the Pentagon, now the new seat of power in America, could have told him not only the name of the game but what the final score would be.

Q.13. When your investigation of the Kennedy assassination was announced in 1967, John J. McCloy, a member of the President's Commission headed by Earl Warren, made the comment, "We did not say that Oswald acted alone." He said that the Commission merely stated that no evidence of a conspiracy was brought to its attention but that the Commission realized "that some evidence might turn up in this matter and we know that time is a factor in the favor of someone hunting such evidence." Whereas the Warren Commission relied entirely on reports furnished by the investigators of government agencies, the District Attorney's Office in New Orleans has its own detectives. On the basis of the evidence they have uncovered in the last two years, how many people would you now arrest, if they were in your own jurisdiction, and what role did each play in the Kennedy assassination?

For a long time, I have tried to communicate the fact that the assassination of President Kennedy was a major government operation, more comparable in scope to the invasion of Inchon in the Korean War than to a lonely action by a random individual armed with an ancient gun and an obscure hate.

The New Orleans portion of the assassination was merely a small corner of the entire operation. However, we did catch hold of a part of that corner and my thought has been that if we kept our grip firm perhaps the press would ultimately acquire an understanding and pass on to the people what had happened in America. As it turned out, I over-estimated the interest of our national press in the truth. Among the many things the press has done to complicate matters has been to create the impression that this was a "New Orleans-based conspiracy," a tawdry scheme participated in by an odd cast of characters. Of course, such a misconception, by making the enterprise appear to be essentially meaningless, serves the interests of the United States government in concealing the coup d'état from the eyes of history.

In conclusion, I must answer your question by saying that so many people would have to be involved in the execution of President Kennedy that no single office as small as mine could pretend to define the scope of such a large federal operation in terms of numbers of individuals. As to jurisdiction, the primary jurisdiction is Washington, DC—and Washington, DC is still owned, for all practical purposes by the powers that authorized the assassination of John Kennedy. Nothing will be happening there except the continued effort to keep the truth from coming out.

Q.14. What has been the chief obstacle to the criminal investigation which you were conducting?

There have been two major obstacles. First, the United States government. Second, the American press. The first obstacle exists, of course, as the result of intention. The second exists because the American press by and large, is unaware of the great change which has occurred in the nature and character of the American government. Its inability to recognize the arrival of the warfare state is tragic because there is very little real hope of rescue from its hidden inhumanity and its tyranny so long as the press continues to believe that nothing is happening.

Q.15. The federal government has persistently resisted your attempts to examine the Kennedy autopsy documents now in the National Archives. Is it the government's position at this time that their use in a criminal proceeding for conspiracy to murder John F. Kennedy would

jeopardize the national security or is it argued that it might offend Mrs. Onassis [JKF's widow]?

The government's legal position in this matter has never been very clear to me but it is really irrelevant anyway. The release of genuine copies of the Kennedy autopsy photographs and autopsy X-rays indeed would jeopardize the national security—from within—because then everyone in America would realize that the government had been lying to the world about how John Kennedy was killed.

However, it is unlikely that such a contingency will occur. Just as the assassination was a professional intelligence operation, and just as the dissemination of misleading information has been a professional intelligence operation, so the processing of alleged “authentic documents” will be handled as a professional intelligence operation. The probability is that in the not-too-distant future documents purporting to be the Kennedy autopsy photographs and x-rays will be released. They will purport to show conclusively that the government's fiction of his murder by a lone assassin from behind is correct. If such documents are released by the federal government it will only be because they are professional forgeries produced by the Central Intelligence Agency, and by this time I expect that this part of the mission has been accomplished.

Q.16. During the Clay Shaw trial, Colonel Pierre Finck, the pathologist at the Kennedy autopsy, testified that the president's neck wound was never probed because “an Air Force Major General” directing the proceedings gave specific orders that this wound was not to be examined. He testified further that this general who appeared and took over the autopsy was not a doctor. Who was this officer, and has he ever given any explanation for this astonishing action at a time when criminal investigation of the case had just begun, and when determination of the number and direction of the shots fired necessarily would have been a principal objective of the autopsy?

It is unlikely that the true name of the Air Force Major General who took over the autopsy will ever be made known to anyone. The autopsy was a delicate situation, fraught with the potential of exposure. Consequently, the government had to have it supervised—not merely by a doctor but by an individual who knew what had to be kept hidden and what the official government fiction was going to be, a high-ranking individual with the power to forbid completion of the autopsy. The general ordered the pathologists conducting the autopsy not to examine the neck wound.

From the description of the civilian doctors at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, the neck wound was received from the front. Yet there was no corresponding exit wound to the rear of the neck. Of course, the immediate meaning of such evidence is that the federal investigation and the solemn Warren Commission inquiry were fakes. These facts give rise to interesting possibilities such as, for example, the possibility that a bullet is still lodged in the bony structure constituting the central core of President Kennedy's neck. Since such a bullet would necessarily be pointed to the rear of the president, this would have been somewhat embarrassing to the federal government and its official fiction of a lonely assassin shooting at the president from behind.

Whatever the government's problems were in this regard, they were solved by having a general appear at the autopsy and order the pathologists not to examine the neck. There was

no corresponding risk in letting the government technicians gaze at the head wound because that was an open wound caused by a bullet which had shattered, thus leaving them a certain amount of latitude in coming to a conclusion satisfactory to the authority above them. Consequently, they were allowed to examine the head wound to their hearts' content, as long as they didn't look at the neck. The result was that the autopsy was never a completed autopsy, and the neck wound was never examined.

Just as the principal objective of the Warren Commission was to conceal the involvement of the government intelligence in the assassination, the principal objective of the autopsy was to conceal the fact that the president had been struck by shots coming from in front of him.

An autopsy is supposed to be a search for truth by objective scientists. It is significant that early evidence that the government was not searching for the truth, but rather was concealing it, was accepted passively. Information concerning alteration of data in the original autopsy was accepted passively. The burning of his original autopsy notes by Dr. Humes was accepted passively. The discovery that a general arrived at the scene of the autopsy and ordered the pathologists not to examine a particular wound was accepted passively.

Here we have repeated instances of the destruction of truth by the exercise of totalitarian power. The passive acceptance of such occurrences by the press and the people is indicative of the super-state in which the government's will makes the concerns of the press and the people irrelevant.

Q. 17. Why have not other elements of the government attempted to do something about the apparent execution of the president by an agency of the United States government?

Historically, when a coup d'état is successful, the force which initiated the removal of the fallen leader becomes the government. The fact that a still subsisting government department bears the hopeful label of "justice" does not mean that overnight it will turn into a suicide battalion. As in the case of all of the other agencies of government, its leaders respond not to a dead man buried in a box but to the new forces of power in the country. Consequently, there occurs the phenomenon in which the "Justice" Department—as well as all other government law enforcement agencies—devote their efforts not to bringing out the truth of the assassination but to concealing it and counter-attacking those who might attempt to do so. By the time of the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, the "Justice" Department was announcing the absence of a conspiracy before the bodies hit the ground.

The old agencies of the government will always band together in defense of the new forces which have taken over power because the men in charge of the various departments and bureaus must orient to the new center of power or be replaced. Thus do the most dignified agencies bring into the service of the successful planners of an assassination not merely allegiance but all the credit and honor they have accumulated over the years. These agencies, respected by the press and public for historical reasons, are then available to be pointed in the direction of any attempted independent inquiry into the facts of the assassination.

For example, when an independent inquiry develops in Louisiana, this state necessarily must become an area of special federal attention—all in the interests of justice, of course. The "Justice" Department will begin the institution of special actions with regard to supposed proliferating organized crime in Louisiana. It will be announced periodically from Washington that Louisiana is one of the major areas of organized crime in the nation. It will

be announced that special federal task forces will have to be sent into Louisiana to fight this terrible problem. This is precisely as realistic as announcing that the federal government is sending in irrigation experts to help water the vast desert areas of Louisiana. What is really happening, of course, is that the basis is being prepared for a legalistic counter-attack against the source of the independent inquiry. All related government agencies will be highly coordinated in the operation to discredit and de-rail the independent inquiry and to protect what the new custodians of federal power regard as “national security”—which is to say, of course, their own security.

How can the rest of society tolerate such a monstrous circumstance? Because, for the most part, the men who constitute it cannot afford to recognize what has happened. They have a vested interest in their government and they cannot afford to recognize that it has become corrupt. Consequently, they will accept without protest the most threadbare explanation of the removal of a national leader no matter how impossible that explanation might be. This tunnel-vision reaction has probably occurred throughout history whenever a government has been overthrown and a new force has taken control. To take the position that the new force is not legitimate, to raise any questions about its method of acquiring power becomes tantamount to taking up the sword against the entire government. It is less painful, and considerably safer, to conclude that—inasmuch as no marked changes have occurred in one’s familiar surroundings—great change has occurred in Washington.

If one considers the new and varied acquisitions of power which follow a successful assassination, the strange years following the murder of President Kennedy become less mysterious. The uncharacteristic inadequacy of the federal investigation, the majesty of high government officials united in the common defense of tawdry little lies and the elaborate disinterest of the mass media in any objective inquiry into the truth—all become suddenly understandable once one perceives what happened: a coup d’état occurred on November 22nd, 1963, and it was successful.

The consequences of a successful coup d’état were eloquently described four centuries ago in an English couplet:

Treason doth never prosper, what’s the reason?
For if it prosper, none dare call it treason.

Q.18. What likelihood does there appear to be that awareness will develop in the United States with regard to the situation?

The prospects for any timely insight are very dim. The problem is essentially one of perceiving reality and the American people thus far have been unable to obtain a clear view of reality with regard to the assassination of President Kennedy and with regard to American foreign policy.

These apparently separate matters really comprise a single matter but it is not possible to see this clearly because no relevant data has been made available. Not only has the press failed to perceive reality and communicate any part of it to the people but the government—which is really to say the warfare-oriented conglomerate which now constitutes the hidden nucleus of power in America—has elaborate machinery to continue to maintain the insulation of the people from reality.

For example, military intelligence may indicate the apparent need for a crash program to produce billions of dollars for invisible paint with which to coat defense installations throughout the country so that the Russians cannot see them. Such intelligence superficially will appear to be highly authoritative and of impelling significance with regard to national security. However, the source of such information is the Central Intelligence Agency, which serves the interests of the conglomerate. The more likely meaning of such “intelligence” is that, like a dope addict, the warfare complex needs another economic shot in the arm. The primary interest of the complex is neither the national security of the United States nor its economic well-being but the continued accumulation of money and power by the warfare organism itself.

Such foreboding “intelligence” estimates indicating gargantuan defense requirements are the basis for keeping filled the horn of plenty of the military hardware producers and maintaining the concealed power of the military establishment over the nominal government in Washington. Experts will be produced who will testify that the invisible paint program is highly feasible, but all that really means is that the program will make billions of dollars for the manufacturers of invisible paint. The highest government officials gravely will testify that they have studied the program carefully and it is urgently needed for the nation’s survival, but all that means is that the Pentagon has given it the green light.

Similarly, the news magazines of the country are in the service not of the people of the country but of their military hardware advertisers—most of whose millions in advertising is concentrated in the “news” magazines. Their presentations of any foreign relations issue or any question of military requirements for years have been colored by the necessity that their conclusions be harmonious with the interests of the war machine. Nor is it any different in the case of the news departments of the television networks. They exist by virtue of government sanction and no serious and objective examination of current war projects—or related assassinations—will be seen for long on the television screen.

Reality has always been difficult for humans to perceive because our antennae are short and because we cannot perceive objectively. However, in the super-state the fact is that the populace is kept in a state of euphoria while the warfare interests pursue in the name of national security their private objectives.

In 1964, when it certified that the impossible indeed had occurred, the Warren Commission declared a large sector of reality as being officially off-limits. In the warfare state there exists approved reality and unapproved reality. For example, the fact that the moon rises in the east and sets in the west is approved reality because the recognition by the populace of this occurrence does not threaten the men at the power base of the government. On the other hand, the fact that President Kennedy was thrown backwards by the force of the fatal shot is unapproved reality because the official scapegoat was behind the President—in the opposite direction from the source of the shot—and general recognition of this fact would threaten the base of power. Consequently, the Zapruder film, which clearly shows what actually happened to the president, remains hidden from the people, and the mass media do not refer to the matter except in the inverted terms of the officially approved unreality.

If, for example, a night watchman were to catch the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs stealing chickens, he would be stumbling across unapproved reality. The night watchman predictably would be discredited and denounced for his delusions. He would be fired from his job

because of his conduct, carefully observed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and intensively investigated by the Internal Revenue Service. A potential communicator of unapproved reality is a serious threat to national security as defined by the warfare forces.

The result is a warning to all others in the super-state not to stray into areas of unapproved reality. After the night watchman has been drawn and quartered and tossed aside, few will wander into the off-limits sector any more.

The creation of such inanities as acceptable reality and unacceptable reality is necessary for the self-preservation of the super-state against its greatest danger: understanding on the part of the people as to what is really happening. All factors which contribute to its burgeoning power are exaggerated. All factors which might reveal its corrosive effect on the nation are concealed. The result is to place the populace in the position of persons living in a house whose windows no longer reveal the outside but on which murals have been painted. Some of the murals are frightening and have the effect of reminding the occupants of the outside menaces against which the paternal war machine is protecting them. Other murals are pleasant to remind them how nice things are inside the house.

But to live like this is to live in a doll's house. If life has one lesson to teach us, it is that to live in illusion is ultimately disastrous.

In the doll's house into which America gradually has been converted, a great many of our basic assumptions are totally illusory.

For example, for years now the people have been led to believe that we were in Viet Nam because we were fighting for democracy, that this war was being won, that national security required that we spend spiraling billions for defense without regard to the effect on the economy and—the central illusion to which all the others relate—that President Kennedy was killed by a lone assassin in a senseless murder which had no political implications.

These are the basic illusions accepted today by most Americans and regularly reinforced by press releases from Washington. Now let us contrast this illusory view of the world with reality and observe the disparity.

At the outset we may observe that it is untrue that the war in Viet Nam is being won. We have been lied to about this for years. This fact is now so apparent as to require no comment.

It is not true that we are in Viet Nam in great force because we are fighting for democracy. We are in Viet Nam, and have lost more than 35,000 men there, because it is a source of economic and power benefits for the warfare conglomerate which dominates the government.

The war is a huge market which produces great profits for a variety of war industries. The money for these profits comes from the high taxes paid by American citizens. Militarily, the war serves as a testing ground for new tactics and new hardware. It maintains for us a military foothold in South East Asia. Above all, it is a tremendous source of domestic power for the military establishment.

The manic expenditure of eighty billion dollars a year for “defense” against another nation which could not attack us without destroying itself overnight occurs primarily to feed the maw of the defense industries and to perpetuate the domestic power of the warfare forces. The nuclear capabilities of the United States and Russia cancelled each other out years ago—

and the military establishment of each knows this. Of all the nations on earth these are the last two which might fight each other. What is going on now is a game—a game played by the warfare interests of each country with the people of the country so that the warfare interests can perpetuate their power. With regard to the national security of the United States, Viet Nam is irrelevant. It serves as a market for the war business, nothing more. What is not irrelevant with regard to national security is the destructive effect on the economy of the United States of spending eighty billion dollars a year on death machinery. The value of the dollar inevitably must continue to deteriorate until it is virtually worthless.

Once again we are brought back to the relevance of the execution of President Kennedy to the conversion of the United States to a war-oriented super-state. It will be recalled that his objective, as spelled out in his order to Defense Secretary McNamara, was to have all American military forces removed from Viet Nam by 1965. With his removal, 1965 became instead the year for the great build-up of an expeditionary force for combat so that five years after Kennedy's death there were more than half a million American troops in Viet Nam. It was because of President Kennedy's repeatedly demonstrated tendency to view foreign relations idealistically, rather than in terms of power, that he had to be executed by the intelligence apparatus of the American warfare complex. The transition from a government of the people to a warfare state could not have been completed without his removal.

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