

## ‡8 The JFK Assassination Conspiracy Conspiracy

### Professional Paranoid Clique Flunks Paranoia 101

#### The Warren Report Was Right

#### A You Can't Say Sarajevo Doesn't Love You

**A1** Archduke Franz Ferdinand (FF) was one of a number of persons close to his uncle, Austro-Hungarian Emperor Franz Joseph (FJ), who died violently, the others being FJ's wife Elizabeth (assassinated 1898) & son Rudolf (who co-suicided with his latest teen mistress in 1889). FF is not exactly a sympathetic character; like Rudolf, he was the sort of sweet soul whose idea of an afternoon's entertainment was shooting a few hundred rabbits. On the other hand, it was FF who suggested that the dying Austrian composer Anton Bruckner come to the Belvedere Palace<sup>1</sup> to live out his last months before his 1896/10/11 death. (Bruckner was one of the brightest stars in that astounding galaxy of artistic creativity produced by the wealthy Empire's middle class. Rural-product Bruckner had a hick accent, so he was kept in the servant's quarters — but I like the essential sympathy of FF's gesture.) FF is now principally remembered since his end marked the beginning of World War 1.

**A2** Desiring fence-mending with restless Serb nationalists to the south, FJ (who was having trouble with FF) sent FF down to Sarajevo, to enjoy a motorcade ride through (mostly) cheering throngs. When a bomb was thrown at his car, it failed. FF complained to the town fathers about this impoliteness and was assured that there'd be no more bombs. There weren't. He and his wife were fatally shot<sup>2</sup> instead, later in the day, during part 2 of the same motorcade.

**A3** John F. Kennedy published a history book (*Profiles in Courage*,<sup>3</sup> 1956) with his name on the cover as author, so we know he was an experienced historian. And since he ran the US, he was not a fool.<sup>4</sup> (The public elected him as President, and the public is never wrong.) That's why when someone suggested he imitate Franz Ferdinand and mend political fences in the (US) south in 1963 November, by riding with his wife in an open

<sup>1</sup> The humble outbuilding where Bruckner died still stands on the Belvedere grounds, identified with a plaque. (The intensely religious composer prayed that his deity would permit him to finish his 9th Symphony. God's kindness failing, [U.S. physicist] Wm.Carragan's instead completed the 9th's tensile Finale in 1983.)

<sup>2</sup> Serbia has long suffered under foreign boots (the Serbian dead in WW1 were more than six times the US'), such as FJ's secret-police-riddled Catholic dictatorship-Empire. This may be related to Serbs' current brutal-overkill desperation-tactics for ensuring their independence of historically-suspect neighbors, such as pious & Nazi-collaborating Croatia. The 1914 assassin, Princip, is widely regarded there as a Serb legend-hero-patriot. A monument now marks the spot of his act.

<sup>3</sup> JFK is best remembered for forceful public speeches, e.g., at the Berlin Wall: "Ich bin ein Berliner." Well, just as Europe reserves the name "Amerikaner" for the grossest, most glutton-seeking ice-cream cone known to manperson, so the fattest jelly doughnut is called "Berliner" in Germany. (We thank Cönnie Goessman for this bit of foreign intelligence.) So numerous Germans wondered at the time why the US press went wild with apocalyptic fervor when its President chose to announce to the world: "I am a jelly doughnut." Musing on this while our families were walking in Baltimore's inner harbor, a friend (who has the unDIOesque decency to prefer anonymity) recently noted (1994/7/23) that if the symbolically-divided city of Germany had been different, the saying might have been: "Ich bin ein Frankfurter." With a more northern German city in mind, I responded by suggesting that a worst-possible-taste black-humor photo-caption for the fatal shot in Dallas could be: "Ich bin ein Hamburger."

<sup>4</sup> In a serious vein: a President, whose hotdogging bravado would cause him to ride around in an open auto in gunhappy Dallas, betrays a sense of invincibility and-or fate which suggests an obvious question. Is this the sort of person whose finger we want on the nuke button? [Note added 2003/11/22. In 1961-1963, an obsessively competitive & steroid-pugnacious US president ordered Castro's termination, to macho-avenge Bay-of-Pigs shame; and risked human extinction by playing Buck-Turgidson-chicken (over Manichean ideologies) with commie imperialism. (J. W. Booth sought *post-war* recoup; Oswald may've intended war-*pre*-emption. But was the 1963 JFK still in-heat? Or, after secret-dealing missiles out of Turkey, did he ironically die from obsolete hawk image?)]

motorcade through restive Dallas, he laughed off the very idea as a joke in exceedingly questionable taste<sup>5</sup> . . . .

#### B Gunslingers & Bullslingers

**B1** I must be one of the very few (seemingly) ordinary citizens who ever spoke directly to Earl Warren about the Warren Report on the JFKennedy assassination. One day c.1971, while walking towards the Library of Congress, I ran into Warren behind the Supreme Court Building (evidently waiting for a limousine). When I first approached him, he seemed edgy and reluctant to chat. (He was probably envisioning the evening newspaper headlines: "ASSASSINATION REPORT CHIEF ASSASSINATED . . . LONECRAZEDGUNMAN . . . Broad Daylight . . . Supreme Court Back Steps . . ." ) But we talked anyway for about 5 minutes. Most of this was spent in my asking him about the odd behavior of the National Geographic Society with regard to the N.Pole Controversy — since Warren was on the NGS Board. His reply was: "I have nothing to do with it." (I guess it *was* a little naïve for me to seek justice by talking to the Chief Justice of the United States.) He suggested I speak to NGS Pres. Mel Payne, whom he described as accessible. I responded that Payne certainly was accessible. To Earl Warren.

**B2** Near the end of the conversation, I asked about the Warren Report. He looked into the distance and said only: "Nine months of work. And nobody believes it."

**B3** I should have replied (but did not) that: a key reason the Report was not believed was that his rôle was as titular<sup>6</sup> for the Report as for National Geographic.

**B4** Irony. What has caused the 1964 Warren Report's collapse in public acceptance is partly the very weapon that was originally used to put it over on the public in the 1<sup>st</sup> place: an unremittingly one-sided propaganda campaign by our slavishly royalist Fullcourt Press. For years after 1964, the US press would print no doubt<sup>7</sup> whatever of the Warren Report. Now, attacks on it comprise most of what the public hears. (This for 2 main reasons: [a] Sensation sells. [b] The Dems have realized the political utility of the JFK-conspiracy legend: Dem hero, shot down by dark forces before he could bring the blessings of Dem gov't to the needy here & abroad.)

**B5** What is the truth of the murder<sup>8</sup> of JFKennedy? The statistical & physical oddities are striking:

[a] L.H.Oswald's prescience in — allegedly by pure chance — finding a job (months ahead of time) on a motorcade route. Especially odd for someone who'd earlier allegedly shot at Gen.Walker — a deed that already ranked him as the top political assassin operating in the US at the time.

[b] Oswald's chameleonic associations & travels.

[c] The near-pristine bullet found just-lyin'around on J.Connally's stretcher.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Of course — as is well known (DIO 2.3 ‡8 §C5) — when it comes to truly bad taste, DIO can match any excess: e.g., fn 3 & DIO 1.3 §R2.

<sup>6</sup> The Warren Report was composed almost entirely by underlings. Like §A3.

<sup>7</sup> Until Bush lost the 1992 election, most of what the tooboisie was absorbing regarding the Kennedys (besides alot of unverifiable garbage on Jack's purported amours: fn 17) was fantasy-nonsense about how they personally murdered a crumbling filmstar — who was in fact killing herself so rapidly with pills, that only a superquixotic magician could have beaten her to it. Bush's decline hasn't ended the propaganda; it's merely changed the script (following Stone's pre-election film, *JFK*) to one that's differently ludicrous: Kennedys as conspiracy-murder-victims instead of conspiracy-murder-victimizers.

<sup>8</sup> Revealingly, the media doesn't usually call war-deaths murders. Presidents routinely send average folks into battle, where they get gruesomely shot to pieces. (Little public sympathy is expended upon them. As Sherman wryly put it: being an ordinary soldier means that, when you are killed, your name gets misspelled in the newspapers. See below at fn 23.) So it may be salutary for the US rulership to be reminded on occasion of how bloody frontline war is. (DIO 1.2 fn 52 vs. here at ‡9 §I2.)

<sup>9</sup> The "magic bullet" theory (that the same bullet went through JFK's neck and Connally's chest) has been so repeatedly damned as incredible that its falsity has become widely taken for granted. DR comments: [a] It is striking that Connally was hit slightly lower (nipple area) than JFK (neck) — a line connecting these wounds points towards

[d] The backward component of Kennedy's motion after the fatal shot. Impossible (if bullet from behind) for an inelastic collision. (Though: not impossible if an explosion produced a rocket effect, with brain-matter or a split-skull piece bursting at high speed to the front-right,<sup>10</sup> causing a Newton-Third-Law reaction to the back-left.)

**B6** However, there is a little-noted crucial oddity on the Warren Report side: it is generally agreed that at least one (& very likely both) of the two<sup>11</sup> major time-gaps between the shots was about 2-3 timesec. This is consistent with a single bolt-action rifle's involvement.

**B7** More important, it is inconsistent with a conspiratorial interpretation<sup>12</sup> of the assassination, in 2 critical senses:

[a] If there were a concerted cross-fire, the shots would have come much more thickly & rapidly<sup>13</sup> — and the famous Zapruder film sequence would resemble the Brownian-fastmotion ketchuppy-ragdoll finale of *Bonnie & Clod*. (And the limousine — seen by hundreds of spectators at Parkland Hospital — would be dotted with bullet holes. So the conspirators must've since paid 'em all off or rubbed 'em out. . . ?)

[b] And if the assassin (alone or no) were working for a group of the slightest significance, could this hypothetical group not afford to equip him with a weapon capable of getting off more bullets/sec than a cheap bolt-action rifle?!

**B8** Any group attempting to kill JFK would scorn backing such an amateur job, if for no other reason than that a bungled assassination attempt would only scare the quarry into greater caution, thus making another assassination opportunity much less likely to offer itself.<sup>14</sup>

**B9** Coincidences in connection with the JFK assassination have been covered extensively in the media — all except the most important ones: [1] §B5 item [a], and [2] the

---

a spot above and to the rear of the limousine. At the Texas Book Depository 6th floor's distance, the height is about right. (A stark coincidence not mentioned by conspiratorialists: the only other wounded person in the motorcade was the one person on a line with JFK & the Warren Report's proposed TBD gunman-perch.) [b] Though it seems that, if the shot came from there, Connally should have been hit on his left side by a bullet going through JFK's middle, the fact is that JFK was more to the right of the car than was Connally since (as the Warren Report notes and as is clearly visible in photos) there was a small, empty jump-seat just to Connally's right. [c] If the WR had claimed that 2 separate bullets hit the two men, the WR's critics would be howling with a different brand of complaint, namely, asking where the bullets went. (No whole bullets were found in the car.) Some critics cannot be satisfied. [d] JFK's back wound was tiny and thus obviously an entrance wound. This is clear from the autopsy photos — which also show that this wound was not lower than the neck wound. (For years, numerous WRcritics have said it was — and have claimed JFK was shot in the throat from the front, though this would seem to require a bullet-hole in the back seat (or the top of the trunk) which no photo (or witness at Parkland Hospital) has recorded. Indeed, if the crossfire hypothesis were correct, the limousine should have been peppered with holes. Nobody saw them.) And, while the neck wound was obscured (by a futile tracheotomy), Connally's wounds are a definite part of the record: 15 mm-long elliptical in back, 50 mm wide in front of chest. Two conclusions: [a] Since an entrance wound is smaller, Connally was shot from behind (just as the WR said). [b] Since the bullets' width is only 6.5 mm, the entrance wound in his back was made by a yawning bullet (just as the WR said). [e] Thus, all of this simple physical evidence is consistent with the single-bullet theory, which the WR's authors proposed only reluctantly, because they too regarded it as a-priori unlikely — but were forced (by the foregoing data) to prefer.

<sup>10</sup> In 1992, *Time* noted that a Zapruder film frame right after the fatal shot indeed shows head-matter (brain or skull fragment) zooming forward and upward from JFK's head. Moreover, autopsy X-rays show a bullet fragment on the skull's *inside* near the right eye, which seems unlikely if the final shot were from the front. Evidently, physicist Alvarez has reproduced the [rocket] effect with gelatin-filled sheeps' skulls.

<sup>11</sup> It is little known that the Warren Report also entertained the possibility that there were not 3 shots in Dallas (as is generally assumed) but only 2.

<sup>12</sup> The US Left has twice lately attempted to blame its failures (not on its own shortcomings but) on Presidential assassinations: Zach Taylor & JFK. In both instances, neither the hypothetical purpose nor the case for conspiracy is particularly convincing. Taylor was supposed to have been murdered because he wished to stop slavery. JFK because he wanted to stop the Vietnam War or the Mafia. Facts: Taylor was a slaveowner. JFK was the President who got us *into* the Vietnam War. And the Mafia allegedly had enough dirt on Kennedy that it didn't need to cover him with it. See below at fn 17.

<sup>13</sup> What sort of idiot conspirators are being proposed here? After the first shot, they loiter for a precious few seconds before beginning the (invisible) concerted crossfire?! (Have they some private information that JFK has pre-agreed not to duck during that time? . . .)

<sup>14</sup> Admittedly, FF's 2nd ride through Sarajevo suggests that such hypothetical fears might be based on overestimating leaders' intelligence.

timing of the film, *Manchurian Candidate*. In 1962, for the first time in the history of US cinema, Hollywood turned out a movie which depicted a potential US President being shot — shot fatally in the head, by a rifle (not a handgun), from a high perch. Only once has a US President been shot in the head by a high-perch rifle, and it happened in 1963 — only a year after this 1962 film's public release. Now, the Entertainment Industry pays out alot of p.r. money to reassure the US public that the link between violent film and real violence is no more than "controversial".<sup>15</sup> Nonetheless, the odds on that coincidence, in a country 2 centuries old, are ordmag 100-to-1.

**B10** One of the groups often rumored to have wanted JFK dead was organized crime. And if the mafia had any influence in Hollywood (a persistent rumor which we all know is merely a stereotypical slander), then: an irresponsible paranoid might suggest that the film (which was based on a crackpot theory of "hypnotic" suggestion, if you'll pardon the redundancy) was itself made as a suggestion — just hoping some nut might be triggered by it. (If one seeks a higher responsibility for the JFK assassination, this is probably the nearest thing to a semi-rational case for it. Another possibility along this line is suggested by the FBI's feud with the Kennedys. Given that [a] Oswald was an FBI informant,<sup>16</sup> and [b] the FBI did not warn the Dallas police that he was considered odd, one could possibly envision a who-will-rid-me situation, of the Henry-Becket variety; but, that is not conspiracy. Anyway, perhaps we cover the mafia theory enough here, without dredging up the FBI, whose chief Jedgar Hoover was organized crime's most beloved gov't figure.) The main weakness<sup>17</sup> in this theory is presented below in §B12.

**B11** With the elimination of JFK (and thus RFK's anti-mafia Attorney Generalship) a done deed, the film completely disappeared<sup>18</sup> after 1963 — for a quarter century. And no rifle assassination-try has occurred in that time.

**B12** The dedicated conspiratorialists on the JFK murder propose that he was eliminated because he threatened a big power-faction, such as Pentagon or CIA. (Similarly, the recent exhumation of Pres. Zachary Taylor was inspired [fn 12] by the suspicion that he was murdered because he was on the verge of upsetting the repulsive institution, slavery.)<sup>19</sup> All such theorizing is short not only on reality but, implicitly, even on explanatory paranoia! Let's ask a return-to-reality question here: whatever gave these dreamy theorists the flaky notion that anyone who would fight such forces could ever *possibly* come within 100 miles of getting elected President in the 1<sup>st</sup> place?<sup>20</sup> (And these people call themselves "conspir-

---

<sup>15</sup> See *DIO-JHA* 2.3 ¶8 fn 52. Same familiar the-public-is-ineducable hypothesis which defense lawyers use, to argue that publicized capital punishment does not deter murder. However, the selectively-applied (¶9 §E2) ineducability hypothesis is not much heard when a city's pol-lawyers annually argue for increased taxes to pay for public schools.

<sup>16</sup> Has it been recorded that 1/2 of the last 4 persons to shoot at a US President were FBI informants? [Note added 1994/12: recent activity around the White House may alter these numbers. (Maybe there's a line: ¶9 §H6.)]

<sup>17</sup> Also, if the story of JFK's liaison with Momo-moll Judith Exner is more credible than the current Flowers-Clinton report of same [note added 1998: original *DIO* edition erred in implying no F-C sexual contact at all], then the mafia had simpler ways than murder to keep the Kennedys from interfering with its #1priority: business-as-usual.

<sup>18</sup> The story is that Dr.F.Sinatra (who says he has no mob ties), one of those who helped make the film a big success, was responsible for deepsixing it once JFK was gone.

<sup>19</sup> In some dismay, I will take this as a cue to record here a little partly discreditable family-history. I wonder how many living persons not only once had physical contact with a US slaveholder, but have photographic proof of the occasion. Though my mother's side of the family was fervently pro-Union (we have her father's original 1885 edition of Grant's excellent *Memoirs*), my great-grandparents Edward Albin Rawlins (1822-1871) & Gay Murray Rawlins (1843-1937) owned (as DR only learned this year) the isolated Virginia slave-plantation "Berry Hill" (a fraction of a mile north of the middle of the N.Carolina border), from the time of the War Between the States, until 1875. We have two photos of Gay (born when Virginia's John Tyler was President — before the discovery of Neptune): c.1850 at age c.7, and 1937 at age 94 (a widow for 2/3 of a century), holding DR (a few weeks old) in her arms on the porch of her last home, 214 E. University Parkway, just east of Johns Hopkins University. (Her elder daughter, Gay B. Rawlins, graduated in the 2nd class of nurses to come out of Johns Hopkins Hospital in the 1890s.) At age 20, Gay married Edward (then twice her years) in 1863. Their engagement ring was successfully concealed in the upholstery of a small wooden stool when Federal soldiers raided the Berry Hill grounds in 1865. My wife & I have preserved both the ring and the stool. Edward is interred at Berry Hill; Gay, near J.W.Booth: fn 22.

<sup>20</sup> See *DIO* 2.1 ¶1 §A10 & *DIO* 2.3 ¶6 fn 23.

atorialists”?) Or, as my wife succinctly summed<sup>21</sup> it up: it is therefore no longer possible for a US President to be murdered by anyone other than the classic lonecrazedassassin.<sup>22</sup> To believe that grabbing control of the gov’t is accomplished by public gunfire is equivalent to believing that mafiosi are still shooting up Chicago. Whether the organized crime we are examining is the mafia or the US gov’t, it should be realized that gunsels are ancient history for the truly big operations. (The sound of gunfire is a symptom of the lowest end of the crime spectrum.) Modern mobs operate by payoffs: hired admen, hired lawyers, hired media, hired TV comics, hired judges, & hired pols.

**B13** I.e., bigleague crime has evolved from crass gunslingers to class bullslingers. Conspiratorialists ought to be the first to understand this. Indeed, a refined conspiratorialist ought to have long since been exploring the theory that the whole Mock Lane-Jim Gassin’ faction is really just a bunch of gov’t operatives whose conspiratorial mission is to obscure Plunkitt’s Truth (fn 20) by propagandizing the preposterous implicit<sup>23</sup> notion that US elections could ever produce a President that anyone of the slightest power would want to shoot.

Note added 2003/11/22. My wife&I were in New Orleans 1963/8/12-15; we encountered a man on the street handing out Fair-Play-for-Cuba leaflets. (W.Rep. has Oswald doing so from 8/9, hiring 1 helper from 8/16.) In some sympathy<sup>24</sup> we took one. Come November, we thought it possible that the man had been Oswald, but weren’t sure. However, during the current 40th anniversary memorial coverages, we realized he *was* New Orleans’ (allegedly unchartered) FPfC-Committee. So we checked trip-photos’ dates vs Oswald’s and found: the man we met was probably him. Pairing this incident with §B1: how many pedestrians ever randomly bumped<sup>25</sup> into both Oswald (almost certainly) and Warren (certainly)?

<sup>21</sup> On 1993/2/3, the effective date of completion of this article. (Announced on 1992/10/30 in *DIO* 2.3 p.90: “Upcoming”.)

<sup>22</sup> I of course exempt agents of a foreign gov’t, a class which included John Wilkes Booth. [Note added 2003/11/22. Oswald may’ve been working for Cuba, whether or not Castro knew it.] (Booth is buried a few dozen meters from my father, Louis Murray Rawlins, Jr, who was Director of the Baltimore Airport until his WW2 death.)

<sup>23</sup> As noted, the unasked-question implication suffusing conspiratorialists’ discussions is more important than the explicit questions that are asked. Similarly, the conspiracy-folk describe as “heinous” JFK’s murder, which I prefer to see in the context of those thousands of noncelebrity humans (US *and* foreign), who died in battle during (& after) JFK’s tiffs with Cuba & Vietnam — but who merit rather fewer press tears. (Conventional cold-warrior JFK got the US gummup in the Vietnam War, which cost ordmag a million Asian lives — a figure almost never mentioned when the 58,000 US dead are recalled. See fn 8 & ¶9 §A1.) Typically, while TV ’snews is obsessed with ethnic (or lifestyle-related) inequities, it ignores the inequity of fuss made over the fates of the mighty vs. those of the Less Fortunate. Twain’s *Connecticut Yankee* criticizes conventional histories for similar lack of perspective. From chap.8, “The most of King Arthur’s nation were slaves, pure and simple, and bore that name . . . ; and the rest were slaves in fact, but without the name . . . the nation as a body was in the world for one object, and one only: to grovel before king and Church and noble; to slave for them, sweat blood for them, starve that they might be fed, work that they might play, drink misery to the dregs that they might be happy, go naked that they might wear silks and jewels . . .” Chap.13 praises “the ever memorable and blessed [French] Revolution, which swept a thousand years of . . . [villainy] away in one swift tidal wave of blood . . . a settlement of that hoary debt in the proportion of half a drop of blood for each [barrel] of it that had been pressed by slow tortures out of that people in the weary stretch of ten centuries of wrong and shame and misery . . . . There were two ‘Reigns of Terror,’ if we would but remember it and consider it; the one wrought murder in hot passion, the other in heartless cold blood; the one lasted mere months, the other had lasted a thousand years; the one inflicted death upon ten thousand persons, the other upon a hundred millions; but our shudders are all for the ‘horrors’ of the minor Terror . . . what is the horror of swift death by the ax compared with lifelong death from hunger, cold, insult, cruelty, and heartbreak? What is swift death by lightning compared with slow fire at the stake? A city cemetery could contain the coffins filled by that brief Terror which we have all been so diligently taught to shiver at and mourn over; but all France could hardly contain the coffins filled by that older and real Terror — that unspeakably bitter and awful Terror which none of us has been taught to see in its vastness for pity as it deserves.” (A similar sense of balance is also useful, when weighing swift&drastic vs. soft&ineffectual solutions to the US’ perpetual welfare-poverty-misery-holocaust: *DIO* 1.1 ¶2 fn 4 & §D5.)

<sup>24</sup> In 1962, we phoned-in a question to Betty Furness’ program: is the US press consistent in portraying Castro as both megalomaniac & willing-Moscow-puppet? We were awarded a 1961 edition of the *Encycl Brit*, which we still have. (We also possess an original rice-paper 1910-1911 set of the *EB*’s legendary 11th Edition [& 1922 12th Ed].)

<sup>25</sup> Other DR coincidences: *DIO* 6 ¶5 fn 9, *DIO* 4.3, *DIO* 11.2 ¶4 fn 21. Ultimate coincidence: coincidences themselves have been (for both good & ill) an abnormal feature of DR’s life.