

~~SECRET~~*Int
Gen* Nov 12THE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS

The Committee to Investigate Assassinations was incorporated in the District of Columbia on 8 October 1968 as a Domestic Non-Profit Corporation. Its stated objectives are to promote discussion and research in an effort to "enlighten the public on political assassinations." The initial directors were: Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Arlington, Virginia; William Turner, Mill Valley, California, and Richard Sprague, Hartsdale, New York. Mr. Fensterwald is listed as Executive Director of the organization.

The Board of Directors of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations, as listed on their letterhead, is:

Fred Cook, Interlaken, New Jersey
John Henry Faulk, Austin, Texas
Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Washington, D.C.
Paris Flammonde, New York, New York
Jim Garrison, New Orleans, Louisiana
Richard Popkin, La Jolla, California
Richard Sprague, Hartsdale, New York
Lloyd Tupling, Washington, D.C.
William Turner, Mill Valley, California

The following individuals connected with the media are known to be associated with the Committee to Investigate Assassinations; writers Mark Lane, Josiah Thompson, Harold Weisberg, William Bradford Huie (the James Earl Ray story), and comedian, Mort Sahl.

The Committee to Investigate Assassinations has been connected with activities critical of the Warren Commission Report, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency and of investigations into the deaths of President Kennedy, Senator Robert Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald, Dr. Martin Luther King and the attempted assassination of Governor George Wallace.

The Committee to Investigate Assassinations has openly solicited information concerning the personnel, operations and possible manipulation of the press by the Central Intelligence Agency. An advertisement to this end appeared in the Quicksilver Times, 5 - 25 May 1972.

A two-day conference was scheduled by the Committee to Investigate Assassinations to be held on 23 and 24 November 1973, at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. This conference was called in observance of the tenth anniversary of President Kennedy's death and was organized around the assertion that the "Executive Branch has failed to make known all the relevant facts of assassinations." The program distributed in advance of the conference listed a series of speakers. The following summary is drawn from a review of information available to the Office of Security concerning these individuals.

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

Mr. Fensterwald is listed as Executive Director of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations. He was most recently associated with the defense of convicted Watergate conspirator and former Central Intelligence Agency employee, Mr. James McCord. Mr. Fensterwald was also the attorney for James Earl Ray, convicted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Before entering private legal practice, Mr. Fensterwald was Assistant to the Legal Advisor, U. S. Department of State (1950-1956 and 1957-1958), Administrative Assistant to Senator Hemmings of Missouri, and Chief Counsel to the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments. In 1961, Mr. Fensterwald became re-affiliated with Senator Kefauver as Staff Director of the Senate Antitrust and Monopoly Subcommittee. During 1956, Mr. Fensterwald had served as a Foreign Policy Advisor to Senator Kefauver. Following assignment to the Antitrust Subcommittee, Mr. Fensterwald became Chief Counsel to the Senate Subcommittee on Administrative Practices and Procedures. In this capacity, Mr. Fensterwald was active investigating Governmental wiretapping and other electronic surveillance.

Mr. Fensterwald was born on 2 August 1921 in Nashville, Tennessee. He was graduated magna cum laude in 1949 from the Harvard Law School.

Robert Kenneth Brown

Mr. Brown is a former Special Forces Officer and considered to be an expert in attempts on the life of Castro. He is a Reserve Army Major and Editor, Publisher, and part owner of Panther Publications, Inc. (no connection with the Black Panther Party), Boulder, Colorado.

~~SECRET~~

In October 1962, he advised the Denver Federal Bureau of Investigation that he had worked for two and one-half months with Cuban exiles in Miami in early 1962. He is described as a free-lance writer and has visited Cuba several times conducting interviews. He helped organize the pro-Castro Organization of American Students for a Free Cuba in the Spring of 1958.

Mr. Brown has revealed animosity towards the Agency and disagreement with United States Government foreign and military policy, particularly relative to Cuba and Vietnam.

Mr. Brown was born [redacted] in Monroe, Michigan.

Fred J. Cook

Mr. Cook was listed as a member of the Board of Directors for the Committee to Investigate Assassinations as late as 1971. He is a well-known crime reporter, formerly with the New York Telegram and Sun. He has previously written for a special issue of The Nation which attacked J. Edgar Hoover and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. According to an FBI summary, Mr. Cook, had allowed himself to be used by left-wing elements who desired to discredit Mr. Hoover and the FBI.

Mr. Cook was born [redacted] at Point Pleasant, New Jersey.

John Henry Faulk

Mr. Faulk was listed as recently as 1971 as a member of the Board of Directors of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations. Mr. Faulk is a writer, political commentator-satirist and has been described as a humorist-folklorist television entertainer. He was born [redacted] at Austin, Texas and was subject to investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1943 and 1953 for alleged subversive activities.

Mr. Faulk wrote a book in 1964, Fear on Trial, recounting his experiences as a "blacklisted" performer during the "McCarthy era."

Donald Freed

Office of Security records were checked and contained no information on Mr. Freed. The only information available on Mr. Freed was found in newspaper articles in the file of

~~SECRET~~

Mark Lane. Mr. Freed is one of three people who wrote Lane's screenplay "Executive Action." He is the author of "Inquest," a play about Julius and Ethel Rosenberg and Agony in New Haven, a book about the Black Panther conspiracy trial. Mr. Freed is currently preparing a film about Watergate entitled "Operation Gemstone."

Mark Lane

Mr. Lane is a New York attorney and was hired by Mrs. Marguerite Oswald to represent Lee Harvey Oswald before the Warren Commission. Mrs. Oswald terminated his employment in April 1964.

A 1964 security-type investigation conducted by another Federal Agency reflects that he has had a close affiliation with a number of Communist front groups. He is the author of a book on the Warren Report entitled Rush to Judgment.

Mr. Lane charged that the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was plotted by the Central Intelligence Agency. His reasoning was that President Kennedy had been at odds with the spy Agency over the Cuban Crisis and Vietnam policy.

Mr. Lane has participated in numerous demonstrations against the United States Government. He has also spoken at several rallies, including appearing before a Students for a Democratic Society rally to protest U.S. involvement in Vietnam. He has been most closely identified with the National Guardian, a Communist publication which first published his article on the innocence of Oswald.

Mr. Lane was elected to the New York Legislature in 1960. He was born [redacted] at New York, New York.

Norman Kingsley Mailer

Mr. Mailer is a noted author and critic of the Vietnam War. During the 1967 Peace March on the Pentagon, Mr. Mailer was arrested on charges of unseemly and disorderly conduct. Mr. Mailer won a Pulitzer Prize for his article "The Armies of the Night," a story on the Pentagon demonstrations.

Mr. Mailer was born on 31 January 1923 at Long Branch, New Jersey. He graduated from Harvard and attended the Sorbonne University, Paris. Mr. Mailer is listed on the program in connection with his work The Fifth Estate.

Sylvia Meagher

Mrs. Meagher is the author of the book, Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, the Authorities and the Report. The book appeared in late 1967 and was highly critical of the Warren Commission. Mrs. Meagher presents the view that a conspiracy of anti-Castro Cubans and "right-wing" Americans was behind the assassinations.

Mrs. Meagher is listed as an Executive of the World Health Organization. Mrs. Meagher was born Sylvia Orenstein on [redacted] in New York, New York.

George Joseph O'Toole

Mr. O'Toole is a former employee of the Central Intelligence Agency. He was employed as a Digital Computer Systems Analyst in March 1966. He resigned 24 January 1969 from a position as a Research Officer, GS-14, ORD/DDS&T. Mr. O'Toole accepted a position as Director of the Education Division of Computer Methods Corporation, New York.

Mr. O'Toole submitted an article on the Penkovsky case from open source material to the Agency for review. The article was approved for publication in July 1972. Subsequently, Mr. O'Toole made known to the Agency he had been in touch with Mr. Seymour Hersh of the New York Times. In April 1973, Mr. O'Toole submitted a manuscript of a spy novel for Agency review entitled An Agent on the Other Side. This manuscript was approved.

Mr. O'Toole wrote a serious article for the July 1973 issue of Penthouse magazine on the subject of the Psychological Stress Evaluator or so-called voice lie detector entitled "Assassination Tapes." The thrust of Mr. O'Toole's article was to suggest use of this device on tape recordings available of statements made by principals in the Warren Commission study. Mr. O'Toole states that this approach indicated falsehood in commission findings.

Mr. O'Toole was born in October 1936 in New York, New York. He is currently described as a "think-tank Consultant and Novelist."

Richard Popkin

Office of Security records were searched and contained no information on Mr. Popkin. Mr. Popkin is listed as a member of the Board of Directors for the Committee to Investigate Assassinations. Further information was obtained from

SECRET

the 1973 edition of Who's Who in America. He was born [redacted] in New York, New York. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Columbia University in 1943, Master of Arts Degree in 1945 and his Ph.D. in 1950. He has taught at the University of Connecticut, the University of California at Berkeley, and is presently a professor at Washington University. He is the author of the book entitled The Second Oswald.

Leroy Fletcher Prouty

Colonel Prouty is a retired U.S. Air Force officer who served as a Liaison Officer to the Central Intelligence Agency between 1955 and 1963. Colonel Prouty is the author of the book, The Secret Team, published April 1973. In this book Colonel Prouty undertakes a definition of the "real power structure" in terms of the Government's overall intelligence effort.

Colonel Prouty is known to have another book in preparation dealing with the assassination of President Kennedy. Colonel Prouty's most recent article appeared in the October 1973 issue of Ramparts entitled, "An Inside Look: Watergate and the World of the CIA." Colonel Prouty suggests that Messrs. Hunt, McCord, and Barker were under Agency control in the Watergate incident.

Colonel Prouty was born on [redacted] at Springfield, Massachusetts. He is now reportedly with the Center for Political Research, Washington, D.C. The Center describes its work as "...unbiased non-partisan political research and dissemination of information."

Peter Dale Scott

Mr. Scott is the author of numerous articles critical of the Central Intelligence Agency. His most recent article appeared in the November 1973 issue of Ramparts magazine entitled "From Dallas to Watergate: The Largest Cover-up." In this article Mr. Scott alleges CIA involvement with Anti-Castro individuals whom he implicates in the assassination of President Kennedy. Mr. Scott further alleges CIA "cover-up" of the conspirators and other activities related to Watergate.

Mr. Scott is also the author of the 1972 book, The War Conspiracy. Concurrent with publication of this book, Mr.

Scott prepared articles for Earth and The New Republic magazines alleging Central Intelligence Agency involvement in drug traffic in Southeast Asia. The articles were entitled, "The CIA put your brother in Vietnam," and "CIA heroin traffic turned him on to smack."

Mr. Scott was born on [redacted] at Montreal, Canada and is a Canadian citizen. He is a professor of Speech at the University of California at Berkeley. Mr. Scott has been active in the anti-Vietnam War demonstrations on the Berkeley campus and elsewhere.

Josiah D. Thompson, Jr.

Mr. Thompson is the author of the book, Six Seconds in Dallas, on the assassination of President Kennedy. In 1967, Mr. Thompson put forth the view that three individuals were involved with the assassination rather than the lone Lee Harvey Oswald as stated by the Warren Commission report. Mr. Thompson was born in January 1932 and is a professor of Philosophy at Haverford College.

Consideration was given in 1962 by the Western European Division to approach Mr. Thompson who was then studying in Denmark. A security background investigation conducted in 1962 was entirely favorable to Mr. Thompson. There is no record that he was ever contacted and an official request for security approval for utilization was withdrawn 20 December 1962.

William Turner

Office of Security records were searched and they contained no information on Mr. Turner. He is listed as a member of the Board of Directors for the Committee to Investigate Assassinations. Further information was obtained from the 1973 edition of Who's Who in America.

Mr. Turner was born [redacted] in Buffalo, New York. His current address is listed as 925 Vernal Avenue, Mill Valley, California. He is a former Federal Bureau of Investigation Agent. He was sent to Dallas as an ex-FBI man by Saga magazine to cover the aftermath of the John F. Kennedy assassination. Mr. Turner stated that he became convinced that Kennedy was the victim of a political conspiracy. He is also recognized as one of the established critics of the Warren Report.

Further information on Mr. Turner was obtained from a newspaper article which stated that he was fired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1961 when he sought to obtain Congressional interference with regard to a disciplinary 30-day suspension from duty.

Cyril Harrison Wecht

Dr. Cyril Harrison Wecht is a Professor of Law and Forensic Medicine at Duquesne University and Coroner of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Wecht was certified by the National Board of Medical Examiners in 1957 and is a specialist in pathology. Dr. Wecht is also an attorney and is registered with the Allegheny County (Pennsylvania) Bar Association.

Dr. Wecht was born in 1931 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Wecht's father was of Lithuanian birth and became a naturalized citizen in 1925, his mother of Russian birth was naturalized in 1940.

A background investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1965, pursuant to Dr. Wecht's candidacy as Coroner. This investigation was favorable to Dr. Wecht. A request for a security check was processed in April 1970 from the Domestic Contact Service. There is no record of whether Dr. Wecht was ever contacted subsequent to this approval.

Harold Weisberg

Mr. Weisberg is the author of a book entitled Frame-Up. This book concerns the assassination of Martin Luther King and the case of James Earl Ray. Mr. Weisberg was security approved for employment with OSS on 7 July 1944. He was assigned to the Presentation Branch (Editorial) Washington, D.C. and on 12 February 1945 was transferred to the R&A Latin American Branch of OSS.

A memorandum in Mr. Weisberg's file dated 12 July 1949 reflects that he was one of a number of employees fired by the State Department but no details were given. A favorable investigation on Mr. Weisberg was conducted by the fore-runner of this Agency in June 1944. Mr. Weisberg was born on [] in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The names of the following other individuals appear on the program. A search of the records of the Office of Security, however, was unable to develop information on which a summary could be prepared:

Charach, Ted
Golz, Earl
Hanson, Robert
Kaiser, Robert
Lesar, James
MacDonnell, Herbert
Noyes, Peter
Rode, Meredith
Saltzman, Robert
Smith, Robert P.
Sprague, Richard
Van Doren, Ronald

The program also lists Mr. Victor Marchetti as a participant in a panel discussion on the subject of "Theories of Conspiracy." Mr. Marchetti is listed as "Former CIA Agent; author."

Forum Airs Plot Theory In Killings

By John Hanrahan
Washington Post Staff Writer

A myriad of conspiracy theories, including one attempting to link the assassination of President John F. Kennedy to some of the figures involved in the Watergate affair, were raised yesterday on the concluding day of a two-day conference here on political assassinations of the last decade.

Various theorists at the conference at Georgetown University's Gaston Hall attributed President Kennedy's assassination to organized crime, the CIA, anti-Castro Cubans, big businessmen, the late President Lyndon B. Johnson, soldiers of fortune or combinations of these elements.

In most instances, the theories were old ones brought up to date. While some theorists exonerated Lee Harvey Oswald of the assassination of President Kennedy, others said Oswald may have been a minor figure in a large conspiracy.

What was different about the discussions from those of earlier years was the apparent widespread feeling that the Watergate affair and cover-up had links to President Kennedy's assassination in Dallas 10 years ago last Thursday.

Although the conference sponsor, the private, Washington-based Committee to Investigate Assassinations (CTIA), had not listed Watergate on its program, the issue was brought up yesterday afternoon by Chicago-based gadfly Sherman Skolnick, who was in the audience. A sizable portion of the audience of about 200 persons appeared to support Skolnick's successful effort to put Watergate on the agenda.

Skolnick, the chief proponent of the theory that there was deliberate sabotage in the plane crash that last December killed Dorothy Hunt, wife of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr., stirred up the conference by questioning what he alleged were possible links between the CIA and the CTIA.

He questioned why the conference was being held on "a CIA campus," a reference to CIA-sponsored research that has been carried out at Georgetown, and suggested that at least two prominent CTIA members have ridden CIA ties.

One of the panelists, Dr. Richard Popkin, professor of philosophy at Washington University at St. Louis, said that many other countries have had political assassination conspiracies, yet American officials here would have the nation believe that the assassinations of the last decade have been carried out by "a lone nut." Popkin said the Watergate affair, with its "conspiracy to re-elect the President," should convince Americans once and for all that conspiracies do exist and that President Kennedy was the victim of one.

Although none of the panelists dealt specifically in their prepared remarks with links between Watergate and President Kennedy's murder, various members of the audience contended that there may exist evidence to show that persons arrested in the break-in at Democratic Headquarters in the Watergate also were in Dallas on the day of Mr. Kennedy's assassination.

Ramparts magazine and many underground and smaller circulation publications have suggested in recent months that there may be direct links between the Dallas shooting and the Watergate affair but, as some members of the audience said yesterday, the major news media have ignored this possible connection.

Peter Dale Scott, author and professor at the University of California at Berkeley, said there were "lessons of Watergate" that should be applied to examining what he said was the "cover-up" of the facts about the Kennedy assassination.

The Watergate affair also showed, he said, that the persons involved in the cover-up need not necessarily have been involved in the original crime. He said he suspects this was the case in the investigation of Mr. Kennedy's murder.

In a morning panel discussion, authors of various books and articles on political assassinations expressed frustration over not being able to interest major news media in newly discovered evidence or theories relating to the political murders and attempted murders.

Although some panelists said they felt there was a new willingness by the news media to do more investigative reporting as a result of the Watergate affair, others said there was still a strong reluctance in the media to reopen investigations of assassinations.

BERNARD FENSTERMAID, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE
ASSASSINATIONS
1520 16TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005
(202) 232-1152

ROBERT SMITH
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH
JAMES LEEAN
COUNSEL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

In observance of the tenth anniversary of President Kennedy's death, the Committee to Investigate Assassinations is sponsoring a two-day Conference at Georgetown University on November 23rd and 24th. A brochure describing the Conference and its program is attached. As you will note, several of the Nation's prominent writers and investigators of the assassinations of the past decade will speak.

While a number of different points of view on the subject will be represented, there is general consensus that the Executive Branch has failed to make known all the relevant facts of the assassinations. We believe that the Congress must ultimately take the initiative if the public is to learn all of the facts, and that Watergate has shown us that Congress' action depends largely on disclosures by an informed press and other news media.

A press pass will be available for you at the Conference registration desk. For further information, please contact:

Ms. Andrea Wyatt
Conference Coordinator
(202) 232-1152

THE LAST THREE PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN DECIDED BY
BULLETS:

1964 — result decided by the assassination of
President John F. Kennedy

1968 — result decided by the assassination of
Senator Robert F. Kennedy

1972 — result decided by the near-assassination of
Governor George Wallace

WHAT is the evidence?

WHO fire the fatal shots?

WHY has there been such a concerted effort
to withhold the facts?

WHO was really behind the assassinations?

COME SHARE THE FINDINGS
OF THE NATION'S EXPERTS

AT A TWO DAY CONFERENCE

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS

TO BE HELD AT

**GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY**

GASTON HALL

Nov. 23-24, 1973

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS
1520 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. • (202) 232-1152

DECADE OF ASSASSINATIONS

1963 - 1973

JOHN F. KENNEDY • SYLVANUS OLYMPIC
ABDUL KARIM KASSEM • MEDGAR EVERS
"NGO" DINH DIEM • JIGME DORJI • ADIB A
SHISHAKLI • PIERRE NGENDANDUMWE
HASSAN ALI MANSOUR • MALCOLM X • VIO
LIUZZO • MARIO MENDEZ MONTENEGRO • S
ABUBAKAR BALEWA • J.T.V. IRONSI AGUIY
HENDRIK VERWOERD • TRAN VAN VAN
GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL • CHE GUEVA
• MARTIN LUTHER KING • ROBERT
KENNEDY • EDUARDO MONDLANE • T
MBOYA • A.A. SHERMARKE • GEOR
WALLACE • SALVADORE ALLENDE •

1963 - 1973

PROGRAM

FRIDAY - NOVEMBER 23

- 9:00 LATE REGISTRATION -
Early Registrants pick up passes.
- 9:30 WELCOME:
Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Executive Director, Committee to Investigate Assassinations
Mr. Norman Mailer, Author and Forwarder of *The Fifth Estate*
- 10:00 CURRENT STATUS OF PROMINENT ASSASSINATION CASES:
JFK CASE - Mr. Robert P. Smith, Director of Research, Committee to Investigate Assassinations
RFK CASE - Mr. Robert Hanson, Attorney, present counsel for Sirhan Sirhan
KING CASE - Mr. James Lesar, Attorney, present counsel for James Earl Ray
WALLACE CASE - Mr. Ronald Van Doren, Newsman, Author, researcher into the background of Arthur Bremer
ROCKWELL CASE - Ms. Meredith Rode, Professor at Federal City College, Authority in killing of George Lincoln Rockwell
- 11:30 UNIQUE INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES:
Mr. William Turner, Moderator - Former FBI Agent, Author of numerous books on investigative techniques
Mr. George O'Toole - Former CIA Agent, Free-Lance Writer, expert on the PSE (Psychological Stress Evaluator)
Mr. Robert Saltzman - Computer Engineer, lecturer on the Warren Commission Report

FRIDAY - Continued

- 12:30 BREAK FOR LUNCH
- 2:00 MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:
Mr. Josiah Thompson, Moderator - Professor at Haverford College, author of *Six Seconds in Dallas*
Dr. Cyril Wecht - Professor of Law and Forensic Medicine at Duquesne University; Coroner of Pittsburgh, Pa.
Ms. Sylvia Meagher - Attorney, UN Official, author of *Accessories After The Fact*
Mr. Roger Hanson - Attorney, counsel to Sirhan Sirhan
Mr. Herbert MacDonnell - Professor of Criminalistics, Corning University; expert in case of Fred Hampton
Mr. Mark Lane - Attorney, author of *Rush To Judgment* and *Executive Action*
- 6:00 BREAK FOR DINNER
- 8:30 WARREN COMMISSION REPORT: FACT OR FICTION -
A slide show and lecture by Mr. Robert Saltzman

SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 24

- 9:30 ASSASSINATIONS AND THE MEDIA:
Mr. John Henry Faulk, Moderator
Humorist and Author of *Fear On Trial*
Mr. Robert Kaiser - Author of *RFK Must Die*
Mr. Donald Freed - Co-Author of *Executive Action*
Mr. Harold Weisberg - Author of *Frame Up*
Mr. Ted Charach - Author of *Second Guess*
Mr. Peter Noyes - Author of *Legacy of Doubt*
Mr. Fred Cook - Author of numerous books and articles
- 12:30 BREAK FOR LUNCH
- 2:00 THEORIES OF CONSPIRACY:
Mr. Richard Sprague, Moderator
Computer expert and author
Dr. Richard Popkin, Professor at Washington University; author of *The Second Oswald*
Col. Fletcher Prouty - Former Liaison Officer between Pentagon and CIA, author of *The Secret Teams*
Mr. Robert K. Brown - Former Special Services Officer; expert in attempts on life of Castro
Mr. Earl Golz - Reporter for Dallas Morning News; expert on Organized Crimes
Mr. Victor Marchetti - Former CIA Agent, author
Mr. Peter Dale Scott - Professor Berkeley; Author of *The War Conspiracy*
- 5:00 INDIVIDUAL WORKSHOPS WITH THIRTY SPEAKERS -
Question and Answer Sessions