

**A "Smoking Gun" For the
Grassy Knoll?
by J. Gary Shaw**



It has been more than thirty years since the government issued its first official findings concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. These findings, commonly known as the *Warren Report*, named Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone and unaided, as the assassin. There was no conspiracy involved in the President's death.

Over the years, critics of this official version of the President's death have pored over the government's evidence, reinterviewed witnesses, and have challenged this conclusion. In so doing, they have presented a substantial case for coverup and conspiracy. The stock reply to these allegations of conspiracy, especially from the media, has usually been, "Where's the smoking gun?" Where, they demand, is the concrete evidence of another shooter, or another gun?

During the intervening years since November 22, 1963, certain of the Warren Commission's members, staffers, and apologists have consistently claimed that there was one, and one one weapon--the Italian rifle said to belong to Lee Oswald and purportedly found in the immediate vicinity of JFK's assassination. Because of this unwavering posture, many critics and researchers were surprised when, in 1978, the House Select Committee on Assassinations, while staging test-firings in Dealey Plaza for acoustical comparisons, actually test-fired a .38 caliber pistol from the grassy knoll.¹ No particular reason for this pistol test was given.

However, from reading the committee's report, it appeared that the best explanation for the test was to obtain an acoustical reading for a subsonic bullet. This, of course, was to be used for comparison purposes by the committee's acoustic experts in their controversial analysis of the alleged "shots" which were supposedly recorded by the Dallas Police radio at the time of the shooting.

It now appears, according to recently released FBI documents, that this may not have been the only reason behind the pistol test from the knoll.

Several months ago a JFK researcher came across some startling FBI communiques which had been quietly released and deposited in the National Archives in DC. The earliest of these found thus far is a teletype addressed "URGENT 11-29-63 TO DIRECTOR [J.Edgar Hoover] AND SAC, BOSTON [unknown] FROM SAC, DALLAS [J.Gordon Shanklin]." The teletype, requesting Boston FBI to trace the ownership of a particular weapon, read,

'...ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER TWENTY-THREE, LAST, A SNUB NOSE THIRTY EIGHT CALIBER SMITH AND WESSON, SERIAL NUMBER EIGHT NINE THREE TWO SIX FIVE [893265], WITH THE WORD QUOTE ENGLAND UNQUOTE ON THE CYLINDER WAS FOUND AT APPROXIMATELY SEVEN THIRTY AM., IN A BROWN PAPER BAG IN THE GENERAL AREA OF WHERE THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY TOOK PLACE.'

A second "URGENT" teletype later the same day stated that the pistol was found in the "IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE ASSASSINATION."² (emphasis added)

The subject weapon, of course, is the exact same type weapon which had allegedly been taken from accused assassin Lee Oswald at the time of his arrest in the Texas Theater. The serial numbers of the two guns are the only basic difference. The so-called 'Oswald' pistol bore the serial number "V510210."

Another "URGENT" teletype concerning ownership traces on both the 'Oswald' pistol and the 'Dealey Plaza' pistol went out the next day.³ This communique noted that "no record" had been found for either pistol in the

files of the Rock Island Arsenal in Rock Island, Illinois. This was the last page of the 5 page document pertaining to the pistol and paper sack which have been released and/or discovered as of this writing.

Of course, we know from the Warren *Report* that the FBI was able, in a very short time, to trace the ownership of the so-called 'Oswald' pistol directly to Lee

Harvey Oswald.⁴ At the same time this ownership trace was initiated, one was also placed on the pistol found in the paper bag near the grassy knoll. There is, however, no further information on the ownership of this Oswald-type, 'Dealey Plaza' pistol. And we have found nothing in the files at this time to indicate that the Warren Commission was ever even apprised of

the existence of this suspicious pistol. According to records now at the Archives, however, the HSCA did know of this mysterious 'Dealey Plaza' pistol.⁵ Perhaps it was this knowledge that prompted them to perform the test firing of a .38 caliber pistol from the grassy knoll. However, if the committee pursued further information concerning this suspicious weapon, as it should have in a legitimate investigation, no record of such an inquiry has been found thus far.

These newly-released documents brought to mind a couple of earlier FBI reports which had also mentioned paper bags. One of these reports concerned a 'lunch sack' which had been dropped near the murder scene by a young woman. The other report pertained to Jack Ruby's occasional carrying of his own .38 in a "paper bag."

THE SUSPICIOUS 'DEALEY PLAZA' LUNCH SACK

Information about the young woman and the "lunch sack" had been revealed in one of the Commission's unpublished documents. It is found in the FBI's 11/24/63 report of the interview of Dallas County Deputy Constable Seymour Weitzman.⁶

At the time of the assassination, the report states, Weitzman was standing at the corner of Main and Houston Streets, where he had viewed the motorcade make its fateful turn onto Elm Street. Weitzman told the FBI that the limousine had no sooner proceeded out of his line of vision when he heard three shots, which he

A Second Gun? Why has it taken years to learn about a gun found on November 23?

thought to be "firecrackers," ring out. Immediately, Weitzman ran toward the underpass and to the stockade fence atop the knoll. There, Deputy Weitzman said he was informed by a bystander that the "firecracker or shot had come from the other side of the fence." In the same FBI report, Weitzman added more intrigue: "Weitzman stated that during the time he was running from the intersection of Main and Houston, he observed a blonde woman, 20 to 25 years old, drop a lunch sack at a point about half a block west of the Texas School Book

Depository building, but thought nothing of it at the time. He advised, however, that it was later determined this lunch sack was very similar to the lunch

sack found at the sixth floor window where the assassin apparently stationed himself and fired the fatal shot. He said this information had been brought to the attention of the Dallas Police Department." (emphasis added)

The FBI's report of Weitzman's interview was seriously incomplete. It gave no indication as to the time of day that the lunch sack was taken into evidence and made no mention of who actually recovered the sack and turned it over to authorities. Nor does it give any description of the sack's contents, if any.

Seymour Weitzman was an important witness that day. He was an officer of the law. He had heard three distinct shots, and had described the second and third shots as being "almost simultaneous."⁷

After the shots, and upon his arrival at the knoll, he had been immediately informed by a witness that the shots had been "fired from behind the fence."⁸

A short time later, another witness, one of the rail yard workers, told him that the shot "had come from the end of the fence closest to the Texas School Book Depository."⁹

Weitzman subsequently picked up a piece of JFK's skull, which he found near the curb on the south side of Elm Street, and turned it

over to authorities.¹⁰ Curiously, when Weitzman was later telling the Commission about this piece of skull, he was suddenly taken "off the record."¹¹

Weitzman was also present during the search of the sixth floor of the TSBD building when the supposed murder weapon was found and was partially responsible for the alleged misidentification of this rifle as a 7.65 caliber bolt action Mauser.¹²

Deputy Weitzman, it would seem, really did 'see more.' Much more than investigators wanted to hear. Even though the Warren Commission had the FBI's interview of him, they chose to take him off the record regarding the piece of skull. They also chose not to ask him any questions regarding the eyewitnesses who told him that the

shots came from the grassy knoll and fence. And they completely ignored his report of the mysterious young blond-headed woman and her lunch sack.

At this late date, we are simply left to ponder what possible significance the young woman and her lunch sack might have to the case. With the discovery of the new documents, however, one wonders whether this incident might be the key to the origin of the paper bag and .38 caliber 'Oswald' type pistol which was later found and picked up "in the immediate vicinity of [the] assassination area."

And, of course, there is always the possibility that

"Deputy Weitzman, it would seem, really did 'see' more. More than investigators wanted to hear."

2

DL 89-43

CDS, p. 127

immediately showed it to Captain FRITZ of the Dallas Police Department, and from what he could observe, the rifle looked like a 7.65 German-made Mauser rifle.

WEITZMAN stated that during the time he was running from the intersection of Main and Houston, he observed a blonde woman, 20 to 25 years old, drop a lunch sack at a point about half a block west of the Texas School Book Depository building, but thought nothing of it at the time. He advised, however, that it was later determined this lunch sack was very similar to the lunch sack found at the sixth floor window where the assassin apparently stationed himself and fired the fatal shot.

He said this information had been brought to the attention of the Dallas Police Department.

WEITZMAN stated he did not observe LEE HARVEY OSWALD or any other person possibly responsible for the shooting during the above described period of time.

the "paper bag" containing the 'Oswald' type pistol found in Dealey Plaza on the morning following the assassination had absolutely nothing to do with the "lunch sack" which had apparently been dropped in the same area by the young blond-headed woman right after the shooting. But, wouldn't it be nice to know that for sure?

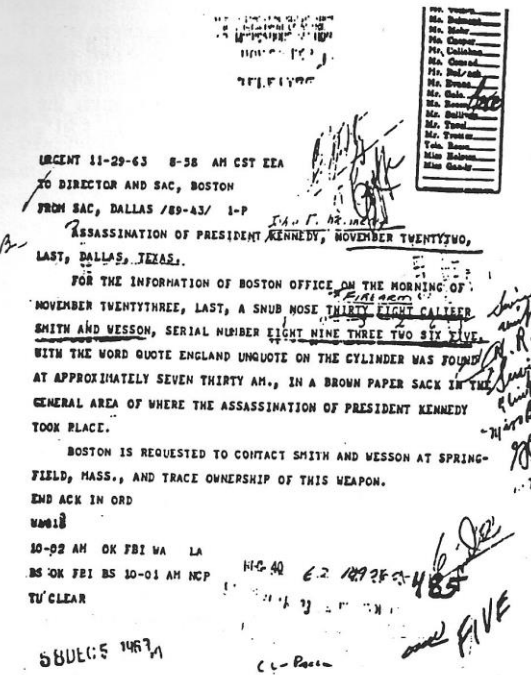
added)

Following Lee Oswald's death at the hands of Jack Ruby, there were numerous allegations of a connection or association between the two men. The Warren Commission refuted these allegations--just as they denied the many reports of Ruby's now indisputable ties to organized crime. To those following the case at the time, it came as no surprise when Dallas D.A.--and former FBI agent--Henry Wade decided to exclude testimony at Ruby's trial concerning any of these alleged Ruby/Oswald connections.

At least three of Ruby's strippers at the time of the assassination were blonde and played peripheral roles in the events surrounding the assassination. One of these strippers, Karen "Little Lynn" Bennett, was the recipient of the suspicious alibi-creating money order from Ruby just minutes before he executed Oswald in the basement of the Dallas City Hall. The Secret Service interviewed "Little Lynn" within a few hours of Oswald's death. In that interview, she was described as being "...highly agitated and reluctant to make a statement," had "vaguely remembered Oswald being in the club," and was "...under the impression that Lee Oswald, Jack Ruby, and other individuals unknown to her were involved in a plot to assassinate President Kennedy and that she would be killed if she gave any information to the authorities."¹⁴

Stripper Kay Helen "Kathy Kay" Coleman was dating Dallas cop Harry Olsen and was present during a lengthy meeting between Ruby and her boyfriend-cop which had occurred in the early morning hours before her boss shot Oswald.¹⁵ Reportedly, she had also told her Carousel Club co-workers that she had danced with Oswald at the club a few days prior to the assassination.¹⁶ Policeman Olsen was fired from the police a few weeks after the President's death, and he and "Kathy Kay" left Dallas and were later married.¹⁷

Another of Ruby's blonde strippers was Bobbie "Shari Angel" Maserole. Her husband at the time was Wally Weston, Carousel Club emcee during the previous 15 months. According to Weston, Ruby knew Oswald, and on at least two occasions, Weston had seen Oswald in Ruby's club.¹⁸ On one of these occasions, according to another source, about three weeks before the assassination, Oswald is alleged to have participated in a meeting at the club which included Ruby, mobsters Sam Giancana and John Rosell, an FBI man, and several other men from Chicago.¹⁹



**JACK RUBY: PISTOL, PAPER BAG,
 OSWALD,
 AND YOUNG BLONDES**

The 'Oswald-type' pistol in a paper bag and the young blond woman with the lunch sack immediately brought to mind some data concerning Jack Ruby.

According to a number of reports from Ruby's friends and acquaintances, he was often noted carrying a pistol. Interestingly, one such acquaintance, Mrs. Cindy Benton, told authorities that she had "...known Ruby for several years..." and had seen him "...on several visits at [the] Vegas Club and chance meetings..." and that "...Ruby used to carry on occasion a little paper bag and recalls once seeing a pistol in this bag."¹³ (emphasis

OSWALD, RUBY AND A PISTOL IN DEALEY PLAZA?

The various Ruby/Oswald connections and 'Oswald-type' pistol brought to mind another strange 'Dealey Plaza' pistol story concerning Ruby and Oswald. This one is found in the FBI report of S/A Alan L. Manning. Dated December 1, 1963, this report stated that some "girls" who worked "...at a sewing room across the street from the Texas School Book Depository Building...knew Lee Harvey Oswald, who apparently spoke Spanish well, and ate with them at a nearby restaurant. They were reportedly acquainted with Jack Ruby." The unidentified "girls," the report continues, "all of Spanish descent, were watching the Presidential parade from a window of the sewing room. They reportedly observed Jack Ruby walking up and down the street near the Texas School Book Depository Building and when Oswald came out of the building, they saw Ruby give him a pistol."²⁰

The HSCA had this FBI report and circulated it among its staff.²¹ However, if the HSCA (or FBI) ever

followed up on this tantalizing report and identified and interviewed the "girls of Spanish descent" involved, no record of such investigation has as yet surfaced.

.38 CALIBER BULLETS AND THE ASSASSINATION

That .38 caliber weapons played a role in the events of November 22-24 is well known. Four .38 caliber slugs were removed from the body of slain Dallas Policeman J.D. Tippit. When Oswald was arrested at the Texas Theater, he was

allegedly armed with a fully loaded .38 and had 5 live rounds in his shirt pocket. The four empty hulls reportedly found near the scene of Tippit's death, are said to have been fired and ejected from Oswald's .38 caliber pistol. On Sunday, Ruby used a .38 snub-nose Colt Cobra to silence Oswald.

What is relatively unknown, however, are the various unconfirmed but tantalizing tidbits of data which indicate the possible use of a pistol and/or .38 ammunition in the killing of the President.

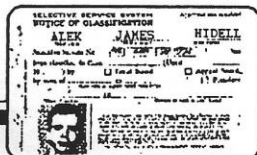
Most researchers are familiar with the wealth of eyewitness and media reports of a bullet striking the

" There were also several reports that at least one of the shots fired in Dealey Plaza had a distinctly different, less intense report than the others."



Nothing was more secret than . . .

The MKULTRA Secret



Beginning in the 1950's, the CIA created comprehensive mind control projects to make or break spies and agents. The largest of these projects was MKULTRA.

Under the influence of MKULTRA, the CIA turned friendly and enemy agents, politicians, and business leaders to its own purposes. To expose MKULTRA was not only to expose U.S. espionage methods and techniques, but to reveal the extent of CIA penetration of foreign governments and intelligence services.

When a desperate group of rogue CIA agents and paramilitary operators plotted to kill President Kennedy, they used Lee Harvey Oswald as a patsy. Once captured, his background would make the government stop anyone from asking questions. Oswald had been recruited by the CIA while in the Marines, and MKULTRA had made him into an unwitting defector taking false U2 spy plane secrets to the Soviets.

Lee Harvey Oswald was the MKULTRA Secret and he didn't even know it.

The MKULTRA Secret is now available as an IBM-compatible "book on disc" in 3 1/2", featuring VGA graphics and text-only versions.

ITEM #801.....\$21.95

by Frank Camper (Optioned for a feature motion picture)

ground and being picked up near a manhole cover on the south side of Elm Street after the shooting. Photos of Dallas Deputy Sheriff E.R. "Buddy" Walthers, patrolman J.W. Foster, and an unnamed FBI agent at that scene have been circulated and discussed for years. Unconfirmed reports suggest that the bullet was of pistol caliber.

There were also several reports that at least one of the shots fired in Dealey Plaza had a distinctly different, less intense report than the others. This would be entirely consistent with the characteristic sound of the blast which emanates from a pistol firing a subsonic missile rather than the sound expected from a high-power rifle.

Information indicating the possible use of a pistol in the assassination did, in fact, surface during the early stages of the HSCA inquiry. In 1978, a man claiming to be an eyewitness to the killing turned over a "spent bullet" to Dallas television newsman Bill O'Reilly. The witness, who sought anonymity, told O'Reilly that his son had found the bullet on the ground on the day of the assassination, having unearthed it in the middle of the grassy area of the plaza. O'Reilly thought the bullet had the appearance of a pistol slug, and turned it over to HSCA investigator Gaeton Fonzi, who, in turn, passed it to the HSCA's chief investigator, Cliff Fenton.

Fenton has steadfastly refused even to discuss the bullet.²²

Another report of a .38 caliber bullet in this case turned up recently. In 1993, Wallace Milam, a highly-respected researcher, interviewed Elizabeth Goode Wright, the director of nursing at Parkland in 1963. Ms. Wright revealed for the first time that two bullets had been found at the hospital on 11/22/63, both by her husband, O.P. Wright (now deceased), who was then director of Parkland security. Mr. Wright is widely known as one of the handlers of the "magic bullet" prior to its receipt by the Secret Service. But according to Mrs. Wright, her husband also found an unfired "whole" bullet that same day on a hospital gurney. This one was not turned over to authorities, as Ms. Wright had kept it all these years and displayed it to Milam.

"Mrs. Wright revealed for the first time that two bullets had been found at the hospital on 11/22/63, both by her husband, O.P. Wright (now deceased), who was then director of Parkland security."

The bullet was an unfired, "whole" .38 with manufacturer's case markings ".38 SP WCC"²³--the very same markings as 2 of the 4 shell casings allegedly retrieved from the Tippit scene and supposedly matched to the pistol taken from Oswald at the time of the arrest.

What possible significance could this unfired bullet have? It was obviously a plant. Why? By whom? What possible explanation could be given for such a puzzling piece of evidence? Were we expected to believe that an assassin had "thrown" the unfired bullet at the presidential limousine?

In light of Ruby's well-established, but officially denied, presence at the hospital during the time of the President's and the Governor's treatment, this obvious "plant" takes on greater significance, as does the Commission's ardent desires for us to believe that the people

who saw Ruby were incorrect. Both of these bullets appear on the surface to direct a path of evidence toward the preordained patsy, Oswald. And, as has been shown over the years, all such Oswald-implicating evidence involved in this case does not necessarily have to make sense.

.38 CALIBER SHELL CASINGS ON THE KNOLL?

In late 1991, former Dallas patrolman Montie Altroy "Troy" Barnes sent word through a mutual friend that he would like to pass along some information to me. Barnes at that time was in his eighties and had been retired from the force since 1968, after 35 years service.

At the time of the interview, the documents pertaining to the mysterious 'Dealey Plaza' pistol had not yet surfaced and Barnes' story had less significance, and was accordingly filed away. It took on new life, however, with the recent revelations about the second pistol. His story went like this:

In about 1971 or '72, a man claiming to be a witness to the assassination had contacted Barnes and shown him three empty shell casings said to have been found and picked up in Dealey Plaza immediately after the

shooting. He felt now that the casings should be turned over to authorities and was requesting Barnes' assistance in getting them to Washington. Barnes recalls that the spent shell casings appeared to him to be .38 caliber. Unfortunately, Barnes made no notes of his contact and could not recall the witness' name, only that he lived on Hansboro Street in Dallas in a house surrounded by a chain link fence in the front yard.²⁴

trace on the 'Dealey Plaza' pistol when they had placed one on the 'Oswald' pistol. This is clearly stated in the last sentence of the second "URGENT" teletype: "PHILADELPHIA CONTACT MISMA RECORDS CENTER, LETTER KENNY ORDNANCE, IN EFFORT TO FURTHER TRACE THIS WEAPON WHICH, ACCORDING TO RETEL, WAS FOUND IN A PAPER BAG IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE ASSASSINATION AREA." (emphasis added)

Where did this 'Dealey Plaza' pistol lead? As of this writing, (11/94), it has been more than a year since the appeal was filed, and the Justice Department has still not responded.

INQUIRY AND APPEAL--STILL NO ANSWERS

On February 1, 1993, I filed a FOIA request with the FBI concerning the mysterious "paper bag" containing the "Oswald type" pistol. Several months later, accompanied by an undated letter, the FBI sent me copies of their original 3-page release, plus 2 additional pages.

On July 30, 1993, I appealed to the Justice Dept. for review of what I considered to be a totally unresponsive release. In my appeal, I reminded Justice that my request

was for "a complete and thorough search of all filing systems and locations for all records" and then briefly outlined my reasons for believing that the FBI had made no such search. In so doing, I pointed out that the previously supplied FBI documents were the obvious result of their investigation of this pistol and paper bag which reportedly had been found "in the immediate vicinity of the assassination area." Therefore, I reasoned, there must have been some earlier initiating reports and documentation such as, (a) the individuals(s) who found the paper bag and pistol, and (b) the exact location where they were found. I also noted that the Bureau was able, in a very short time, to trace an almost identical war surplus pistol directly to Lee Oswald. According to the released documents, the FBI had initiated an ownership

"It is not, therefore beyond reason to think that the assassination planners had taken into account the possibility of a 'point blank' shot being required, had positioned an armed women in the area just in case.

CONCLUSION

It is interesting to note that pistols and paper bags were not entirely new to President Kennedy's protectors. In Chicago, at a rally just prior to the 1960 election, a 23 year-old Puerto Rican with a loaded pistol was subdued and disarmed by police as he made his way toward the then Senator Kennedy's open convertible. At the same event, a 61 year old minister was stopped as he tried to enter the Chicago stadium rally with a loaded .38 caliber revolver that he had hidden away in a paper bag.²⁵

Admittedly, a .38 snub-nosed revolver is an enormously inaccurate weapon at distances greater than 20 to 30 feet. At 100 feet, the approximate firing distance from the grassy knoll's stockade fence, the use of such a short-barreled weapon is out of the question--even for a top pistol marksman. No assassin in his right mind would attempt such a shot. However, at close range, such a gun can be very effective. It could be used effectively, for instance, had the President, as he had done on other occasions, suddenly decided to bring the motorcade to a halt in order to shake hands and mingle with the crowd. Both Robert Kennedy and George Wallace were attacked this way. A pistol at close range was also used in the attempt on Pres. Reagan. It is not, therefore, beyond reason to think that the assassination planners had taken into account the possibility of a "point blank" shot

being required, and had positioned an armed woman in the area just in case.

Nonsense, you say? Recall that 2 women with pistols, Lynette Alice Fromme and Sara Jane Moore, were able to maneuver themselves into close-range positions in their separate assassination attempts on the life of President Gerald Ford in September, 1975.

Another twist to the 'woman with the gun' scenario was revealed in the 1964 Warren Commission testimony of Postal Inspector Harry Holmes, who had viewed the assassination from the window of the Terminal Annex Building, overlooking Dealey Plaza from the south. At the time of the shooting, he told the Commission, he was watching the motorcade through binoculars and had observed a man in the grassy knoll area "trying to take a gun away" from a woman. Continuing, however, Holmes noted that "it later developed that he was trying to protect her from the shots."²⁶ Exactly how the postal inspector came to "know" this later is unknown. And, of course, he was never asked to describe her or her male companion.

Of course, there are several other alternatives to this suggested scenario. One of the simplest is that the pistol was just another "throw down" in order to frame some other poor dupe as the "grassy knoll shooter" or the second "lone nut" should such an eventuality have ultimately been unavoidable to the plotters. Or, since the available evidence leaves it unclear as to Oswald's exact whereabouts at the time of the shooting (he could as easily have been on the knoll as in the TSBD), perhaps this pistol could also be traced to him, thus assuring that evidence would point in his direction depending on where the official verdict ultimately placed him.

Sadly, an article such as this raises far more questions than it answers. Such should not be the case. Had there been a real investigation, it would not have been so. 30 years ago, many of the questions now raised by the Oswald type "Dealey Plaza" pistol and the suspicious actions of the mysterious young blond-headed woman could have been easily addressed and probably answered. They certainly should have been addressed. According to records now available, they were not. A

sampling of some of those unanswered questions are: 1. Was Weitzman ever asked to study Dealey Plaza crowd photos which were taken just before, and right after the assassination, in an attempt to identify the young blond woman who dropped the lunch sack? 2. Was Weitzman ever asked to look at photos of Ruby's blond employees for the same purpose? 3. Were the lunch sack and pistol dusted for fingerprints? If so, what were the results? 4. Was the pistol ever examined in order to

determine whether or not it had recently been fired, and if so, what were those results? 5. What were the results of the FBI's ownership trace on the "Dealey Plaza" pistol? Did it trace to an individual,

and if so, whom? Was there any connection between this person and Ruby, Oswald, or any other "name" in the case? 6. Weitzman told the FBI that the information about the lunch sack and pistol "...had been brought to the attention of the Dallas Police Department." Is there any documentation for this in the Dallas Police files?

These questions and more beg for answers. At this late date, thanks to official obfuscation, malfeasance, and deceit, the whole truth about Dealey Plaza's second gun may remain forever hidden. The Warren commission, it appears, may not have known about the pistol found on the knoll. The Dallas Police, the FBI, and the HSCA, however, did, and chose to conceal this from the public. Could the reason for this obfuscation have been that there was already too much hard evidence of another assassin and a shot from the grassy knoll?

To date, more than 50 witnesses have stated that at least some of the shots that day came from the President's right front--the knoll area. Several have told of seeing a puff of smoke come from this same area at the time the shots rang out. Others reported having seen men flee the area immediately following the shots.

Equally valid are JFK's wounds, as described by those individuals who originally saw them--prior to the illegal removal of the body from the custody and control of local authorities. That data is highly suggestive of shots from the front--the knoll area; not just from the rear--the Book Depository. And many of these witnesses were highly qualified medical personnel who were trained and

"Why would the FBI apparently withhold information of a possible second gun from the Warren Commission?"

experienced in the treatment of gunshot wounds.

Why would the FBI apparently withhold information of a possible second gun from the Warren Commission? and why would the Dallas Police, the FBI, and ultimately, the House Select Committee, choose to keep the discovery of this gun a secret from the American people? The only apparent answer is that the authorities had already determined, as early as the night of the assassination, that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin. All evidence to the contrary would be discounted, destroyed,...or buried.

In an honest investigation, if Lee Oswald was indeed the sole assassin, as authorities so quickly declared, why hide the fact that a second, but "uninvolved and totally innocent," pistol had been found in close proximity to the scene of the assassination? To students of the case, these questions require no answer. The key word, or course, is "investigation"...something that John Kennedy's murder never really had.

This latter-day revelation of an Oswald-type pistol being found near the assassination scene appears to fall well short of being the long-awaited "smoking-gun" in the Kennedy assassination. It is, however, a "gun." We really can't be certain it isn't a "smoking" one because of the deceitful and suspicious manner in which this intriguing piece of evidence was handled--or not handled by the investigating authorities.

END NOTES

- ¹R HSCA 70; 8 HSCA 98.
- ²FBI Teletype, 11/29/63: to Directors and SACS, Dallas and Philadelphia from SAC, Boston.
- ³FBI Teletype, 11/30/63: to Director from SAC, Springfield.
- ⁴R WC 172-174.
- ⁵HSCA Record # 180-10004-10412.
- ⁶Warren Commission Document No. 5, p. 127.
- ⁷WC 106.
- ⁸Warren Commission Document No. 5, p. 126.
- ⁹*Ibid.*
- ¹⁰*Ibid.*
- ¹¹WC 107.
- ¹²*Ibid.*
- ¹³Warren Commission Document No. 355.

- ¹⁴Warren Commission Document No.2998.
- ¹⁵R WC 343-344.
- ¹⁶*Dallas Times Herald*, 5/22/75.
- ¹⁷R WC 343-344.
- ¹⁸*Midnight*, 11/15/76.
- ¹⁹*Ibid.*
- ²⁰Warren Commission Document No. 205, pp. 451-452.
- ²¹HSCA Routing Slip No. 005590, 2/18/78.
- ²²Interviews of T.V. newsman Bill O'Reilly and HSCA investigators Gaeton Fonzi and Cliff Fenton by *Dallas Morning News* reporter Earl Golz; January, 1982.
- ²³Interview of Elizabeth Good by Wallace Milam, 6/23/93.
- ²⁴Author's interview of Montie Altroy "Troy" Barnes; August 5, 1991.
- ²⁵*Miami Herald*, 11/6/60, p. 2A.
- ²⁶WC 291.

J. Gary Shaw is the co-author, along with Larry Ray Harris, of *Cover-Up*, as well as *Conspiracy of Silence*, co-authored with Dr. Charles Crenshaw and Jens Hansen. Mr. Shaw is a frequent contributor to journals and has been a significant factor in the success, year after year, of the A.S.K. Symposium.