

CHAPTER 7

The studies of November

1. A canceled motorcade in Chicago on November 2, 1963 due to mortal threats to JFK's life.¹
2. JFK's *two* trips, back to back, to New York: one covert (November 8–9, 1963), one overt (November 14–15, 1963). No survey reports survive from the first trip, and even the advance agent did not know the reason for this first trip.
3. Mortal threats to the President in Miami (November 9, 1963 onward) regarding JFK's trip to the city on November 18, 1963: Kennedy travels by helicopter for the thrust of this trip.
4. The numerous threats (associated with the aforementioned trips) that the agency *knew* of before these trips *and* (during) the Texas trip.
5. The sudden appearance of several key agents, some later denying their presence, during this time. Also, the omission of several important agents.
6. *The President's sudden so-called "desires", November 19–21, 1963.*

Since the month of November 1963 frames all of the abovementioned items, it is both safe and accurate to state that this month—November 1963—was a unique time in JFK's presidency, as well as in the Secret Service's protection of the President: nothing else from the available record would indicate such a predominance of security-related actions, threats, or Presidential "directives".² Incredibly, according to Ch. 8 of the ARRB's *Final Report* (1998):

Congress passed the JFK Act of 1992. One month later, the Secret Service began its compliance efforts. However, in January 1995, *the Secret Service destroyed presidential protection survey reports for some of President Kennedy's trips in the fall of 1963.* The Review Board learned of the destruction approximately one week after the Secret Service destroyed them, when the Board was drafting its request for additional information. The Board believed that the Secret Service files on the President's travel in the weeks preceding his murder would be relevant. [Emphasis added.]

As the ARRB's Doug Horne wrote in a memo dated April 16, 1996: "The 'final decision' to approve the Texas trip made 'late Tuesday night' indicates that decision came on September 24, 1963 ... the Secret Service Protective Survey Reports ... which were destroyed in 1995 commence with trip files starting on this same date: *September 24, 1963* [emphasis added]." In addition, the ARRB's Joan Zimmerman noted in a May 1, 1997 Memorandum To File: "Thus far, the US Secret Service collection is in 6 gray archive boxes for documents, 7 large, flat gray boxes with newspapers and clippings, and 1 small box with a tape cassette ... In Box 5 there are three folders marked "trip file". *All are empty.*" [Em-

phasis added.] The chairman of the ARRB, Judge Jack Tunheim, stated: “The Secret Service destroyed records after we were on the job and working. They claimed it was a mistake that it was just by the normal progression of records destruction.”³ Former PRS Agent Dale Wunderlich wrote the author: “I assumed that advance reports from the early 1960s had been destroyed years ago.”⁴ The agent’s assumption aside, why wait until 1995, after the ARRB began its work?

Only the Secret Service—no other agency, not even the CIA—is on record as having intentionally destroyed key Fall 1963 records during the ARRB’s tenure. Why? Why, indeed.

Keeping this in focus, how does all of this relate specifically to JFK’s mortal trip to Dallas, Texas on November 22, 1963? A large part of the answer may lie in responses made to the Warren Commission by Chief James J. Rowley. In response to J. Lee Rankin’s question, “In view of such changes that the Secret Service has made or intends to make in its procedures in effect on November 22, 1963, *does it require additional funds, equipment, or personnel?* If so, how much?” Rowley responded: “... since the 1965 budget figures had to be submitted in *November, 1963*, it was not possible to make specific and properly justified requests at that time ... the 1964–1965 budget request was submitted in *November 1963* and requests for additional personnel were not made *because of the studies then being conducted* [emphasis added].”⁵ What studies? And in November of 1963, of all times? The fiscal year for 1963 was July 1, 1962 through June 30, 1963!⁶ It wasn’t until a month after the assassination—late December, 1963—that C. Douglas Dillon formally requested Chief Rowley to start a study of the procedures used by the Secret Service in protecting the President, with reports and recommendations for changes to be submitted to him.⁷ So, again: what study was Rowley referring to for November 1963? Perhaps a test of the President’s security?

Consider the following:

Mixed messages and morale: According to Presidential aides Ken O’Donnell and Dave Powers, both passengers in the follow-up car on November 22, 1963, JFK was “annoyed by the efforts of the Secret Service” and the Secret Service was annoyed with him.⁸ Perhaps compromises were being reached in some covert fashion. With regard to “annoyances”, Abraham Bolden wrote the author: “While in New York on a protective assignment, Harvey Henderson countermanded a direct order from the President. This act occurred in September or October 1963 [Mr. Bolden may be mistaken on the time period⁹—the date may have been November 8–9, 1963 or November 14–15, 1963, a mere week or so before Dallas!]. The President subsequently had Henderson removed from the detail and this act by the President was very unpopular with Jerry Behn, Emory Roberts, and others on the detail.” [Emphasis added.] In addition, from a memo President Johnson read to Agent Youngblood shortly after the murder: “Morale in the Secret Service is at an all-time low. A number of agents of the White House Detail have been asking for transfers. This is a great body of men. These men feel they are *being prevented from doing their job properly*. They do not want favors; they just want to be accepted. We need them badly”¹⁰ [Emphasis added.] Roy Kellerman denied to Chief Rowley that he had made the follow-

ing admission to the FBI on the night of the murder: “The precautions employed in Dallas were the most stringent and thorough ever employed ... for the visit of a President to an American city.”¹¹ Perhaps this is why JFK told Congressman Henry Gonzalez on November 21, 1963, “The Secret Service told me that they had taken care of everything—there’s nothing to worry about.”¹² The President also told a concerned advance man, Marty Underwood, “You worry about me too much.”¹³

And, as spelled out throughout this book, the following agents and White House aides believed (or, in some cases, *knew*) that there was a conspiracy: Abraham Bolden, Maurice Martineau, Sam Kinney, Bill Greer, Roy Kellerman, Robert Bouck, Gerald O’Rourke, John Norris, Marty Underwood, and John Marshall.¹⁴ In fact, “Twice during the [HSCA] interview, Mr. Marshall mentioned that, for all he knew, *someone in the Secret Service could possibly have been involved in the assassination*. This is not the first time an agent has mentioned the possibility that a conspiracy existed, but it is the first time that an agent has acknowledged the possibility that the Secret Service could have been involved.”¹⁵ [Emphasis added.] Interestingly, Marshall served most of his six and a half years in the Pennsylvania State Police with Floyd Boring, before entering the Secret Service on June 30, 1941, and maintained regular contact with him.

Attorney General Robert Kennedy, the President’s brother, initially “... suspected someone had got to the Secret Service and prepped the murder of his brother”¹⁶ Presidential aide Dave Powers summed up the situation best, in reference to the Secret Service: “Every time a Kennedy dies, they improve it.”¹⁷

Chief James Rowley, SAIC Jerry Behn, and SAIC of the Dallas Office Forrest Sorrels have all been credited with making early pro-conspiracy statements,¹⁸ but later statements seem to negate these early pronouncements (“seem” being the operative word here).¹⁹ Like agents Greer and Kellerman (and Kinney), Hill gave testimony that contradicted official history regarding the President’s wounds,²⁰ but incongruously stated at other times that Oswald acted alone (or at least was the lone shooter).²¹ Paul Landis, Lem Johns, Ken O’Donnell, Dave Powers, and the aforementioned Sorrels gave indications that at least one of the shots came from the front.²² Finally, airman first class aircraft mechanic William E. Sale observed: “I will never forget the conversation among the agents who were well acquainted with firearms. *They said it [assassination gunfire] was automatic weapon fired from three directions behind the limo, the grassy hill, and the overpass ... They were positive it was a large conspiracy of multiple shooters.*”²³ [Emphasis added.] On WFAA/ABC, from reports immediately after the shooting: “Some of the Secret Service agents thought the gunfire was from an automatic weapon fired from the right rear, *probably from a grassy knoll where police rushed* [emphasis added].”

HR 4158: FBI and Secret Service feuding: As Fred Newcomb reported in *Murder from Within* back in 1974: “One of Robert Kennedy’s efforts at control, before the assassination, included HR 4158, a bill first introduced in February 1963, and defeated in the Congress after the assassination. This was a move by the Justice Department and Robert Kennedy to change the procedures for selecting those who would guard the President.” Chief James J. Rowley testified to

the Warren Commission: "(HR 4158) ... states that the Attorney General will appoint ... officials for the protection of the President ... And this is a feature ... of the law we object to"²⁴ Newcomb also wrote: "RFK may also have had something to do with initiating a Rand Corp. study of Presidential protection. It was apparently started in January or February 1964 without the knowledge of either the Warren Commission or Rowley."²⁵ In addition, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had been chomping at the bit to take over the role of the Secret Service with regard to presidential protection, much to the Secret Service's chagrin, going all the way back to at least the Franklin Roosevelt era. In fact, President Harry Truman noted in a letter to his wife in 1947: "Edgar Hoover would give his right eye to take over"²⁶ In 1949, the *Hoover Commission* recommended that the protective functions of the Secret Service be transferred to the Department of Justice.²⁷ As told by DNC advance man Jerry Bruno to the HSCA: "Bruno told us there was friction between the FBI and the SS. 'They would never rely on each other. The SS would develop their own local sources,' he said"²⁸ Former agent Darwin Horn wrote: "There was some talk about removing protection of the president from the Secret Service, and giving that responsibility to the Federal Bureau of Investigation."²⁹

The original idea of the security tests may have been to cement the Secret Service's role as the protector of the President, having successfully stopped an assassination attempt. Conversely, the agency (and the tests) may have been compromised by those in the know who were partial to Hoover (and, by extension, perhaps even the V.P., LBJ). The test, and the accompanying sinister behavior of some of the agents, was covered up after the fact, reducing the agents' poor performances down to mere negligence, at worst. Another reason for the cover-up: survival. As Rufus Youngblood put it: "... the Secret Service was still on shaky ground [right after assassination], and the FBI, the CIA, and the Defense Department were all reportedly looking into the business of Presidential protection as a possible addition to their own jobs."³⁰ However, Youngblood was quick to add: "... the fact that Lyndon Johnson, in the main, backed the Secret Service [was] largely responsible for the job [of Presidential protection] remaining where it was."³¹ William Manchester reported: "... the disaster had exposed a hidden weakness—the allegiance of individual agents to a man, not an office."³²

Strange connections and sentiments: SAIC of the Dallas Office Forrest Sorrels worked closely with the French police in Paris in 1947 during (as author Michael Dorman reported) "one of the most important counterfeiting investigations ever undertaken by the Secret Service."³³ Since a CIA document reveals that a *French* assassin, Michel Victor Mertz (posing as Jean Soutre), followed JFK (and, by extension, Sorrels) on November 22, 1963, this could be of major importance to the case—perhaps this mercenary was seeking revenge in the worst way. In addition, the mayor of Dallas, Earle Cabell, who rode in a car in the fateful motorcade, was the brother of General Charles Cabell, the number two man in the CIA fired by Kennedy for the Bay of Pigs fiasco!³⁴ Earle Cabell told ABC TV on November 22, 1963, *after* Oswald's capture by police: The assassination was "the irrational act of a single man ... *all possible security precautions were taken* [between Dallas Police and the Secret Service] ... this could only be the act of a deranged man," sentiments shared by the number one man in the CIA, also fired by Kennedy, Warren Commission member Allen Dulles.

In fact, these beliefs were also shared by former Secret Service Chief U. E. Baughman (also let go by JFK), as expressed in his book, written the year before the assassination: "You know that three of our Presidents have already been assassinated—and that the assassins were insane ... Who makes these attempts, the successful ones, the near successful ones and the complete failures? They are all made by mentally disturbed people. You have already seen one of these mentally disturbed people in action, the insane [Richard Paul] Pavlick³⁵ and his attempt on the life of President[-elect] Kennedy. As individuals they are sometimes capable of the most cunning kind of planning. Sometimes they are intellectuals. Sometimes their mental condition is cloaked in the disguise of a political philosophy. But whatever mask he uses, the assassin, underneath, is insane. In the Secret Service we have found that to be unfailingly true"³⁶ Hoover also was adamant that the assassination was the work of one man acting alone, Oswald, and Hoover's bizarre views on the mafia were surprisingly reflected in Baughman's comments to the media: "I will say emphatically that there is no Mafia in this country and no national crime syndicate. Why don't those who talk about the mafia name its leader or leaders? There has been no Mafia in this country for at least forty years. Now about a national crime syndicate: I say there is no such thing, and I say it not simply as a personal judgment but on the basis of talks with other enforcement officials."³⁷ No wonder JFK got rid of Baughman: I'm sure the Attorney General, RFK, appreciated the Chief's "wisdom", no doubt originating from Hoover. Was this a "parting shot" by U. E., directed at JFK and RFK? Finally, Baughman said this about JFK's opponent and bitter rival, Richard M. Nixon, in his book: "Perhaps Mr. Nixon will yet have a chance to show his mettle and his qualities in the presidency itself."³⁸ It should be noted that these comments were published *after* Nixon had lost his bid to be California's Governor (losing to Pat Brown) and *after* Nixon retired from politics in 1962.

The way that the same newspaper, *The Washington Post*, carried the news about Baughman's departure the day before, July 25, 1961, is revealing: "U. E. Baughman, 55, Chief of the United States Secret Service, is resigning, it was learned [Monday] night. After 34 years in the Secret Service, 13 as Chief ... *He has no plans for private employment at the moment* [emphasis added]." Apparently, Baughman didn't see it coming, as past and present officials of the Secret Service who truly resign on their own accord have jobs in the private sector lined up well in advance of their "career moves", so to speak. In fact, these private sector jobs are often *the* reason they leave their official posts.

Timing, part one: promotions and demotions: Former Chief U. E. Baughman, retired/fired by JFK at the same general time as CIA Director Allen Dulles,³⁹ was made the Chief on *November 22* (1948): "I remember with absolute clarity the details of that call which was to change my life, give it its final shape. The date was November 22, 1948"⁴⁰ There may very well be significance to this date, pre- and post-assassination: Chief Rowley conducted an investigation culminating in the *November 22, 1964* Dillon Committee,⁴¹ named after Treasury Secretary Douglas Dillon, a member of the "Stop Castro" lobby in Washington.⁴² Upon "investigation", Rowley had this to say about the agents involved: "I don't believe they could have prevented the assassination." [!] Furthermore, future Reagan protector Dennis V. N. McCarthy wrote in his book: "My first day on the

job was *November 22, 1964 ...*⁴³ [Emphasis added.] In addition, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was up for statutory retirement in January 1965 (if JFK had lived), which turned out to be the exact month that SAIC Behn and SAIC Knight were transferred out of the White House Detail (Behn considered this a demotion), allowing LBJ's "boy" Rufus Youngblood, a man he called "the dearest of all",⁴⁴ to become SAIC of the WHD and ASAIC Boring to become an Inspector. In addition, Emory Roberts' career with LBJ *and* the Secret Service took off, while ASAIC Roy Kellerman became an Assistant Administrator: a desk job.⁴⁵

Timing, part two: technical assistance: In *mid-November 1963*, the Secret Service was working with an Army consultant on trying to devise a *bulletproof* bubbletop.⁴⁶ In addition, the Secret Service hired John Hansbury as the very first Secret Service armorer in 1963.⁴⁷ Perhaps more importantly, Miami WHD advance agent Bert DeFreese had told the HSCA: "In 1963 it was rare for a PRS agent from Washington to accompany an advance agent in to the field." The agent appears to be correct: the available record—the Protective Survey Reports not shredded by the Secret Service in 1995—bears him out on this point ... up to early November 1963, that is. However, PRS Agent Glen Bennett begins riding in motorcades—and protecting JFK—in the Fall of 1963. On November 9, 1963, Joseph Milteer makes his infamous mortal threat to JFK.⁴⁸ The very next day, on November 10, 1963, Bennett is "temporarily assigned to the White House Detail."⁴⁹ On November 11, 1963, SAIC of PRS Robert Bouck is notified of JFK's *second* New York trip; Bennett was then dispatched to the President's suite at the Carlyle Hotel, prior to JFK's arrival on November 14, 1963, "to conduct a technical survey".⁵⁰ For JFK's *second* trip to New York (November 14–15, 1963), Bennett may have also rode in the follow-up car!⁵¹ If that weren't enough, Bennett was also on all four stops from the President's trip to Florida on November 18, 1963 (the trip unofficially began November 15, 1963, straight from the second New York trip), the first of which was Cape Canaveral.⁵² Bennett's help was sure needed in Miami: there were an incredible *six* pages' worth of threat subjects and information, including the subjects Orlando Bosch, Pedro Diaz Lanz, Enrique Llaca, Jr., and others.⁵³ In addition, *the CIA's Ted Shackley and William Finch helped the Secret Service on this trip!*⁵⁴ This help shouldn't be viewed as all that unusual, for the Secret Service "... has received 'briefing/training' of a classified nature from the CIA."⁵⁵ Bennett, as we also know, denied to the HSCA that he was even *on* the Florida trip;⁵⁶ even Agent Sam Kinney told the author that Bennett's *first* trip was the *Dallas* trip, despite the overwhelming documentary record to the contrary.⁵⁷ If that weren't enough, Miami WHD Advance Agent Bert DeFreese also told the HSCA that "no PRS agent accompanied [him] on this trip",⁵⁸ yet Bennett was with DeFreese in Miami *and* in Houston⁵⁹ on November 21, 1963! On November 22, 1963, Bennett once again rode in the follow-up car, this time in Dallas: Advance agent Winston Lawson wrote in his report: "Agent Bennett was *reminded* that he would work Presidential follow-up car on the movement [emphasis added]."⁶⁰

Former PRS Agent Dale Wunderlich wrote the author: "Howard K. Norton was *the first 'Security Technician' that was hired by the USSS*. He was retired from the Air Force where I believe that he was a Sergeant Major in OSI. He was never a Special Agent but, was *extremely knowledgeable in the field of electronics and electronic countermeasures*."⁶¹ [Emphasis added.] And, as we know, Norton was

on the Florida *and* Texas trips! In the context of the aforementioned “studies” conducted in the month of November, and the role of Mr. Norton, Rowley’s Warren Commission testimony bears fruit:

Representative Ford: “Mr. Rankin, is the letter of April 22, 1964, from Mr. Rowley to you with the enclosures a Commission exhibit?”

Mr. Rankin: “Yes; that has been offered. That is Commission Exhibit No. 1027.

Representative Ford: “In this enclosure, Chief Rowley, on page 4, under sub-heading (c), the following is stated: ‘The Secret Service has no funds for research and very limited funds for the acquisition of protective devices. *In the fiscal year 1964 budget, the Service requested \$23,057 for two positions for technical specialists. The Congress did not make any appropriation covering this request, and it was repeated in the 1965 budget request, and has been included in the appropriation passed by the House several weeks ago.*’ Could you define more particularly what you had in mind for these so-called technical specialists?”

Mr. Rowley: “Yes, sir; this was someone that knew something about *electronics or electronic engineering for the sweeping of different places*. We felt that to date we were utilizing the services of agents who primarily came with us on the basis of criminal investigation, and that, therefore, it was my feeling that we should have this type of expert. As I said earlier, I realize the shortcomings and the requirements which we are operating under—and I was endeavoring to get the funds from Congress, the personnel that I thought were necessary, as well as the equipment I thought we should have, primarily to have this operation under control for us. Now, I might say that *the CIA has been most helpful*. The equipment we used in the early days were from that organization and the State Department. But now they have gotten so busy, as you well know, that they haven’t got much time to assist us. So that we feel we want to have our own equipment, our own experts, and people that know our work, and devote their time to it.”

Representative Ford: “*When you talk about technical specialists here, you are referring to electronics specialists?*”

Mr. Rowley: “Yes, sir.”

Representative Ford: “You are not referring to a general research and development program, however?”

Mr. Rowley: “No, sir; this confusion is why it was refused a year ago.”

Representative Ford: “Let me ask this, then, Chief Rowley. *Would these technical experts, or technical specialists, have been on duty in Dallas on this particular trip if you had had the funds and had employed them?*”

Mr. Rowley: “Yes; but they would have been employed in something entirely different.”

Representative Ford: "They wouldn't have had any relationship to the motorcade?"

Mr. Rowley: "No, sir. *If I may go off the record.*"

Mr. Rankin: "Will you tell us why you are going off the record?"

Mr. Rowley: "*Because it involves national security.*"

(Discussion off the record.)

The Chairman: "Back on the record."

Representative Ford: "*As I understand it, then, the deletion of these funds for these technical specialists in fiscal year 1964 did not in any way handicap operation in Dallas at the time of the assassination?*"

Mr. Rowley: "No; we have never said that. We are just saying that if we had the equipment—in other words, what I am trying to do, Mr. Congressman is to move forward. *And the only way I know, after a period of years, is to ask for a sum of money, but then my experience is that sometimes the Congress becomes alarmed. But this is a need that we have. And this is what I am trying to explain. This is an example of what we are trying to do, in equipment and manpower.*"

[Emphasis added.]⁶²

Yet, as discovered by the author in a "smoking gun" document, Norton was at least on the Austin leg of the Texas trip, as well as the Florida trip.⁶³

Threats: Chief Rowley, Inspector Thomas Kelley, David Grant, Floyd Boring, Robert Bouck, Abraham Bolden, and others knew of the threats of November 1963 *before* Dallas. Again, keeping in mind the role of the PRS's Howard Norton, PRS Agent Glen Bennett appears to have joined the WHD during this time to covertly monitor mortal threats to the President's life.⁶⁴

Off-the-cuff remarks: Chief Rowley admitted that the agency does "practice runs". Agent Kinney, albeit most likely using a bit of hyperbole, told the author "we ran through that [the assassination] thirty times a month."⁶⁵ In fact, the Beltsville, Maryland Secret Service Training Facility is named after Chief Rowley: the agency *does* indeed perform a lot of "practice runs" there, including, as previously mentioned, people with umbrellas popping up in mock motorcades!

The November 18, 1963 Special Ordinance from the DPD (in cooperation with the Secret Service): Agent Lawson said that this new law, passed just in time for the Dallas trip, would give local authorities the power to act against unruly persons involved against peaceful picketing of JFK, which the author believes was a convenient loophole designed to give the DPD and the Secret Service more room to do things they normally wouldn't be able to do in similar situations involving Presidential visits and motorcades in the recent past; perhaps a perfect part of a security test.⁶⁶

Perhaps the greatest smoking gun in the entire Kennedy case: The presence of unauthorized “Secret Service” agents in Dealey Plaza, as verified by the accounts of five police officers and at least six spectators, *not* including Lee Harvey Oswald himself.⁶⁷ Was it a case of mistaken identity? Was he a fake agent? Was he a real agent?⁶⁸ These were the questions the author felt he had to answer, or try to, to the best of his ability. What does the “official” record reveal about these alleged “sightings”? Yeah, we know ... or do we? Going back to the original “official” statement, or party line, was quite an eye-opening experience: “All the Secret Service agents *assigned to the motorcade* stayed with the motorcade all the way to the hospital. None remained at the scene of the shooting, and none entered the School Book Depository at or immediately after the time of the shooting.”⁶⁹ [Emphasis added.] So, in actual fact, this statement, drafted by Secretary of the Treasury C. Douglas Dillon and General Counsel G. d’An-delot Belin, only accounts for the sixteen agents traveling in the motorcade—two in the lead car (Lawson and Sorrels), two in the limousine (Greer and Kellerman), eight in the follow up (Kinney, Roberts, Hill, McIntyre, Ready, Landis, Bennett, and Hickey), one in LBJ’s car (Youngblood), and the three in the VP follow-up car (Johns, Taylor, and Kivett).

We can discard the notion that “Lem” Johns was the agent: Johns told the author on February 11, 2004 that he “ran right to the first convertible” and was only on the street very briefly: “Time enough to catch a ride.”⁷⁰ If we stipulate that the other WHD agents assigned to the Trade Mart, Love Field, Austin, and other places, based on the “official” record, really were there the whole time,⁷¹ what does that leave us with? For one thing, there were, “officially” speaking, six agents in the Dallas field office of the Secret Service: SAIC *Sorrels*, as noted, in the lead car; *Robert Steuart* and *John Joe Howlett*, at the Trade Mart; Roger C. Warner (of the Washington Field Office on his first presidential protection mission) and *William H. Patterson*, both stationed at Love Field. But, as you note, that is only four of the six agents. And there’s the rub: the Secret Service reports in the Warren Commission Volumes confirm what all the aforementioned agents were doing on November 22, 1963 ... but what about the other two: *Charles E. Kunkel* and *James F. “Mike” Howard*? There are *no* reports from these two men in the volumes (quite a strange departure), and *no* testimony was taken from them, either (although, with no testimony taken from seven of the eight Secret Service agents in the follow-up car, that should not surprise us). Coincidentally (or not), both of these agents would go on to guard the Oswald family after the assassination and subsequent death of Lee Harvey Oswald; in fact, good old Marguerite Oswald felt that these agents were involved in the actual conspiracy itself!⁷² Howard, who would go on to join the WHD on March 29, 1964, was interviewed in an Associated Press story covered in the *Fresno Bee* on November 22, 1993, the 30th anniversary of JFK’s murder, as well as a *Houston Post* story of a similar nature. Despite the obvious need to focus on the assassination, there was no mention in that interview of where either Howard or Kunkel were during the critical time of the shooting.⁷³ However, in 1999, during a lecture in Dallas, Howard made the claim that he was cleaning the room JFK had used at the Hotel Texas when the assassination occurred and that Kunkel was in Washington, D.C on an unspecified investigation at the time. Still, Howard and Kunkel’s whereabouts remain unverified.⁷⁴ (Likewise, WHD Agent Ron-

ald M. Pontius has a murky record of his exact whereabouts on November 21–22, 1963.)⁷⁵

Another clue to the mystery of the “unknown agent” in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963 may come from the statements of former Dallas agent Robert A. Steuart, as revealed in Bill Sloan’s 1993 work, *JFK: Breaking the Silence*.⁷⁶ Although the agent who spoke to Sloan was unnamed in the book, Sloan confirmed to this author the agent’s identity based on the firm conviction that this agent *had* to have been Steuart. Why? Because, as the author told Sloan, the agent used the identical language during two interviews with Steuart conducted in 1992 and 1993. In any event, Sloan did indeed confirm the author’s suspicions. So, just what did Steuart say to Sloan (and, by extension, this author)? Sworn to absolute secrecy about the “Kennedy thing”, Steuart went on to say, “I can’t talk about it ... There are so many things I could tell you, but I just can’t ... I can’t tell you anything ... I’d like to, but I can’t ... It was a very heavy deal, and they would know. Someone would know. It’s ... too dangerous, even now.”

This, from a local agent, stationed at the Trade Mart on November 22, 1963.

Secret Service agent Abraham Bolden stated that it was “a matter widely known in the Service” that some unauthorized person had used Secret Service credentials in Dallas on November 22, 1963 (again, perhaps the greatest smoking gun in the entire case). Accordingly, all Special Agents were required to surrender their identification documents for “an unprecedented Service-wide check”!⁷⁷

Bolden further added: “Do you know what happened to Harvey Henderson? I heard that he had been relieved of his Detail by President Kennedy himself ... *Harvey had made some threats like, ‘We’ll get you’ ... I understand that he told the President ‘I’ll get you’, or something to that effect ... [it was] no secret that Kennedy wanted him removed from the detail ... Harvey was a quick-tempered guy who couldn’t take the heat ... Where is Harvey Henderson at? I think that you would do well if you could find out where Harvey Henderson was on November 22. Can you track him down?*” [Emphasis added.] In reference to the illicit Secret Service credentials present in Dealey Plaza on November 22, 1963,⁷⁸ Mr. Bolden said, in reference to Harvey Henderson: “That’s the first thing that crossed my mind—he would have the nerve, the guts, the anger, the craziness, the instability ... I’m not saying he was in Dallas, but I’m saying that ... it would be something to look at.” (In the book *Martin Luther King, Jr.: the FBI File*,⁷⁹ it is revealed that information regarding a plot to kill Martin Luther King was furnished to Henderson, the ASAIC of the Birmingham Secret Service field office, on March 11, 1965, over three years before MLK’s murder. Henderson died in early 1994).⁸⁰

Famous reporter Merriman Smith, who rode in the Dallas motorcade, was close to the Secret Service: He “... lived so closely with Secret Service men that he came to share their views on many of the problems involved in protecting presidents ... We’ve shared some terrible moments. A Secret Service agent once came to me months after Dallas and said he still suffered from horrible nightmares in which he would relive the assassination scene. He was losing sleep and weight and, he

was afraid, his nerves. I told him that the same thing had happened to me, and that I had finally gone to a psychiatrist about the problem." [Timothy G. Smith (ed.), Merriman Smith's Book of Presidents; A White House Memoir, pp. 225, 234-235.

Merriman Smith committed suicide in 1970: a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

¹ Interestingly, a proposed trip was planned for Chicago shortly after the Texas trip, perhaps even to have been *the* next one (RIF#154-10001-10065: Secret Service shift report). Joseph Paoella was the advance agent for this trip, having arrived in Chicago November 18, 1963 (had been on JFK's March 23, 1963 Chicago trip; interviewed for Seymour Hersh's *The Dark Side of Camelot* (1997) and accompanying ABC special which aired December 4, 1997; July 22, 1999 email to author).

² See Chapters 1 and 2; see also HSCA Report, pp. 229-230.

³ *CBS News*, December 13, 1999.

⁴ Email to author, October 9, 1999.

⁵ WR, 466-7; WR, p. 207 (Associated Press version); 18 H 821; 5 H 478.

⁶ WR, p. 515; see also *Looking Back and Seeing the Future: The United States Secret Service 1865-1990* by the AFAUSSS (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1991), p. 45: in 1940-41, the time span was July 1 to June 30.

⁷ *20 Years in the Secret Service*, p. 151.

⁸ Kenneth P. O'Donnell, David F. Powers, and Joseph McCarthy, *Johnny, We Hardly Knew Ye* (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1972), pp. 19, 448.

⁹ *One Scandalous Story* by former CBS newsman Marvin Kalb (Free Press, 2001), p. 4, relates a September 1963 JFK trip to New York.

¹⁰ *20 Years in the Secret Service*, pp. 147-9. LBJ further told Youngblood that "... somebody in your outfit has been bellyaching to [one of Kennedy's top people] ... There's enough truth in it to see that somebody talked ... you know I can't have disloyalty and I can't talk in front of your people and have them repeat it. I told Chief Rowley that, to call 'em in and take the resignations of anybody who wanted out, and I'll be glad to have his, yours or anybody else's. If they don't want to handle it we can get the FBI to do it ... I'll get Hoover to send me over a couple of twenty-one-year-old accountants and they'll probably do as good a job!" Youngblood responded, "We'll stick with you sir." This phone conversation was also aired on *The Secret White House Tapes*, A&E Network, March 1997.

¹¹ Kellerman: 18 H 707-8.

¹² Gonzalez: *High Treason*, p. 127.

¹³ Underwood: *Evening Magazine* video, November 22, 1988, and author's interview with Marty Underwood October 9, 1992; HSCA Report, p. 228.

¹⁴ "Honorable mention" must go to former agent J. Frank Yeager, who wrote in a letter to the author dated January 24, 2004: "I believe that Oswald was the assassin and that he was alone that day; however[,] *I don't know if someone or [some] group put him up to it* [emphasis added]."

¹⁵ HSCA interview with Marshall, February 22, 1978: RIF#180-10074-10393. Perhaps not surprising is the following excerpt from Floyd Boring's September 18, 1996 ARRB interview: "When shown the HSCA summary of its interview with Miami SAIC John Marshall (specifically, Marshall's twice expressed opinion that there may have been a Secret Service conspiracy), Mr. Boring expressed surprise at those sentiments and said he had never heard that opinion expressed by SAIC Marshall (a personal friend of his from their previous association as Pennsylvania State Troopers) before."

¹⁶ Warren Hinckle III, "The Mystery of the Black Books," *Esquire*, April 1973, p. 172.

RFK's suspicions centered on Jimmy Hoffa: Noel Twyman, *Bloody Treason*, pp. 751-2.

¹⁷ Ralph Martin, *A Hero for Our Time*, p. 532.

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- ¹⁸ Rowley: James Hepburn (pseud.), *Farewell America* (1968), p. 301; see also Livingstone and Groden, *High Treason*, p. 128. Behn and Sorrels: Manchester, p. 528; *Farewell America*, p. 301; *High Treason*, p. 128.
- ¹⁹ Rowley's LBJ Library Oral History, January 22, 1969, p. 17. Behn's JFK Library Oral History, February 24, 1976, p. 7. HSCA interview with Sorrels, March 15, 1978: RIF#180-10074-10392. Sorrels to *Dallas Morning News* reporter Earl Golz, August 20, 1978 (Golz notes, Assassination Archives and Research Center); *Dallas Morning News*, August 27, 1978.
- ²⁰ Hill's November 30, 1963 report: 18 H 740-5. Hill's testimony before the Warren Commission on March 9, 1964: 2 H 138-144.
- ²¹ Mike Wallace's interview of Clint Hill on *60 Minutes*, December 8, 1975; *The Secret Service*, documentary, 1995, History Channel.
- ²² Powers and O'Donnell: 7 H 472-4; *High Treason*, p. 423; Groden's *The Killing of a President*, p. 205 (referring to O'Neill's 1987 book *Man of the House*, p. 211); *Larry King Live*, January 20, 1992 (interview with O'Neill); *Beyond JFK: The Question of Conspiracy*, video/DVD (1992): O'Neill. Sorrels: Sorrels' report dated November 28, 1963: 21 H 548. According to Orville Nix, a Dealey Plaza eyewitness who filmed the assassination and who was a good friend of Sorrels (Nix was an air-conditioning repairman for the General Service Administration in the Dallas Secret Service Building), Sorrels told him that the shots came from the grassy knoll (*Rush to Judgment* film by Mark Lane; see also Michael Benson, *Who's Who in the JFK Assassination*, 1993, p. 314). In Sorrels' report dated November 28, 1963 he wrote: "I looked towards the top of the terrace to my right as the sound of the shots seemed to come from that direction." (21 H 548.) Sorrels also told the Warren Commission: "I just said, 'What's that?' And turned around to look up on this terrace part there, because the sound sounded like it came from the back and up in that direction ... as I said, the noise from the shots sounded like they may have come back up on the terrace there." (7 H 345-6.) For his part, DNC advance man Jacob L. "Jack" Puterbaugh, who rode in pilot car, said, "He has some doubts about the validity of the Warren Commission's findings, since 'the ballistics stuff doesn't add up.'" (Larry Haapanen's interview with Puterbaugh, September 5, 1970 [transcript provided to the author].)
- ²³ Undated Sale letter provided to the author by researcher Martin Shackelford.
- ²⁴ 5 H 474. See also 17 H 862-3: Hoover, regarding HR 4158.
- ²⁵ Newcomb and Adams, *Murder from Within*, p. 386.
- ²⁶ Melanson, *The Secret Service*, p. 51; see also pp. 42, 44-46, 85, 210. As Agent Marty Venker later wrote: "There'd even been talk of disbanding the Secret Service and giving the job of protecting future Presidents to the FBI." (*Confessions of an Ex-Secret Service Agent*, p. 26.)
- ²⁷ WR 514.
- ²⁸ December 13, 1977 HSCA interview with Jerry Bruno (RIF#180-10117-10264).
- ²⁹ Darwin Horn, *Dar's Story: Memoirs of a Secret Service Agent* (Santa Barbara, CA: Haagen Printing, 2002), p. 114.
- ³⁰ *20 Years in the Secret Service*, p. 146.
- ³¹ Ibid.
- ³² Manchester, p. 175.
- ³³ Michael Dorman, *The Secret Service Story* (New York: Dell, 1967), p. 76. See also *Looking Back and Seeing the Future: The United States Secret Service 1865-1990* by the AFAUSSS (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1991), p. 43.
- ³⁴ This once little-known fact is now relatively common knowledge: see, for example, the movie *JFK* (and the *Book of the Film*). As author Harrison Livingstone wrote: "There is reason to believe that Cabell worked to undermine President Kennedy's Secret Service protection [sourcing a Washington Post article dated September 16, 1973] ... The father and grandfather of the Cabell brothers had been sheriffs of Dallas, and so they

- had considerable influence within the CIA and the city of Dallas.” (*High Treason*, p. 133.)
- ³⁵ See Youngblood, pp. 60–62, as well as Manchester, p. 35.
- ³⁶ Baughman, pp. 33–34.
- ³⁷ *The Washington Post*, July 26, 1961.
- ³⁸ Baughman, p. 182.
- ³⁹ Interestingly, Dulles was photographed at the LBJ ranch just a few days before JFK’s trip to Dallas, as verified by *The Fort Worth Press* [see also James H. Fetzer, ed., *The Great Zapruder Film Hoax* (Chicago: Catfeet Press, 2003), p. 69].
- ⁴⁰ U. E. Baughman, *Secret Service Chief*, p. 30.
- ⁴¹ Rowley LBJ Library oral history, January 22, 1969, p. 18.
- ⁴² James Hepburn (pseud.), *Farewell America*, p. 363; James DiEugenio, *Destiny Betrayed* (Sheridan Square Press, 1992), p. 334.
- ⁴³ McCarthy, p. 131.
- ⁴⁴ Youngblood, p. 230.
- ⁴⁵ *The Washington Post*, March 30, 1984.
- ⁴⁶ CD 3, p. 23.
- ⁴⁷ *Looking Back and Seeing the Future: The United States Secret Service 1865–1990* by the AFAUSSS (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1991), p. 98.
- ⁴⁸ CD 1347, p. 119.
- ⁴⁹ 18 H 783.
- ⁵⁰ RIF#154–10002–10419: second New York City trip, November 14–15, 1963.
- ⁵¹ *Ibid.* It is not clear from the written record on this point.
- ⁵² RIF#154–10002–10421: Cape Canaveral, Florida, November 18, 1963.
- ⁵³ RIF#154–10002–10422: Miami, Florida, November 18, 1963.
- ⁵⁴ *Ibid.*
- ⁵⁵ Philip Melanson, *The Politics of Protection* (New York: Praeger Publishers, 1984), p. 42 (referencing a CIA memo dated June 5, 1973).
- ⁵⁶ RIF#180–10082–10452: January 30, 1978 HSCA interview of Bennett.
- ⁵⁷ Author’s interview with Kinney, March 5, 1994. Shift reports: RIF#154–10001–10064. Survey reports: RIF#154–10002–10421, 10422.
- ⁵⁸ RIF#180–10083–10419: February 2, 1978 HSCA interview of deFreese.
- ⁵⁹ RIF#154–10001–10104; 154–10001–10064; 154–10001–10042; 154–10001–10044 (Daily Shift report, V.P. Detail, November 21, 1963); 154–10001–10031; 180–10083–10419; 180–10078–10493; 16 H 950–1; 17 H 618; author’s October 9, 1992 interview with DNC advance man Marty Underwood; DNC Advance man Jerry Bruno’s notes, JFK Library.
- ⁶⁰ 17 H 631.
- ⁶¹ Email to author dated October 9, 1999.
- ⁶² 5 H 475–6.
- ⁶³ ATSAIC Arthur Godfrey’s Shift Report for November 22, 1963: USSS RIF#154–10001–10033; see Appendix III.
- ⁶⁴ See Chapter 2.
- ⁶⁵ Author’s interview with Chief Rowley, September 27, 1992; see also Rowley testimony to HSCA, September 1978 [3 HSCA 395]; author’s interview with Sam Kinney, October 10, 1992.
- ⁶⁶ 4 H 323; CD 3 exhibits; see also Curry’s book.
- ⁶⁷ *Officers*: Joe M. Smith: 7 H 535; February 8, 1978 HSCA interview (JFK Document 005886). D. V. Harkness: 6 H 312; Henry Hurt, *Reasonable Doubt* (New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1985), pp. 110–1; Larry Sneed, *No More Silence*, pp. 206, 209. Seymour Weitzman: 7 H 107. Roger Craig: *Crossfire*, p. 330. Edgar L. Smith: *No More Silence*, p. 199. *Spectators*: Malcolm Summers: *Nova*, PBS documentary, November 1988; *Who Murdered JFK?*, Jack Anderson documentary (1988). Gordon Arnold: *Dallas Morning News*, August 27, 1978. Ron Fischer: 6 H 196. Ed Hoffman: Ed Hoffman and Ron

Friedrich, *Eyewitness* (Texas: JFK Lancer Publications, 1998). Sam Holland: 6 H 247–254. John Martin, Jr.: Michael Benson, *Encyclopedia of the JFK Assassination* (New York: Checkmark Books, 2002), p. 149. Lee Harvey Oswald: 24 H 479. Both in his book *The Right Place at the Right Time* (Little, Brown, & Co., 1982) and on the 1992 video (2003 DVD) *Beyond JFK: The Question of Conspiracy*, Mr. MacNeil could not say if he really did meet Lee Harvey Oswald; in fact, he appears to doubt the possibility: “I had no way of confirming that ... I had spoken with ... Oswald.” The author has several hours of NBC’s videotapes from November 22, 1963, which includes reporter MacNeil; from observation, it appears very unlikely that the “agent” Oswald met was MacNeil, for the reporter had slicked back hair, hardly the blonde crew cut Oswald noted. Also, not once did MacNeil mention running into Oswald. However, news reporter Pierce Alman claimed in 1989 to be the “agent” Oswald encountered—author Jim Marrs reported, “Alman apparently had no direct knowledge of this incident since he says *government agents* told him months after the assassination that he had met Oswald.” [Emphasis added; *Crossfire*, p. 322]. That said, WCD 354 documents Alman’s early claim. This author is still not completely convinced, but is willing to concede just for now that one of the “agent” sightings—in this case, by Lee Harvey Oswald—may be faulty. However, 24 H 320, the report of officers Sims and Boyd, mention an unidentified Secret Service agent and two ATF agents (including Frank Ellsworth) who were present in the Texas School Book Depository (TSBD) when the rifle was found; food for thought. That said, as another precondition, we shall also discard the problematic “identification” of Jean Hill, as her claim to have been encountered by a Secret Service agent was most likely in error: the “agent” appears to have been *Dallas Times Herald* reporter Jim Featherstone (as Featherstone himself stated on C-SPAN in November 1993). Peter Dale Scott wrote: “... [FBI Agent James] Hosty told the [House] Select Committee that at the time of the assassination ‘Frank Ellsworth ... had indicated that he had been in the grassy knoll area and for some reason identified himself as a Secret Service Agent.’ *Ellsworth, deposed by the Committee, denied Hosty’s allegation*. We know, however, that he was in the immediate area [4 H 461]. Interestingly, he and seven other ATF agents were among the first law enforcement personnel of any description to reach the sixth floor of the TSBD. If Ellsworth was in the vicinity, it remains to be asked how Hosty knew about it.” [*Deep Politics*, p. 274.] “In 1963, if you would have asked me if I was a Secret Service agent, I most likely would have answered yes—our roles overlapped that much.” [Frank Ellsworth to author Gus Russo in 1994, *Live by the Sword* (Latham, MD: Bancroft Press, 1998), p. 473]. In the 1970s, under oath, Ellsworth denied the claim, whereas in this 1990s interview he seems to leave the door open to the possibility. However, according to an A&TT (precursor to the ATF) memo, the agents—including Ellsworth—were searching the Texas School Book Depository, *not* the knoll: “U.S. Secret Service. To: Chief. Attn.: Insp. Kelley. From: SAIC Sorrels, Dallas (initialed). Subject: Report as to A&TT Investigators searching Texas School Book Depository Bldg., Dallas, TX, after assassination of President Kennedy. There is enclosed a memorandum dated Jan. 14, 1964, submitted by Mr. Carl R. Booth, Jr. Supervisor in Charge, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax, Dallas, TX, regarding their Special Investigators and others having assisted in search of the Texas School Book Depository Building after assassination of President Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963. A copy of this memorandum is being retained in Dallas office.” As mentioned earlier, the HSCA thought they had the answer ... and they were wrong: see Chapter 2 regarding Robert E. Jones and James Powell (and Bennett).

⁶⁸ DPD Officer Joe Marshall Smith had drawn his revolver on an individual he had confronted on the grassy knoll: “Just as I did, he showed me that he was Secret Service.” The “agent” produced *credentials* and said he was a Secret Service Agent. However, the man had dirty hands and untidy clothes. In fact, Smith later told author Fred Newcomb in the early 1970s that he believed that (real) Secret Service men had positioned themselves among bystanders, presumably a standard security measure ...

- but it was not, and, officially, no one was there (Fred Newcomb and Perry Adams, *Murder from Within*, pp. 75, 101).
- ⁶⁹ CD 3, p. 44: emphasis added. Former agent Bill Livingood even told researcher Gary Rowell in 1991: "There were no Secret Service agents on the grassy knoll." (Author's article in the December 1994 *Investigator* research journal; author's interview with Bill Livingood, November 1992; author's phone conversations with Gary Rowell.)
- ⁷⁰ See also Michael T. Griffith's important article, "The man who wasn't there, was there" (www.jfklancer.com/ManWho.html). In addition, Johns told the HSCA: "... I was running towards LBJ's car, which was now some distance away from us and picking up speed. I was left on the street with no way to get back in our car. A passing car with White House photographers in it came by and one of them recognized me. He said 'Hey, there's Lem Johns. Let's give him a ride.' They stopped and picked me up and we drove to the Trade Mart" This further debunks the notion that Johns was the agent of unknown repute in Dealey Plaza. (HSCA interview with Johns, August 8, 1978: RIF#180-10074-10079.)
- ⁷¹ This, of course, does not rule them out.
- ⁷² 1 H 169-170.
- ⁷³ From 18 H 675: "On December 4, 1963, Special Agent James M. Howard, assigned to the Dallas, Texas, office, and who assisted in the advance arrangements at Fort Worth, Texas, advised that *he was on duty at the Texas Hotel from the time the President arrived until 4:00 a.m. on November 22, 1963*; that he was representing the Dallas Office and had occasion to meet and to talk to many of the Special Agents accompanying the President from Washington in the lobby, at the President's suite and in the Agents' rooms. He stated that at no time did he ever see any Special Agent of this Service in an intoxicated condition; that he himself was not at the Press Club [how about the Cellar?]. This Special Agent's remarks are worthy of comment, as it is known that he does not drink intoxicants of any kind, and it is believed that any remarks by him would be unbiased [!]." [Emphasis added.] Thus, by the written record, Howard is unaccounted for after 4 a.m. on November 22, 1963 until approximately 2 p.m. or so, when he shows up at Love Field in a car driven by SA Bill Duncan (report of Agent Roger Warner, CD 3).
- ⁷⁴ Regarding Kunkel: *Austin American-Statesman*, June 29, 1992; see Gus Russo's book, *Live by the Sword*, p. 473, for more revisionist statements from Secret Service agent Mike Howard, Robert Gemberling, and Frank Ellsworth, a Dallas ATF agent, on the likely agent on the knoll.
- ⁷⁵ See Underwood, ch. 9.
- ⁷⁶ Sloan, pp. 1-5.
- ⁷⁷ Mark Lane, *A Citizen's Dissent*, (New York: Holt, Rhinehart & Winston, 1968), p. 193; AARC files on Bolden provided by researcher Bill Adams; author's interview and correspondence with Bolden, September 15 and 16, 1993.
- ⁷⁸ Interestingly, Agent Marty Venker later said: "... [t]hey'd [the Secret Service] given him phony IDs so he could work undercover at demonstrations." [*Confessions of an Ex-Secret Service Agent*, p. 246.]
- ⁷⁹ pp. 366-7.
- ⁸⁰ Agent "Lem" Johns, after serving on the WHD, became the SAIC of the Birmingham, Alabama office, while Henderson was his deputy. After retiring from the Secret Service, Johns became Special Assistant to LBJ aide Joseph Califano! (RIF#180-10074-10079: August 8, 1978 HSCA interview with Johns.)