

CHAPTER 15

Motive

Under JFK, the Secret Service had lost the ability to do its job effectively and was often relegated to “butler” and “servant” status.¹ Presidential Aide Kenneth O'Donnell used the agents as errand boys and JFK treated them as “lookouts” and “go-fors”, as his romantic dalliances dictated.² Several, if not many, of the agents of the White House Detail were concerned and upset about JFK's sordid private life and the effect it was having on their collective morale and their abilities to protect the President, as well as in their whole concept of what their jobs in government truly were. In addition, Abraham Bolden told the author: “I had heard that there was some conflict between Kennedy and the White House Detail, that he was trying to scale them back.” Bolden later wrote: “The facts are that the S.S. [Secret Service] and F.B.I. were not the cooperating organizations as portrayed by the media in the 1960[s]. The facts are that President Kennedy and Robert Kennedy made no bones about their dislike of the S.S. *as an independent service*. Early in 1961 there was great fear within the service that the duties of the S.S. would be given to the F.B.I. and that the S.S. would be made a part of the IRS investigators. The relations between the F.B.I. and the S.S. was [sic] a ‘dogfight’ with the F.B.I. oft times refusing to assist the S.S. in collateral investigations. The facts are that most of the agents surrounding the President disliked the President for (1) his stand on civil rights and (2) his studies undertaken by Robert Kennedy to disband the S.S. *as the protective agency*. The detail was staffed by a core of southern-born agents and it was no surprise to me that, after the James Meredith Mississippi school incident, an attempt on the life of the President would be met by agents standing on the side of the follow-up car waiting for the final shot to hit ... Simply put, the S.S. covered up evidence [and] lied to the Warren Commission and to the public for one reason and one reason only: to save the S.S. and not be branded with the taint of gross negligence and be therefore open to judicial proceedings ... *the attitude of the S.S. against the President and the attitude of the F.B.I. against Robert Kennedy caused these agencies to permit the assassination to occur.*”³ [Emphasis added.] Jeremy Gunn of the ARRB, during an interview of PRS SAIC Robert Bouck, “recounted a story involving the opinion of a former CIA employee who had stated that President Kennedy was not very popular with many Secret Service agents”⁴ Indeed, author Jim Bishop claimed that SAIC Behn and ASAIC Borning were not popular with President Kennedy.⁵

Amazingly, Secret Service Officer John Norris discovered a carefully concealed lookout post in the attic of the Executive Office Building (EOB) attic in the early summer of 1963 (the EOB was the home of the Secret Service's *Protective Research Section, or PRS*)! This vantage point provided an observer with a view directly into the private living quarters of the White House for the express purpose of spying on the First Family. As Norris told author Bill Sloan: “There were cigarette butts all over the floor and all of them looked fairly fresh...There were even some mattresses up there, so it was pretty apparent that someone had been spending a lot of time up there ... a crack marksman with a telescopic

sight could conceivably even have killed Kennedy from there.”⁶ Norris added: “It was obvious to me that somebody had been keeping Kennedy under regular covert surveillance ... Maybe it was for his own protection, but frankly I doubted it, and it struck me as very peculiar, very suspicious. That was one main reason that I tried to relay a warning to Kennedy. Another was that everybody was tense and edgy, and there was a lot of talk going around about threats and plots.”⁷

Most importantly, JFK retired/fired the top four Secret Service/Treasury Department officials, roughly coinciding with the dismissal of the top three CIA officials:

- a. Deputy Chief of the Secret Service **Russell “Buck” Daniels**.⁸ Daniels was replaced by former OSS officer Paul J. Paterni. (See Chapter 13.)
- b. Assistant Secretary of Treasury **A. Gilmore Fluse**.⁹
- c. **William T. Heffelfinger**, highest-ranking career official.¹⁰
- d. Chief of the Secret Service **U. E. Baughman**.¹¹ Baughman was replaced by the SAIC of the WHD, James J. Rowley, who was appointed by President Kennedy for this position, according to Presidential aide Ken O’Donnell.¹²

Baughman’s dismissal was the biggest news of all, as was the case with CIA Director Allen Dulles, fired within the same time frame as the Chief. The Chief was on the wrong side of Kennedy’s policies and views: he thought the Mafia did not even exist, a view shared by J. Edgar Hoover.¹³ Interestingly, Agent Kinney said that U. E. Baughman “was the J. Edgar Hoover of the Secret Service.”¹⁴ Consider this: an undisputed fact—one that even Gerald Posner left alone in *Case Closed*—is that Hoover, the head of the FBI, knew about Oswald as early as June of 1960, when Baughman was still head of the Secret Service.¹⁵ The memo concerned “an imposter using Oswald’s birth certificate”. Dulles, head of the CIA, later became one of the seven members of the Warren Commission—it was he who single-handedly pushed the “lone nut” theory on his fellow members, a view proselytized by Baughman in a book he wrote *before* JFK’s murder.¹⁶ Charles Cabell, the CIA’s second in command, who was also let go during this same time period, was the brother of the mayor of Dallas, Earle Cabell, JFK’s host on November 22, 1963.¹⁷

Significantly, in a book the former Chief wrote in 1963 *before* the Kennedy assassination, Baughman reveals the following detail: “[Concerning the day he became Chief of the Secret Service] 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*”¹⁸ [Emphasis added.]

Exactly fifteen years to the date of the call which will “live in infamy” for Baughman, his former boss JFK, the President who let him go, was murdered. This is about a 365-to-1 coincidence.

Keeping in mind Rowley's testimony concerning undescribed studies being conducted by the Secret Service in November 1963,¹⁹ this author has come to a disturbing conclusion: what could the agency do to

- a. convince Congress that they needed more funds, equipment and personnel; and
- b. convince JFK—and the public—of the *need* for their continued services?

A security test!

United Nations Ambassador Adlai Stevenson was struck with a sign and spat upon by demonstrators in Dallas in late October 1963; Agent Lawson's testimony concerning the November 18 special ordinance²⁰ is a sign that the agency expected something like the Stevenson incident to happen to JFK, even setting up ideal conditions for this to take place. Consider the following list of evidence:

1. *Motorcade route*: Changed on or around November 18, 1963 to a hazardous course involving slow speeds and unwarranted turns in a warehouse district (involving the Texas School Book Depository) for *Dallas*.
2. The *special ordinance* with the Dallas Police Department.
3. *Motorcycle formation*: Changed on November 21, 1963 to a "uniquely insecure" hazard for *Dallas*. Some officers even said this occurred on the morning of November 22, 1963.
4. *Homicide detective car*: Deleted from motorcade November 21, 1963.
5. *Press bus and photographers* (including White House photographer *Cecil Stoughton*): moved to the back of the motorcade procession.
6. *General Godfrey McHugh and Ted Clifton*: moved to the back of the motorcade procession.
7. *Admiral George Burkley*, the President's personal physician: Moved to the back of the motorcade procession.
8. *Destination*: The Trade Mart was prematurely approved under the jurisdiction of the agency, which thus determined the route, the speed of the limousine, and security of this inferior building.
9. *Bubble top*: Removed on November 22, 1963—would not be entirely unusual if not for the claim that it was JFK's "desire". Partial bubble not even used.
10. *Agents on or near the limousine*: Removed via orders, due to JFK's "desires", between November 19 and 21, 1963.
11. *Motorcade order*: Changed from the original sequence (see also 5, 6, and 7 above).

12. *PRS check*: Despite three known checks, no threats were found in Dallas.
13. *Prior threats*: Chief Rowley and others knew of recent threats, but did not convey them to the advance team in Dallas.
14. *Follow-up car*: Roberts ordered the men not to move during the shooting, even recalling an agent, as he had done at Love Field.
15. *Drinking incident*: Nine members of the agency committed this violation of Secret Service regulations between November 21 and 22, 1963.
16. *Head of V.P. Detail (Knight)*: Absent from Texas tour.
17. *Head of Presidential Detail (Behn)*: Absent from Texas tour, as was the number two agent, Boring.
18. *Press Secretary (Salinger)*: Absent from Texas tour, as was the number two assistant, Andy Hatcher.
19. *“Umbrella man”*: Confirmed by the agency as a potential hazard, no action is taken on this subject during the assassination, nor is any report on him filed.
20. *“Secret Service agents” in Dealey Plaza*: “Agents” of unknown repute appear in Dallas.
21. *Sheriff’s Department*: Told to stand down in Dallas by Sheriff Decker, riding in the lead car.
22. *Police Department*: Ended supervision/security shortly before Elm Street in Dallas by Chief Curry, also riding in the lead car. Police were not lining street, facing the crowd.
23. *Military intelligence*: Present in Dallas, but denied by the Defense Department.²¹ Should have been lining street, facing the crowd like their police counterparts should have done.
24. *Publication of route*: Despite denial and precedent, the Secret Service released it to the media November 19, 1963 (perhaps earlier, considering any alternate routes), unique to Dallas.
25. *Chauffeur*: Greer slows limousine down, turns around twice, and disobeys order in Dallas.
26. *Radio transmissions*: Convoluting and contradictory in Dallas ... Channel 1 held incommunicado, due to stuck microphone, in Dallas.
27. *Overpasses*: Cleared away except in Dealey Plaza, Dallas.
28. *Agency duties (see also 16 and 17)*: A PRS agent, Bennett, is “temporarily” a member of the detail in Dallas, riding in the follow-up car (he needed re-

minding). Another follow-up car agent, Landis, is out of position to protect the First Lady. An advance agent, Lawson, despite his usual practices, does not order the building windows to be watched. Still another agent, Stout, on detail during another assassination attempt on a November day years before, assumes the same position he held back then—safely away inside a building.

29. *Ambulance*: On stand-by in case of injury to JFK, but removed from the scene in Dallas minutes before the shooting.²²
30. *President and Vice President*: In the same city, in the same motorcade, in slow-moving open vehicles, in close proximity to each other—unique to the Texas tour of November 21–22, 1963.

Obviously, there are several items listed above that cross over the line into complicity, and a few of the agents detailed before—especially Boring, Roberts, and Greer—are not above suspicion (Boring and Roberts, in particular, are the two agents who benefited the most immediately after Dallas). Nevertheless, with a unique forum to study the agency in a mock contingency, the Secret Service—and an embarrassed President, rudely treated like Stevenson—would be in a better situation to assess the need and desire to boost the agency's budget, equipment, personnel, and lifespan. Importantly, the FBI had been feuding with the Secret Service since the late 1940s over the matter of Presidential protection, when Chief U. E. Baughman took over.²³

And the Secret Service *did* benefit: more money, equipment, and personnel came their way in record proportions—as Agent Marty Venker stated, "... enough to make even the Pentagon envious." Agent Youngblood summed it up best: because of the assassination of JFK, "... the Secret Service ... has become more appreciated by the taxpayers."²⁴

However, when the President was assassinated under these drastically inferior conditions, under the watch of the men sworn to protect him, the agency was forced to exaggerate presidential "desires", reduce the level of uniqueness and lack of tradition regarding the security in Dallas ... in short, to cover for themselves.

Despite any connection Oswald may have had to the Secret Service, or any insight he may have had (the agent in New Orleans, the alleged agent spotted by Oswald at the Book Depository, Houston SAIC Lane Bertram) that could be compromising, the Secret Service were in the clear: the rival agency—the FBI—knew about Oswald long before the Secret Service and, having been in contact with him as recently as November, *failed* to bring Oswald to the *overt* attention of the men assigned to guard JFK's life. This, and the control of the physical evidence, assured that the FBI (in particular, Hoover) would play the game: one man, one gun, no conspiracy ... and certainly no mock contingency: what difference would it matter now, they may have rationalized—the President's dead. The line between being negligent and culpable may have been blurred forever, if not for the clues left behind. As author Harrison Livingstone put it: "Ultimately, when the right 'mechanics' have been given the contract to kill, the guards are

tipped off, and the target is subtly stripped of his security. Guards participated in the killing of the leading candidate for the Presidency of Mexico, Louis Donaldo Colosio, as did Sikh guards of the Premier of India, Indira Gandhi. Once the leader is dead, he or she is a non-person and nobody but nobody is going to push too hard. Abe Lincoln's guard stepped out for a quick drink."²⁵ Perhaps author Noel Twyman was the most eloquent when he wrote: "... any participation from the Secret Service may have involved only a few key agents with limited knowledge of the plot who manipulated other agents; and ... those key agents could have been susceptible to bribery. After all, the potential for bribery of government employees is enormous, particularly those who are close to the seats of power and are witness to its frequent hypocrisy and sham. Many of these people are of modest means, draw a meager salary, and are subject to being servants to the personal whims of the powerful."²⁶ Twyman further wrote, based in part on this author's research contained herein: "... many of the agents may have been led to believe that there was going to be a staged, fake assassination attempt, possibly as part of a covert operation to precipitate an invasion of Cuba, and that they were not to respond ... the entire disinformation phase of the plot was based on informing participants that there would be a fake assassination attempt on Kennedy when he went to Dallas."²⁷

In addition to the thirty points listed above, the following eighteen points also deserve attention:

31. *JFK's body in Dallas*: Stolen by the Secret Service against the wishes of the Coroner, Chief Curry, and most importantly, *Texas* law.
32. *JFK's body at Andrews Air Force Base*: Stolen by the Secret Service from the U.S. Army.
33. *JFK's body at Bethesda*: Attended to by an unwarranted Secret Service chauffeur (Greer) and an equally unwarranted supervisor (Kellerman) who were not relieved despite being on duty since early that morning. The chauffeur gave an unqualified thesis to the doctors, and the supervisor biased the examination by pointing out the number of shots fired.²⁸
34. *Race to Parkland Hospital*: Led by Agents Greer and Kellerman, denied by agents of the detail (despite films and photos). Hospitals were not put on alert status until *after Dallas*, so how did Agents Greer and Kellerman know the way to the hospital to get there in the lead?
35. *Presidential Limousine*: The windshield hole became a "crack", the dented chrome was ruled a non-issue, and the car itself was stolen away by the agency on November 22, 1963, only to be eventually rebuilt.²⁹
36. *Dallas doctors' testimony*: Altered by the Secret Service in December of 1963.
37. *JFK's personal and private life*: Known by the agents on the detail (the taping system had to have been a great aid).

38. *Air Force One*: The Secret Service was responsible for LBJ taking over the plane after the assassination of JFK.
39. *CE-399*: The agent who originally was made “aware” of the bullet has not been identified, while the agent “officially” connected to it does not seem to remember it.
40. *Studies of November 1963*: Chief Rowley twice admitted to the Warren Commission about these unnamed and unspecified studies conducted before the JFK assassination.
41. *FBI – Secret Service feuding*: Taken directly from contemporary newspaper accounts,³⁰ this situation appears quite relevant to November 22, 1963. Remember, the FBI had been feuding with the Secret Service since the late 1940s over the matter of Presidential protection.³¹
42. *Missing evidence*: What happened to JFK’s brain? Tissue samples? Color pictures of the chest cavity? The *original* Stemmons freeway sign?³²
43. *The “dead agent” tale*: Was it just a story to foster federal jurisdiction, or was there a dead agent, as Fox told Crouch?
44. *Films and photographs*: In the custody of the Secret Service: the Zapruder film, the Nix film, the Willis slides, and the Moorman Polaroids.
45. *FBI and CIA presence at Parkland Hospital*: As reported by Agent Berger.
46. *Handling of evidence*: In *Secret Service* possession: autopsy X-rays, autopsy photos, autopsy reports, skull particles, bullet fragments, limousine, clothing, photos, films, certain witnesses’ testimony, Marina Oswald, Connally’s clothing, Dallas police radio recordings, etc.
47. *Secret Service annoyed with JFK*: Primarily due to his private life.
48. *HR 4158*: As Fred Newcomb reported, “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”³³

Original FBI and Secret Service conclusions: all three shots hit within the limousine—without acknowledging the known missed shot that injured bystander James Tague (CD 1, p. 1; CD 87, SS 235, p. 1; *Six Seconds in Dallas*, p. 64).

¹ As Agent Clint Hill told Mike Wallace on December 8, 1975.

² *Farewell America*, pp. 294, 296; *A Woman Called Jackie*, pp. 279, 281, 364, 371; Seymour Hersh, *The Dark Side of Camelot*; Manchester, p. 37.

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- ³ Letter to author dated December 31, 1993.
- ⁴ April 30, 1996 ARRB interview of Bouck; Bouck “stated that he did not feel that was true ...”.
- ⁵ *The Day Kennedy Was Shot*, p. 40. For the record, Dave Powers wrote the author on October 10, 1993: “Behn and Boring, contrary to your information, were extremely well liked by President Kennedy.”
- ⁶ *JFK: Breaking the Silence*, pp. 115–6. Norris also said (p. 115): “There’s strong evidence that the KGB had successfully infiltrated the Secret Service by late 1961 or early 1962.”
- ⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 116.
- ⁸ *The Washington Post*, January 27, 1961.
- ⁹ *The Washington Post*, December 6, 1961.
- ¹⁰ *The New York Times*, March 19, 1962.
- ¹¹ *The Washington Post*, July 25, 1961.
- ¹² *Johnny, We Hardly Knew Ye*, p. 91.
- ¹³ See Chapter 7.
- ¹⁴ Author’s interview with Kinney, March 4, 1994.
- ¹⁵ Anthony Summers, *Not in Your Lifetime*, pages 294–5.
- ¹⁶ *Secret Service Chief*, pp. 33–4, 41.
- ¹⁷ *Reasonable Doubt*, p. 283.
- ¹⁸ *Secret Service Chief*, p. 30.
- ¹⁹ See Chapter 7.
- ²⁰ See Chapter 7.
- ²¹ *Not In Your Lifetime*, pp. 396–7; Peter Dale Scott, *Deep Politics*, pp. 275–280.
- ²² Aubrey Rike stated that “his ambulance had been called to Dealey Plaza several times on false alarms in the weeks preceding the Presidential visit: *JFK: The Book of the Film*, p. 8; this was further confirmed when the author interviewed Rike on November 22, 1997.
- ²³ WR 514.
- ²⁴ Rush (Venker), p. 267; Youngblood LBJ Library oral history, December 17, 1968, p. 24; see also Philip Melanson, *The Politics of Protection* (1984), pp. 38–52: “The organization’s resources have grown impressively in the past two decades [to 1984]. Its budget has risen faster than inflation: from a mere \$8 million in 1963 to \$27 million in 1970, to \$98 million in 1975, to its present [1984] level of \$180 million. The Secret Service of the early 1960s had only 350 special agents and 170 uniformed officers, compared with today’s [in 1984] 1800 agents and 900 uniformed officers. The White House detail which protected President Kennedy had 36 agents; the one protecting President Reagan has nearly twice that many [70].”
- ²⁵ *Stunning New Evidence* (online publication, 2000), Secret Service chapter.
- ²⁶ Noel Twyman, *Bloody Treason*, p. 751.
- ²⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 760; see also *Encyclopedia of the JFK Assassination*, p. 327, again quoting the author’s work.
- ²⁸ *Destiny Betrayed*, pp. 295, 300.
- ²⁹ Starting with a task force of thirty people, eventually reduced to six from the Secret Service, the Army, Pittsburgh Plate Glass, and Hess and Eisenhardt, it was decided that, rather than opt for a brand new vehicle, the plan would be to modify the current limousine, Secret Service code-named SS-100-X. The car was returned to Hess and Eisenhardt in Cincinnati on December 12, 1963, not to Michigan, as has been erroneously reported in the past. Without question, this was a moving crime scene that should have been preserved and stored away, *at least* until the Warren Commission could look at the car (for example, we know about the many questions concerning the actual condition of the windshield). After having been completely gutted, the limousine was fitted with titanium armor plating, bulletproof glass, a permanent bubbletop roof, and a 430V8 engine. The car was returned to the White House in June 1964,

three years after its initial delivery. However, LBJ would not use it until the (darker color) “Kennedy” blue was painted over with jet black. The limousine would go on to serve presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter before its retirement in 1977. (Although the five minute segment about the SS-100-X on the History Channel’s *Secret Service* special claimed it was 1978, this author believes the year 1977 is correct. This is based on the author’s conversations with Fred Ciacelli, the proprietor of the traveling JFK Museum and owner of two replica SS-100-X limousines, made from the *original* Hess and Eisenhardt blueprints. Ciacelli’s car has appeared in the movies *JFK*, *Ruby*, and *A Woman Called Jackie*, among others.) See also Rick Boudreau’s *Presidential Limousines* video (1996), as well as *Car Crash Culture* by Mikita Brottman (New York: Palgrave, 2001), p. 172 (chapter authored by Pamela McElwain-Brown).

³⁰ Such books as Mark North’s *Act of Treason* (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1991) and Mark Lane’s *Plausible Denial* (New York: Thunder’s Mouth Press, 1991) raise this issue.

³¹ WR 514.

³² *Encyclopedia of the JFK Assassination*, pp. 240–1.

³³ 5 H 474; see Chapter 7.