

Coalition on Political Assassinations  
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Opening Remarks by Greg Burnham, November 22, 2013  
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Earlier this year I underwent a major surgery, thankfully from which I am now almost fully recovered. But last year when John Judge and I first spoke about my presenting material here at COPA for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary I didn't yet know that I was going to need surgery; nor did I realize just how challenging and time consuming my recovery from it would be. A few months ago it finally became evident that not only would I be able to attend the conference, but that I would also be physically capable of presenting more of my work. So, I'd like to thank John for having me and thanks to all of you for attending.

Originally, I was only planning to give a long overdue presentation regarding the Sabotaged Bay of Pigs invasion. Wait...did I just say "sabotaged"? – Yeah, I did. Not failed, **sabotaged**. Then, on second thought, rather than me offering up my analysis of an *unsuccessful* Cuban coup d'état as though it had occurred in a vacuum, I instead decided on a topic that would incorporate the Bay of Pigs in a manner better suited to

the momentous occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a *successful* American coup d'état.

This was much more challenging than presenting my thesis on the sabotaged Bay of Pigs invasion by itself; or, for that matter, presenting on Kennedy's strained relationship with his own military, or on his newly evolving Civil Rights policies, or on the implications of his having offered an olive branch to Nikita Khrushchev, or on his decision to withdraw all troops and personnel from Vietnam by the end of 1965. Each one of these topics, by themselves, is worthy of more attention...just not right now.

Those who know me well and are familiar with my work were not terribly surprised to find out that I wasn't even slightly tempted to pursue a genealogical background check on one Lee Harvey Oswald, or seek to positively identify the so-called three tramps, or definitively rule in or rule out a host of federal agencies, or otherwise engage in a parlor game called: "I think I know who done it".

Less offensive than that last pursuit, but equally inadequate to this occasion, was the suggestion that I share new evidence of ongoing campaigns to obstruct justice that are still being carried out both by

agencies of the government and by prominent members of the media—some of whom claim to be earnest researchers. But, I even passed on that—and on them—and that wasn't easy.

But, you see, Ladies and Gentlemen, the United States of America was born 237 years ago, on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776 and 50 years ago, on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1963 it was murdered. It was 187 years, 4 months, and 18 days old—and, as far as nations go—it was still just an infant. In his speech to the United Auto Workers of May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1962 John F. Kennedy, quoted former president, Harry Truman, when he said:

*“There are 14 or 15 million Americans who have the resources to have representatives in Washington to protect their interests, and that the interests of the great mass of the other people - the 150 or 160 million - is the responsibility of the President of the United States, and I propose to fulfill it.”*

In the post WWII America of 1963 the viability of the Executive Branch of the United States Government could have been appropriately defined by how well the above responsibility was met by the President of the United States. Indeed, in order to fulfill his sworn oath to protect, preserve, and

defend the Constitution the president would necessarily take on the responsibility to safeguard the interests delineated in that portion of the Constitution most closely associated with individual freedoms: The Bill of Rights.

There is a proper place for a federal government within the context of a democratic republic as laid out in our constitution. Indeed, there is a necessity for it. Although such necessity is an inevitable consequence of maintaining a Union, the undesirable side effects associated therewith must be mitigated else they will threaten to destroy the very liberty for which they were designed to preserve. And, arguably, the environment most threatening to liberty exists during times of war. Not solely due to the imminent threat of a hostile foreign government, but also because—only then—are patriotic citizens willing to sacrifice personal freedoms out of perceived necessity.

Our founding fathers recognized these challenges to freedom, as they were all too evident. Because England would have succeeded in regaining control of the 13 colonies unless met with sufficient resistance, our ability to organize our defense in a unified manner through a federalization of forces was of paramount importance.

And it was from that basic necessity for security that the Federal Government's existence derives and it is through perpetuation of such a need, now termed, National Security, that the Federal Government justifies its continued expansion to this very day. And, by logical extension, the prospect of a sustained peace threatened to challenge that expansion in 1963, much as it does today.

While it is true that the federal government has taken on countless additional responsibilities since its inception, it is also true that a great number of these are wholly self-serving and without any direct benefit to the "interests of the great mass of the other people" to whom John Kennedy promised his allegiance. Instead they serve only the interests of the vast Military/Industrial Complex's unholy union between the Department of Defense and Corporate America.

As a case in point, during the lame duck period, just after Richard Nixon had lost the 1960 election, the CIA—as it is often wont to do—changed course from Eisenhower's plan for peace. This is most demonstrably seen by their having escalated the Bay of Pigs into a "full on" amphibious assault and then placing Eisenhower's stamp of approval on it. Yet, in an interview

with Eisenhower following the Bay of Pigs, he stated unequivocally that he had approved of no such plan! John F. Kennedy inherited, in its then current form, a non-existent Eisenhower Amphibious Assault Plan that had been hatched by the Agency and sold to the new president under a fraudulent pretense.

Following the Bay of Pigs, Kennedy recognized that he had been bamboozled and took the ship's helm by storm. The ship's course began to be righted, not at first, but gradually—its captain, having gained sufficient experience—became bold.

He refused to invade Cuba both during the Bay of Pigs and during the Cuban Missile Crisis; he pared back the CIA by signing National Security Action Memorandums 55, 56, and 57, making the Joint Chiefs of Staff directly responsible to the President for all Cold War Operations—effectively pulling the CIA's teeth; he directed the federal government to intervene in States where the Civil Rights of minorities were most egregiously being violated; he signed Executive Order 11110 extricating the United States from the death grip of debt imposed by the Federal Reserve thus allowing money to be printed directly by the Treasury Department...*interest free*; he took a giant leap toward peace during his

speech at the American University where, for the first time, Americans were challenged—*not to view the Soviets as a threat -- but rather to see the Russians as a People*. On October 11, 1963 JFK solidified his commitment to peace by signing National Security Action Memorandum 263, ordering all personnel out of Vietnam by the end of 1965; and finally, his determination to explore pursuits of mutual benefit to both the United States and the Soviet Union is displayed in National Security Action Memorandum 271, of November 12, 1963 in which JFK instructs NASA to cooperate with the Soviet Union in outer space matters and joint lunar landing programs.

Ten days later the enemies of peace acted against him and the winds of war prevailed.

But, like I said when I started, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is much larger than all of that. It's bigger than David Morales, David Atlee Phillips, William Harvey, anti-Castro Cubans, the Mafia, the Warren Commission, the Church Committee, the HSCA, the FBI, CIA, and even LBJ.

It's bigger than questions surrounding the accuracy of the Mannlicher Carcano rifle, the marksmanship of the suspect, the exact number of shots

fired, the changed motorcade route, the magic bullet theory, or the politics of Dallas' Mayor Earl Cabell whose brother, General Charles Cabell, was fired from the CIA by Kennedy following the Bay of Pigs.

It's bigger than questions surrounding the authenticity of the Zapruder film and bigger than the failure of the Secret Service to protect their charge that day. Indeed, there's more security around Dealey Plaza today than there was 50 years ago. But this anniversary is bigger than that, too.

It's bigger than H.L. Hunt, Richard Nixon, Clint Murchison, and James Jesus Angleton. It's bigger than Gerald Posner, Bill O'Reilly, Vince Bugliosi, John McAdams, Magda Hassan, David Guyatt, Gary Mack and all the rest of them and those of their ilk.

It's bigger than Vietnam and bigger than the Cold War. Indeed, the significance of this anniversary is bigger than *both the conspiracy to assassinate John Fitzgerald Kennedy and the conspiracy to cover it up...**combined!***

For me, today is not the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of JFK's being murdered at the hands of conspirators, though murdered he was; nor is it about the



injustice by which the perpetrators enjoyed impunity courtesy of a well-orchestrated, high level, cover-up. Rather, I am here, 50 years later, to memorialize that day when a government of, by, and for We The People...failed to endure, and I am here to grieve that failure.

The success of a democratic republic such as ours depends on the founding fathers' concept of 3 distinct and separate fully functional branches of government. When one of those branches is rendered impotent, relegated to a position of inferiority, or, as in this case, effectively disemboweled... then the system upon which such a republic was anchored will drift aimlessly, directed by the tides and the wind, until someone or something re-takes the helm. But, since 1963, the helm has been left unclaimed by whoever has occupied the Oval Office, and *under the circumstances*, you can hardly blame them. But, all too often, in the absence of such leadership "the something that has ended up taking over" has been war.

I cannot speak for all researchers, only for myself, and perhaps for some of us who recall John F Kennedy's words that cold winter day in January of 1961, instructing us to ask ourselves, "What can we do for our country?" Some of us believe the answer is demonstrated by our commitment to hold

government accountable to we the people, as our Constitution informs us is not only our right, but also is our duty. But, we are challenged to find a way by which to accomplish it. One that is historically significant, personally meaningful to each of us, responsive to the needs of our fellow citizens, worth passing on to our children and future generations, all the while preventing the positive elements of government, of which many still remain, from perishing.

Thomas Paine said: "An army of principles can penetrate where an army of soldiers cannot." --

What must be accomplished need not be done at the expense of responsibility, resulting in riots, lawlessness, or civil war. In short, I'm certainly not seeking revenge. I'm not even seeking justice anymore...

There is a plaque at CIA headquarters in Langley, VA that quotes the words of Saint John: "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." *What I seek is truth and the freedom that accompanies it.*

Absent truth... the only hope for freedom is a Revolution of Mind.

Thank you.

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So how do JFK and the sabotaged Bay of Pigs invasion figure into this endeavor? First, we need to dispel a great myth associated with this event; a myth perpetuated by the Central Intelligence Agency for 5 decades. And we will use the Agency's own documents in order to disentangle us from the false premise central to their thesis.

The great myth, which has been repeated more times than any of us can count, involves the claim that the invasion failed as a result of JFK's not having kept his promise to provide air support, thus dooming the operation and allowing over a thousand anti-Castro Cubans in Brigade 2506 to be killed or captured. But, before I refer you to the documents that will be used to impeach this myth, I would like to point out that the late Colonel L. Fletcher Prouty spoke and wrote extensively about this subject. He was perhaps the only person who was both **in a position to actually know** the "behind the scenes" facts surrounding these events **and who was not** sworn to secrecy. Much of the information that was obtained from Fletcher on this and other subjects could not be verified prior to his death because the documents that confirm his account were yet to be declassified. But, now they are...and here we are.

[BEGIN: "Sabotage at the Bay of Pigs" Power Point Presentation]