

Date:	4/7/05	Writer:	Roger Bruce Feinman
Title:	CBS News, ABC News, and the Lone Assassin Theory	Producer:	Roger Bruce Feinman
Subject:	The Media and the Kennedy assassination	Segment:	Part I: CBS
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<u>VIDEO</u>	<u>AUDIO</u>
LINEUP #1 (OPENING) \$TEXT: COPYRIGHT WARNING AND "NEXT" BUTTON	(SILENT)
\$TEXT: DISCLAIMER	(SILENT)
\$TEXT: AUDIENCE SUITABILITY	(SILENT)
\$GRAPHIC: (FADE IN) ROGER FEINMAN (DISSOLVE TO:)	V.O. NARRATION: HELLO, MY NAME IS ROGER FEINMAN. THIS IS THE WEB VERSION OF MY PRESENTATION TO A CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C., ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2004. THE CONFERENCE WAS CALLED "THE WARREN REPORT AND ITS LEGACY." IT MARKED THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT ON PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION. MY TOPIC WAS "CBS NEWS, AB NEWS, AND THE LONE ASSASSIN THEORY." THIS IS THE FIRST OF TWO PARTS. I SINCERELY HOPE YOU WILL FIND THIS PRESENTATION INFORMATIVE AND WORTHWHILE.
-GRAPHIC: CONFERENCE PROGRAM MONTAGE	
\$TEXT (SALANT QUOTE)	(SILENT)

\$VIDEO: CRONKITE SET
(ZOOM IN)

(FADE OUT/FADE IN)

-GRAPHIC: CBS NEWS
INQUIRY TITLE

\$GRAPHIC: MAIN TITLE
(FLY-DOWN/FADE OUT)

LINEUP #2

\$GRAPHIC: GOODMAN-
SCHWERNER-CHANEY
MEDIUM (APPEAR ONE-BY-
ONE. . . THEN QUICK
CUT TO)

-VIDEO: GOODMAN
SCHWERNER & CHANEY
CU (PAN LEFT-TO-RIGHT)

\$GRAPHIC: TITLE:
"NEWSWORTHINESS"

V.O.
NARRATION:

IT WAS THE COSTLIEST TELEVISION
DOCUMENTARY OF ITS TIME. IT WAS SO BIG
THAT IT FILLED FOUR HOURS IN PRIME TIME ON
CONSECUTIVE EVENINGS. IT WAS SO
COMPLICATED THAT IT TOOK SEVEN MONTHS TO
PRODUCE. IN JUNE 1967, CBS NEWS JOINED
THE DEBATE OVER THE WARREN COMMISSION'S
REPORT ON PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S
ASSASSINATION. BUT WAS IT IMPARTIAL
INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM, OR DID IT
REFLECT FAVORS AMONG POWERFUL FRIENDS?
FOR THE FIRST TIME, EVIDENCE NEVER BEFORE
MADE PUBLIC PROVIDES THE ANSWER.

**(MUSIC: CBS REPORTS THEME EXCERPTED FROM
"APPALACHIAN SPRING")**

(MUSIC: GHOSTLY RUBATO UP AND UNDER)

V.O.
NARRATION:

JANUARY 2005. MORE THAN FORTY YEARS AFTER
THE MURDERS OF THREE CIVIL RIGHTS WORKERS
IN NESHOPA COUNTY, MISSISSIPI, A SUSPECT
IS ARRESTED AND CHARGED. THE FORMER
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF A LOCAL NEWSPAPER
SAYS, "THE CASE IS JUST AS CURRENT NOW AS
IT WAS THE NIGHT THE MURDERS WERE
COMMITTED, LEGALLY AND MORALLY."

(MUSIC CONTINUES)

(-MORE-)

§VIDEO: HEADLINES
SUPERED OVER JFK
(FADE IN AND DISSOLVE
TO NEXT)

V.O.
NARRATION:

THESE ARE HEADLINES FROM NEWS STORIES
WITHIN THE LAST THREE YEARS. WE
FREQUENTLY HEAR OF OLD MURDER CASES
REOPENED -- SOME EVEN PROSECUTED TO A
GUILTY VERDICT. BUT WHENEVER PRESIDENT
KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION IS BROUGHT UP,
SOME PEOPLE - INCLUDING THOSE IN THE NEWS
MEDIA - SAY, "IT'S NO LONGER NEWS," OR "IT
HAPPENED SUCH A LONG TIME AGO," OR "IT'S
TOO MESSY, TOO INCONCLUSIVE." RIDICULE AND
DERISION CONTINUE TO PLAGUE STUDENTS OF
THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION. THE MAINSTREAM
PRESS EITHER IGNORES THEM OR MARGINALIZES
THEM AS "CONSPIRACY THEORISTS" AND
"BUFFS". PERHAPS THAT'S BECAUSE THEY
FAILED IN THEIR WATCHDOG ROLE. INSTEAD OF
RAISING QUESTIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO
ANSWER, THE AMERICAN NEWS MEDIA TRIED TO
REASSURE THE PUBLIC THAT THE WARREN
COMMISSION GOT IT RIGHT - THAT LEE HARVEY
OSWALD ACTED ALONE WHEN HE ASSASSINATED
PRESIDENT KENNEDY.

(FADE OUT GHOSTLY RUBATO MUSIC)

WE'RE GOING TO LOOK AT TWO PRIME EXAMPLES:
CBS AND ABC.

(MUSIC: GOSPEL INTERLUDE)

§BUMPER: LINEUP #3
INTRO: "THE POSTMAN
ALWAYS RINGS TWICE"

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: ROGER
FEINMAN

-GRAPHIC: ANOTHER
ROGER FEINMAN

SGRAPHIC: THUMBNAILS
OF DECEMBER 1, 1975
MEMO TO RICHARD S.
SALANT

SGRAPHIC: EXCERPTS
FROM DECEMBER 1, 1975
MEMO TO RICHARD S.
SALANT

SGRAPHIC: THUMBNAIL
OF AUGUST 18, 1976
LETTER TO BILL SMALL

V.O.
NARRATION:

FIRST, YOU ARE ENTITLED TO KNOW MY BIAS.
YOU ARE ENTITLED TO KNOW WHERE I STAND SO
THAT YOU CAN JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES HOW MUCH
WEIGHT YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE TO WHAT I'M
ABOUT TO TELL YOU. TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS
AGO, ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1976, I WAS FIRED BY
CBS NEWS FOR SENDING MEMOS TO ITS SENIOR
EXECUTIVES. I HAD WORKED AT CBS FOR
SEVERAL YEARS. IN THOSE MEMOS, SPREAD
OVER A NINE-MONTH PERIOD, I RAISED
QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER TWO MAJOR
DOCUMENTARIES ON THE WARREN REPORT
VIOLATED CBS'S OWN STANDARDS AND
PRACTICES. THE FIRST WAS BROADCAST IN
JUNE 1967; THE SECOND IN NOVEMBER 1975.

I STARTED BY WRITING TO THE PRESIDENT OF
CBS NEWS, RICHARD S. SALANT, ON DECEMBER
1, 1975.

IN THAT MEMO, I URGED SALANT TO APPOINT A
COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THOSE DOCUMENTARIES
FOR FAIRNESS AND ACCURACY. SALANT
DECLINED MY SUGGESTION AND AFFIRMED HIS
CONFIDENCE IN THE BROADCASTS.

I ENDED BY WRITING A LETTER TO THE SENIOR
VICE PRESIDENT OF CBS NEWS, BILL SMALL.

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: EXCERPTS
FROM AUGUST 18, 1976
LETTER TO BILL SMALL

CUT TO:

-GRAPHIC: EXCERPT
FROM AUGUST 18, 1976
LETTER TO BILL SMALL

SGRAPHIC: WESTON
EXCERPT FROM AUGUST
18, 1976 LETTER TO
BILL SMALL

SGRAPHIC:: EMERSON
STONE FILE MEMO

V.O.
NARRATION:

HERE, I MOVED BEYOND RAISING QUESTIONS TO
PROTESTING WHAT I BELIEVED THEN AND STILL
BELIEVE WERE VIOLATIONS OF JOURNALISTIC
ETHICS IN THE CREATION OF THOSE
DOCUMENTARIES.

ONE OF MY COMPLAINTS CONCERNED DAN
RATHER'S INTERVIEW WITH DOCTOR JAMES
WESTON, A FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST WHO WAS
ASKED BY CBS NEWS TO EXAMINE THE KENNEDY
AUTOPSY PHOTOGRAPHS AND X-RAYS IN THE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES. CBS HYPED THIS AS AN
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION. THE VIEWING
AUDIENCE NEVER KNEW THAT, WHEN THE
INTERVIEW WAS TAPED, CBS PROVIDED DOCTOR
WESTON WITH VISUAL AIDS PREPARED BY A
UROLOGIST, DR. JOHN K. LATTIMER, WELL-
KNOWN AS A LONGTIME DEFENDER OF THE WARREN
COMMISSION'S LONE ASSASSIN CONCLUSION.

ALONG THE WAY, THE EXECUTIVES OF CBS NEWS
MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WANTED ME TO
LEAVE. THEIR ONLY HESITATION IN FIRING ME
WAS THAT I WAS COVERED BY A UNION
CONTRACT. THIS IS A FILE MEMO WRITTEN BY
MY BOSS, EMERSON STONE, WHO WAS THE VICE
PRESIDENT FOR RADIO NEWS.

(PAUSE)

(-MORE-)

V.O.
NARRATION:

SGRAPHIC: MEMO TO
ARTHUR TAYLOR

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: EXCERPT OF
MEMO TO ARTHUR TAYLOR

SBUMPER: LINEUP #4
INTRO: "IN THE
HIGHEST PUBLIC
INTEREST"

SGRAPHIC: MANNING TO
SALANT, AUGUST 12,
1966

(CUT TO:)

I OBTAINED THIS MEMO FROM THE CBS LAW DEPARTMENT DURING DISCOVERY PROCEEDINGS IN LATER LITIGATION. YOU'LL SEE A COUPLE MORE OF THOSE ITEMS AS WE GO ALONG. FINALLY, AS THE END OF MY TIME AT CBS DREW NEAR, I WENT OUTSIDE THE NEWS DIVISION. ATTACHED TO THIS MEMO, I SENT A COPY OF MY SMALL LETTER TO ARTHUR TAYLOR, WHO WAS AT THAT TIME THE PRESIDENT OF CBS, INC., THE PARENT CORPORATION. NOTICE THAT I TOLD TAYLOR I WAS PREPARED TO BACK UP MY ALLEGATIONS WITH PROOF. DURING THOSE NINE MONTHS, I HAD PREPARED TO DO EXACTLY THAT. SO NOW, I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU BEYOND YOUR TV SCREEN, BEHIND THE CAMERAS, AND THROUGH THE DOORS OF EXECUTIVE OFFICES THAT YOU, THE VIEWING AUDIENCE, NEVER GET TO SEE.

(MUSIC:GOSPEL INTERLUDE)

BY THE SUMMER OF 1966, SEVERAL BOOKS AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES CHALLENGED THE WARREN REPORT'S CONCLUSIONS AND THE ADEQUACY OF ITS INVESTIGATION INTO PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S MURDER. CONTROVERSY MUSHROOMED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

(-MORE-)

(MANNING PHOTO
FLASHES)

-GRAPHIC: EXCERPT OF
MANNING TO SALANT,
AUGUST 12, 1966

SGRAPHIC: THUMBNAILS
OF MANNING TO SALANT,
OCTOBER 5, 1966

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: EXCERPTS OF
MANNING TO SALANT,
OCTOBER 5, 1966

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: EXCERPTS OF
MANNING TO SALANT,
OCTOBER 5, 1966

V.O.
NARRATION:

IN AUGUST, GORDON MANNING, THEN A CBS NEWS SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, RECEIVED A SUGGESTION FROM BILL SMALL, THEN CHIEF OF CBS'S WASHINGTON BUREAU, AND DANIEL SCHORR, ONE OF CBS'S TOP WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS. THEY PROPOSED A CBS NEWS SPECIAL REPORT TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT KENNEDY'S DEATH. HERE, MANNING RELAYS THE IDEA TO THE PRESIDENT OF CBS NEWS, RICHARD SALANT. SALANT REJECTED IT. BUT AS THE CONTROVERSY INTENSIFIED, MANNING PERSISTED.

OCTOBER 5, 1966. MANNING PROPOSED A TELEVISED DEBATE BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WARREN COMMISSION AND THEIR CRITICS. IT WOULD BE CALLED "THE WARREN REPORT: A JUDICIAL REVIEW." ALTHOUGH MANNING'S PROPOSAL DID NOT INVOLVE ANY JUDGES, THE DEBATE WOULD BE MODERATED BY THE DEAN OF A PROMINENT LAW SCHOOL, OR MAYBE THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION. MANNING SEEMS TO HAVE HAD AN OPEN MIND ABOUT THE WARREN REPORT. BUT HIS MEMO REFLECTED SKEPTICISM AT CBS ABOUT GIVING THE PROMINENT CRITICS OF THE DAY A PLATFORM. HE REFERS TO EARLIER CONTACTS WITH JOHN J. MCCLOY, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE WARREN COMMISSION, WHO REFUSED TO DEBATE WITH CRITICS SUCH AS MARK LANE, EDWARD JAY EPSTEIN, AND LEO SAUVAGE.

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: LIFE
MAGAZINE COVER

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: MANNING TO
SALANT, NOVEMBER 29,
1966

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: EXCERPTS OF
MANNING TO SALANT,
NOVEMBER 29, 1966

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: EXCERPT OF
MANNING TO SALANT,
NOVEMBER 29, 1966

V.O.
NARRATION:

LIFE MAGAZINE WAS VERY WIDELY READ AND
INFLUENTIAL DURING THAT ERA. IN LATE
NOVEMBER, LIFE PUBLISHED EXTENSIVE STILLS
FROM THE ZAPRUDER FILM, AND AN INTERVIEW
WITH TEXAS GOVERNOR JOHN CONNALLY, WHO WAS
RIDING IN PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S LIMOUSINE
WHEN HE WAS ASSASSINATED. CONNALLY
DISPUTED A KEY FINDING OF THE WARREN
COMMISSION, THAT HE AND KENNEDY WERE BOTH
WOUNDED BY A SINGLE BULLET. LIFE URGED
THAT THE ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION BE
REOPENED. ON NOVEMBER 29, MANNING AGAIN
PRESSES FOR A SPECIAL REPORT, TO BE CALLED
"THE TRIAL OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD." HERE, A
PANEL OF LAW SCHOOL DEANS WOULD EVALUATE
THE EVIDENCE IN A MOCK COURTROOM SETTING

--- INCLUDING EVIDENCE THAT THE WARREN
COMMISSION IGNORED. THE POINT TO REMEMBER
ABOUT MANNING'S CAMPAIGN FOR A CBS NEWS
SPECIAL: HE FAVORED GIVING SPOKESMEN FOR
BOTH SIDES OF THE DEBATE OVER THE WARREN
REPORT A CHANCE TO BE HEARD.

(-MORE-)

\$GRAPHIC: LESLIE
MIDGLEY

\$GRAPHIC: MIDGLEY TO
SALANT, NOVEMBER 30,
1966

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: MIDGLEY TO
SALANT, NOVEMBER 30,
1966, CONTINUES

\$BUMPER: LINEUP #5
INTRO: "SLEEPLESS,
UNEASY THOUGHTS"

V.O.
NARRATION:

NOW, MANNING IS JOINED BY AN EXECUTIVE
PRODUCER NAMED LESLIE MIDGLEY. IN 1964,
THE DAY THE WARREN REPORT WAS MADE PUBLIC,
MIDGLEY WAS IN CHARGE OF TRANSLATING IT
INTO A TWO-HOUR TELEVISION NEWS BROADCAST.
MIDGLEY NOW SUGGESTS, INSTEAD OF PUTTING
LEE HARVEY OSWALD ON TRIAL, THAT CBS PUT
"THE WARREN REPORT ON TRIAL" HERE, HE
SUBMITS AN OUTLINE FOR A MAJOR
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT TO CONSUME THREE-
HOURS, POSSIBLY ONE HOUR ON THREE
CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS. ONE OF THOSE NIGHTS
WOULD BE DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO WITNESSES
WHOM THE WARREN COMMISSION EITHER
DISCOUNTED OR TOTALLY IGNORED. THE THIRD
NIGHT WOULD FEATURE A PANEL OF LAW SCHOOL
DEANS OR STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES, WHO
WOULD GIVE THEIR VERDICT.

(MUSIC:GOSPEL INTERLUDE)

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: SALANT TO
SCHNEIDER, DECEMBER
1, 1966

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: EXCERPT
FROM SALANT TO
SCHNEIDER, DECEMBER
1, 1966

SGRAPHIC: PHOTO OF
SALANT

V.O.
NARRATION:

THE POWER TO DEVOTE TIME ON THE AIR FOR A
CBS NEWS SPECIAL REPORT DID NOT REST WITH
SALANT. CBS PRESIDENT FRANK STANTON MADE
THOSE DECISIONS, WITH THE CONSENT OF
CHAIRMAN WILLIAM S. PALEY. THE NEXT DAY,
SALANT PROPOSES THE PROJECT TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE CBS BROADCAST GROUP, JOHN
SCHNEIDER. HE SAYS HE MAY ALSO ASK
PERMISSION FROM THE "C-N-E-C" FOR CBS NEWS
TO STATE ITS OWN CONCLUSIONS. "C-N-E-C"
STOOD FOR "CBS NEWS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE."
LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE WORKINGS OF THIS
COMMITTEE, BUT ITS EXISTENCE, AND SALANT'S
ROLE IN IT, INDICATE HOW CBS NEWS WAS
MANAGED. TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED NEXT
TO THE MANNING-MIDGLEY IDEA OF AN EVEN-
HANDED, TWO-SIDED DEBATE OVER THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, WE
NEED TO PUT SALANT'S MEMO INTO CONTEXT.

WHO WAS RICHARD S. SALANT? A SON OF
PRIVILEGE AND A PRODUCT OF EXETER ACADEMY,
HARVARD COLLEGE, AND HARVARD LAW SCHOOL,
SALANT WAS A VERY BRIGHT LAWYER WITH A
SARDONIC AND OFTEN SCATHING WIT. IN 1952,
STANTON HAD RECRUITED HIM TO LEAVE PRIVATE
PRACTICE AND JOIN CBS AS A VICE-PRESIDENT
AND GENERAL EXECUTIVE, FOCUSING ON
LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

(-MORE-)

V.O.
NARRATION:

(PHOTO OF STANTON
APPEARS)

(SUPER NAME CAPTIONS)

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: MURROW

(SUPER: "EDWARD R.
MURROW")

SALANT BECAME STANTON'S PROTEGE, RIGHT-
HAND MAN, AND CLOSE FRIEND.

STANTON, THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OPERATING
OFFICER OF CBS, WAS SECOND IN AUTHORITY
ONLY TO ITS FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN, BILL
PALEY. HE WAS ALSO A CLOSE FRIEND AND
CONFIDANT OF PRESIDENT LYNDON JOHNSON, WHO
OWNED CBS-AFFILIATED RADIO AND TELEVISION
STATIONS IN TEXAS. JOHNSON REPORTEDLY
ONCE OFFERED STANTON A POST IN HIS
CABINET.

IN DECEMBER 1960, EDWARD R. MURROW'S ERA
AS THE STAR AND PUBLIC SYMBOL OF CBS NEWS
RAPIDLY NEARED ITS END. SALANT WAS
INSTRUMENTAL IN FORMING A MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE CALLED THE CBS NEWS EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE (C-N-E-C), WHICH HE INITIALLY
CHAired. IT INCLUDED PALEY, STANTON,
SCHNEIDER, AND SIG MICKELSON, THE
PRESIDENT OF CBS NEWS (WHOM SALANT WOULD
SOON REPLACE).

(-MORE-)

-GRAPHIC: MURROW
FIRST (MCCARTHY
BROADCAST)

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: PHOTO
MONTAGE: SALANT,
STANTON, PALEY

(SUPER CAPTION PALEY)

V.O.
NARRATION:

THIS COMMITTEE TOOK CHARGE NOT ONLY OF
POLICY-MAKING FOR, BUT ALSO THE OPERATIONS
OF CBS NEWS. IT WAS A RESPONSE TO THE
VARIOUS CONTROVERSIES IN WHICH MURROW HAD
CONTINUED TO EMBROIL THE COMPANY LONG
AFTER HIS CONFRONTATION WITH SENATOR
JOSEPH MCCARTHY.

AS PALEY ONCE FAMOUSLY SAID TO MURROW AND
HIS PARTNER, FRED FRIENDLY, "I DON'T WANT
THIS CONSTANT STOMACH ACHE EVERY TIME YOU
DO A CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT."

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF C-N-E-C EFFECTIVELY
CURTAILED THE NEWS DIVISION'S
INDEPENDENCE. A SHORT TIME LATER, SALANT
BECAME PRESIDENT OF CBS NEWS. ALTHOUGH HE
QUICKLY ASSUMED THE MANTLE OF A
JOURNALIST, HE HAD NO JOURNALISM
BACKGROUND, EDUCATION, OR EXPERIENCE.
SALANT FREQUENTLY TOUTED THE AUTONOMY,
INDEPENDENCE AND SEPARATION OF CBS NEWS
FROM THE PARENT CORPORATION. IN FACT, AS
SALANT WOULD LATER WRITE IN HIS MEMOIRS,
AS PRESIDENT OF CBS NEWS HE HAD ALMOST
DAILY PERSONAL GIVE-AND-TAKE WITH STANTON.

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: ROGER
FEINMAN

V.O.
NARRATION:

HE FREQUENTLY EXERCISED EDITORIAL
SUPERVISION OVER CBS NEWS BROADCASTS.
WHAT IS CURIOUSLY ABSENT FROM HIS MEMOIRS
AND PUBLIC PAPERS IS ANY EVIDENCE OF
EITHER HIS EDITORIAL SUPERVISION OR HIS
LIASON BETWEEN THE NEWS DIVISION AND THE
C-N-E-C. THIS IS NOT THE ONLY IMPORTANT
GAP IN HIS PAPERS. NOT ONLY ARE HIS
PUBLIC PAPERS COMPLETELY DEVOID OF THE
MATERIAL YOU SEE HERE, BUT HIS MEMOIRS ARE
COMPLETELY SILENT ABOUT THESE WARREN
REPORT DOCUMENTARIES. IN THE DOZENS OF
BOOKS THAT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT THE
HISTORY OF CBS, VERY LITTLE HAS BEEN SAID
ABOUT C-N-E-C. REGARDLESS, ITS VERY
PURPOSE AND EXISTENCE BELIED SALANT'S
FREQUENT PUBLIC ASSERTIONS OF CBS NEWS'S
INDEPENDENCE FROM CORPORATE INFLUENCE.

-GRAPHIC: ANOTHER
ROGER FEINMAN

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: MIDGLEY &
MANNING TO SALANT,
DECEMBER 1, 1966

SGRAPHIC: EXCERPT
FROM MIDGLEY &
MANNING TO SALANT,
DECEMBER 1, 1966

SGRAPHIC: EXCERPT
FROM MIDGLEY &
MANNING TO SALANT,
DECEMBER 1, 1966

SGRAPHIC: SALANT TO
MANNING, DECEMBER 2,
1966

SBUMPER: LINEUP #6
INTRO: "IN DEFENSE OF
THE WARREN REPORT"

V.O.
NARRATION:

EXCITED ABOUT SALANT'S PROPOSAL TO SENIOR
CORPORATE MANAGEMENT, MANNING AND MIDGLEY
IMMEDIATELY OUTLINE THEIR VISION FOR THE
THREE-NIGHT SPECIAL REPORT, "THE WARREN
REPORT ON TRIAL."

IN A COURTROOM SETTING, THE PROSECUTION
WILL PRESENT ITS CASE THE FIRST NIGHT,
FOLLOWED BY THE DEFENSE. THEN, BOTH SIDES
WILL SUM UP TO A PANEL OF LAW SCHOOL
DEANS, WHO WILL RETIRE TO CONSIDER THEIR
VERDICT.

(SILENT)

THE NEXT DAY, HOWEVER - THE DAY AFTER
SENDING THE PROPOSAL TO CBS CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT - SALANT TELLS MANNING HE IS
HAVING UNEASY THOUGHTS ABOUT THE TRIAL
FORMAT. MANNING ADVISES MIDGLEY THAT
SALANT'S ENTHUSIASM FOR THE TWO-SIDED
PRESENTATION IS WANING.

(MUSIC:GOSPEL INTERLUDE)

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: MANNING TO
SALANT, DECEMBER 30,
1966

V.O.
NARRATION:

LATER THAT MONTH, SALANT SENDS MANNING AND MIDGLEY TO CALIFORNIA TO MEET WITH TWO PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION. MANNING'S REPORT ON THE TRIP IS A HASTILY COMPOSED MEMO WITH NUMEROUS HANDWRITTEN INSERTIONS. IT MARKS AN IMPORTANT TURNING POINT IN THE WORK CBS NEWS DID ON THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION. ONE OF THE TWO LAWYERS IS EDWIN HUDDLESON, A PARTNER IN THE SAN FRANCISCO LAW FIRM OF COOLEY, GODWARD, CASTRO AND HUDDLESON. HE WAS RICHARD SALANT'S LAW SCHOOL CLASSMATE AT HARVARD. HUDDLESON IS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF THE RAND CORPORATION, WHILE CBS PRESIDENT FRANK STANTON SERVES AS ITS CHAIRMAN. IT IS HUDDLESON WHO BRINGS THE NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING PHYSICIST LUIS ALVAREZ TO STANTON AT CBS WITH AN IDEA ABOUT HOW TO PROVE THE WARREN COMMISSION CORRECT BY ANALYZING JIGGLES IN THE ZAPRUDER FILM. THE OTHER LAWYER IS BAYLESS MANNING, DEAN OF THE LAW SCHOOL AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY. BOTH HUDDLESON AND MANNING TELL THE CBS EXECUTIVES THEY ARE AGAINST CBS UNDERTAKING A MAJOR REVIEW OF THE WARREN REPORT. THEY CITE "THE NATIONAL INTEREST" AND "POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS" AS PART OF THEIR REASONING.

SGRAPHIC: EXCERPT OF
MANNING TO SALANT,
DECEMBER 30, 1966

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: EXCERPT OF
MANNING TO SALANT,
DECEMBER 30, 1966

V.O.
NARRATION:

BAYLESS MANNING SUGGESTS THAT CBS IGNORE
THE CRITICS, OR AT THE MOST CONVENE A
PANEL TO REVIEW AND CRITICIZE THEIR BOOKS.
ACCORDING TO GORDON MANNING OF CBS, BOTH
LAWYERS TAKE THE SIDE OF THE WARREN REPORT
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT. LET THE MATTER
REST, THEY ADVISE.

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: EXCERPT OF
MANNING TO SALANT,
DECEMBER 30, 1966

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: EXCERPT OF
MANNING TO SALANT,
DECEMBER 30, 1966

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: EXCERPT OF
MANNING TO SALANT,
DECEMBER 30, 1966

SBUMPER: LINEUP #7
INTRO: "THE
DIPLOMATIC POUCH"

V.O.
NARRATION:

CLEARLY SENSING THAT THE WIND HAS SHIFTED AGAINST HIM, GORDON MANNING, FOR FIVE MONTHS THE LEADING PROPONENT OF A TELEVISED DEBATE, NOW DOES AN ABOUT-FACE. HE PROPOSES CHANGING THE PROJECT TO "IN DEFENSE OF THE WARREN REPORT," AND PRESENTING MORE CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF ITS LONE ASSASSIN CONCLUSION. CBS WOULD DISMISS WHAT HE NOW CALLS "THE INANE, IRRESPONSIBLE, AND HARE-BRAINED CHALLENGES OF MARK LANE AND OTHERS OF THAT STRIPE." HE INDICATES THAT MIDGLEY DOES NOT AGREE WITH THIS OBVIOUSLY DRAMATIC REVISION OF THEIR PREVIOUS PLAN. IN A MARGINAL NOTATION, MANNING TELLS MIDGLEY HE IS FREE TO EXPRESS HIS DISAGREEMENT, BUT MANNING HAS LEFT MIDGLEY OUT ON A LIMB BY HIMSELF. BY THIS TIME, HOWEVER, ANOTHER INFLUENCE HAS POSSIBLY CONTRIBUTED TO MANNING'S TURNAROUND. SALANT HAS INVITED A NEW PLAYER TO JOIN CBS NEWS'S PREPARATION OF THE WARREN REPORT BROADCASTS AS A SECRET COLLABORATOR. HIS CLANDESTINE, BEHIND-THE-SCENES ROLE BRINGS THE INDEPENDENCE AND OBJECTIVITY OF THE CBS EFFORT INTO SERIOUS QUESTION.

(MUSIC:GOSPEL INTERLUDE)

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: MIDGLEY
DISCUSSION MEMO,
DECEMBER 14, 1966

SGRAPHIC: MIDGLEY
DISCUSSION MEMO,
DECEMBER 14, 1966,
PAGE 5

SGRAPHIC: MCCLOY
RESPONSE

(SUPER ENLARGEMENT OF
MCCLOY RESPONSE
HEADER)

(PHOTO OF MCCLOY)

V.O.
NARRATION:

THIS IS A DISCUSSION MEMO WRITTEN BY
LESLIE MIDGLEY ON DECEMBER 14, 1966. IN
IT, HE EXPLAINS HOW HE INTENDS TO APPROACH
THE JOB OF PRODUCING THE CBS SPECIALS ON
THE WARREN REPORT. ONCE AGAIN, HE ARGUES
FOR THE INCLUSION OF "AS MANY PEOPLE AS WE
CAN FIND WHOSE TESTIMONY IS PERTINENT, AND
WHO WERE DISCOUNTED OR NOT EVEN HEARD BY
THE COMMISSION."

MIDGLEY WANTS TO CONDUCT EXPERIMENTS THAT
ARE "MORE SCIENTIFIC" THAN "THE RIDICULOUS
ONES RUN BY THE FBI." AND THE CRITICS
HAVE CONVINCED HIM THAT THE ORGANIZATION
AND OPERATION OF THE WARREN COMMISSION WAS
"ALMOST INCREDIBLY INADEQUATE." AT THIS
POINT, MIDGLEY IS STILL PUSHING FOR A MOCK
TRIAL OF THE WARREN REPORT.

SOON, SALANT CIRCULATES TO HIS COLLEAGUES
AN ANONYMOUS, PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH
REBUTTAL TO MIDGLEY'S BROADSIDE. ALTHOUGH
UNDATED AND UNSIGNED, IT COMES FROM FORMER
WARREN COMMISSION MEMBER JOHN J. MCCLOY.
THE DOCUMENT CONTAINS A HANDWRITTEN
ANNOTATION BY MCCLOY'S DAUGHTER, ELLEN.
SHE WORKS FOR RICHARD SALANT AS HIS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AT CBS NEWS.

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: MCCLOY
RESPONSE PAGE 3

V.O.
NARRATION:

MCCLOY IS OFFENDED BY MIDGLEY'S DESCRIPTION OF THE WARREN COMMISSION'S ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION AS "INCREDIBLY INADEQUATE." HE CHASTISES MIDGLEY FOR ACCEPTING A CRITIQUE BY EDWARD JAY EPSTEIN. AND HE ADDS, "THE CHIEF EVIDENCE THAT OSWALD ACTED ALONE AND SHOT ALONE IS NOT TO BE FOUND IN THE BALLISTICS AND PATHOLOGY OF THE ASSASSINATION, BUT IN THE FACT OF HIS LONER LIFE."

SGRAPHICS: MEMOS
COPIED TO MCCLOY

BEGINNING IN MID-DECEMBER 1966, MCCLOY'S DAUGHTER WILL BE ON THE DISTRIBUTION LISTS OF MOST OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMOS, SCRIPT OUTLINES, AND DRAFT SCRIPTS RELATED TO THE WARREN REPORT SERIES. SHE WILL TAKE THEM TO HER FATHER AND RELAY HIS COMMENTS BACK TO THE EXECUTIVE SUITES. THIS

(FADE IN AND DISSOLVE
TO NEXT)

COLLABORATION IS INTERRUPTED ONLY WHEN MCCLOY TRAVELS ABROAD FROM FEBRUARY UNTIL LATE APRIL 1967. PRESIDENT JOHNSON ASKS HIM TO NEGOTIATE A FOREIGN EXCHANGE OFFSET PROBLEM INVOLVED IN MAINTAINING BRITISH AND AMERICAN TROOPS IN WEST GERMANY.

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: SALANT TO
MIDGLEY APRIL 26,
1967 W/PHOTO OF LBJ &
MCCLOY

HERE SALANT ASKS MIDGLEY: "IS THE QUESTION WHETHER OSWALD WAS A CIA OR FBI INFORMANT REALLY SO SUBSTANTIAL THAT WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT?" MIDGLEY ANSWERS: "YES, WE MUST TREAT IT."

SGRAPHICS: MORE MEMOS
COPIED TO MCCLOY

(FADE IN AND DISSOLVE
TO NEXT)

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: SALANT TO
MIDGLEY MAY 15, 1967

V.O.
NARRATION:

NO CRITIC OF THE WARREN REPORT IS GIVEN
SIMILAR ACCESS TO CBS NEWS INTERNAL
WORKING PAPERS. LOWER-LEVEL ASSOCIATE
PRODUCERS REMAIN UNAWARE OF THE SECRET
COLLABORATION, WHICH ALMOST CERTAINLY
VIOLATED CBS NEWS POLICIES.

SBUMPER: LINEUP #8
INTRO: "NOT A BRIBE .
. . JUST A GIFT"

(MUSIC:GOSPEL INTERLUDE)

SGRAPHIC: FEINMAN TO
MCCLOY MARCH 11, 1977

V.O.
NARRATION:

IN MARCH 1977, I WROTE TO MCCLOY ASKING
FOR AN INTERVIEW ABOUT HIS BEHIND-THE-
SCENES RELATIONSHIP WITH CBS IN 1967.

-GRAPHIC: MCCLOY TO
FEINMAN MARCH 31,
1977
(CUT TO:)
-GRAPHIC: EXTRACT OF
MCCLOY TO FEINMAN
MARCH 31, 1977
SGRAPHIC: FEINMAN TO
MCCLOY APRIL 4, 1977

MCCLOY DECLINED TO BE INTERVIEWED,
CLAIMING HE COULD NOT RECALL GIVING CBS
ANY ADVICE ON THE PREPARATION OF THEIR
SCRIPT.

ANXIOUS TO MAKE A RECORD THAT I HAD GIVEN
MCCLOY A FAIR OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN, I
WROTE HIM AGAIN, THIS TIME LAYING OUT THE
DETAILS I HAD LEARNED.

SGRAPHIC: MCCLOY TO
SALANT APRIL 5, 1977

THE NEXT DAY, MCCLOY WROTE TO SALANT AT
CBS NEWS. THIS IS ANOTHER DOCUMENT I
OBTAINED FROM THE CBS LAW DEPARTMENT. THE
HANDWRITING IN THE UPPER RIGHT-HAND CORNER
IS SALANT'S. HE IS INSTRUCTING LES
MIDGLEY TO PULL HIS FILES AND DETERMINE IF
THEY HOLD ANY EVIDENCE OF THE SECRET
COLLABORATION.

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: EXTRACT OF
MCCLOY TO SALANT
APRIL 5, 1977

SGRAPHIC: SALANT TO
MCCLOY APRIL 11, 1977

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: (EXTRACT OF
SALANT TO MCCLOY
APRIL 11, 1977)

SGRAPHIC: EXTRACT OF
SALANT TO MCCLOY
APRIL 11, 1977

SGRAPHIC: EXTRACT OF
SALANT TO MCCLOY
APRIL 11, 1977

SGRAPHICS:
HANDWRITTEN NOTES

(FADE IN AND DISSOLVE
TO NEXT)

V.O.
NARRATION:

MCCLOY DENIES THAT HE WAS EVER GIVEN OR
SAW CBS MEMORANDA OR DRAFTS RELATING TO
THE ASSASSINATION, BUT HE SUGGESTS THAT
SALANT LOOK OVER WHATEVER RECORDS HE HAS.
ANOTHER DOCUMENT PROVIDED BY THE CBS LAW
DEPARTMENT. APRIL 11, 1977, SALANT
REPLIES . . .

STATING EMPHATICALLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY
THAT AT NO TIME DID ELLEN MCCLOY EVER
SERVE AS A LIASON OR CONDUIT BETWEEN HER
FATHER AND CBS NEWS.

(SILENT)

(SILENT)

V.O.
NARRATION:

MCCLOY DIED IN 1990. BUT IN 1992, A
REPORTER FOR THE VILLAGE VOICE CONFRONTED
BOTH SALANT AND ELLEN MCCLOY WITH COPIES
OF THE DOCUMENTS YOU HAVE SEEN AND THESE
NOTES IN HER HANDWRITING. MISS MCCLOY
ADMITTED ACTING AS A CONDUIT. SALANT,
WHILE NOT DISPUTING AN ARRANGEMENT HE HAD
ONCE VEHEMENTLY DENIED, NOW CLAIMED THERE
WAS NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT IT.

SGRAPHIC: HANDWRITTEN
NOTE

V.O.
NARRATION:

BUT THIS NOTE, FROM ELLEN MCCLOY TO LES
MIDGLEY, IMPLIES AT THE VERY LEAST THAT
JOHN J. MCCLOY FELT UNUSUALLY COMFORTABLE
IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EXECUTIVES OF
CBS NEWS EVEN AS THEY PREPARED A
PURPORTEDLY INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE
REPORT ABOUT THE WARREN COMMISSION. THE
REFERENCE TO "LUCI'S BABY" PERTAINS TO
LUCI JOHNSON NUGENT, PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S
DAUGHTER.

SGRAPHIC: FURNESS

WHILE PRODUCING THE 1967 SERIES ON THE
WARREN REPORT, LESLIE MIDGLEY BECAME
ENGAGED TO MARRY BETTY FURNESS, THE FORMER
ACTRESS AND TELEVISION COMMERCIAL
SPOKESWOMAN. LYNDON JOHNSON THEN APPOINTED
FURNESS HIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR CONSUMER
AFFAIRS. HER MAIN QUALIFICATION FOR THE
JOB SEEMED TO BE ELEVEN YEARS OF SELLING
WESTINGHOUSE APPLIANCES ON TV. SHE WAS
SWORN IN ON APRIL 27, 1967, LESS THAN TWO
MONTHS BEFORE THE WARREN REPORT SERIES WAS
BROADCAST. TWO WEEKS AFTER THE WARREN
REPORT SERIES AIRED, MIDGLEY AND FURNESS
WERE MARRIED. AT THE SAME TIME, MIDGLEY
WAS PROMOTED TO EXECUTIVE EDITOR OF THE
CBS EVENING NEWS WITH WALTER CRONKITE,
MAKING HIM THE NUMBER ONE EDITOR AT CBS
NEWS.

(FURNESS AS
WESTINGHOUSE GIRL)

-GRAPHIC: MIDGLEY &
FURNESS

(-MORE-)

\$BUMPER: LINEUP #9
(INTRO: "DESIGNED TO
RATHER LOOSE
STANDARDS")

-GRAPHIC: ROGER
FEINMAN

\$GRAPHIC: VIEW FROM
TSBD SIXTH-FLOOR
WINDOW

V.O.
NARRATION:

WE HAVE SEEN HOW THE 1967 CBS SERIES ON
THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION TOOK FLIGHT, AND
HOW IT VEERED OFF COURSE FROM AN EVEN-
HANDED DEBATE TO A DEFENSE OF THE WARREN
REPORT, AIDED SECRETLY BY A MEMBER OF THE
COMMISSION. BUT HOW DID THESE
DEVELOPMENTS AFFECT THE INTEGRITY OF WHAT
THE VIEWING AUDIENCE FINALLY SAW OR NEVER
GOT THE CHANCE TO SEE? WHILE IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE IN THIS FORMAT TO EXAMINE EVERY
ASPECT OF THE BROADCASTS, HERE ARE A FEW
EXAMPLES OF SUPPRESSION AND DISTORTION.

LIKE THE WARREN COMMISSION, CBS'S THEORY
CALLED FOR NO MORE THAN THREE SHOTS FIRED
DURING THE ASSASSINATION. BUT CBS HAD TO
FACE THE SAME PROBLEM OF TIMING THAT VEXED
THE COMMISSION. THE FBI AND SECRET
SERVICE HAD DETERMINED IN THEIR ON-SITE
RECONSTRUCTIONS THAT AN OAK TREE PARTIALLY
BLOCKED THE PRESIDENT FROM THE VIEW OF AN
ASSASSIN LURKING IN THE SIXTH FLOOR WINDOW
FROM ZAPRUDER FRAME 166 UNTIL FRAME 209,
EXCEPT PERHAPS FOR A SINGLE FRAME AT Z-186
WHEN THERE MAY HAVE BEEN AN OPENING IN THE
FOLIAGE. EVEN THE WARREN COMMISSION
REJECTED THE IDEA OF A SHOT THROUGH THE
TREE.

(-MORE-)

V.O.
NARRATION:

THERE WASN'T ENOUGH TIME TO REACT, AND THE ASSASSIN WAS ABOUT TO ENJOY AN UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW ONCE THE PRESIDENT EMERGED FROM UNDER THE TREE AT FRAME 210. THE COMMISSION ALSO COULDN'T SWALLOW THE IDEA THAT A SHOT AT SUCH CLOSE RANGE WOULD HAVE COMPLETELY MISSED THE LIMOUSINE, AND THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT IT HAD PENETRATED THE TREE. WITH THE ZAPRUDER FILM SERVING AS A CLOCK STARTING WITH A FIRST SHOT AT FRAME 210, THAT LEFT A WINDOW OF 103 FRAMES BEFORE THE OBVIOUSLY FATAL WOUNDING OF KENNEDY.

-GRAPHIC: ROGER
FEINMAN

HOW COULD ONE MAN HAVE CAUSED ALL THE WOUNDS TO BOTH KENNEDY AND GOVERNOR JOHN CONNALLY IN JUST 5.6 SECONDS? IN ITS BROADCASTS, CBS GAVE TWO ANSWERS INTENDED TO EXPAND THE TIME FRAME OF THE ASSASSINATION: OSWALD HAD INDEED FIRED THE FIRST SHOT THROUGH THE TREE AND MISSED. ALSO, ZAPRUDER'S CAMERA WAS RUNNING SLOWER THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT. TOGETHER, THESE THEORIES ALLOWED MORE TIME FOR THREE SHOTS.

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: MIDGLEY TO
SALANT FEBRUARY 23,
1967

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: EXTRACT OF
MIDGLEY TO SALANT
FEBRUARY 23, 1967

V.O.
NARRATION:

CBS NEWS HIRED PHOTOANALYST CHARLES WYCKOFF TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE JIGGLE ANALYSIS OF THE ZAPRUDER FILM FIRST PROPOSED BY DR. LUIS ALVAREZ. AS BROADCAST BY CBS, DAN RATHER'S INTERVIEW WITH WYCKOFF SUGGESTED THAT HE HAD FOUND THREE "EVENTS" - JERKY MOTIONS IN THE FILM - INDICATING THAT ZAPRUDER HAD BEEN STARTLED AT THREE POINTS, PRESUMABLY BY THREE RIFLE SHOTS. BUT AS THIS MEMO FROM MIDGLEY TO SALANT AND DAN RATHER'S UNCUT INTERVIEW WITH WYCKOFF BOTH SHOW, CBS WAS AWARE THAT HE HAD ACTUALLY DISCOVERED FOUR DISTURBANCES. ONE OF THE FOUR, HE APPARENTLY DECIDED, WAS DUE TO THE SOUND OF A SIREN. HOW WYCKOFF DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN THE SOUNDS OF RIFLE FIRE AND A SIREN ON AN EIGHT-MILLIMETER SILENT FILM IS AN ELUSIVE QUESTION, BUT IT GAVE CBS NO PAUSE WHATSOEVER. WHEN THE SHOW AIRED, THE NUMBER OF BLURS WAS WHITTLED DOWN TO JUST THREE. IN FACT, THE ZAPRUDER FILM CONTAINS SEVERAL MORE JIGGLES.

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: SALANT TO
MIDGLEY MAY 15, 1967

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: EXTRACT OF
SALANT TO MIDGLEY MAY
15, 1967

SGRAPHIC: DIAGRAM OF
TAGUE POSITION

(TIMED OVERLAY OF
CURBSTONE PHOTO)

V.O.
NARRATION:

CBS WAS NOT PERMITTED TO TEST THE ACTUAL ZAPRUDEY MOVIE CAMERA. BOTH THE FBI AND BELL & HOWELL, THE CAMERA'S MANUFACTURER, TESTED ITS SPEED AT 18.3 FRAMES PER SECOND. CBS CONCLUDED ON THE BASIS OF TESTING SIMILAR CAMERAS THAT ZAPRUDEY'S MUST HAVE BEEN RUNNING SLOWER. BUT THIS CONCLUSION WAS BELIED BY RICHARD SALANT'S OWN ANALYSIS THAT THE CBS TESTS WERE LOGICALLY INCONCLUSIVE AND UNPERSUASIVE.

ANOTHER TACTIC USED BY CBS TO BOLSTER THE LONE ASSASSIN THEORY WAS TO TOTALLY IGNORE THE WOUNDING OF JAMES TAGUE, A SPECTATOR STANDING NEAR THE TRIPLE OVERPASS, 535 FEET FROM THE SO-CALLED "OSWALD WINDOW." TAGUE'S FACE WAS CUT BY THE RICOCHET OF A MISSILE THAT STRUCK A CURBSTONE NEARBY. THERE IS NO MENTION OF THIS INCIDENT ANYWHERE IN THE TRANSCRIPTS OF THE FOUR ONE-HOUR BROADCASTS.

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: H.P. WHITE
BEL AIR MOCK UP

V.O.
NARRATION:

CBS WAS NOT PERMITTED TO TEST THE MANNLICHER-CARCANO RIFLE THAT THE GOVERNMENT ALLEGES OSWALD USED TO ASSASSINATE THE PRESIDENT. TO PROVE THAT HE COULD HAVE FIRED THREE SHOTS WITHIN THE TIME FRAME ALLOWED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION, CBS OBTAINED ITS OWN MANNLICHER-CARCANO AND SIMILAR AMMUNITION. THEY BUILT A FIRING RANGE WITH MOVING TARGETS TO SIMULATE THE GEOMETRY OF DEALEY PLAZA, EXCEPT THAT THE TRACK WAS STRAIGHT, NOT CURVED LIKE ELM STREET. THE TARGETS, SIMILAR TO STANDARD FBI TARGETS, FEATURED OVERSIZE ORANGE SILHOUETTES ON A FOUR-BY-FOUR-FOOT BLUE BACKGROUND. THEN THEY HIRED ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS SHARPSHOOTERS OF THE DAY, RETIRED ARMY COLONEL EDWARD B. CROSSMAN. CROSSMAN WAS THE AUTHOR OF MANY BOOKS AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES FOR GUN ENTHUSIASTS, WRITING UNDER THE PEN NAME "COLONEL JIM CROSSMAN."

SGRAPHIC: LISTER TO
MIDGLEY FEBRUARY 3,
1967

CBS ALLOWED CROSSMAN A FULL WEEK TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH ITS COPY OF THE MANNLICHER-CARCANO. THEN, AT THE END OF JANUARY 1967, THEY GAVE HIM SIX CHANCES TO DUPLICATE OSWALD'S ALLEGED FEAT. THIS MEMO REPORTED THE RESULTS.

(-MORE-)

§GRAPHIC: (EXTRACT OF
LISTER TO MIDGLEY
FEBRUARY 3, 1967)

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: EXTRACT OF
LISTER TO MIDGLEY
FEBRUARY 3, 1967

§TEXT: RATHER
INTERVIEWS CROSSMAN

(CUT TO:)

-TEXT: RATHER
INTERVIEW CROSSMAN

§GRAPHIC: MARKSMEN
TEST RESULTS

V.O.
NARRATION:

CROSSMAN FAILED TO BREAK SIX-AND-ONE-
QUARTER SECONDS. HE SCORED TWO OUT OF
THREE HITS IN ONLY ONE-HALF OF HIS
ATTEMPTS.

THE MEMO DESCRIBES CROSSMAN'S DIFFICULTY
WITH THE STICKY BOLT ACTION OF THE RIFLE.
CROSSMAN ALSO HAD TO COMPENSATE FOR A
FAULTY SCOPE. (THE FBI HAD FOUND IT
NECESSARY TO ALTER THE MOUNTING OF THE
SCOPE ON THE ALLEGED ASSASSINATION
WEAPON.)

DAN RATHER INTERVIEWED CROSSMAN ON FILM
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE TEST. CROSSMAN
DESCRIBED THE RIFLE AS "NOT VERY
ACCURATE." HITTING THE TARGET WITH TWO
OUT OF THREE SHOTS, HE SAID, WOULD REQUIRE
A LARGE ELEMENT OF LUCK. CBS COMPLETELY
DISCARDED THE CROSSMAN TEST AND HIS
INTERVIEW, AND MADE NO MENTION OF THEM ON
THE AIR.

IN ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO PROVE THE LONE
ASSASSIN THEORY, CBS ASSEMBLED ELEVEN
EXPERT MARKSMEN. AFTER GIVING THEM AMPLE
TIME TO PRACTICE WITH THE RIFLE AT AN
INDOOR RIFLE RANGE, CBS FILMED THEM AT ITS
OUTDOOR MOCK-UP OF DEALEY PLAZA.

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHICS: INDIVIDUAL
MARKSMAN TEST RESULTS

(FADE IN AND DISSOLVE
TO NEXT)

SGRAPHIC: DONAHUE
TEST RESULT

SGRAPHIC: RIFLE TEST
CONCLUSION

V.O.
NARRATION:

TIME WAS RECORDED IN ONLY 20 OUT OF 37
ATTEMPTS TO FIRE THREE SHOTS AT THE MOVING
TARGET. IN THE OTHER 17 ATTEMPTS, EITHER A
BULLET JAMMED DURING THE BOLT-CYCLING
PROCESS, RESULTING IN NO TIME, OR THE
STICKY BOLT SLOWED THE RIFLEMAN SO MUCH
THAT THE TARGET COMPLETED ITS RUN BEFORE
HE COULD GET OFF HIS THIRD SHOT.

ONLY THREE OF THE ELEVEN MARKSMEN WERE
ABLE TO SCORE AT LEAST TWO HITS IN LESS
THAN 5.6 SECONDS. HOWARD DONAHUE SCORED
THE BEST ON HIS THIRD TRY, BUT ONLY AFTER
HIS FIRST TWO ATTEMPTS FAILED COMPLETELY.
ALTHOUGH CBS CLAIMED AN AVERAGE RECORDED
TIME OF 5.6 SECONDS, THEY FAILED TO TELL
VIEWERS THAT THOSE 20 RESULTS AVERAGED
ONLY 1.2 OUT OF THREE HITS. STILL, CBS
PROVED THAT IT WAS PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE FOR
THREE OUT OF A DOZEN EXPERT MARKSMEN TO
OPERATE A RIFLE SIMILAR TO THE
ASSASSINATION WEAPON WITHIN THE
COMMISSION'S TIME FRAME.

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: MANNLICHER-
CARCANO RIFLE

-VIDEO: ZOOM RIFLE

SGRAPHIC: ROGER
FEINMAN

V.O.
NARRATION:

WHAT IS STRIKING ABOUT THE CBS RIFLE TESTS IS NOT THE ACTUAL RESULTS, BUT HOW MANY TIMES ITS MARKSMEN FAILED TO GET RESULTS; BECAUSE, ANYTIME THE RIFLE WAS LOADED WITH LIVE AMMUNITION, THE BOLT ACTION JAMMED MORE OFTEN THAN NOT. SOME OF THE RIFLEMEN HAD TO TAKE THE RIFLE OFF THEIR SHOULDERS BETWEEN SHOTS TO GET BETTER LEVERAGE ON THE BOLT. THEN THE PROBLEM BECAME REACQUIRING THE TARGET THROUGH THE SCOPE, TRACKING IT, AND SQUEEZING OFF A SHOT. USING IT IN THIS ASSASSINATION WOULD HAVE REQUIRED AN EXPERT EXPERIENCED ENOUGH (AND PRACTICED ENOUGH) TO COMPENSATE FOR ITS STICKY BOLT ACTION AND FAULTY SCOPE. AS CROSSMAN SAID, AN EXPERT USING THIS WEAPON HAD A REASONABLE CHANCE AT HITTING SOMETHING - NOT NECESSARILY PLACING HIS SHOTS PRECISELY WHERE HE WANTED; SOMEONE WITH OSWALD'S ABILITY USING THIS WEAPON WOULD HAVE HAD TO HAVE A VERY LUCKY DAY. EVEN IF HE WAS A HIGHLY SKILLED MARKSMAN, THE WARREN REPORT OFFERED NO EVIDENCE THAT OSWALD HAD FIRED ANY RIFLE - LET ALONE PRACTICED FIRING THE ASSASSINATION RIFLE - - DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS BEFORE THE CRIME. REGARDLESS, CBS CONCLUDED THAT OSWALD COULD HAVE FIRED ACCURATELY AND FAST ENOUGH.

(-MORE-)

\$BUMPER: LINEUP #10
INTRO: "A MOST
IMPORTANT DOCUMENT"

\$GRAPHIC: MIDGLEY TO
SALANT MAY 25, 1967

V.O.
NARRATION:

ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE ASSASSINATION, TWO
OF THE DOCTORS WHO TRIED TO SAVE PRESIDENT
KENNEDY HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE AT PARKLAND
HOSPITAL. THE NEWS MEDIA QUOTED THEM AS
SAYING A BULLET HAD ENTERED THE
PRESIDENT'S THROAT, AN OPINION
INCONSISTENT WITH AN ASSASSIN SHOOTING
FROM BEHIND. TESTIFYING TO THE WARREN
COMMISSION, THEY REPUDIATED THESE NEWS
REPORTS. FOR YEARS, ASSASSINATION
RESEARCHERS WERE UNABLE TO LOCATE A TAPE
OR TRANSCRIPT OF THE NEWS CONFERENCE. ONE
AUTHOR ALLEGED THAT THE FBI HAD SEIZED ALL
AVAILABLE TAPES AND FILMS FROM RADIO AND
TELEVISION STATIONS. BUT IN MAY 1967, CBS
WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT ROBERT PIERPOINT
DISCOVERED AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT IN THE
WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE.

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: PRESS
 CONFERENCE TRANSCRIPT
 UNALTERED

V.O.
NARRATION:

THE IMPORTANT POINT ABOUT THIS TRANSCRIPT IS NOT WHAT THE DOCTORS SAID OR WHETHER THEY WERE CORRECT. IT IS THAT THE WARREN COMMISSION HAD ALSO SOUGHT THIS DOCUMENT. THE COMMISSION ASKED THE SECRET SERVICE FOR A TAPE OR TRANSCRIPT, BUT THE SECRET SERVICE REPLIED THAT THEY COULD NOT LOCATE EITHER AFTER AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH. YET, IT WAS IN THE WHITE HOUSE ALL THE TIME. ON THIS COPY FOUND BY PIERPOINT IN MAY 1967, THE PRESS CONFERENCE IS NUMBERED 1327-C OF THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION. IF IT WAS PART OF THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION'S RECORDS, ONE MIGHT HAVE REASONABLY EXPECTED IT TO GO TO KENNEDY'S LIBRARY IN MASSACHUSETTS.

SGRAPHIC: PRESS
 CONFERENCE TRANSCRIPT
 ALTERED

BUT IN THIS COPY, WHICH WAS LATER FILED AT THE JOHNSON LIBRARY IN TEXAS, THE ORIGINAL NUMBER HAS BEEN CROSSED OUT, AND THE PRESS CONFERENCE IS REDESIGNATED NUMBER ONE OF THE JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION. THE EVIDENCE SHOWS THE RENUMBERING HAD TO OCCUR SOMETIME AFTER PIERPOINT DISCOVERED THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT IN MAY 1967. SO, THE QUESTION SHOULD HAVE BEEN ASKED, WHY WAS THIS DOCUMENT WITHHELD FROM THE WARREN COMMISSION?

(-MORE-)

\$TEXT: CBS TRANSCRIPT

V.O.
NARRATION:

INSTEAD OF ASKING THAT QUESTION, CBS
REFUSED TO RELEASE THE DOCUMENT OR SAY
WHERE THEY FOUND IT. HERE IS THE RELEVANT
PORTION OF THE CBS BROADCAST TRANSCRIPT.
NOTE THAT DR. PERRY WAS NOT "RUSHED" INTO
THE NEWS CONFERENCE. IT BEGAN MORE THAN
TWO HOURS AFTER PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS
PRONOUNCED DEAD. THIS IS HOW CBS
PROTECTED THE JOHNSON WHITE HOUSE FROM
EMBARRASSMENT OVER WHY THE TRANSCRIPT WAS
NEVER GIVEN TO THE WARREN COMMISSION.

\$BUMPER: LINEUP #11
INTRO: "THE PROBE"

(MUSIC:GOSPEL INTERLUDE)

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: RICHTER TO
MIDGLEY JANUARY 10,
1967

V.O.
NARRATION:

CHOOSING TO RELY ON SCHEMATIC DIAGRAMS OF
PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S WOUNDS, THE WARREN
COMMISSION NEVER ASKED FOR THE X-RAYS AND
PHOTOGRAPHS OF HIS AUTOPSY. THEIR
WHEREABOUTS WERE UNKNOWN UNTIL THE KENNEDY
FAMILY DONATED THEM TO THE NATIONAL
ARCHIVES IN LATE 1966. SEQUESTERED FOR A
PERIOD OF YEARS, THE X-RAYS AND PHOTOS
BECAME THE FOCUS OF INTENSE CURIOSITY. IN
JANUARY 1967, MIDGLEY RECEIVED EXPLOSIVE
INFORMATION THAT HAD NEVER BEEN PUBLICLY
REVEALED. A CBS EMPLOYEE IN WASHINGTON,
WHO BELONGED TO THE SAME CHURCH AS THE
CHIEF AUTOPSY PATHOLOGIST, DR. HUMES, HAD
ENGAGED HIM IN CONVERSATION ABOUT THE
ASSASSINATION. HUMES REPORTEDLY TOLD HIS
FRIEND THAT ONE X-RAY TAKEN SHOWED A SOFT
METAL PROBE TRACING A PATH THROUGH THE
PRESIDENT BETWEEN THE NONFATAL WOUNDS IN
HIS BACK AND THROAT. HUMES ALSO SAID THAT
HE HAD BEEN ORDERED NOT TO DO A COMPLETE
AUTOPSY. THIS INFORMATION CAME TO CBS
MORE THAN TWO YEARS BEFORE ONE OF THE
OTHER AUTOPSY PATHOLOGISTS TESTIFIED TO
THESE RESTRICTIONS AT THE TRIAL OF CLAY
SHAW IN NEW ORLEANS.

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: EXTRACT OF
RICHTER TO MIDGLEY
JANUARY 10, 1967

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: MIDGLEY TO
MCCLOY JANUARY 11,
1967

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: EXTRACT OF
MIDGLEY TO MCCLOY
JANUARY 11, 1967

V.O.
NARRATION:

MIDGLEY RECOGNIZED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF
WHAT HE HAD. FORSAKING THE USUAL ROUTE
THROUGH SALANT'S OFFICE, HE WROTE DIRECTLY
TO JOHN J. MCCLOY, ASKING HIS HELP IN
GETTING AN INTERVIEW WITH HUMES, WHO HAD
ALREADY REFUSED TO GO ON CAMERA.
AS MIDGLEY NOTED, THE PROBE X-RAY COULD
RESOLVE ISSUES THAT WERE CENTRAL TO THE
LONE ASSASSIN THEORY. INDEED, ONE MIGHT
HAVE EXPECTED THE GOVERNMENT TO SEEK
WORLD-WIDE PUBLICATION OF THE X-RAY - IF,
THAT IS, IT SUPPORTED THE OFFICIAL
CONCLUSIONS. AT THE INTERVENTION OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK, DOCTOR
HUMES AGREED TO BE INTERVIEWED BY DAN
RATHER IN JUNE 1967. BUT RATHER DID NOT
ASK HIM A SINGLE QUESTION EITHER ABOUT THE
PROBE OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE AUTOPSY, AND
CBS NEVER DISCLOSED THIS INFORMATION.
THIS IS JUST ONE INSTANCE IN WHICH
CONCEALMENT BY CBS MAY HAVE ASSISTED AN
OFFICIAL COVER-UP.

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: ROGER
FEINMAN

-GRAPHIC: JENKINS
INTVU

-GRAPHIC: KARNEI
INTVU

SGRAPHIC: KNUDSEN_

(EXTRACT OF KNUDSEN
HSCA TESTIMONY
APPEARS)

V.O.
NARRATION:

THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ASSASSINATIONS NEVER KNEW ABOUT THE HUMES-
PROBE STORY WHEN THEY INVESTIGATED THE
CASE TEN YEARS LATER. BUT THEY DID FIND
THREE WITNESSES TO THE AUTOPSY WHO
INDEPENDENTLY TOLD THEM SIMILAR STORIES.
WERE IT NOT FOR PUBLIC PRESSURE INSPIRED
BY OLIVER STONE'S "JFK" MOVIE, YOU AND I
WOULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN. THE COMMITTEE
TRIED TO LOCK UP THIS TESTIMONY FOR FIFTY
YEARS. MEDICAL TECHNICIAN JAMES CURTIS
JENKINS RECALLED X-RAYS BEING TAKEN OF THE
PROBE PROCEDURE. DOCTOR ROBERT KARNEI
RECALLED PHOTOGRAPHS BEING TAKEN WITH
PROBES THROUGH THE BODY. ALMOST TWENTY
YEARS LATER, KARNEI REPEATED HIS STORY TO
THE STAFF OF THE ASSASSINATIONS RECORDS
REVIEW BOARD.

ROBERT KNUDSEN WAS A MEMBER OF THE WHITE
HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHIC: STAFF. FOLLOWING
PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S AUTOPSY, KNUDSEN WAS
INVOLVED IN PROCESSING THE PHOTOGRAPHS.
IN SWORN TESTIMONY, HE TOLD THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE STAFF THAT HE HAD SEEN PHOTOS OF
PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S REMAINS WITH PROBES
INSERTED.

(-MORE-)

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: EXTRACT OF
KNUDSEN-HSCA
TESTIMONY

SBUMPER: LINEUP #12
INTRO: "ROADS NOT
TAKEN"

SGRAPHIC: MIDGLEY &
CRONKITE

V.O.
NARRATION:

THERE ARE NO SUCH PHOTOGRAPHS OR X-RAYS IN THE COLLECTION HOUSED TODAY IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES. THE MYSTERY OF AUTOPSY X-RAYS AND PHOTOGRAPHS KNOWN TO HAVE EXISTED AT ONE TIME BUT NOW MISSING PERSISTS TO THIS DAY. CBS NEWS RECEIVED THE FIRST CLUE TO THE MYSTERY LONG BEFORE THE TRAIL RAN COLD. THEY BURIED IT.

(MUSIC: "GOSPEL FANTASIA (AMEN)" - 1ST

CHORUS)

V.O.
NARRATION:

THIS IS REALLY THE STORY OF HOW TWO GREAT JOURNALISTS - LESLIE MIDGLEY AND WALTER CRONKITE, WHOSE ROLE IN THIS AFFAIR WAS ESSENTIALLY LIMITED TO READING A SCRIPT THAT WAS HANDED TO HIM - WERE USED AND ABUSED BY THE CBS CORPORATE MACHINERY. ULTIMATELY, THE WARREN REPORT SERIES DID NOT REFLECT THE CONCEPTS AND JUDGMENTS OF EITHER ITS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER (MIDGLEY) OR ITS ANCHORMAN. (CRONKITE). IN HIS MEMOIRS PUBLISHED MORE THAN 20 YEARS LATER, MIDGLEY WROTE THAT HE STILL FOUND IT HARD TO ACCEPT AS FACT THAT LEE HARVEY OSWALD DID THIS TERRIBLE THING ALL ALONE. AND HE REAFFIRMED HIS BELIEF THAT THE FBI'S INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE WAS "UNBELIEVABLY SLOPPY."

(-MORE-)

\$GRAPHIC: DAN RATHER
1963 W/TEXT: Z-FILM
BG)

-GRAPHIC: DAN RATHER
1963 W/TEXT: RATHER
Z-FILM FIRST QUOTE
APPEARS

-GRAPHIC: DAN RATHER
1963 W/TEXT: RATHER
Z-FILM SECOND QUOTE
APPEARS

V.O.
NARRATION:

BUT WHAT ABOUT DAN RATHER? HE CONDUCTED A
NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS AND WITNESSED SOME OF
THE TESTS. EVEN IF HE HAD NOT BEEN
FAMILIAR WITH WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE
EXECUTIVE SUITE, DAN RATHER WAS CLOSE
ENOUGH TO THE PROJECT TO MAKE OUT ITS ODD
TILT IN ONE DIRECTION - THE OFFICIAL
THEORY OF THE CRIME - JUST AS CRITICS HAD
SAID OF THE WARREN REPORT. WHAT ABOUT DAN
RATHER?

(-MORE-)

GRAPHIC: "60 MINUTES"
LOGO

GRAPHIC: MIDGLEY TO
BIRNBAUM, BARTELS,
PHILLIPS & RATHER
JULY 24, 1975

(CUT TO:)

-GRAPHIC: EXTRACT OF
MIDGLEY TO BIRNBAUM,
BARTELS, PHILLIPS &
RATHER JULY 24, 1975
(CUT TO:)
-GRAPHIC: EXTRACT OF
MIDGLEY TO BIRNBAUM,
BARTELS, PHILLIPS &
RATHER JULY 24, 1975

V.O.
NARRATION:

EARLY IN 1975, THE 60 MINUTES UNIT BEGINS
A SERIOUS INVESTIGATION TO FIND A LINK
BETWEEN LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND JACK RUBY.
AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF RESEARCH, HOWEVER,
RICHARD SALANT KILLS THEIR PROJECT AND, IN
APRIL 1975, ORDERS THE 60 MINUTES TEAM TO
TURN OVER ALL THEIR RESEARCH TO LESLIE
MIDGLEY. BY NOW, IT IS CLEAR THAT MIDGLEY
OWNS THE ASSASSINATION STORY AT CBS FOR
ALL PURPOSES WHILE SALANT REMAINS
PRESIDENT. HIS CORE PERSONNEL ON THE
STORY HAS REMAINED CONSTANT SINCE 1964.
BUT MIDGLEY UNDOUBTEDLY RECALLS THE STING
OF REJECTION YEARS EARLIER FOR HIS IDEA OF
PUTTING THE WARREN REPORT ON TRIAL. NOW,
BOTH HE AND CBS NEWS HAVE TOO MUCH
INVESTED IN THE LONE ASSASSIN THEORY.
MIDGLEY TELLS HIS STAFF AND DAN RATHER
THEY WILL AVOID GOING DOWN THE SAME ROAD
THEY DID IN 1967. THEY WILL NOT RE-
EXAMINE THEIR SUPPORT OF THE LONE ASSASSIN
THEORY.

(-MORE-)

\$BUMPER LINEUP #13
INTRO: "TENURE"
\$GRAPHIC: RATHER IN
STUDIO 1963

-GRAPHIC: RATHER AT
TSBD SIXTH-FLOOR
WINDOW

-GRAPHIC: RATHER
OUTSIDE TSBD

-GRAPHIC: EDDIE
BARKER

V.O.
NARRATION:

(MUSIC: "GOSPEL FANTASIA (AMEN) - 2ND CHORUS)

DAN RATHER WAS NOT IN DEALEY PLAZA WHEN
PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS MURDERED. HE
NEITHER SAW NOR HEARD THE SHOOTING. HE
COVERED THE AFTERMATH FROM INSIDE A STUDIO
AT CBS'S DALLAS AFFILIATE KRLD. FOR
DECADES AFTERWARD, THIS CONNECTION ENABLED
BOTH CBS AND RATHER TO PROMOTE THEMSELVES
AS AUTHORITATIVE AND CREDIBLE NARRATORS OF
THE ASSASSINATION SAGA. BUT IN THEIR
REPEATED RETELLINGS AND RECONSTRUCTIONS OF
THAT AFTERNOON, SELF-SERVING MYTHS HAVE
SOMETIMES OVERTAKEN THE FACTS, EMBEDDING
RATHER DEEPER INSIDE THE STORY AND
ENLARGING HIS ROLE.

AS LATE AS MARCH 2005, FOR EXAMPLE, CBS
CONTINUED TO CLAIM THAT "RATHER WAS THE
FIRST TO REPORT KENNEDY HAD DIED, BEFORE
THE OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF THE
PRESIDENT'S DEATH." IT'S AN OUTRIGHT
FALSEHOOD. THE FIRST REPORTER TO
BROADCAST THAT KENNEDY HAD DIED WAS EDDIE
BARKER, THEN THE LOCAL NEWS DIRECTOR OF
KRLD.

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: YOUNGER
RATHER

-GRAPHIC: RATHER 1981

-GRAPHIC: RATHER
W/SWEATER 1987

-GRAPHIC: WALTER
CRONKITE W/TEXT

SGRAPHIC: GUARD DOCS

-GRAPHIC: BUSH & DAD

-GRAPHIC: BUSH GUARD
POSE

V.O.
NARRATION:

DAN RATHER'S STATURE AT THE NETWORK GREW,
AT LEAST IN PART DUE TO HIS PUBLIC IMAGE
AS A MAINSTAY OF CBS'S REPORTING ON THE
ASSASSINATION. IN 1981, RATHER SUCCEEDED
WALTER CRONKITE AS ANCHORMAN OF THE CBS
EVENING NEWS. BUT HE STRUGGLED TO FILL
CRONKITE'S SHOES AS THE SHOW'S RATINGS
STEADILY DECLINED OVER THE NEXT 24 YEARS,
AND IT FELL TO THIRD PLACE BEHIND THE
OTHER NETWORKS. WALTER CRONKITE RECENTLY
TOLD CNN: "IT SURPRISED QUITE A FEW PEOPLE
AT CBS AND ELSEWHERE THAT, WITHOUT BEING
ABLE TO PULL UP THE RATINGS BEYOND THIRD
IN A THREE-MAN FIELD, THAT THEY TOLERATED
HIS BEING THERE FOR SO LONG."
ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2004, RATHER CITED
PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN MILITARY RECORDS AS
PROOF THAT PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH
ENTERED THE TEXAS AIR NATIONAL GUARD
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR THROUGH POLITICAL
INFLUENCE, AND THAT HE RECEIVED
PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT DESPITE DISOBEYING
ORDERS. AFTER VIGOROUSLY DEFENDING
RATHER'S REPORT FOR TWELVE DAYS AGAINST
QUESTIONS OF FORGERY, CBS NEWS CONFESSED
THAT IT COULD NOT SUBSTANTIATE THE
AUTHENTICITY OF THE DOCUMENTS USED IN THE
STORY.

(-MORE-)

SGRAPHIC: RATHER 2004
W/TEXT

V.O.
NARRATION:

RATHER SAID, "I'M OF THE SCHOOL, MY NAME IS ON IT, I'M RESPONSIBLE."
AND HE ADMITTED, "I DIDN'T DIG HARD ENOUGH, LONG ENOUGH, DIDN'T ASK ENOUGH OF THE RIGHT QUESTIONS." THE STORY'S PRODUCER WAS FIRED. THREE EXECUTIVES WERE ASKED TO RESIGN. ANOTHER EMPLOYEE WAS PUBLICLY DEFAMED AND DISGRACED, BUT ALLOWED TO STAY. ALTHOUGH DAN RATHER ABDICATED HIS ANCHOR CHAIR UNDER A CLOUD OF SCANDAL, BY THE TIME THE PRESENTATION YOU ARE WATCHING WAS PLACED ON THE INTERNET, HE REMAINED A CORRESPONDENT FOR CBS NEWS, WHICH PAID HIM A ONE-HOUR TRIBUTE RARELY ACCORDED TO LIVING TELEVISION PERSONALITIES.

SGRAPHIC: RATHER 2004
W/TEXT

SGRAPHIC: CBS EYE
W/TEXT: POLLS

V.O.
NARRATION:

THE CBS DOCUMENTARIES FAILED TO PERSUADE THE PUBLIC THAT ONE MAN ACTING ALONE ASSASSINATED JOHN F. KENNEDY. QUITE THE OPPOSITE, IN LATER YEARS PUBLIC OPINION POLLS SHOWED A GROWING BELIEF IN A CONSPIRACY - LONG BEFORE OLIVER STONE'S "JFK". DESPITE CBS'S FAILURE TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION, ITS INFLUENCE ON OTHER NEWS ORGANIZATIONS CANNOT BE SO EASILY DISMISSED

SGRAPHIC: LINEUP #14
"BEYOND DISHONESTY:
ABC LOOKS AT THE
KENNEDY
ASSASSINATION"

(ABC TITLE ANIMATION)

-GRAPHIC:
PRESENTATION TITLE

SGRAPHIC: TEASE

SVIDEO: IN MEMORIAM,
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V.O.
NARRATION:

THE IRON DETERMINATION OF THE MAJOR
NETWORKS TO RAM THE LONE GUNMAN THEORY
DOWN THE THROATS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
WAS MOST RECENTLY DEMONSTRATED BY ABC NEWS
AND PETER JENNINGS. NEXT IN PART TWO:
"BEYOND DISHONESTY," ABC LOOKS AT THE
KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.

AND COMING SOON, THE EFFECTS OF PRESIDENT
KENNEDY'S MURDER ON AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS
FROM ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE: "JUSTICE AT
FIVE POINTS: HOW THE FEDERAL COURTS
ASSASSINATED THE TRUTH IN THE CASE OF
ROBERT GRODEN AGAINST RANDOM HOUSE, THE
NEW YORK TIMES, AND GERALD POSNER."

(MUSIC IN: SOLEMN STRINGS TO FADEOUT)

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