



THE WARREN COMMISSION AT FIFTY

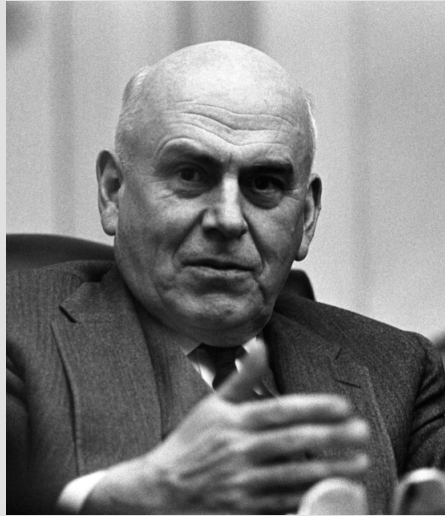
Jim DiEugenio

IT LOOKS WORSE NOW THAN EVER.

Today, with all the declassified files we have on the Warren Commission, their report is now accurately portrayed largely as the product of four men:



Allen Dulles



John McCloy



Gerald Ford



J. Edgar Hoover

We know about the influence of the three commissioners through the work of Walt Brown in his book, *The Warren Omission*.

We know about the huge amount of work done for the Commission by Hoover's FBI through the Foreword of the *Warren Report*, on p. xii, where it says the Bureau submitted over 25,000 pages of information to the Commission.

In a very distant second place was the Secret Service with 4600 pages.

If the public knew back then what we know about those four men today, there probably would have been a public outcry against the formation of the Commission.

Similar to the howls of protest that met Bush's nomination of Henry Kissinger to lead the 9-11 investigation.



Unfortunately, the public did not know the full truth about these characters until much later.

But actually, the fate of the Warren Commission was decided even before that.

First, with the Katzenbach/Hoover memoranda of November 24th and 25th, which essentially decreed Oswald as the lone assassin before the Commission was created.



Nicholas Katzenbach

Secondly, with Johnson's meeting with Warren in which the Chief Justice was clearly emotionally upset about Johnson's warning of nuclear Armageddon if he did not take the job.



How do we know just how unbalanced Warren was by this warning?

First, by what he said at the first Executive Session meeting of 12/5:

- 1) He did not want the Commission to employ its own investigators.**
- 2) He wanted to rely on evidence produced by the FBI and Secret Service.**
- 3) No public hearings. No subpoena power.**
- 4) No calling of witnesses by the Commission, since it “would retard rather than help our investigation.”**

Second, through the “Eisenberg Memorandum”, the notes on the first meeting of the Commission staffers.

This was a memo made by lawyer Melvin Eisenberg in which Warren told the young lawyers about Johnson’s warnings about a nuclear holocaust, and how Johnson convinced him that this **was an occasion on which *actual conditions had to override general principles.***

The message was effective. Wesley Liebeler told Sylvia Odio that they had orders to cover up anything that led to a conspiracy.

Which, of course, the FBI did with the Odio incident.

The concealment of the Odio incident was a paradigm for the entire inquiry.

The Commission covered up crucial evidence in Mexico City, in New Orleans, in Dallas. It covered up the backgrounds of both Oswald and Jack Ruby. It used unreliable witnesses like Howard Brennan and Helen Markham. It used suspicious witnesses like Kerry Thornley, George DeMohrenschildt, and Ruth and Michael Paine.

While doing so, it broke every rule of adversarial procedure one can imagine.

The Warren Commission was a runaway prosecution, unrestrained by any rules of evidence, any strong minority voice, and the fact that the accused was not granted a defense. Which is odd since Warren was a champion of any defendant being granted a lawyer, as exemplified by the Gideon case.

But in spite of all the above, the Commission still wrote in its Foreword *that they had not functioned as a prosecutor determined to prove a case.*

Today, that is a ludicrous statement.

There was only one man on the Commission who actually wanted to hold a real investigation.



That was Sen. Richard Russell.

Very early, Russell smelled a fix coming. He also felt that because of that, he was being shunted aside and marginalized.

He went as far as writing a letter of resignation to Johnson, which he did not send.

Russell, Sen. Cooper and Rep. Boggs constituted the minority which wanted to do a more rigorous investigation. I call this group the Southern Wing.



John Sherman Cooper



Hale Boggs

The *real* power was centered in Dulles, McCloy, Ford, and the neutered Warren.

We know this was the case through the diary of Commission lawyer Howard Willens.



In his diary entry, he refers to a dispute about the Secret Service with Warren on one side and Dulles on the other.

Howard P. Willens

He then mentions McCloy and Ford as not having registered opinions yet, and describes them as **“the other commissioners”**.

Which only counts as four. Yet, there were seven. Russell was right in feeling marginalized and conducting his own private inquiry.

All of this belated background information is important because it helps explain some of the rather amazing practices and results which the Commission ended up with.

For instance, although this was a homicide case, and Arlen Specter was an assistant DA in Philadelphia at the time, *there is no mention of two incredible failings of the Kennedy autopsy.*



Arlen Specter



In fact, excluding the printing of some primary documents, the discussion of the medical evidence in the Warren Report takes up about seven of the 808 pages.

The two incredible failings of the autopsy which the report never mentions are these: *neither wound into Kennedy was sectioned* by the pathologists.

For a murder case, in which the victim died by gunshot wounds, this is mind-boggling – because only if a wound is dissected do we know for certain whether or not the bullet transited and from which way it entered and exited.

I don't have to remind this audience how much confusion and uncertainty this failing with both of these wounds has caused. It is the main reason why we still don't know how JFK was killed.

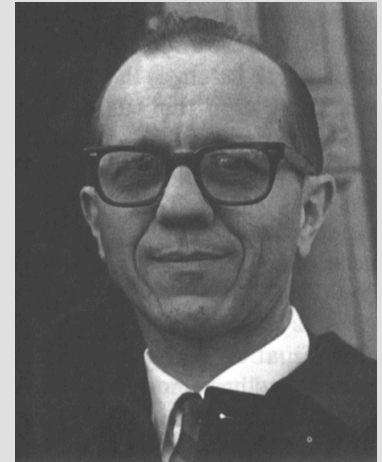
If one reads Specter's examinations of the autopsy doctors, one will note that he never brings up the obvious questions about these matters:

1.) Isn't it SOP to dissect a bullet wound in a homicide case in order to determine with precision its directionality and whether its transit was complete?

2.) Why was that not done with either wound in this case, that is, either the back wound or the skull wound?

Jim Garrison did ask this question at the trial of Clay Shaw in 1969.

Pierre Finck refused to answer it – eight times.



Pierre Finck

Finally, when the judge ordered him to reply, he said it was because Dr. Humes was ordered not to dissect the wound by a military member of the gallery who was in attendance.

That was incredibly relevant then. Today it's even moreso.

Why?

Because today we finally have a more complete version of the AF 1 tapes. We now know that the excised information included the fact that Gen. Curtis LeMay's plane was inbound from Michigan to Washington that evening.

This matches up with an interview I did with the late Paul O'Connor who was in the autopsy room that night. He told me that LeMay was there, smoking a cigar.



Paul O'Connor

Thanks to the ineptness of the Warren Commission, the public never got to see LeMay confronted with the combination of the Air Force One tape and the testimony of Paul O'Connor.

Which would have provoked this obvious question:

“General LeMay, why was it necessary for you to be present at the autopsy of President Kennedy that night?”

“And why on earth were you smoking a cigar while it was in progress?”



Curtis LeMay

Let us address the other failure to dissect, this one the fatal wound to the skull.

One of the oddest things about this autopsy is the fact that Humes *never weighed the brain the night of the autopsy.*



James J. Humes

When it was weighed, it came in at **1500 grams**, which is above the average for a man of Kennedy's age. Yet looking at the Zapruder film, and culling the witness testimony about what the brain looked like, that just does not seem possible. The volume of the brain should be much less.

But the point is, neither Specter nor the Commission ever explained that there was ***no tracking of either wound***, even though it was standard practice to do this in a homicide case.

And since this fact was never mentioned, that allowed the natural follow-up question to be avoided: Namely, if it was SOP, why was it not done in this case?

And why did the pathologists take orders from the military about not dissecting the back wound?

In retrospect, it is amazing that ***no one in the media brought out this spectacular failing*** at the time.

Let us now go to the ballistics evidence in this case: the infamous Magic Bullet, officially called CE 399.

At this late date, I don't want to talk about trajectories, or angles, or how bullets react in bodies, or how bullets slow down as they progress in tissue – etc., etc., etc., *ad nauseam*.

In fact, I think that was all counter-productive. It was a cause of the endless fake debate, which, as Vince Salandria said, the Warren Report was designed to create.

The Magic Bullet never happened. Period.

Both the Commission and the FBI lied about this through their teeth.

Hoover said that the Bureau, specifically agent Bardwell Odum, had shown CE 399 to security officer O. P. Wright of Parkland Hospital. This was done for identification purposes. Wright gave the exhibit to the Secret Service.

The Commission accepted this. Even though there were no field reports, called 302's in the Bureau, to back this up.

Even though Odum was not one of the nearly 500 witnesses the Commission called to question under oath.

And neither was Wright.

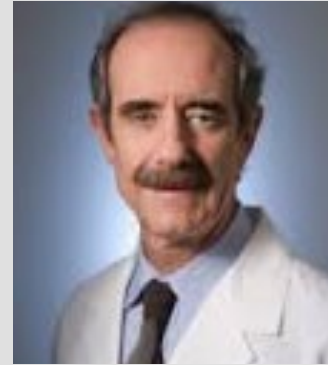
O. P. Wright



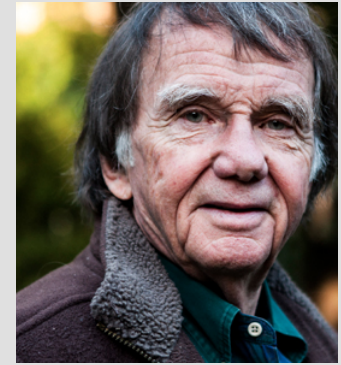
Bardwell Odum

Anyone want to guess why not?

Many years later, two private citizens, Gary Aguilar and Josiah Thompson, decided to question Odum about the lack of any 302 on this incident.



Gary Aguilar



Josiah Thompson

When they asked him about showing this magical bullet to Wright, he said he never did any such thing. And he would have recalled the interview since he knew Wright well.

He then added that he would have certainly written up a 302 if he had done the interview.

Hoover lied. And the Commission accepted the lie.

But that is not the worst of it.

In a long memorandum submitted to the Commission, the FBI said that Agent Elmer Lee Todd's initials were on CE 399.

This was almost a necessity, since no one else's initials were on it to prove its transit from Dallas to Washington.

Todd and the Secret Service had made out a receipt which certified that he got the bullet at the White House at 8:50 PM.

The Commission swallowed both of these as facts. They are not.

The Work of John Hunt on CE 399

<http://www.jfklancer.com/hunt/phantom.htm>

<http://www.jfklancer.com/hunt/mystery.htm>

1. The FBI lied. **Elmer Lee Todd's initials are not on the bullet.** Which means *no one who handled the exhibit on the way to Washington ever initialed it.*
2. How could **Frazier** have the “stretcher bullet” at **7:30**, when **Todd**, the agent who was supposed to deliver it to FBI HQ, **did not get it from Rowley until 8:50?**



The Mannlicher-Carcano

From the work of John Armstrong we know that the rifle in evidence is not the rifle the FBI said Oswald ordered.

Oswald allegedly ordered a *36 in., 5.5 lb. carbine.*



The rifle in evidence is a *40.2 in., 7.5 lb. short rifle.*



Further, unlike what the FBI said, there *were duplicate serial numbers* placed on M-C rifles.

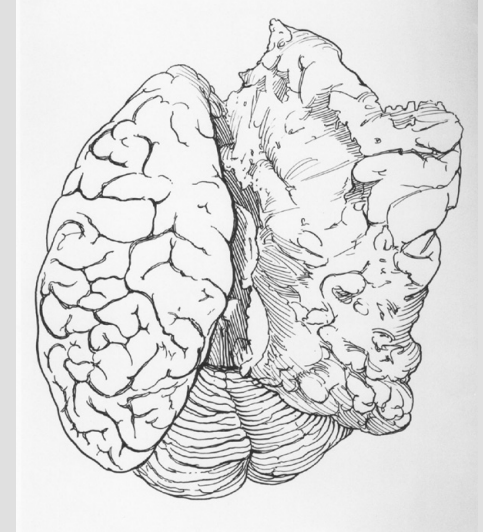
The Brain Photos

John Stringer



John Stringer, the official autopsy photographer, *denied under oath* to the ARRB that he took the photos that are supposed to be of Kennedy's brain at NARA.

(Ida Dox drawing)



He said, no, he **never used that kind of film**, and no, he **never used that kind of process**.

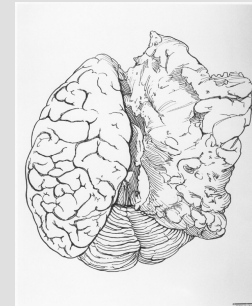
So who took them? And why did they need someone else to do it?

★ *wrong bullet*



★ *wrong rifle*

★ *wrong brain*



... some case, huh?



**And we're just getting warmed up,
folks!**

Oswald's Whereabouts



Where was Oswald during the shooting?

Was he on the first floor or outside all the time?

Is there photographic evidence of this?

“PRAYER MAN”?





DARNELL FILM (enhanced by Robin Unger)



WIEGMAN FILM (from moments before)

The Second-Floor Encounter

If Sean Murphy is correct, then the Baker/Truly/Oswald meeting at the soda machine *never happened.*

I believe it did not.

How many have seen Baker's first day affidavit?

AFFIDAVIT IN ANY FACT

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALLAS

BEFORE ME, _____

a Notary Public in and for said County, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared _____

Who, after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:

I followed the man to the rear of the building and he said let's take the elevator. The elevator was being several floors up so we used the stairs instead, as we reached the third or fourth floor I saw a man walking away from the ~~stairway~~ stairway. I ~~then~~ called to the man and he turned around and come back towards me. The manager said I know that man he works here. I then turned the man loose and went on up to the top floor.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS _____ DAY OF _____ *a white man* A.D. 196

The man I saw was ~~off~~ ~~5-9-165~~ approx 30 yrs old - 5-9-165" - dk hair and wearing a lt brown jacket.

CPS-GF-413

Notary Public, Dallas County, Texas

There is no mention of any soda machine and the man he saw was on the stairwell between the 3rd and 4th floor.

And he did not ID Oswald as the man he had encountered even though Oswald was sitting right opposite him in the witness room as Baker wrote the affidavit!

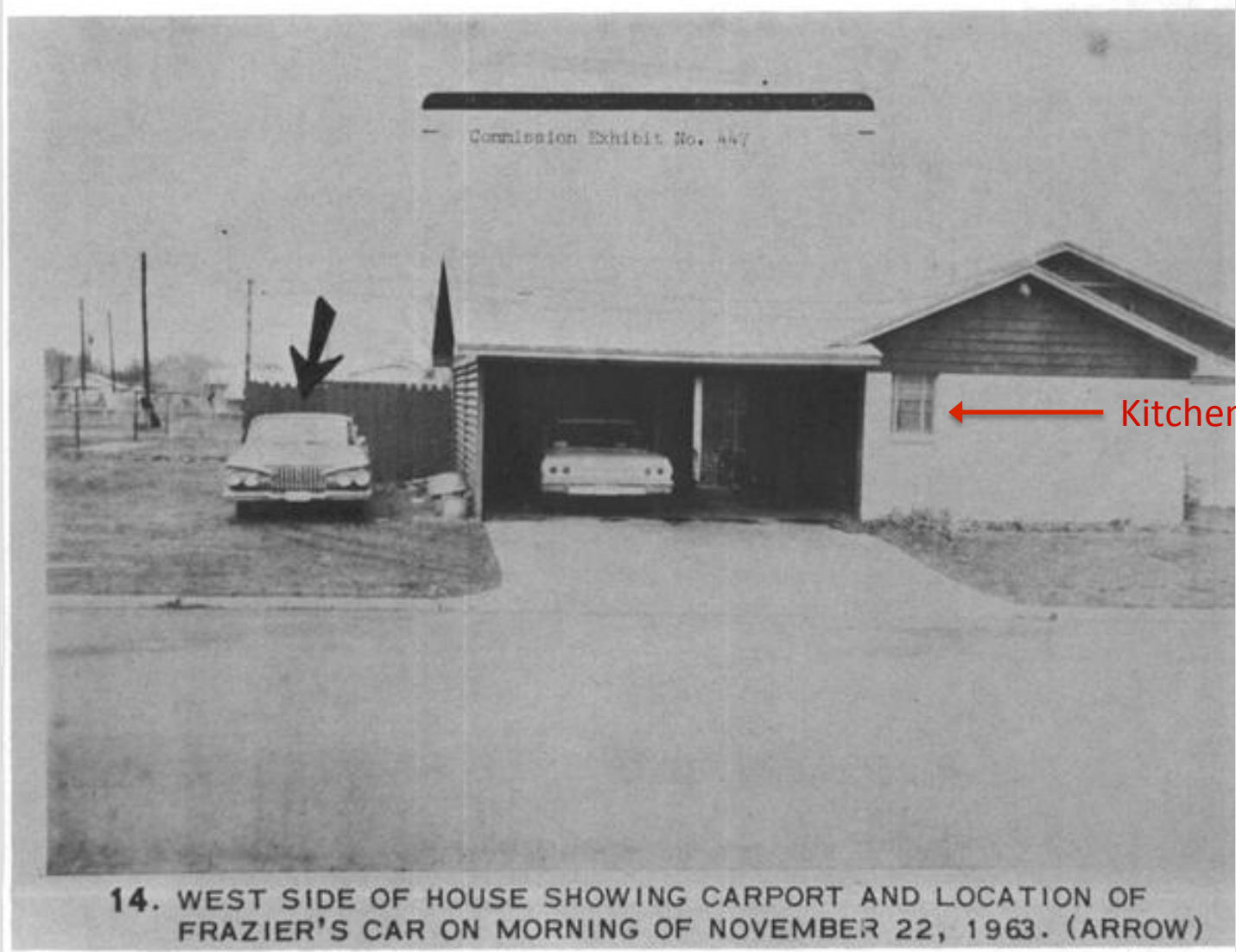
The Curtain-Rod Bag

For years the critics argued about the length of the alleged bag Oswald carried to work that day.

But this information did not come from Oswald. It came from Linnie Randle and her brother Wesley Frazier.

The first generation of critics accepted it without analyzing it.

Commission Exhibit No. 447



← Kitchen Window

14. WEST SIDE OF HOUSE SHOWING CARPORT AND LOCATION OF FRAZIER'S CAR ON MORNING OF NOVEMBER 22, 1963. (ARROW)

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 447

Window →



12. MRS. RANDLE LOOKING INTO CARPORT FROM KITCHEN DOOR.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 445

Commission Exhibit No. 446



13. INSIDE OF CARPORT AS SEEN BY MRS. RANDLE.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 446

HSCA Deposition (NARA 180-10131-10347; tape transcribed by Richard Gilbride)

MORIARTY. Now, uh, let me see, you always locked the car.

FRAZIER. Mm-hmmm

MORIARTY. But he didn't have any trouble putting the package in the car.

FRAZIER. Well, uh, I know I told you that, uh, previously, I would always lock the car.

MORIARTY. Uh-huh

FRAZIER. Uh, but I did, uh, but if I remember correctly I owned that ol' car I believe, uh, one of the back doors you - *you try to lock it, you know, but you couldn't lock it. When it looked like but it couldn't be locked.*

MORIARTY. Well usually you picked it apart. Was it apart?

FRAZIER. Mm-hmm

MORIARTY. Up on the windowsill?

FRAZIER. But, uh, to the best of my knowledge was that, that was the thing was wrong with the car, you know, *you could make it look like the door was locked. But it wouldn't. You could just push it and it would open right up.*

MORIARTY. That's just one of the odd parts of that particular car I guess?

FRAZIER. Yes it was old.

MORIARTY. *You figure that one out OK?*

Date December 11, 19631

Mrs. ESSIE MAE WILLIAMS, 3429 West Fifth Street, Irving, Texas, advised that she did not know LEE HARVEY OSWALD. She stated she and her husband have been visiting with her daughter but her husband had to enter the hospital and this caused a change in plans and has prolonged their visit. She stated that on the morning of November 22, 1963, she did get a glimpse of a man through the kitchen window while they were having breakfast around 7:15 A.M. She inquired as to who this man was and her son, BUELL, advised that it was LEE. She did not see this person carrying anything and stated she could not furnish any information concerning OSWALD or the brown bag he supposedly had been carrying prior to her seeing him. She stated that she only got a quick glimpse of OSWALD and stated she could not furnish any further information regarding his movements on November 22, 1963.

From our vantage point today ...

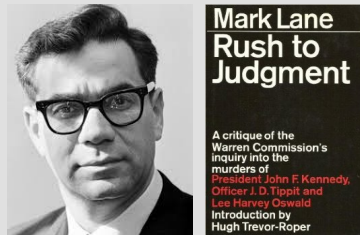
... the lone-assassin cover-up has been shattered.

And perhaps it was even *meant* to fall apart (as Vince Salandria suggested), leaving us with an endless, phony debate about:

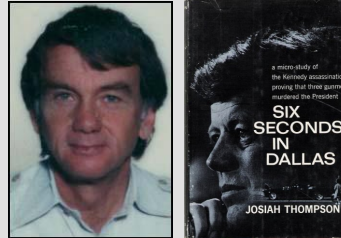
- ✓ **The Single Bullet Theory**
- ✓ **Could Oswald run down the stairs fast enough to be drinking a Coke for Baker?**
- ✓ **How long was the bag Oswald brought to work that day?**

while with the work of John Hunt, Sean Murphy and with Baker's first day affidavit, the evidence really shows that this was all a dog chasing its tail, because none of it ever happened.

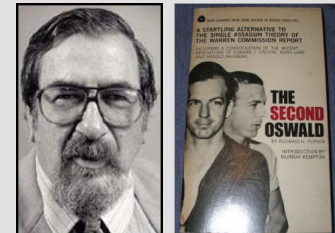
In retrospect ...



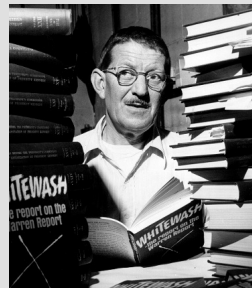
Mark Lane



Josiah Thompson



Richard Popkin



Harold Weisberg



Sylvia Meagher

– these writers did not go far enough.

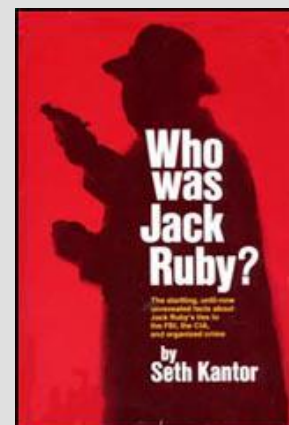


As a result we argued bullet trajectories and whether Oswald was on the sixth floor for five decades.

In their defense, one should argue that, as I said before, it was not generally known back in 1964 just how bad the men running the investigation were. Or just how far they would go in manipulating the evidence in this case.



But let us not ignore Jack Ruby.



According to the Commission, Ruby had no significant connection to Organized Crime, and he knew maybe fifty Dallas cops.

These are both provable lies today. But Hoover did something even worse.

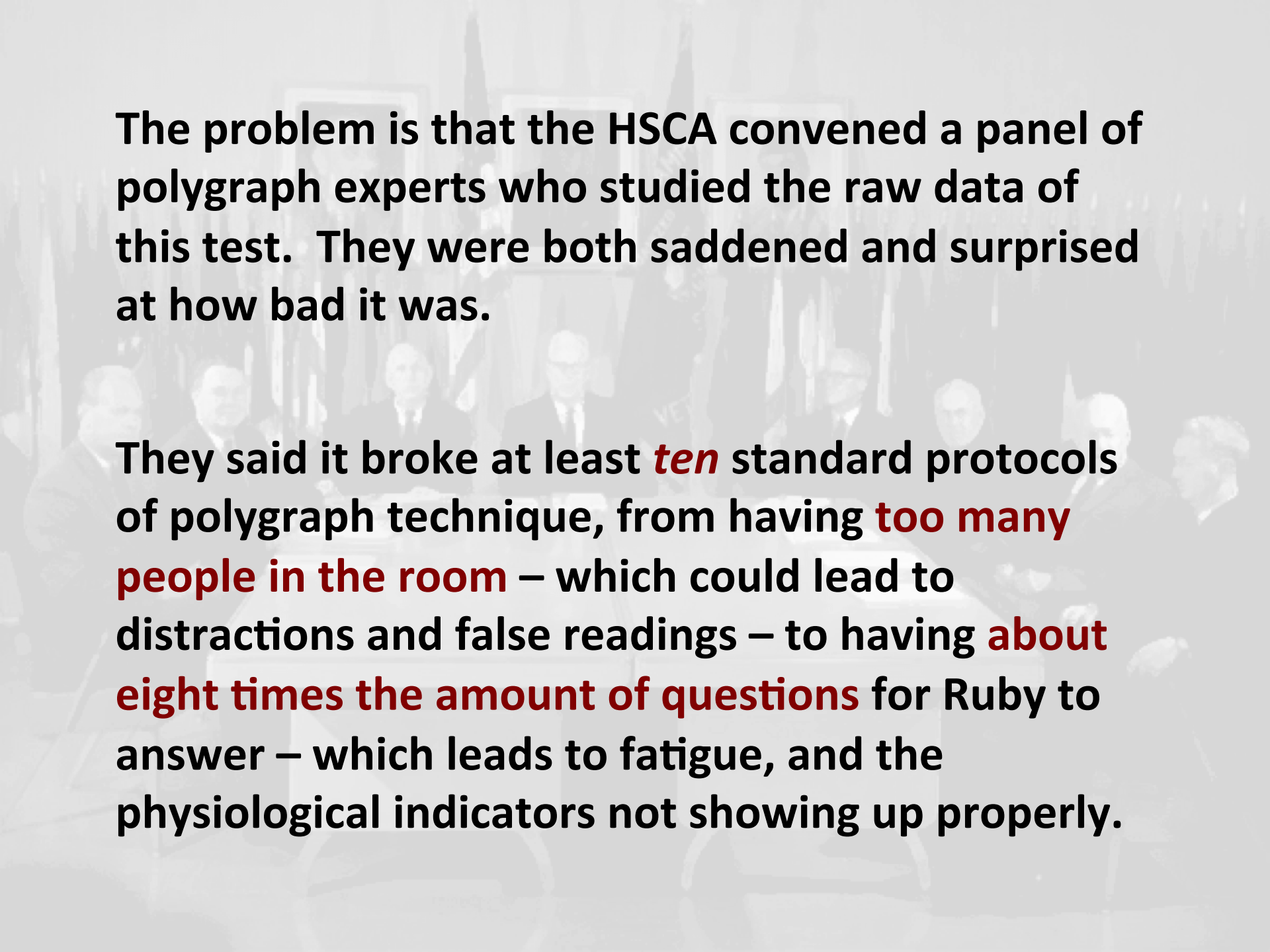


Does it get any worse than rigging a polygraph examination?

That is what the FBI did. And then the Warren Commission used the false results to say that Ruby was not involved in any conspiracy to kill Kennedy or Oswald.

Incredibly, people like Jean Davison still use that polygraph to discredit people like Mark Lane.

And John McAdams then uses Davison's claims on his web site.

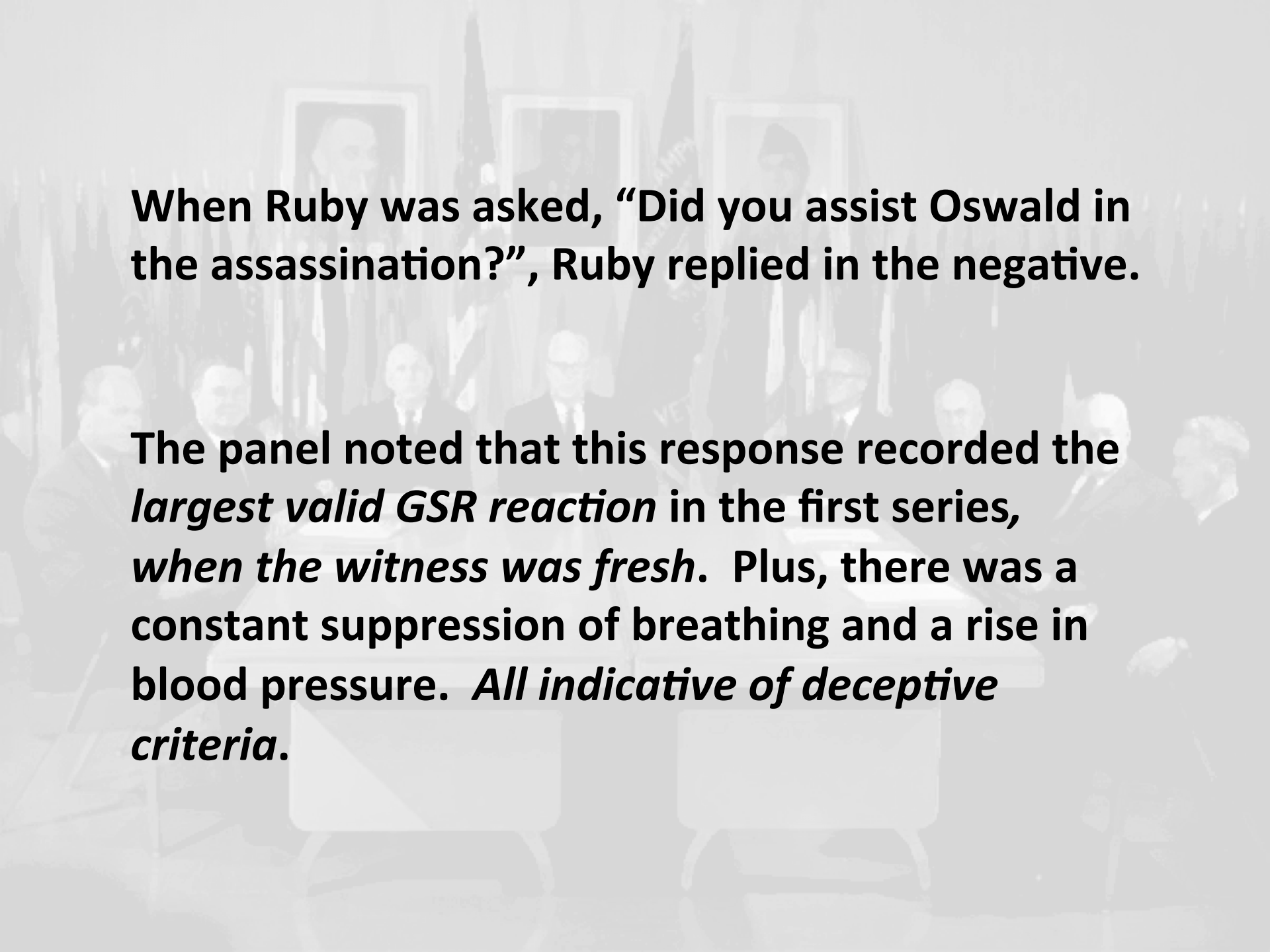


The problem is that the HSCA convened a panel of polygraph experts who studied the raw data of this test. They were both saddened and surprised at how bad it was.

They said it broke at least **ten** standard protocols of polygraph technique, from having **too many people in the room** – which could lead to distractions and false readings – to having **about eight times the amount of questions** for Ruby to answer – which leads to fatigue, and the physiological indicators not showing up properly.

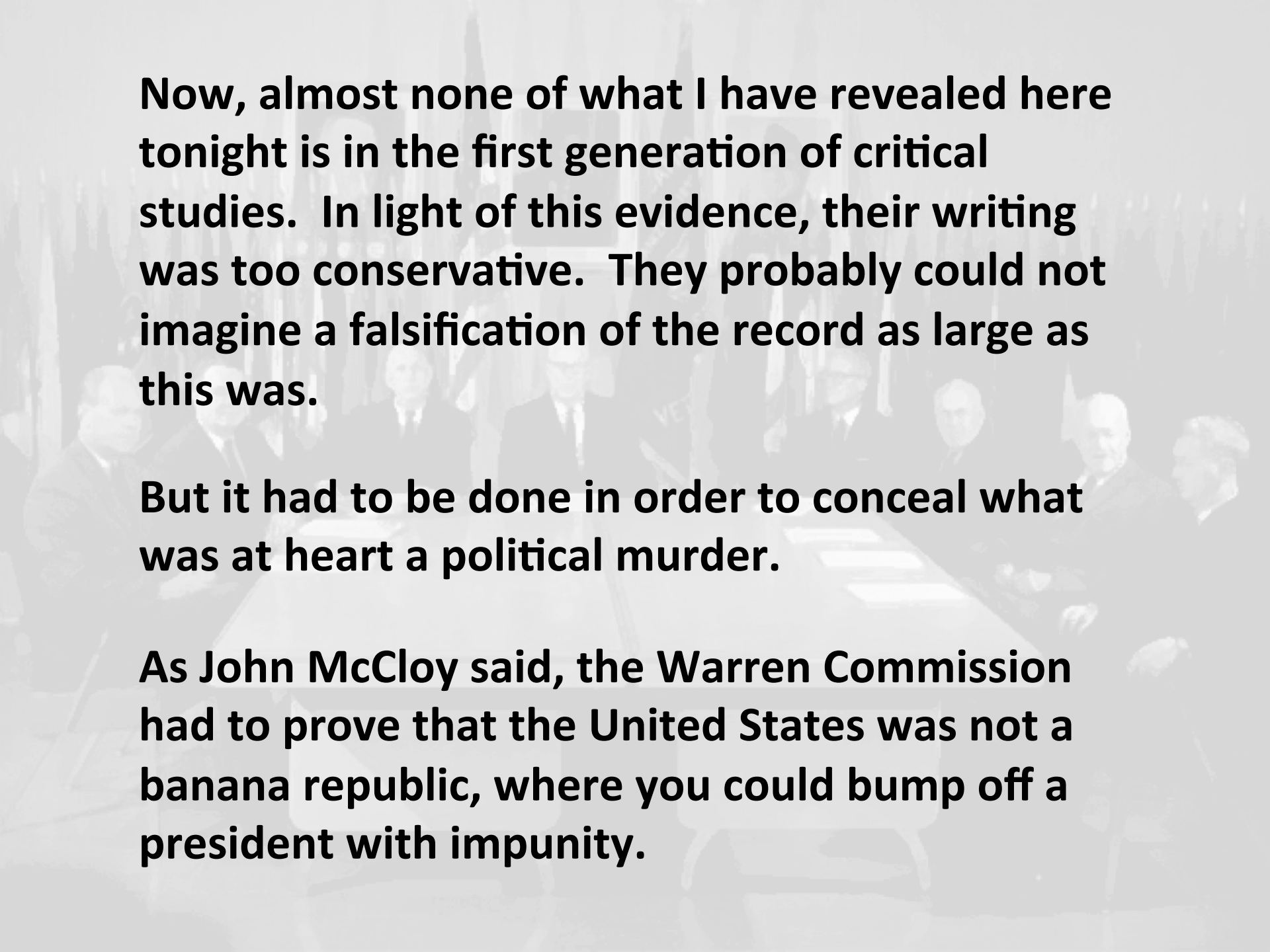
But the worst part was this: the Galvanic Skin Response machine was turned down **to just 25% full power, *and then was lowered as the interrogation went forward.*** In fact, the panel actually thought the machine was defective to begin with.





When Ruby was asked, “Did you assist Oswald in the assassination?”, Ruby replied in the negative.

The panel noted that this response recorded the *largest valid GSR reaction* in the first series, *when the witness was fresh*. Plus, there was a constant suppression of breathing and a rise in blood pressure. *All indicative of deceptive criteria.*



Now, almost none of what I have revealed here tonight is in the first generation of critical studies. In light of this evidence, their writing was too conservative. They probably could not imagine a falsification of the record as large as this was.

But it had to be done in order to conceal what was at heart a political murder.

As John McCloy said, the Warren Commission had to prove that the United States was not a banana republic, where you could bump off a president with impunity.

But that is what it was. As Jim Garrison said in 1967, Kennedy's assassination was a coup, a political overthrow meant to change the foreign policy of the nation. Which it did, in spades. An issue I will address tomorrow.

Josiah Thompson took issue with that statement, which is remarkable, *since by late 1967, Congo had been lost to European imperialism, Sukarno was placed under house arrest and Suharto now ran Indonesia, and 500,000 ground troops were in Vietnam.*

If that is not a change in direction, I don't know what is.

And this may be the worst part of the legacy of the Warren Commission – it provided a political cover for a huge transformation of American foreign policy in several parts of the globe:

- **Cuba**
- **Vietnam**
- **Africa**
- **Indochina**
- **Middle East**

The last is a point which no one talks about at all. But I will tomorrow.



Make no mistake, the Commission's case is as dead as a doornail.

It would not survive a preliminary hearing, let alone a trial.

Which, of course, is why the Commission survivors like Willens and David Slawson still defend it shamelessly, and why the MSM still takes it seriously, when, in fact, the Commission's case is an absurdity today.

The problem, as Zola said, is that when one is asked to accept too many absurdities, they finally lead us to tragedy.



And clearly that is what has happened to America since 1963.

As Robert Rakove has written, there is a direct line from Kennedy's assassination to the Six Day war, to the creation of Al Qaeda, to the attacks of 9-11, to Edward Snowden.



**John Kennedy was loved in the Third World.
Today America is despised there. And we
are to behave as if this never happened.**

Sorry, I won't.