



# Last Word: My Indictment of the CIA in the Murder of JFK

*Mark Lane , Robert K. Tanenbaum*

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## **Last Word: My Indictment of the CIA in the Murder of JFK** Mark Lane , Robert K. Tanenbaum

Mark Lane tried the only U.S. court case in which the jurors concluded that the CIA plotted the murder of President Kennedy, but there was always a missing piece: How did the CIA control cops and secret service agents on the ground in Dealey Plaza? How did federal authorities prevent the House Select Committee on Assassinations from discovering the truth about the complicity of the CIA?

Now, "New York Times" best-selling author Mark Lane tells all in this explosive new book--with exclusive new interviews, sworn testimony, and meticulous new research (including interviews with Oliver Stone, Dallas Police deputy sheriffs, Robert K. Tanenbaum, and Abraham Bolden) Lane finds out first hand exactly what went on the day JFK was assassinated. Lane includes sworn statements given to the Warren Commission by a police officer who confronted a man who he thought was the assassin. The officer testified that he drew his gun and pointed it at the suspect who showed Secret Service ID. Yet, the Secret Service later reported that there were no Secret Service agents on foot in Dealey Plaza.

"The Last Word" proves that the CIA, operating through a secret small group, prepared all credentials for Secret Service agents in Dallas for the two days that Kennedy was going to be there--conclusive evidence of the CIA's involvement in the assassination.

## **Last Word: My Indictment of the CIA in the Murder of JFK Details**

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# **From Reader Review Last Word: My Indictment of the CIA in the Murder of JFK for online ebook**

## **Dale Thorn says**

Lane opens with a remembrance to the 50 thousand-plus Americans who died in the Vietnam War, as well as the million or so Vietnamese who died in that conflict. I would like to open this review by stating what I've said elsewhere, that the debunkers who advocate the so-called official conclusions of the Warren Commission et al and deny government responsibility for John Kennedy's murder are actually far worse deniers than it would seem from the nitpicking and hair-splitting they do in arguing that Oswald did it.

A simple reality check should help dispel the notion that the government "just wouldn't" bump off the chief executive like we saw in Dallas. The U.S. government and its large contractors like GE and Westinghouse have manufactured tens of thousands of doomsday thermonuclear bombs, sufficient to exterminate the entire human race many times over, and have pointed those devices of Ultimate Death at the heads of every human being on Earth, ostensibly to frighten all of us into submission should we have any notion to attack or threaten that government. One could argue that the above scenario applies only to nation-states and not individuals, however, an in-depth reading of the terror acts and principles makes it clear that those kinds of lines don't exist now, if they ever did.

Robert Tanenbaum introduces the book with notes about how Mark Lane and other critics of the Warren Report were smeared by the lapdog national press, owned in no small part by the CIA due to their incremental acquisitions over the years. Persons wishing to learn more about the press should check out articles on Project Mockingbird, Frank Wisner's Mighty Wurlitzer, and the history of the Washington Post. My point with this note is that given the intensity and severity of opposition these many JFK researchers have faced from what should have been a free and open press, one can surmise much about the nature and scope of what the press was and is hiding, even 48 years now after the assassination.

## **BOOK ONE - The Assassination (Chapters 1 to 7):**

Lane begins by noting that the CIA has become so powerful that they now command their own Air Force, which adds an undeniable degree of muscle to their aspirations in making national policy. Lane also laments the notion that the press in 1963, acting on behalf of the government, should be able to declare Oswald the lone assassin almost immediately before even the most cursory investigation had begun. Lane goes on to make the point that the main members - the most active members of the Warren Commission - were people who personally befriended Hitler and imprisoned thousands of Americans in concentration camps in the 1940's (John J. McCloy) and who were responsible for numerous assassinations themselves (Allen Dulles).

Lane describes his interactions with several eyewitnesses to the events in Dallas, which provides a good alternative to the major media's witness selection. I don't need to list any of those here, but they help illustrate the pattern of obfuscation that took place in the days after the assassination. More pertinent is the section on Liberty Lobby and Willis Carto, whom I know personally from working with him briefly in Orange County California. Carto was sued by E. Howard Hunt of Bay of Pigs fame (1961) and Watergate fame (1972), for stating in his newspaper that Hunt was in Dallas on the day of the assassination. Hunt won the first round, then Mark Lane took on the appeal and won the final round and the case.

The truly extraordinary thing about this case is Marita Lorenz, a CIA employee and girlfriend of Fidel Castro who had Castro's child in Cuba, and subsequently went to work for the CIA. Lorenz stated in a deposition

read for the jury at the trial that she accompanied Frank Fiorini (Sturgis), Gerry Patrick Hemming, and the Novo brothers in a car caravan going from Miami to Dallas, arriving the day before the assassination. She stated that they met E. Howard Hunt when they arrived in Dallas, and he was apparently the paymaster for whatever was to take place there. Lorenz learned that she was to be a decoy for the operation, at which point she balked and returned to Miami.

#### BOOK TWO - The Media Response (Chapters 8 to 13):

In the Media Response chapters Lane names several major media pro-Warren Commission attack dogs, among them Max Holland who wrote for The Nation as a CIA asset, Christopher Andrew who lectures and writes for the CIA, and the New York Times' Anthony Lewis, who by Lane's description would qualify for Junkyard Dog of the Year. Lane goes on to describe CIA memoranda released under the Freedom of Information Act that instruct journalists and other assets on how to attack critics of the Warren Report, including specific language that would be most effective in smearing those critics.

Some of the most painful facts (for the CIA et al) are revealed in these chapters, among which are that the Warren Commission (controlled by the President and Chief Suspect in the assassination) was not representative of the people of the U.S. as was the HSCA, which found that there was indeed a conspiracy in Kennedy's murder. Other painful revelations are the eyewitness testimony of Amos Euins, Helen Markham, and Acquilla Clemons. The latter witness, having testimony not favorable to the Oswald Theory, was denied to even exist by the Commission until Mark Lane proved that she did, at which point the Commission excluded her testimony anyway.

Lane dissects much of Vincent Bugliosi's prose in Bugliosi's JFK book, demonstrating that rather than check his facts to be certain they were true, Bugliosi assembled as much derogatory information (mostly false) as he could find about Lane and other well-known critics and made that information one of the key pillars of his work. To demonstrate the falsity of many of Bugliosi's claims, Lane includes actual Warren Commission testimony of the subjects in question. Lane also describes how Bugliosi interviewed Dr. Cyril Wecht and then completely distorted and twisted his words, to make it appear that Wecht agreed with Bugliosi and the Warren Commission on the direction of the shots that were fired and how those were represented in the President's wounds.

#### BOOK THREE - The Secret Service (Chapters 14 to 19):

I thought by now I had read everything on the JFK assassination, especially about the rather obvious and visible Secret Service. Be prepared for some surprises. Where the Warren Commission glossed over the Secret Service "failures" the day of the assassination, the HSCA set the record straighter: "No actions were taken by the agent in the right front seat of the Presidential limousine to cover the President..." In fact, the two agents in the President's car and the eight agents in the car immediately behind the President did nothing between the first shot and the final shot more than six seconds later. By contrast, the agents in the Vice-President's car acted immediately on the first shot to protect the Vice-President, jumping on him and covering him completely.

A fascinating tidbit I had been unaware of is that 11 of the most experienced members of the White House Secret Service detail were transferred to other assignments in the 60 days preceding the assassination. There is no explanation for that as far as I know.

One former Secret Service member, Gerald Blaine wrote the book The Kennedy Detail in 2009, endorsing the Warren Report and offering explanations for the behaviors of the various agents the day of the

assassination, although Blaine was not in Dallas that day. Errors and omissions abound in Blaine's book, among which are not knowing the nature of Drew Pearson's employment or reputation when they dismissed his newspaper column criticizing the Secret Service on December 1, 1963. Worse is Blaine's assertion that Pearson got it all wrong in his column about the agents' behavior the night before the assassination, when Pearson stated that the agents were out drinking until the wee hours of the morning.

Blaine's accusations against former agent Abraham Bolden are also telling, where Blaine states that there was no corroboration of any of Bolden's stories about the Secret Service and the virulent racism he encountered there. According to Mark Lane, Blaine states several times in his book that there was never a hint of racism in the Secret Service, although nearly 10 years before Blaine's book the Washington Post reported that a number of African-American Secret Service agents had applied to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to file a class action lawsuit against the Secret Service for racial discrimination. In 2007, National Public Radio reported that "58 African-American Secret Service agents issued sworn statements in a class action lawsuit claiming racial discrimination by the agency."

#### BOOK FOUR - Mexico City (Chapters 20 to 22):

Prior to reading this latest book, I hadn't understood the importance of the story that Lee Oswald had been in Mexico City in late September to early October 1963. That story as it turns out was to establish a relationship between Oswald and Valery Kostikov, a KGB official in the embassy who specialized in assassinations. Committing assassinations that is to say, not investigating them. Once that relationship was presented to the Warren Commission with the insinuation that the KGB was somehow involved in assassinating John Kennedy, the Commission would be less likely to cast a suspicious eye toward the CIA and instead direct their efforts to uncovering skullduggery in the Communist milieu.

A key component of the CIA's fabricated case involving the KGB would be the fear that if it were "known" that the Soviets were responsible for killing Kennedy, then the U.S. would be obligated to go to war which meant launching nukes and millions of people dying. Hence the Warren Commission would preemptively cover the whole thing up "for the good of the country", which actually did happen and which memoranda released under the Freedom of Information Act has proven.

In these chapters Lane describes in detail the success in getting more than a hundred thousand CIA documents released under the Freedom of Information Act in 1975, and having hundreds of student volunteers pore over those documents and pick out the gems. Some of those gems included detailed instructions written by the CIA for their agents and assets in the media to utilize in countering and discrediting critics of the Warren Commission. While the CIA described the Warren Commission members as "Men of integrity, experience, and prominence", most of them had a lot to hide such as assassinations, coups, covering up war crimes, imprisoning innocent people, and hiding exculpatory information that would preclude the conviction of persons they knew to be innocent.

In one interesting aside in these chapters, Lane describes the Gallup Poll taken in 1976 which revealed that 81 percent of Americans believed that John Kennedy was killed as the result of a conspiracy. ABC News confirmed that the percentage was still 81 in 1993, 17 years later. In an interview with Jim Lehrer in 2003, the editor of the Gallup Poll was asked whether the percentage fluctuated according to some current event or events, and he said "Not that I'm aware of - we just discovered that it ... remains at that height." Lane suggests that Gallup should have probed a little deeper and perhaps discovered that there was a rational basis for those beliefs.

Lane wraps up this part of the book by describing David Atlee Phillips' public confession that the Mexico

City incident with Oswald never happened. Unfortunately for the CIA, Hoover and the FBI retained certain documents that proved Oswald was not in Mexico City at the time, and the CIA either didn't know those documents existed or they couldn't get to them to destroy them. Also covered in this section is the fate of the HSCA as the FBI and CIA were working feverishly to undermine the Committee, where someone convinced Congressman Louis Stokes to vote against continuation if its key member Richard Sprague remained.

With Sprague's and Robert Tanenbaum's efforts now stymied by the Congressional sponsors' withdrawal of support, they resigned from the HSCA at which point Robert Blakey took over and appointed a retired CIA officer, George Joannides to be the Committee's liaison to the intelligence agencies. Joannides' duties prior to retirement were leading a CIA Psych Warfare operation in Miami which created the story that Fidel Castro was responsible for Kennedy's assassination. In a footnote to this section Lane notes Senator Church's committee investigating the CIA, and the fact that Church identified 50 American journalists directly employed by the CIA plus many other journalists who were affiliated with and paid by the CIA.

#### BOOK FIVE - The Indictment (Chapters 23 to 28):

Lane begins this last section with an article written by Harry Truman and published in the Washington Post in December of 1963. That article is a call for the CIA to be returned to its original mission of intelligence and for the CIA's policy-making and dirty tricks operations to be discontinued. Lane goes on in the next chapter to describe the CIA's assassinations and other operations in present-day Pakistan and how they give the CIA new confidence and assurances that their excesses will not be reined in by any government.

Lane presents a case for the "indictment" of the CIA for criminal conduct, noting the evidentiary requirements for a conventional criminal proceeding and how the CIA has used special privileges and powers to destroy most of the evidence against them. One of the more damning indictments of the CIA is the fact that many of their assassination targets have been among the most beloved personages in their respective countries.

In Vietnam the CIA carried out the assassination of more than 25,000 civilians who supported the National Liberation Front. A former agent for this program of assassinations (the "Phoenix" program) stated that on occasion orders were given to kill American military persons who were considered to be security risks. One former Phoenix case officer testified to Congress that he never knew of anyone detained for interrogation who lived through the interrogation. Extreme forms of torture were the routine procedures in Vietnam.

There was a special prison near Saigon that was being run by a group of psychologists employed by the CIA. When large doses of LSD and other drugs failed to produce confessions and other information the CIA sought, they resorted to Nazi-like tactics - opening the skulls of the detainees and exposing their brains, then jamming electrodes into the brain tissue so they could monitor the detainees' reactions when charges were applied through the electrodes. When these experiments also failed to produce useful results (or even if they did) the detainees were killed and their bodies burned to eliminate any evidence of what was taking place.

Lane goes on to note many of the more sensational cases where people were maimed or killed by the CIA, where many lawsuits were filed against the CIA, and where most of those lawsuits were dismissed by judges friendly to or fearful of the CIA. Lane notes that the CIA's MKULTRA program involved 44 colleges, 15 research foundations and pharma companies, 12 hospitals and clinics and three prisons. Sidney Gottlieb, chief of the Chemical Division of the CIA's Technical Services Staff in the early 1950's, believed that African-American test subjects were more vulnerable to the effects of LSD, and so in one experiment he injected black heroin addicts with LSD for 77 straight days. Besides the experimental value to Gottlieb, the experiment provided entertainment and amusement for the people on Gottlieb's staff.

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## **Pete daPixie says**

Having read Lane's 'Rush To Judgement' and 'Plausible Denial' a long way back on the trail, I was compelled to get hold of 2011's 'Last Word'. I have to say that Lane's 'Last Word-My Indictment of the CIA in the Murder of JFK' holds the perpetrators firmly in the cross-hairs, anyone new to Citizen Lane or the coup d'etat of '63 could be better served elsewhere. (Lifton,Marrs,Fonzi,Hancock & Douglass.)

I still think that Mark Lane has contributed to the 'critics' case, even though I found few new revelations in his book. Questions posed on the fly cover:-How did the CIA control forces of the law on the ground in Dealey Plaza? How did they also control the Dallas Police Department, the Dallas Sheriff's Department and the United States Secret Service? Read Lifton, Marrs, Hancock or Douglass. How did federal authorities prevent the House Select Committee on Assassinations from discovering the truth about the complicity of the CIA? Read Fonzi. What was the attitude of the United States Secret Service that day in Dallas? Read Bolden. All in all 'Last Word', sectioned into five parts, with Tanenbaum's intro and a chapter from Oliver Stone, Harry S. Truman's 1963 article from the Washington Post and a previously unpublished appendix on George De Mohrenschild from 1965, as well as an open letter to Barak Obama, contains a comprehensive brief from a writer with fifty years spent in the legal profession. A prosecution case against the CIA and a defence case for the First Amendment.

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## **Vivian Valvano says**

I stopped believing in the Warren Commission and the "lone gunman" and the "magic bullet" years and years ago. And he's done prodigious and indefatigable work on his investigations. But this book is so disappointin as his "last word" that I'm not even star-rating it. It's so poorly written and so repetitious. And for a subject so important, it does no good whatsoever to be snarky and sarcastic, as is far too often the case here.

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## **Kim says**

This book contains no new material whatsoever and appears to be merely a defense of Lane's earlier books.

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## **Sharon says**

### **The CIA conspired to kill J. F. Kennedy!**

Mark Lane spend much of his life trying to expose the truth that the CIA was a corrupt organization and directly responsible for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Many people alive today may not even care what happened to JFK. They were born after the fact and may well think that it's all in the past. BUT it's not. The death of JFK was planned and carried out by the CIA, a government organization that continues to have far too much power.

The author of this book, Mark Lane, used the Freedom of Information Act to subpoena documents for his research and has finally exposed the truth behind what actually happened to President Kennedy. In his book he presents all the evidence for you to review and decide for yourself.

I just finished the book and want to do the review while it's still fresh in my mind. This book is long, and isn't meant to necessarily be picked up and read straight through. But it puts all the information out there for you to read and absorb. If you want to know the truth, read it. At times it is shocking with the truth it gives you. And it is shocking with the reality that it could happen again tomorrow. I'm glad I read it, but it wasn't necessarily an easy read. But I believe I now know the truth about that day in Dallas.

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### **Dav8d777 says**

This was a very good, but not stellar effort by Mark Lane the leading writer on the "Oswald wasn't in it alone" side of the JFK assassination question. Lane wrote the first widely heralded book on that subject way back in the 1960s when he published *Rush to Judgement*. This book is, as the title indicates, his final book on the subject as he is advancing in years. He basically puts into plain black and white why he thinks the CIA did it and / or at least mounted a massive cover-up along with others outside of that agency.

The argument is compelling although I'm not sure there is a lot of new stuff here. I listened to the unabridged audio book which was very well done.

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### **Carolyn says**

This is Mark Lane's summing up of his 50 years of research into the JFK assassination. His first book, *Rush to Judgment*, critiqued the Warren Report and led many Americans to question the official answer that Oswald acted alone. He has also written several other books and two documentary films. By now, Gallup and other polls consistently show that 81% of Americans believe there was a conspiracy behind the murders of JFK and Oswald.

There are few surprises for anyone who has been following the case for conspiracy, most of which cover crimes by the CIA that haven't been widely publicized before. Lane spends too much time refuting many lies told about him by the press, especially the NY Times, Anthony Lewis, and Vincent Bugliosi. He reports credibly that the CIA had then, and has now, prominent assets in the print and broadcast media that will make sure their brand of the truth is reported.

He also comments only in passing on usual suspects besides the CIA: LBJ, J. Edgar Hoover, and organized crime. He does question how Hoover could state positively only a few hours later, before any investigation, that Oswald was the sole person guilty of killing JFK and Officer Tippit. He says that Ruby was an FBI asset; my understanding is that he was acting for the Mafia. It's understandable that he would have feared for his life if he failed to carry out an assignment for the Mafia, less so if he was acting for the FBI. Other books claim credibly that Ruby had longstanding ties to organized crime. Lane also never mentions Oswald's lover, Judy Vary Baker, who claims prior knowledge of the events and Oswald's innocence.

Lane does explore in detail the apparent lapses by the Secret Service. Nine senior members applied for and were granted vacation time that took them off duty at the time of the assassination. Secret Service credentials



were then produced by the CIA. The driver of JFK's car stopped or nearly stopped the car after the first shot, when training should have led him to accelerate immediately. The Secret Service agent in the passenger seat should have covered Kennedy's body with his own (LBJ's agent did) but never moved from his seat. A Dallas Police officer stopped a man who had just come from behind the fence at the grassy knoll. The man showed Secret Service credentials, and was released without questioning or even a description reported, but the Secret Service said all of their agents were in the motorcade.

The Warren Commission interviewed few, if any, of the hundreds of eye- and ear-witnesses who reported that the shots came from the grassy knoll and/or the 5th (not 6th) floor of the Texas School Book Depository. Lane interviewed several and includes a number of quotations from them.

It's less than two weeks before the 50th anniversary of the assassination. Many books mark it. This is one that deserves critical attention.

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### **Scott Duke says**

authoritative! read Plausible Denial by same author first.

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### **Paul says**

Perhaps the last word on the JFK assassination: Planned and executed by the CIA because JFK wanted to abolish it. The setting up of Lee Harvey Oswald months in advance is disgusting. The CIA is a fourth branch of federal government answerable to no one, with an unknown taxpayer-paid budget, no governance, and no oversight. By its own admission, it is a criminal organization and has armed forces and an air force parallel to the U.S. It is fighting a simultaneous war in the Mideast alongside the U.S. It should be stopped and disbanded.

If you find me dead, you know who did it.

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### **Dave Flores says**

I thought this was a very informative book. Lots of information jammed in there leaving someone to wonder why nothing extraordinary has been done about the investigation in the 50 years that the mystery has been alive.

Mark Lane seems to be a very knowledgeable person on the subject and his argument and proof leave me to believe pretty much everything I read.

I thought this was a good book but wasn't as exciting as I expected, he repeated some information here and

there and there was a huge chunk that was just from his brain and previous knowledge that wasn't cited. I believe what he had to say and I suppose I should read his previous books on the subject, but I still want to see the sources. Towards the end was a full chapter dedicated to the CIA's wrongdoings which is understandable in order to build a case against them, explaining their history of atrociousness but I wanted to hear more about Kennedy before and on the day of the assassination.

In the end, I fully respect this author and his credentials and I will read more of his books in the future.

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### **Lynn Smith says**

Mark Lane was one of the first critics of the Warren Commission, publishing "Rush to Judgment" in 1966. When I began researching the JFK assassination in the mid-70s, after the Warren Commission Report, "Rush To Judgment" was one of the first few books I read on the subject (others including, and I recommend, Edward Epstein's "Inquest" and Josiah Thompson's "Six Seconds in Dallas").

This book is more recent (written in 2011). It is well written and gives a lot of detail about Lane's own odyssey of investigating the Kennedy assassination. This book specifically points the finger at the CIA as being the chief culprit behind John Kennedy's death.

Lane makes a pervasive case. I've read and written enough about the case to agree the CIA definitely had to be involved. Whether they were the main/chief culprit is another story. When I was younger, I thought one day the case would be solved. As I age, I realize this is one of those cases which will be forever debated and the full truth will never be known, but I hope that the next generation will continue the quest for the truth.

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### **Anthony Yvonnica says**

The book presented detailed facts, interviews, details, etc that were very convincing. While the author's conclusion that the CIA killed the president and that the FBI and others in government covered it up is certainly plausible and likely true, it is quite clear that there is a LOT more to the story than what we were told by our government.

The weakness in the book is the details of other abuses committed by the government. Valid as those accusations may or may not be, they are immaterial to the question at hand.

I don't know if it's appropriate to say whether or not I 'liked' the book. It's not that type of book.

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### **Steve Davis says**

Mr. Lanes most recent book updating the evidence for conspiracy. Read Plausible Denial first then this one. This is one of the best JFK assassination books ever written. Explosive evidence in this one.

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## **Gary Schantz says**

As someone who has a big interest in presidential history, I like to peruse many different subjects that involve any president and their specific moments in history. Also I make it a point to read a few books on a particular subject so that I can draw my own conclusions as to "what the truth is".

The JFK assassination is without a doubt one of the most written about moments in history. There are as many books about conspiracy theories as there are about the lone-shooter theories. Some of the books seem to make good points while other books go off the beaten path and make facts out of opinions.

Then there are books like this one...which after 290 pages...admits there are no conclusions. There are only numerous places to look for mistakes in how the investigation of the assassination was handled from the second the first bullet was fired all the way to the time this book was written in 2011. Hundreds of people were at fault for this or that reason but no proof that anyone did or did not do anything specifically related to the JFK's death.

However the mentioning of George De Mohrenschildt (whose story comes into the book on page 290) is the only part I found important and believable. His relationship to Oswald is the only hard fact of the mystery that has been shown to be true yet the least investigated. This man's guilt of knowing about Oswald was (in my opinion) decided the minute he committed suicide. While he did testify in front of the Warren Commission in 1964 and admitted to that relationship. In 1977, he chose to kill himself rather than appear before the House Selection Committee on Assassinations.

Perhaps it's time that someone completely investigate De Mohrenschildt and see where that leads rather than continuing to blame others whose relationship to JFK or Oswald was a passing one at most.

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## **Jim Swike says**

The CIA whose jobs were to protect JFK in Dallas failed in many ways. A well researched and written book about the JFK murder. Enjoy!

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