

RFK AND THE JFK ASSASSINATION

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Robert Kennedy did not resign himself to the lone gunman theory, the official version of his brother's death. On the contrary, he immediately suspected that President Kennedy was the victim of a powerful conspiracy. And he spent the rest of his life secretly searching for the truth about his brother's murder.—David Talbot

From the beginning, whatever Bobby said in public about the Warren Commission was only a figleaf. He always suspected a powerful domestic conspiracy.—James DiEugenio

One of myths propagated by defenders of the Warren Commission and the Warren Commission Report is the canard that President John F. Kennedy's brother Robert accepted the Commission's conclusion, embodied in its Report, that JFK's assassination was committed by a lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald, and that there was no conspiracy behind the president's murder.

The Central Intelligence Agency, for example, which directly or indirectly, officially or unofficially, may well have been involved in the JFK assassination, and which unquestionably has stonewalled every inquiry into the assassination directed at the agency, used to clandestinely supply talking points to the news media claiming that, because Robert F. Kennedy supported the Warren Report, the Oswald-was-the sole-assassin theory must be true.

The myth that RFK had confidence in the Warren Report was demolished by David Talbot's *Brothers: The Hidden History of the Kennedy Years*, published in 2007. Talbot, a leading journalist, is

founder and former editor-in-chief of *Salon*, the online magazine. His book is based on recently declassified documents and more than 150 exclusive interviews with Kennedy administration officials and former law enforcement officials and intelligence agents, as well as with various journalists and writers who after examining the work of the Warren Commission or reviewing the Warren Report, or both, came to the realization that the Commission botched its job and that its Report is a sham. *Brothers* is another step forward in the continuing search for the truth about America's Crime of the 20th Century.

Talbot's 478-page book will convince an open-minded person that RFK privately carried on, until his own assassination in 1968, a secret, informal investigation of the circumstances of his brother's murder; that RFK regarded the Warren Report with disdain; that he believed that his brother's assassination resulted from a conspiracy; and that he thought the conspiracy was not a foreign but a domestic one, with the conspirators probably consisting of Mafia members, anti-Castro Cubans, and rogue CIA-affiliated personnel. "In truth," Talbot writes, "[Robert F.] Kennedy was one of the first—and among the staunchest—believers in a conspiracy."

For personal and political reasons which Talbot explains in detail, RFK felt compelled to publicly express support for the Warren Report. Privately, though, he vowed that if elected president he would reopen the JFK assassination investigation. "I can't do anything," he told longtime friend William Attwood, "until we get control of the White House."

Some of Robert Kennedy's closest associates also believed that JFK was assassinated as a result of a conspiracy. His press secretary, Frank Mankiewicz, told David Talbot that "*I just didn't believe that a high-school dropout could've planned the whole thing. . . . I came to the conclusion that there was some sort of conspiracy, probably involving the mob, anti-Castro Cuban exiles, and maybe rogue CIA agents.*" James Symington, a former RFK administrative assistant, concluded

after reading the Warren Report that *“it seemed to be like an effort by people who were very anxious to put the case to rest without looking into every nook and cranny. It was a long and windy thing and was concerned mostly with Oswald’s background and showing that he acted alone. . . . There were just too many loose ends.”*

Long before Talbot’s book appeared, it was well-established that government officials in the know scoffed at the Warren Report’s no-conspiracy theory. President Lyndon B. Johnson did not believe the theory; neither did three of the seven members of the Warren Commission (including Georgia’s Sen. Richard B. Russell); neither did a majority of the members of the U.S. House of Representatives Select Committee on Assassinations, which in 1977-78 reinvestigated JFK’s murder.

And now it may be considered well-established that RFK did not believe the no-conspiracy theory, either. Just think about that. *For forty-five years, the American people were deceived about RFK’s views of his brother’s assassination.* We were falsely led to believe that RFK agreed with the Warren Report’s conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting on his own, murdered JFK. In truth, however, RFK, in Talbot’s words, “contemptuously dismissed the Warren Report as nothing more than a public relations exercise designed to reassure the public.”

In the context of the JFK assassination, the befooling of the American people by the government and the news media has been the rule rather than the exception. The instances in which we have been the victim of dupery are legion. The deception concerning RFK and his belief that the JFK assassination was the result of a conspiracy is one obvious example. Two others will be mentioned here.

In the first place, for a decade we were deluded into believing that President Johnson accepted the Warren Report’s single-assassin theory. (LBJ’s scornful rejection of the theory became public knowledge shortly after his death in 1973.) In the second place, for more than four decades

we were denied knowledge of the fact that during the three weeks before JFK's November 22, 1963 assassination, the Secret Service became aware of two plots—one in Chicago, one in Tampa—to shoot the president with a high-powered rifle from an office building while he was motorcading in an open limousine. (The certain existence of the two plots became public knowledge when Lamar Waldron and Thom Hartmann's book *Ultimate Sacrifice* appeared in 2005. As Talbot puts it: "In the final month of his life, John Kennedy seemed a marked man, encircled by a tightening knot of treachery. . . . We can now conclude that Kennedy was, in fact, being methodically stalked in the final weeks of his life.")

These and numerous other duperies had the purpose and effect of impeding the efforts of the American people to uncover the full truth about the murder of the 35th president.

Time, the great discoverer of truth, inevitably will reveal additional instances in which we the people have been materially deceived about the JFK assassination, which comedian Mort Sahl in a serious truthful moment called "the foulest event of our lives," or craftily tricked by the Warren Report, which assassination investigator Ray Marcus justly labeled "the most massively fraudulent document ever foisted on a free society."