

Who killed John F. Kennedy?

Reprinted from the Ontario

By Mary Ryan

Considerable controversy surrounding the question of who was really responsible for J.F. Kennedy's death is still prominent today, 16 years after his assassination.

Last week, Tony Centa, an expert on the Kennedy assassination gave the second part of an extensive slide presentation in which he clearly showed that there are still many unanswered questions.

Centa was careful not to state his personal conclusions, leaving the audience to decide for themselves who was responsible for the assassination. However, the information he gave us was enough to convince most people that there was a conspiracy.

In discussing Lee Harvey Oswald, Centa said that although he was not an angel, neither was he the moron the press depicted him as. He said that Oswald learned to speak fluent Russian while serving in the U.S. air force in Japan, a decidedly difficult task.

Centa continued to outline the special treatment that Oswald received. He was given permission to leave the air force three days after his request. When Oswald decided to make trips to Cuba and Russia he was granted visas within 24 hours.

Evidence was also given to suggest Oswald's involvement with the C.I.A.. He showed a slide of Oswald handing out pro-Castro pamphlets at a factory in New Orleans following which he showed the address on the pamphlet where Oswald could be reached. The address was that of the C.I.A. office in New Orleans. This type of "coincidence" was prominent throughout his presentation.

Later, Centa presented the same slide of Oswald handing out pamphlets and pointed out that E. Howard Hunt, a man most people today associate with Watergate and the C.I.A. is in the background. Similarly, Virgilio Gonzalez, one of the Watergate "plumbers" in the picture.

Centa raises the question as to whether Lee Harvey Oswald was merely a scapegoat or decoy. He cites several groups which had reasons to want Kennedy dead because he was threatening their bases of power. Such groups included the military and one of its divisions, the C.I.A., the F.B.I., as well as American oilmen. When Kennedy came into office he vowed to have more control over the military than his predecessors. He did not always follow the advice of his military aides and he was especially disliked by the C.I.A. because he felt that politicians should have more control over the agency. After the Bay of Pigs incident, Kennedy went so far as to fire the director of the C.I.A.

Kennedy also posed a great threat to wealthy American oil men by proposing legislation to decrease their profits. When he came to power the top six oil companies paid no income tax. One of these powerful and angered men was J.L. Hunt.

Centa shows a picture of a letter which was addressed to a Mr. Hunt, which experts have confirmed as having been written by Oswald. In it he requested to discuss a particular matter but provides no details. Initials of the Mr. Hunt are not given, meaning it could have been H.L. Hunt the oil man or E. Howard Hunt of C.I.A. fame. The letter was dated November 16, 1963, six days before the assassination.

The F.B.I. was also linked to the assassination because Kennedy

challenged Hoover and the organizations power. A few days before the assassination Hoover was sent information stating that it was to occur. After the Dallas incident, Hoover said he never received the information although the F.B.I. agents across the country were informed of it.

In reviewing the findings of the Warren Commission of the Sixties and the Church Committee of the Seventies, Centa gives reasons why their conclusions could be biased or incomplete. He shows that many of the men on the Church Committee had been formally involved with the C.I.A.

Also he presents a newspaper clipping in which Gerald Ford, a Committee member, admitted that he had secretly briefed the F.B.I. about the committee proceedings. Thus the F.B.I. would be one step ahead of the committee.

The presentations provided a continuous list of alarming coincidences which led the people who viewed it to question not only aspects of the assassination but the American political system as a whole.

Approximately 70 people listened to Centa, a Richmond Hill high school teacher. He had visited the assassination site at Dallas and

maintains a relationship with a retired newspaper publisher who dedicates a great deal of his time to reviewing the assassination.

According to Centa, there is still a large number of people interested in the assassination of President Kennedy, but different age groups perceive the issue from varying viewpoints. He said it is important to some people because they were shocked in 1963, along with the rest of the world, whereas, young people and students of today must look at the assassination in a historical perspective.



ANNE KILFOIL Photo

Andy Bartlett performed at the Woodshed this week with Mark Kristmanson.

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