

DISPATCH

Reference copy, JFK Collection: HSCA (RG 235)

(AR 340-15)

REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL

SUBJECT

MEDEM-AJT

Press Relations

Captain Smith

FROM

2LT Morrison

DATE

20 Nov 67

CMT 1

1. I have received a copy of a DF sent to you by LTC Pierre A. Finck concerning a telephone call he received from a Time Inc reporter.

2. I wish to suggest that LTC Finck tell reporters "I am not at liberty to speak" rather than "I have no comment." I think this indicates to the press that LTC Finck and AFIP would like to speak to the press but ^{are} ~~is~~ not able to.

"No comment" can be interpreted as an arbitrary decision by the Institute not to tell something the public is vitally interested in. This is especially dangerous when dealing with publications which interpret as they wish.

3. I think it is vital at this point because of the annex that we cooperate to the fullest with the press, especially a mass-circulation sheet which has the power to do considerable damage when it wishes.

4. If LTC Finck is asked why he is not at liberty or who has revoked this liberty, I would think the best answer would be that he is under the orders of the Secretary of the Army. If this is not feasible, then I think LTC Finck should repeat that he is not at liberty to discuss not only the case but also himself within the context of the case.

5. If LTC Finck may not say even this, perhaps he could refer reporters to me at the Institute or at home. I have the added advantage of being able to say "I don't know" - an answer which is perfectly true.

6. I submit this as a means of preserving LTC Finck's obedience to orders while at the same time maintaining our good relations with the press.

FORM 1 FEB 62

2496

REPLACES DD FORM 96, EXISTING SUPPLIES OF WHICH WILL BE ISSUED AND USED UNTIL 1 FEB 63 UNLESS SOONER EXHAUSTED

MD 35

00044

Call from 1a, OTRG
21 NOV 67

LTC McMorris

Code " + 61815

I have the addition

and the right list

to detain capt

" not in the case of

refer to my section 7 p. 10.

MEMO ROUTING SLIP

NEVER USE FOR APPROVALS, DISAPPROVALS, CONCURRENCES, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS

ACTION

TO: COL LEEPER	INITIALS	CIRCULATE
	DATE	COORDINATION
		FILE
		INFORMATION
		NOTE AND RETURN
		PER CONVERSATION
		SEE ME
		SIGNATURE

REMARKS

I assume this was the story about which LTC FINCK was contacted.

MICHAEL MORRISON 2LT. MSC Technical Liaison Officer	DATE	21 Nov 67
	PHONE	

FORM 1 OCT 60 **95** REPLACES PREVIOUS EDITION

GPO: 16-78279-1

nalist ... under greatness of the enterprise that I have built: draw their rage as the oak draws lightning? Do people expect me to go into the editorial offices and say, 'Gentlemen, please don't put out such good newspapers,' or into the publishing offices and say, 'Please don't be so efficient'? Should I block the path to success and demand: 'No, success must not be?'

The answer, undoubtedly, is no—and a government commission presently investigating the trend to monopoly in the German press will probably agree. The most it is likely to recommend is some kind of tax break for smaller newspapers. Springer's most strident rival, Rudolf Augstein, publisher of the newsweekly *Der Spiegel*, has called for a "lex Springer," a trustbusting law aimed at Springer. With the crushing of press freedom still fresh in their minds, Germans are unlikely to go along. "When people stop buying my papers," says Springer, "they will show their opposition to my policies. I recall with horror the misfortunes the so-called apolitical press brought on us during the Weimar Republic. It is my credo that a newspaper publisher has no right to remain politically indifferent."

MAGAZINES

Back to Dallas

Few deaths in the history of mankind have been so minutely scrutinized as that of John F. Kennedy. Every detail of that fateful November day has been exhumed, examined and crammed into some theory or other, ranging from the plausible to the inconceivable. This week both *LIFE* and the *Saturday Evening Post* offer more intriguing bits and pieces on the assassination, but regrettably nothing so conclusive as to put an end to all the speculation.

Publishing excerpts from a forthcoming book, *Six Seconds in Dallas*, the *Post* can hardly contain its excitement. Calling Author Josiah Thompson, 32, a philosophy teacher at Haverford College, a "warm and engaging idealist with a mind like a rip saw," Editor Bill Emerson Jr. enthusiastically writes that the book "demolishes" the Warren Commission Report. An equally emotional editorial declares that the details amassed by Thompson "cry out for the truth to be told and for the murderers to be punished."

The details are not all that new; the conclusions are. Thompson states that "there were four shots from three guns in six seconds." What led him to this belief was a close examination of the film of the assassination. As he saw it, a split second after President Kennedy's head lurched forward under the impact of a bullet, it lurched back again. Thompson speculates that another bullet must have struck him from the front. Much of the debris from the wound, moreover, landed to the rear of the car, again an indication to Thompson of an oncoming bullet. After talk-



JOSIAH THOMPSON

Such a warm, engaging rip saw.

ing to various eyewitnesses, Thompson decided that one assassin had been posted behind the fence on the grassy knoll, a second on top of the Dallas County Records Building. The other two shots came from the sixth floor of the Texas Depository—but not from Oswald. Two other assassins had done the shooting; Oswald was the fall guy. The Warren Commission concluded that one assassin had fired three shots. This forced the commission to adopt the controversial "single bullet" theory: the assumption that the same bullet passed through Kennedy's neck, passed through Connally's chest and then struck his wrist and thigh.

Demand for Exposure. In *LIFE*, Governor John Connally gives his side of the story of the events leading up to Dallas. Contradicting William Manchester's contention that the President had reluctantly gone to Texas to patch up a local factional quarrel within the Democratic Party, Connally insists that Kennedy went to mend his own political fortunes. He wanted to show conservative Texas Democrats that he did not have horns. Connally, just emerging from a bruising election campaign, was in no mood for a presidential visit.

When the President insisted on coming anyway, Connally argued for a relatively low-keyed tour aimed mainly at Texas businessmen. Kennedy's advance men demanded more exposure to the crowd. After a "heated argument," the Kennedy people prevailed over Connally, and a Dallas motorcade was scheduled. The route was released to the press three days ahead of time, though Connally had objected that this would give hecklers a chance to organize. When Kennedy arrived, Connally was pleasantly surprised by the size of the crowds and their friendliness. In his last conversation with the President during the Dallas motorcade, he assured Kennedy that he would probably carry Texas in 1964.

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