

Transcript of KMYR series on The Public Affair: Ralph Schoenman

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Albuquerque Museum, gift of Zane Blaney

This is a four-part series of interviews with Ralph Schoenman, a Kennedy assassination critic. The series is taken from an interview Schoenman did on KUNM.

Keywords and topics: assassination, John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., conspiracy theory, Ralph Shoenman, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Central Intelligence Agency, Jack Ruby, Lee Harvey Oswald, Dr. Werner Tuteur, Earl Warren, Leon Jaworski, Gerald Ford, Malcolm X, underworld, Jimmy Hoffa, "Red" Dorfman, Mike Wallace, Dan Rather, Abraham Zapruder, Harry Moses, Harriet Rubin, ITEK Corporation, CBS television, Robert Clayton Buick, KUNM

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ZANE BLANEY: Ralph Shoenman believes documents compiled by the C.I.A. [Central Intelligence Agency] and the F.B.I. [Federal Bureau of Investigation] link the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King. He says the American people unknowingly witnessed a domestic execution program. This past month, Shoenman spoke at UNM [University of New Mexico] and was interviewed by KUNM. This week on "The Public Affair", some of Schoenman's comments.

RALPH SHOENMAN: The hand of the intelligence agency is apparent in every facet of the execution of John Kennedy. We could go on with this if you want to, and deal with the person of Jack Ruby, who the authorities have told us is simply a patriotic night club owner who killed Lee Harvey Oswald because he loved all presidents. It didn't matter if they were presidents, Jack loved them. And he said that he couldn't bear the thought of Jaqueline Kennedy having to, uh, go through the ordeal of the trial and so he decided he would kill that dirty, Commie bastard, Lee Harvey Oswald. That's the official fiction.

When you look at the actual testimony of Jack Ruby, his verbatim testimony – his testimony in which he tells the members of the Warren Commission who came down to see him seven months later that there was a conspiracy. That there was a large organization that was responsible for seizing power. That his life wasn't worth a plugged nickel. That they had to get him to Washington [Washington, D.C.] where he could tell what happened. That you might say, he says at one point that Lee Harvey Oswald didn't shoot John Kennedy, Jack Ruby did. Over and over and over again, he says this. And that's in the hands of the authorities from Day One.

Then we find that the head of Elgin State Hospital in Chicago, Dr. Werner Tuteur was assigned to Jack Ruby as his psychiatrist while he was in jail to monitor him. To prepare a report for the authorities. That report was only released – or rather, to put it more correctly – we liberated it about a year ago. And, uh, it's a rather interesting document because Jack Ruby tells Werner Tuteur that he was part of a high-level conspiracy to murder the President of the United States. Now, for the moment, let's leave aside the veracity of Jack Ruby. What would be sufficient to motivate? Highest authorities to fabricate evidence pertaining to a material witness like this and to destroy the actual transcript of his testimony? Accept complicity in the event? You know that – the three people who spoke to Jack Ruby were Earl Warren, Leon Jaworski, and Gerald Ford. Which makes them, in the strict legal sense, accessories after the fact of the murder of John Kennedy.

UNKNOWN REPORTER: Are you going to bring up any kind of charges like that against the President or Jaworski?

SCHOENMAN: Indeed. I mean, I state it all over the place. It's a literal, legal, um, crime of which they are guilty.

KUNM REPORTER: I mean, actually filing with the courts or anything to that effect?

SCHOENMAN: We don't have the authority, uh, to prosecute. I'm not a district attorney. I'm not working with the Justice Department and we certainly recommend that this should be done if there is equal justice before the law.

But to continue a moment with Jack Ruby. Remember that the government told us that Jack Ruby was just a patriotic night club owner. Had no connection with the authorities, they said. Nothing to do with the mob. Well, look at the evidence. He's the bag man for the Central Intelligence Agency in three operations for three presidents in Cuba. That is to say he was running guns on behalf of John Carlos Prío Socarrás. He was running guns to the July 26th movement of Fidel Castro when it was in the mountains on behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency. And he was running guns for the Central Intelligence Agency after Fidel had nationalized American industry and keep the syndicate out of Cuba. Jack Ruby is an informant of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I have the letter of J. Edgar Hoover which confirms it. Jack Ruby was working for the special services of the Dallas police department which had to do with the visit to Dallas of prominent public officials. Jack Ruby was working for the Federal Narcotics Bureau. Jack Ruby is a narc. Jack Ruby is a government operative. And he's also a top syndicate hoodlum who was involved in a critical murder in 1939 of the organizer and founder of the Chicago Waste Handlers and, uh, Junk Union. Which was a Teamster Local. That murder allowed the moving in on that Local of the mob and the person – a man named Red Dorfman [Paul "Red" Dorfman], who consolidated control of the Teamsters in the Midwest for Jimmy Hoffa. We have F.B.I. documents which show that Dorfman; Richard Cavner [?], an international secretary of the Teamsters; Frank Chavez, a Teamster official; and Jack Ruby were all associated in meetings and discussions pertaining to the murder of Robert Kennedy.

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BLANEY: Ralph Shoeman was interviewed by KUNM, and I'm Zane Blaney on "The Public Affair".

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BLANEY: Assassination theorist, Ralph Shoeman, in a recent interview with KUNM talked about his observations concerning CBS reports on the assassination of John and Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King.

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SCHOENMAN: About a year ago, Dick Gregory and I went to Mike Wallace, and we were having a series of meetings with *Sixty Minutes with Mike Wallace*. And I had a, uh, a long, uh, two-day session with top CBS executives. And at that point, you know, we were laying it down before them. We said, "Look, here is the hard evidence Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby, intelligence operatives. A one-to-one disparity with the official fiction about the assassination of the president of the United States. And you have a responsibility to make this information available to the American public. We'll give you chapter and verse." And Wallace went for it. And *Sixty Minutes* assigned two of their top investigative reporters, Harry Moses and Harriet Rubin. I was hired as a consultant. They came down to my house for three days. These two people did one hell of an investigative job. They had a CBS budget at their disposal, which is more than we've got. They went all over the country. They interrogated witnesses, government officials, all the people I've been naming for you and more. Those that are alive, of course. And they had a very, very, uh, dynamite show until CBS stepped in and took it away from them and gave it to trusty Dan Rather. And what does Dan Rather do? Dan Rather goes to the ITEK Corporation, owned by the Rockefeller family, which does sixty percent of its business with the federal government. Manned almost exclusively by intelligence operatives who I'll be glad to name for you. Which worked on the photographic apparatus of the overflights for military intelligence. And ITEK proceeds to lie and fabricate the material evidence bearing upon the murder of John Kennedy. For example, the, uh, fatal shot that blew John Kennedy's head off. They maintained on that program that, in fact, the brain tissue is driven forward. All the evidence is, uh, dramatically clear that the skull material was driven thirty-seven yards backward. It was so violent in its impact that it nearly knocked a motorcycle cop off his motorcycle, sprayed all of the cops with blood and brain tissue. The other, uh, piece of fabrication that was rather dramatic on that show was the contention that the backward movement of John Kennedy's body in the Zapruder film could be accounted for by Jacqueline Kennedy's nudging him, you know? Supposedly pulling him backward. Do you realize that John Kennedy's entire body and head are moving backward at the speed of seventy-five feet per second per second? That's a velocity that can

only be matched by the blink of an eye, unless the laws of physics were reversed. The muscular reactions of another person, let alone the impossibility of moving a stable body back at that speed make that a complete fairy tale. At every point, that, uh, CBS show was a deliberate fabrication of the known evidence. And, of course, what they do when they want to cover up something is they attempt to blind you with science. No, the, uh, Dan Rather program was a disgrace. A total whitewash. And it's not surprising. When Abraham Zapruder, the dress manufacturer from Dallas who took that amateur home movie of the Kennedy assassination, um, had his film confiscated by the F.B.I. right after the assassination and then *Life Magazine* paid him a couple hundred thousand dollars to get a hold of it and then suppressed it, Dan Rather of CBS got hold of it and he went on CBS television right then after Kennedy had been shot and didn't show it. He narrated it without showing it. And his narration to a network audience, at that time, goes as follows, as he comes to the fatal headshot that blows Kennedy's head open, he says, "And the President's head and body are thrust violently forward." Now, what we've done is to marry that narration to the actual film. And you see John Kennedy's head and body going violently backward and the track of Dan Rather's voice reads "forward". Stop frame. Forward. Bam. The body goes backward. Forward. Bam. The body goes backward.

KUNM REPORTER: And why would Dan Rather want to cover that up?

SCHOENMAN: Well, he was asked that question and he said, "We'll call it an honest mistake."

KUNM REPORTER: But he did it again.

SCHOENMAN: He did it again. And I don't see how, uh, with all the – with all the due, uh, whatever, to Mr. Rather, how you can call that an honest mistake. How can you look at – however you want to explain the backward movement, you can't call it forward movement unless you're cross-eyed. I think that the record of the mass media, uh, on this incredible event, the presumed top item of national security, is a national disgrace. They bear considerable responsibility for having, uh, quite deliberately misled the American people about the truth concerning the murder of John Kennedy.

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BLANEY: Ralph Shoenman was interviewed by KUNM, and I'm Zane Blaney on "The Public Affair".

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BLANEY: If Lee Harvey Oswald didn't kill John Kennedy, then who did and why? Again, assassination theorist, Ralph Schoenman from a KUNM interview.

SCHOENMAN: We have, um, affidavits from a series of people. One of which is, uh, Emiliano Santana, who gave evidence to Jim Garrison that he fired two of the shots at John Kennedy. We have the, uh, statement and affidavit of Richard Case Nagell, an intelligence agent working for the United States Central Intelligence Agency, that he was, uh, involved in the planning group in Mexico City for the execution of John Kennedy. And, moreover, Richard Case Nagell had sent in September 1963, two months before the assassination, a registered letter to J. Edgar Hoover warning him about the execution of John Kennedy in Dallas, Texas, in a couple of months time. And when he found that not only was the F.B.I. uninterested, but obviously involved, Case Nagell went into a bank, took out a gun, fired into the ceiling to make sure he was in jail at the time of the execution. And he then went and wrote another letter, which I have a copy of, to Hoover in the F.B.I. reiterating this. There is Gordon Norvel, who was working for the defense intelligence agency, who had been indicted by Jim Garrison who is now prepared to state that he was involved and can name four of the assassins in the murder of John Kennedy. We have Richardt [?] von Clyse, Robert Clayton Buick, Kyle Bolden, all part of the unit in Mexico City that was planning the execution of John Kennedy.

The why. What is sufficient to motivate the highest authorities of the country to destroy the material evidence of the murder of the head of state, except complicity in the event? The United States, the people in power, that is, this two percent, owns and controls some sixty-six percent, sixty-eight percent of the world's natural resources. We only have about five to six percent of the world's population within our national frontiers. That's an empire by any definition. Two percent of five percent controls sixty-eight percent, so two-thirds, of the world's natural resources. That's what the intelligence agencies and the Pentagon, and the arms budget are for. To protect this empire and this domain. And when there are bitter conflicts within this oligarchy about who gets what? What's the appropriate strategy? How to handle the, um, social revolutions of the starving, the dispossessed, the victims of this empire? How to deal with it militarily? When those men fall out amongst themselves, blood flows. And we could take each example to examine wherein lies the conflict within the ruling class of the United States about the strategy or the tactics appropriate to their preserving their power, and their privilege, and their wealth. But I think the best analogy might be with that of rival mobs, uh, moving in to control a territory. They don't argue about the propriety of running that territory. They're falling out about a division of the spoils. Malcom X, when John Kennedy was killed, said, "The chickens are coming home to roost." He said, "You can't have a murder apparatus around the world defending its structured power and think that that's going to be confined outside your national frontiers." When Kennedy was killed he said, "The chickens are coming home to roost." He was right. You see, the dilemma, if you like, of the ruling class of this country is that they are attempting to preserve an empire against the will of subject peoples. And the intelligence agencies and the Pentagon's armies are a world police force on behalf of this oligarchy. And it's exactly in that context that we have to understand and examine political assassination within the United States. It is like a boil that reflects the infection beneath the surface. It is an expression, if you like, of a desperate oligarchy that is besieged. Besieged by the

uprising of peoples who no longer will put up with being exploited and rendered hungry and hopeless. And that is, again, what Malcom was saying. They're now attempting to do to us what they've been doing to them. So I think that the matter of official murder in the United States, murder of John and Robert, murder of Martin Luther King and of Malcolm X is a reflection of the besieged power of an elite handful of people who have usurped our political institutions and have usurped control of the nation, and are facing an American public that is increasingly unwilling to put up with it.

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BLANEY: Ralph Schoenman was interviewed by KUNM, and I'm Zane Blaney on "The Public Affair".

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BLANEY: Again, assassination theorist Ralph Schoenman from an interview with KUNM.

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KUNM REPORTER: What kind of inroads do you think are being made toward turning around or dismantling the power structure?

SCHOENMAN: I'm highly optimistic and, uh, I'd like to stress something about that because in running down this terrible power and all these vicious acts and killing people and what have you, I don't want to, uh, create a sense of futility and of fear and hopelessness because that would be a disservice. Um, this very desperate, uh, pattern of behavior is an indication that they cannot act openly. They have to conceal what they do. Now, the price to the American people of having an economy that is built on arms production and waste – seventy-seven cents out of one hundred spent federal outlay on wars, interest debts on war, military-related space technology, and the military budget itself – a waste. It's causing runaway inflation, unemployment, the deterioration of our cities and the collapse, in effect, of the social fabric of our society. Now let me present a little scenario. Picture, after the election year when they stop jiggling around to give the semblance of upturn, and we return to runaway inflation and even greater unemployment, remembering that the purchasing power of our dollar is about what it was in the forties. In the period of the seventies, when the dollar is worth a hell of a lot less. Picture the railway workers going out on strike. When a sweetheart contract signed over their heads by union, uh, bureaucrats has expired. Picture a court injunction being issued ordering the men and women back and they refuse. Now what? The leaders are put in jail, the men and women stay out, then what? Do they bring in the National Guard to run the railroads? Okay, the steel workers come out. What then? They injunct the steel workers leaders? Okay, the coal

miners come out. What is then the National Guard? Working-class youngsters who are earning some extra money on weekends. They're going to turn their guns on their brothers and cousins and aunts during a period of unemployment when people are simply fighting for a decent standard of living? This power is non-power. This power of the oligarchy is based on deception and upon acquiescence. People of this country will not tolerate it. Will not tolerate it when their own lives are at stake and their own livelihood and the welfare of their families. You'll see, as we did in the sixties with the students in response to being asked to becoming paid killers and to fight a dirty colonial war, you will see how the American people thrust up their own forms of mass organization, of protest, of political opposition, of new political parties, of organized challenge to corporate capitalist power in the United States. So, I'm highly optimistic. This oligarchy can only survive by conning people. The longer you con a person, the madder he is when he finds it out.

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BLANEY: Assassination theorist, Ralph Schoenman. The complete Schoenman interview will be aired over KUNM on March 17th and 18th. And I'm Zane Blaney on "The Public Affair".

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