

LBJ Problems: Bobby Baker and TFX

By TED LEWIS

In the New York Daily News.

One of the most immediate and delicate problems before the Senate, now that Lyndon Johnson is President, is what to do about two investigations, those into the Bobby Baker case and the TFX plane award.

Neither Senate probe can be called off, although in both instances there is bound to be a subtle change of direction aimed at lessening any embarrassment to the President.

This is especially true of the Bobby Baker investigation. Baker served as secretary of the Senate majority under Senate Democratic leader Johnson, beginning in 1955. He was inherited by the present majority leader, Mike Mansfield (Mont.), when the Texas senator became Vice President in 1961. While most, if not all, of his financial shenanigans occurred after Johnson left the post, Baker has always been considered Johnson's protegee.

It had been presumed that at some point in the Baker investigation by the Senate Rules Committee the ousted flunky would be subpoenaed to testify in an open hearing.

It will be denied that there has been any change in this plan. But it is certainly clear that the idea of trying to make Baker "tell all" has begun to give Democrats on the committee a case of political indigestion.

The way Johnson ran the Senate Establishment with Baker as his errand boy would not make happy reading in Presidential 1964. This was a sensitive subject even before LBJ went to the White House, especially as Baker reportedly had threatened to expose the inner workings of the

Senate machine if necessary to protect his "good name."

There seems to be no way, however, in which Chairman B. Everett Jordan (D.-N.C.) of the investigating committee can avoid calling Baker to testify. But it would be a relief all around in the Senate Democratic Establishment if advance assurances could be obtained that he would clam up and take the Fifth Amendment.

This is almost too much to hope for, as Baker's lawyer, in connection with his Senate troubles, is Edward Bennett Williams. As attorney for the late Sen. Joe McCarthy and Jimmy Hoffa, Williams is just about tops in his field. He would be doing Baker a disservice if he let the Senate committee know in advance whether Baker would talk or take the Fifth.

Baker, incidentally, has been very smart in hiring legal talent. His lawyer in connection with a civil suit filed against him in his role as a vending machine company executive was Abe Fortas, an old friend of President Johnson. Fortas withdrew earlier because he is now an unofficial White House adviser.

Call Girl List?

The Baker investigation is marking time and will continue to do so until after Christmas while the committee ponders this and other problems.

One of the other problems is almost equally delicate. It concerns a purported "call girl list," supposed to be in existence, in which the chief figure was Ellen

Rometsch, the voluptuous German girl sent back home because she knew too many Washington VIPs intimately.

Sen. Hugh Scott (R.-Pa.) of the investigating committee is pressing for action on this list and has warned that "there will be more heard of it as we go along."

Texans and a Plane

The situation in the Senate TFX investigation lacks the sex and inner-circle drama of the Baker inquiry, but it is no less embarrassing to the Democrats.

The McClellan committee has been investigating since last February this huge \$7-billion defense contract award to General Dynamics, trying to determine why it went to a Texas-based outfit and not to Boeing.

The President, being a Texan, figures indirectly in this, if for no other reason than that a Texan, former Navy Secretary Fred Korth, had supported the TFX plane award to General Dynamics.

Korth had been supposed to testify before the Senate investigation this week. His appearance has now been postponed until after January 1. The committee wants to know specifically whether he was guilty of any conflict of interest.

After Korth testifies, Defense Secretary Robert McNamara is scheduled to be the closing witness and for the first time have an opportunity to go into detail as to just why he decided General Dynamics was better.

It was leaked a few weeks ago that it could be expected that no matter what Korth and McNamara had



BOBBY BAKER

to say, the majority report of the investigating committee would sharply criticize the award to the Fort Worth firm. And Chairman John McClellan (D.-Ark.) was described as certain to deliver a stinging criticism.

To do that is no longer going to be as easy for McClellan or other Democrats on the committee who have sided with him.

McClellan would have been most happy to go after McNamara, and inferentially the late President, on this TFX issue. But now it is different if he attacks the award to a Texas firm as politically inspired, he inferentially is attacking Johnson, whose interest in making jobs in his own state is of long standing.

And McClellan, of course, wants to help Johnson in Presidential 1964, not hurt him. So it is now a good guess that the committee's final report will be most judiciously worded for sound political reasons. This will not be easy, for any sharp criticism of McNamara will reflect on Johnson. The President is as much of a supporter of the Defense secretary as John F. Kennedy was and intends to keep him in his cabinet if possible.

The TFX Plot Thickens

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat

The Senate probe into the TFX dispute has taken another intriguing detour.

It now appears that Frank Pace, former Army secretary and board chairman at General Dynamics, which won the \$6.5 billion contract, had "reasonably strong indications" his firm would get the award—more than a month before the Pentagon had completed a statement on design requirements for the fighter aircraft.

It also appears that Deputy Secretary of Defense Roswell Gilpatric, a friend of Pace who has since resigned his board post, was closer to General Dynamics than had been thought.

Gilpatric had been a legal adviser to the firm and one of his former law partners was appointed to the General Dynamics board of directors, after the contract was awarded.

This partner and Mr. Gilpatric conferred at least 16 times by phone concerning the General Dynamics company between January of 1961 and last March.

During this time Gilpatric also spoke with Pace. He has denied, however, he mentioned the TFX contract during those discussions.

There is no proof that Mr. Gilpatric has acted dishonestly. However, there seems to be a clear case of conflict of interest.

In our opinion, as in the opinion of four members of the nine-man Sen-

ate Investigations subcommittee, he should have disqualified himself from anything to do with the contract.

The investigation, headed by Sen. McClellan of Arkansas, thus far has brought about the end of the career of a Chief of Naval Operations for opposing the award, conflict-of-interest charges against the secretary of the Navy and now similar allegations against Mr. Gilpatric.

The nation is interested in hearing in some detail from the secretary of Defense on this matter.

Not only is TFX the largest military contract in our history, but it involves development of an aircraft for both Navy and Air Force, which could be the tactical mainstay of these services for years to come.

All information bearing on the decisions—aside from secret defense data—should be brought out.

That includes any substance to the reported threat made by one Bobby Gene Baker, that unless the senators came to his support in investigations of his dealings, he will tell all he knows about the TFX.

If a politician tries to buy votes with private money, he's a dirty crook; if he tries to buy them with the people's own money, he's a liberal.

We all work for the government, but the politician is wise. He gets paid for it.

Cuba and the Kennedy Assassination

By JOHN MARTINO
(Author of I Was Castro's Prisoner)



In early February of this year, Fidel Castro told newsmen in Havana that CIA agents had been sent to kill him and his brother, Raul. He said that if Kennedy was behind this, the American President should realize that he was not the only politician able to engineer the assassinations of chiefs of state.

During the three years I was incarcerated in Cuban prisons, former intimates of Fidel Castro told me of the Red dictator's violent, irrational hatred of President Kennedy.

One Red publication, I remember, displayed a faked photograph showing the President and the First Lady caressing drunk through the streets of Mexico City during their official visit in 1962. Another—the magazine *Mella* (named after the assassinated founder of Cuban communism, Julio Antonio Mella)—featured a cartoon in which John F. Kennedy was depicted as a dope pusher, injecting narcotics into the arm of a child.

This almost insane hatred was not due to any belief that President Kennedy was strongly anti-Communist. It was partly jealousy on Castro's part of the way JFK's personality had captured the imagination of the Cuban people.

For almost six months, it has been assumed in Cuban circles in Miami and in Havana that the Kennedy Administration planned to eliminate Fidel Castro; his brother, Raul; Che Guevara and various others through a putsch.

Cuban exiles here understand that plans for this operation were cleared with a Soviet representative in Europe shortly after the missile crisis of last October. The old-line Communists inside the Castro regime were to take part in the operation together with Castro henchmen who had been paid to switch sides.

The plan involved a more or less token invasion from Central America to be synchronized with the coup. A left-wing coalition government was to be set up, including leaders of the Cuban Communist party. The most talked about candidate to head this "democratic" regime was Huber Matos, a former Castro commander, who is at present the most privileged prisoner on the Isle of Pines. Matos enjoys a private room and a television set. He is allowed to strut around in his uniform as one of Castro's *commandantes* while decent and patriotic Cubans in the same prison suffer unspeakable tortures.

The plan allegedly involved complete withdrawal of Soviet troops, release of all political prisoners, U.S. occupation of Cuba and a new government of the Tito or Ben Bella type. It was to be staged for February 1964. According to reports from usually reliable exile sources, Khrushchev had agreed to the plan because of the importance to the Soviet Union of re-electing the Democratic Administration.

Continued from Page 1

LBJ's First Mistake?

Two of the commission's members are vulnerable to attack on their past records. Chief Justice Warren, the chairman, can hardly escape a charge of bias against the conservative wing which has tormented him ever since he took his high office. Allen Dulles was director of CIA when Castro captured Cuba and when we had the worst kind of intelligence that led to the disaster at the Bay of Pigs. Of the seven commission members, only Sen. Dick Russell can be said to represent the conservatives, whose extremist flank is being used to discredit the whole respectable right wing.

The President's motives are ir-

reproachable. They certainly include a determination to repair our reputation in the eyes of the watching world, and to spare the feelings of Mr. Kennedy's family by giving this gruesome investigation a format of dignity.

But there is an unfortunate element of stage-management about the appointment of this commission.

(Distributed by McNaught Syndicate, Inc.)

H. L. Mencken said of progress: "Unquestionably, there is progress. The average American now pays out twice as much in taxes as he formerly got in wages."

This is typical of the conduct of the Mexican police under President Adolfo Lopez Mateos, whose pro-Communist background and associations are myriad. For example, when Tito visited Mexico a few months ago, newspaper publishers were ordered to print only laudatory articles on the Yugoslav dictator.

To prove to the world that Mexico has a free press, however, two or three critical articles were approved and ordered published. Immediately before the Tito visit, a few anti-Communist students attempted to destroy posters praising the Balkan butcher. They were caught by the police, held incommunicado for a few days and subjected to tortures which leave no permanent scars. For example, one was hanged by the feet and repeatedly dropped on his head, but so lightly that his skull was not broken.

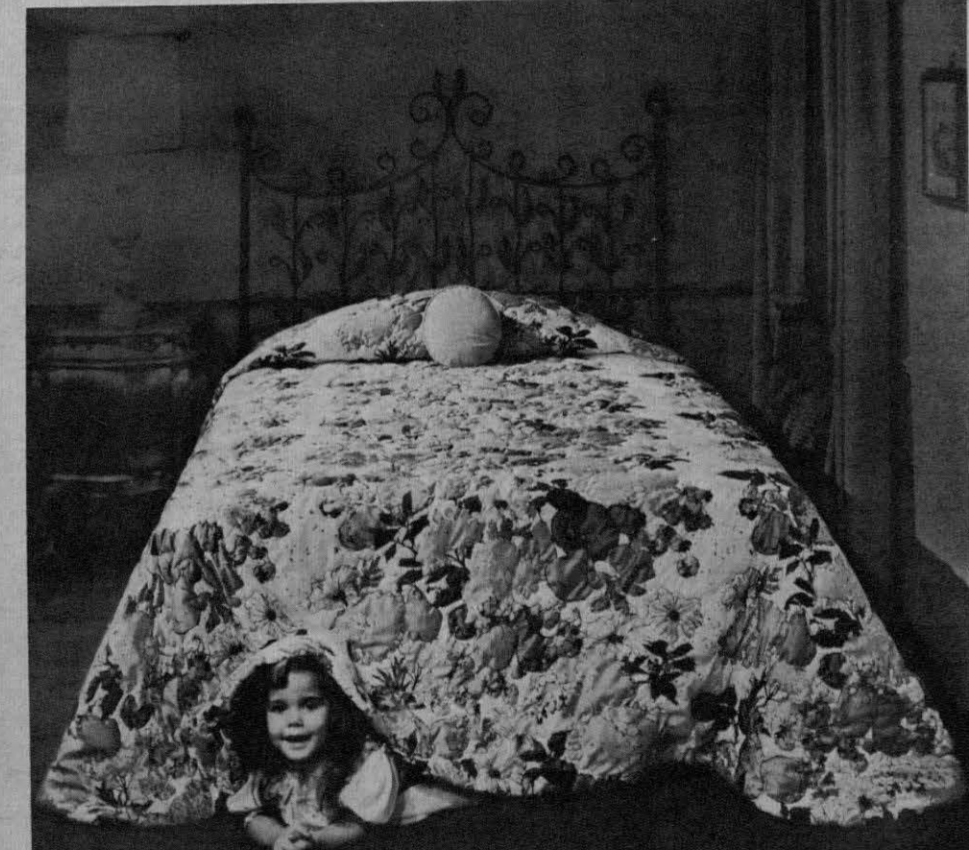
The Cubans in the South Florida area have had dealings with Oswald in the past and they are not willing to join the press in dismissing him as a fanatic, a psychopath or a pathetic, maladjusted youth.

When he was in Miami, Oswald attempted to join an organization of Americans engaged in training Cubans in guerrilla warfare, headed by Jerry Patrick. As a former Marine, Oswald would have been useful, but he failed to pass a security check and was turned down. Oswald made similar approaches to the Cuban Revolutionary Student Directorate (DRE) and to

Assassination of President Kennedy was a bold way of checkmating this plan. At a reception in the Brazilian Embassy in Havana in early September, Castro told newsmen that CIA agents had been sent to the island to kill him and Raul. If Kennedy was behind this, he added, the American President should realize that he was not the only politician able to engineer the assassination of chiefs of state.

This story was published in the Miami *News* on November 24. Meanwhile, Emilio Nunez Portuondo, the distinguished former Cuban ambassador to the United Nations and one-time president of its Security Council, informed his friend and associate in Mexico, Dr. Jose Antonio Cabarga, of Castro's threat. *El Universal*, one of Mexico's leading papers, published the story as a front-page exclusive.

Immediately thereafter, the Mexican police arrested Cabarga for delivering the report to *El Universal* and beat him up so badly that he is now hospitalized.



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Urban Renewal Notes

The Urban Renewal Administration's failure to respect congressional intent in federal housing legislation has rarely been so apparent as in several recent urban renewal projects.

The purpose of housing legislation was—and remains—to clear slums and provide displaced persons with "clean, safe, and sanitary" housing. But—

In Cleveland, Ohio, a vacant lot in a commercial area was called "substandard" and condemned for an urban renewal project because inspectors found it to be "dusty."

In New Jersey, a refuge for wild birds will be developed with federal renewal funds.

In Staten Island, a New York City borough, a tract of wooded, undeveloped land will be "renewed" with federal funds unless angered local residents are able to force abandonment of the project.

The Annadale-Huguenot project in Staten Island is perhaps one of the most notable departures from the intent of urban renewal legislation yet conceived. Not only will no slums be removed (as the site is vacant and located close to desirable suburban tracts), but this project will construct—in the words of its proponents—a "model community" of a type that would not be feasible if the job were done privately.

Thus, the costs of a financially impractical development will be borne by the taxpayer.

Moreover, urban renewal officials seem to be in the race with private enterprise to develop this land. Builders and property owners want to go ahead with their own plans.

But to abandon or delay the project, implores an official brochure, "would irrevocably commit this area to random development."

It would seem that if it is random development that is to be avoided, strict zoning laws—rather than urban renewal—would do the job and at far less cost.

Certainly, the authors of federal urban renewal laws never intended, let alone dreamed, that the procedures they set up for renewing slums would be used by the state to compete with private enterprise for the chance to develop choice property.

* * *

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—Moving to head off possible reaction against the Democratic party for its support of unpopular urban renewal projects, Sen. Joseph Clark (D.-Pa.) has deplored "callousness" toward people disrupted by urban renewal and has attempted to blame the mess on the Eisenhower administration.

Observers note that resentment to urban renewal is widespread in big cities and among Negro voters, important sources of Democratic strength.

Increasing caution toward urban renewal was also reflected in recent statements by two other liberal senators—Paul Douglas (D.-Ill.) and Harrison Williams (D.-N.J.). Both felt that the Housing and Home Finance Agency had not shown sufficient reason why it should receive increased funds.

* * *

WESTMINSTER, Md.—The Chamber of Commerce has complained

to the U.S. Post Office Department that the \$471,000 offered the town for a new post office is excessive and should be reduced.

The chamber contends that the proposed building could be constructed for \$12 a square foot, compared to the federal estimate of \$67.

Rather than defer to the town's wishes, the government dispatched two federal experts to this trouble spot who—to the amazement of the community—tried to justify the added expense on the basis that it costs more whenever the federal government does something.

To learn more about urban renewal abuses, buy this Human Events supplement:



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Federal Paper Mountain

The government now has an inventory of 5,500 standard report forms eliciting information from businessmen weekly, monthly, quarterly, and annually, the New York Times reported November 17. In addition, the newspaper pointed out that a recent Columbia University study "found that today some 10,000 pieces of paper are maintained for each government worker, the overhead amounting to \$2,000 per employe."

The Times also related the story of a newly commissioned officer who was irked by paper shuffling.

"One day, he had a form mimeographed with a sketch of the mess hall showing the position of 20 strategically-located flypaper ribbons, each with a code number he invented," the Times related.

"Each morning he filled out and sent in a report on the number of flies trapped on each ribbon.

"Two weeks later, he was approached by fellow officers: 'Has the Pentagon been after you yet for some kind of flypaper report?'"

"It seems that Washington welcomed the reports as a way of rounding out its information on field activities and was now asking for similar reports from other units." The result:

For months thereafter all reports to Washington included a census of dead flies.

A Russian track coach, being interviewed by an American sportsman, was asked why the Soviets are producing such fast runners.

"It's really quite simple," the coach replied. "We use real bullets in our starting guns."

State Dept. Aided Oswald's Return

From the Allen-Scott Report

Two high-ranking State Department officials were immediately responsible for clearing the way for the return to the United States of Lee Harvey Oswald and his Russian wife—despite the existence of a sworn affidavit by the assassin stating, "I affirm that my allegiance is to the Soviet Socialist Republic" and asking that his American citizenship be revoked. These two officials are career diplomat Llewellyn Thompson, then ambassador to Moscow and now top Soviet adviser to Secretary Rusk, and Abram Chayes, chief legal officer of the State Department.

These are highlights of a number of significant facts uncovered by Rep. Michael Feighan (D.-Ohio), chairman of a House Judiciary subcommittee that is closely examining the State Department's role in Oswald's checkered "Marxist" career. Feighan's findings will be submitted to the special commission named by President Johnson to report on the slaying of President Kennedy.

Another piece of striking information obtained by Feighan is that Oswald joined a para-military unit in Russia, apparently to improve his skill in rifle firing. This was brought to light by intelligence sources.

As ascertained by Feighan, Ambassador Thompson decided Oswald was eligible to return to the United States on the ground he had not formally renounced his citizenship. This ruling was based on the fact that, although the ex-Marine had submitted a sworn affidavit affirming allegiance to the Soviet, the U. S. embassy in Moscow had not issued final papers acknowledging his renunciation of citizenship. On this technicality, Thompson held that Oswald had the right to go back to the United States.

Chayes sustained that decision. The State Department's legal officer also ruled that Oswald's wife could accompany him, waiving Section 212-A of the Immigration Act which bars the granting of visas to Communists. Mrs. Oswald had been a member of a Communist party or-

ganization which she claimed she had to join to get her laboratory job.

In digging into Oswald's clouded record, Feighan plans to interrogate a number of State Department authorities. In addition to Ambassador Thompson and legal officer Chayes, they include Abba Schwartz, head of the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, and Miss Frances Knight, passport director. She is to be questioned particularly about the granting of a passport to the assassin after his return to the U.S. from Russia.

For months, Feighan has been quietly probing the State Department's apparent lax handling of immigration cases, especially involving individuals from Iron Curtain countries and Cuba. He recently issued a report disclosing that more than 300 aliens from the Soviet bloc and Latin America had been allowed to enter the United States as Cuban "refugees."

Illustrative of the significant evidence already uncovered by Feighan on Oswald's dealings with the U. S. embassy in Moscow are letters in the State Department's files. There has been no public hint of this revealing correspondence. Following is a letter by Oswald dated Jan. 5, 1962:

"As I have already informed the embassy, exit visas for myself and my wife have already been granted. I can have mine at any time, but it will be good for 45 days only. Since I and my wife wish to leave the U.S.S.R. together, I shall delay requesting my visas until such time as documentation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. and the American embassy is completed on my wife.

"This letter is to inform the embassy of the expiring of my former document of residence in the U.S.S.R.; and the granting of a new document, expiration date July 5, 1962. I would like to be sure we can leave as soon as all documents are finished. I would like to make arrangements for a loan from the embassy for part of the plane fares. Please look into this and notify me."



LEE HARVEY OSWALD

The embassy replied, in a letter signed by Samuel Wise, counsel in Moscow, and approved by Thompson, suggesting that Oswald return to the United States alone as documents relating to his wife had not been approved by the State Department. The law required an affidavit from Oswald's mother that his wife would not become a public charge, and this declaration had not been forthcoming.

"Until these documentary requirements are satisfied," Wise wrote Oswald, "the embassy will not be able to take final action on your wife's visa application. In view of these circumstances, you may wish to reconsider your decision to defer your departure until Mrs. Oswald's documentation is complete, particularly inasmuch as it may prove difficult to provide the necessary financial support evidence while you are still in the U.S.S.R.

"Please inform us of your intentions in this matter. The question you raise of a loan to defray part of your travel expenses to the United States can be discussed when you come to the embassy."

Rep. Feighan has run into a number of blank walls in his efforts to root out facts about Oswald's life in Russia. The Secret Service is still barring efforts to question Mrs. Oswald.

The House investigator particularly wants to check on an intelligence report that the Soviet has a school for assassins near Minsk, where Oswald worked in a factory after his defection in 1959. He returned to the United States with his Russian wife in June 1962.

(Distributed 1963 by the Hall Syndicate, Inc.)



ABRAM CHAYES

Chayes, the State Department's chief legal officer, upheld a 1961 ruling by Thompson, then U.S. Ambassador to Russia, that Lee Harvey Oswald had the right to return to the United States because the U.S. Embassy in Moscow never formally acknowledged Oswald's renunciation of his U.S. citizenship. Thompson is presently a top adviser on Soviet affairs for Secretary of State Dean Rusk.



LLEWELLYN THOMPSON

Kerr-Mills Sabotage

Sen. Karl E. Mundt (R-S. Dak.) has charged the Department of Health, Education and Welfare with deliberately trying to sabotage the Kerr-Mills medical care act. The department, he said, is taking these steps to prevent Kerr-Mills from operating as it could in efforts to bolster the Administration's plea for Social Security medicare.

Senator Mundt, testifying before the House Committee on Ways and Means, said 6 months ago South Dakota sent its program in to Washington for approval. The South Dakota plan, he said, has sat in the department ever since and nothing has been done about it.

Some 30 states already have adopted enabling legislation to set up Kerr-Mills programs. Bills are pending before other state legislatures. In the past year the number of recipients under the Kerr-Mills program has jumped from 102,600 to 136,300.

Despite progress in the Kerr-Mills area, the Administration has plugged consistently for its own variety of medicare through Social Security.

During the course of House hearings, Rep. Thomas B. Curtis (R-Mo.) accused HEW Secretary Anthony J. Celebrezze of using tax funds to lobby for the Administration program. He said HEW had financed publications lauding the program and urging its adoption. Rep. Curtis said he was asking the comptroller general and attorney general to look into the matter of fund "misuse" to determine if federal antilobbying statutes had been violated.

NOT SO FUNNY—Almost a year ago a congressman jokingly suggested the number of Department of Agriculture employes be limited to the actual number of farmers in the United States. At that time it was pointed out that the suggestion wasn't so strange as it sounded—that there was one Agriculture Department employe for every 32.5 farms. Rep. Jerry Ford (R-Mich.) now says there are 116,268 Agriculture Department employes, approximately one for every 31 farms. We don't seem to be so far from such a goal after all.

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