

# ALL RIGHT BOYS

*General Walker and the Murder of President Kennedy*

Jeffrey H. Caufield, MD.

Moreland, Ohio: Moreland Press, 2015.

987 pp., illustrated, notes, index.

This is a monumental work based on some twenty-five years of archival research and personal interviews. There is much new information here that fills out the sketchier accounts on many matters in other works. However, despite a valiant effort, Caufield does not prove that the American radical right was behind JFK's assassination. Nevertheless it is certainly a book worth reading.

The critical community has often been dismissive of much of the far right grass roots, and the John Birch Society is particular has often been seen as a bit of a joke, perhaps influenced by Sterling Hayden's portrayal of General Jack D. Ripper in the film *Dr. Strangelove* (1963) – fluoridation, 'precious bodily fluids', and so on. Caufield offers a corrective view based on detailed research and shows its support was widespread and influential. Promoting a right-wing agenda went hand in hand with rooting out left-wingers and communists who were seen to be everywhere. (Don't forget, this was the height of the Cold War and Senator Joe, though dead, was still a big hero in many quarters). Indeed, Caufield shows that Guy Banister's main concern in New Orleans was just that, smokin' out the commies, and Oswald seems to have played a part in it. The opening forty-seven pages, Chapter 1, details Bannister and Oswald's relationship in this area.

Caufield has visited many areas and done research that should have been done years ago. I'm thinking particularly of his examination of Joseph A. Milteer and Willie Somerset; of Clay Shaw, Kerry Thornley and Gordon Novel; of General Walker's life and times; and Oswald in Clinton, to mention but several.

Years ago the Hollywood trade paper *Variety* would describe a brilliant failure as a *flop d'estime*, and it is a term that could be applied to this book in as much as it does not prove its main argument. But don't let that put you off. This is essential reading.

Caufield has a website: <http://jeffreycaufield.com/>. The book can be obtained directly from there for \$39.00. It is also available via amazon US at various prices.

*Anthony Frewin*