

*Burying the Lead: The Media and the JFK Assassination*

Mal Hyman

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Hyman ruthlessly and chronologically documents the MSM's *collusion* (I can think of no better word) with the *Warren Report* and Commission in the USA and elsewhere; and seeing it all documented here is a sad indictment of journalism in the last fifty years. Hyman casts his net wide and puts his findings within a wider context. Parallel with this he charts the rise of the 'critical community', despite mounting opposition from the MSM and government agencies. This is a useful companion to John Kelin's<sup>1</sup> earlier volume on the rise of the critics.

There's lots of wonderful and amusing stuff detailed in these pages, and here's something that caught my eye concerning Merriman Smith, the UPI (United Press International) White House reporter who won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on the assassination, no less. Smith wrote:

'The car in which I rode was not far from the presidential vehicle and in clear view of it. We were coming out of the underpass when the first shot was fired. The sound for a split second resembled a big firecracker. As we cleared the underpass, then came the second and third shots. The shots were fired smoothly and evenly. There was not the slightest doubt on the front seat of our car that the shots came from a rifle to the rear.'

Well, where to begin? There's only one underpass in Dealey Plaza, and the presidential car was proceeding towards it at a distance of some 350 feet when the first shot was fired. It is estimated that when the final shot was fired the vehicle was still 260 feet or so away from the underpass. And not the 'slightest doubt' the shots came from the rear! Who needs a presidential commission when there are journalists like this about?

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<sup>1</sup> John Kelin, *Praise from a Future Generation: The Assassination of John F. Kennedy and the First Generation Critics of the Warren Report* (San Antonio: Wings Press, 2007). Reviewed in *Lobster* 55 by the present writer.