

cc: S. Trahern ✓ 004492 OCT1591

[REDACTED]
Hummelstown, PA 17036-2302

OCTOBER 8, 1991

DEAR MR. LAMB,

I AM WRITING TO YOU INCLUDING TWO ENCLOSURES REGARDING A BOOK AND ITS AUTHOR THAT I TRULY BELIEVE WOULD BE APPEALING TO C-SPAN'S "BOOKNOTES" AUDIENCE. THE ROBERT F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION: NEW REVELATIONS ON THE CONSPIRACY AND COVER-UP HAS BEEN WRITTEN BY PHILIP H. MELANSON, A POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR AT SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS UNIVERSITY, OF NORTH DARTMOUTH, MA 02747. THE UNIVERSITY IS THE HOME OF THE ROBERT F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION ARCHIVES.

THE ENCLOSED COPY OF THIS MONTH'S "LIBRARY JOURNAL" REVIEW OF THIS WORK LISTS ALL PERTINENT PUBLISHING INFORMATION ALONG WITH A VIEWPOINT I SHARE OF THE BOOK. THE "LIZ SMITH" SYNDICATED COLUMN WAS PRINTED ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 1ST. THE FINAL SENTENCE OF HER ARTICLE SUMS UP EXACTLY WHY C-SPAN SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER REVIEWING PROFESSOR MELANSON'S BOOK. THIS PARTICULAR CASE NOT ONLY CENTERS ON THE MURDER OF A PUBLIC FIGURE, BUT MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, IT RAISES THE ISSUE OF THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE THE PUBLIC ACCORDS ITS CIVIL SERVANTS AND JUSTICE SYSTEM. IN OTHER WORDS, THIS BOOK IS RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY, AND I URGE YOU TO CONTACT THE AUTHOR AND ALLOW HIM TO EXPOUND ON THE FACTS HE HAS COMPILED! "BOOKNOTES" FORMAT IS IDEAL FOR

THE REVIEW. NO COMMERCIALS, ONE-ON-ONE DISCUSSIONS,
AND COMPETENT, ESTABLISHED REVIEWERS.

I HAVE LISTED PROFESSOR MELANSON'S TELEPHONE
NUMBER AND HOME ADDRESS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS
LETTER. HE IS AWARE THAT I HAD INTENTIONS TO CONTACT
YOU AND HE WILL BE RECEIVING A PHOTOSTAT COPY OF THIS
LETTER AND THE TWO ENCLOSURES. IT WAS WITH HIS
PERMISSION THAT I GIVE THE MEANS FOR YOU TO BE IN TOUCH
WITH HIM. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME, KINDNESS
AND CONSIDERATION TO MY REQUEST TO REVIEW HIS
ANALYSIS: THE ROBERT F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION: NEW
REVELATIONS ON THE CONSPIRACY AND COVER-UP. I WOULD
VERY PLEASED TO HEAR YOUR OPINION CONCERNING A "BOOKNOTES"
REVIEW OF THIS BOOK. IT SIMPLY NOT ACCEPTABLE TO
ALLOW FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS TO REMAIN UNANSWERED
ABOUT THE TRAGEDY THAT PROFESSOR MELANSON HAS VERY
THOROUGHLY RESEARCHED. HOPING TO HEAR FROM YOU
SOON, I AM

SINCERELY YOURS,
[REDACTED]

ENCLOSURES (2) [REDACTED]

CC: PHILIP H. MELANSON

ADDRESS / TELEPHONE:

[REDACTED]

MARION, MA 02738
[REDACTED]

LIBRARY JOURNAL,

OCTOBER 1991

Melanson, Philip H. *The Robert F. Kennedy Assassination: New Revelations on the Conspiracy and Cover-Up.*

Shapolsky Pubs., dist. by Carol Pub.

Group. 1991. c.364p. photogs. index.

ISBN 1-56171-036-9. \$19.95. CRIME

This book methodically and meticulously analyzes the evidence about the 1968 Robert Kennedy assassination, reopening the question of possible alternatives to the officially accepted version of Sirhan Sirhan as the lone gunman. Melanson, a political science professor and author of *Spy Saga* (*LJ* 11/1/90), sifts through a mass of documents and reinterviews witnesses to the event and participants in the original Los Angeles police investigation. He finds huge suspicious gaps in the police file and missing tapes, and he identifies unsettling irregularities in the police investigation. Melanson's conclusion is circumstantial, but cogently argued: Sirhan was programmed by someone (a group?) opposed to Kennedy (the author suggests possibilities), and the conspirators may have been present at the shooting and even taken part in it. By so effectively discrediting both the motives of the police and the entire investigatory process, Melanson makes the outlandish almost believable. [Melanson wrote about the RFK assassination files in "The Politics of Public Disclosure." *LJ*, Feb. 1, p. 54-56.—Ed.]—*Jack Forman, Mesa Coll., San Diego*

Author lambasts probe of RFK slaying

"Had Sen. Robert Kennedy not been shot, he would very likely have won the Presidency. The bullets fired in a Los Angeles hotel kitchen prevented us from finding out what he would have done with it and how he might have changed the course of history. The very fact of Robert Kennedy's assassination should make American citizens — including millions born when he was murdered — very angry indeed," writes Anthony Summers in his foreword to a new book by Philip H. Melanson, "The Robert F. Kennedy Assassination: New Revelations on the Conspiracy and Cover-Up."

If you were appalled recently when you saw the amateur videotape of some Los Angeles police beating up on a man, if that shook your faith in the gendarmes of LA, well, just wait till you get a look at this book — it will stun you. Melanson's scholarly work is centered around recently released LA Police Department files that are even more shocking in their implications than the crude video scenes of police wielding batons and boots.

These files have been kept from the public for almost 20 years. The author has made a complete study of this 50,000-page file, newly released under pressure. He concludes that the LA Police Department has altered, suppressed, ignored, covered up and even destroyed vital evidence in the case of the RFK assassination. Efforts are now under way to motivate a federal investigative body with subpoena power to re-examine the Kennedy assassination.



Kennedy family expert and cousin to Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, has written the introduction to this book. He notes that in 1968, when RFK entered the race for the presidency, Bobby Kennedy had powerful enemies, to wit: labor boss Jimmy Hoffa, Louisiana Mafia boss Carlos Marcello, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, CIA agent William Harvey, GOP presidential candidate Richard M. Nixon. Also against the younger Kennedy were the Teamsters, organized crime, Southern California ranchers resentful of his support for migrant farm workers, big oil, the military-industrial complex and Southern white segregationists.

So who did the police conclude killed RFK? A Palestinian Arab whose role appears, in this book, to have been diversionary and perhaps a decoy to distract investigators.

AUTHOR MELANSON doesn't give us a definite answer as to who killed Bobby Kennedy. But

the book will convince you that Sirhan Sirhan did not act alone. The author draws a fascinating conclusion about the "similarities" of the two Kennedy assassinations: (1) Both suspected assassins had "legends" created for them in advance of their crimes to account for motivation. (2) Both were stationed in high-visibility crowded areas at the scene of the crime. (3) Cops and the FBI declared both men to be "lone gunmen," determining that fact within days. (4) Both appear to have been "patsies." (5) In both killings, local police and the FBI actively covered up evidence of conspiracy.

Davis calls Philip Melanson "a scholar of stature, a professor with impeccable academic credentials and long-standing familiarity with the RFK assassination case." It took Melanson and his team four months to sift through mountains of documents.

He concluded that the LA police destroyed 2,400 photographs — as well as three rolls of film confiscated from an eyewitness who took pictures of Sen. Kennedy at the very crucial moments when the shots were being fired. Of 3,470 LAPD interviews, only 301 were kept on tape and survived. The tapes of 51 significant witnesses seem to be missing. Five pantry ceiling tiles are gone,

and two of these contained bullet holes. Also missing is a pantry door frame containing two bullet holes. X rays and tests of these items are missing, as is the left sleeve of the senator's shirt and jacket.

Melanson says as many as three guns may have been fired in the kitchen, and that Sirhan Sirhan may not have fired any of the shots that struck RFK. He believes Sirhan was "programmed" and "controlled."

He reports that there was a suspicious female accomplice. (A young woman in a polka-dot dress was with Sirhan at the Ambassador Hotel and was present during the shooting, he says. Although many witnesses reported seeing her, investigators ignored her.) Then there was the destruction of physical evidence and the mishandling of witnesses.

Beating up on individuals? Yes, the LA police seem to have to bear the shame for some of that. But what about the way the LAPD has "beaten up" on truth and history that belong to the entire American people?