
Part Two

How Permindex's Walter Sheridan tried to suppress the Kennedy investigation

by Richard McGraw

As reports of Libyan hit teams aimed at President Reagan were making headlines, *EIR* decided to focus public scrutiny on one subject of its ongoing investigation into the international assassination bureau known as Permindex. The name of that subject is Walter Sheridan. The organization for which Sheridan is a key American operative, Permindex, is believed to be responsible for much of the high-level mayhem of the post-war era, including over 30 attempts on the life of Charles De Gaulle, and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Opening Sheridan's dossier exposes some of the faces and mechanisms by which Presidents are Watergated, or killed.

As revealed in Part One of the excerpts from our Sheridan dossier, which *EIR* published last week, examination of the Kennedy assassination allows us to understand how, in a 30-year career of blackmail, frameup, and coverup, the elusive but powerful Sheridan became known to some as "the 101st Senator."

After summarizing his activities with the National Security Agency, the Kennedy Justice Department's "Get Hoffa" squad, and his own private intelligence companies, Part One began an account of Sheridan's key role in destroying New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, his witnesses, and his investigation into the Kennedy killing. Garrison was on the trail of Permindex.

In February of 1967 Sheridan was hired by NBC-TV to "investigate" Garrison's investigation, which had been probing the connection of Permindex board member Clay Shaw to the Dallas events. Five months later Sheridan was charged by Garrison's office with four counts of bribery, involving flagrant attempts to tamper with Garrison's witnesses.

Part Two picks up with more of Sheridan's tactics for coercing witnesses and discrediting Garrison.

Investigator: William H. Gurvich

Sheridan attempted to plant investigators within Garrison's team through the offer of free assistance from a New Orleans private investigation firm run by

William H. Gurvich and his two brothers.

Garrison accepted Gurvich's assistance, although he assigned him to peripheral tasks such as photographic work because he did not trust him. It turned out that Garrison's suspicions were well-founded. Garrison later explained. "One of the reasons we did not give him [Gurvich] all of our information was that we soon learned that he was having meetings with Walter Sheridan, a former federal investigator now working for the National Broadcasting Company."

Gurvich worked with Garrison for two months, and then in June 1967 denounced the investigation as having "no basis in fact" while at the same time claiming that he had been the chief investigator for Garrison.

Witness: Jules Rocco Kimble

One of the leads that D.A. Jim Garrison was working on was the story told by Perry Raymond Russo that he was at a meeting at which plans were made for Kennedy's assassination in the fall of 1963, which included himself, Clary Shaw, David Ferrie, and someone called "Leon Oswald" or "Lee Harvey Oswald."

David Ferrie had "committed suicide" on the eve of his scheduled appearance before the grand jury. Jules Rocco Kimble, a member of the KKK (like Ferrie) reported to Garrison that he had driven a KKK official, Jack Helm, to David W. Ferrie's apartment the day after the "suicide." Kimble saw Helm remove a valise full of papers and take them to a bank safety deposit box. Kimble also told Garrison that he then went to Montreal on what he described as a Minuteman errand. Kimble then disappeared after talking to Garrison.

Garrison's staff later discovered that Kimble, at the suggestion of Walter Sheridan, reestablished his relationship to the CIA and then, again at Sheridan's urging, ran to Canada. After Kimble disappeared, he telephoned Garrison from Atlanta (saying that he would not return to New Orleans), Montreal and Tampa, Florida, where he was arrested and the role of Walter Sheridan then came out.

Witness: Perry Raymond Russo

One of the key witnesses for Garrison's investigation was the man who said he knew of the Fall 1963 conspiratorial meeting with Clay Shaw, David Ferrie, and "Lee Harvey Oswald." Russo threatened to expose not only Shaw, but the entire Permindex apparatus as well.

On June 19, 1967 Assistant D.A. Andrew J. Sciambra delivered a memorandum to Garrison concerning Russo's description of Sheridan's bribery attempts:

Russo said that Walter Sheridan of NBC News told him that the President of NBC contacted Mr. Gherlock [Russo's boss] at Equitable's home office in New York and Gherlock assured the President of NBC that if Russo did cooperate with NBC in trying to end the Garrison probe, that no retaliation would be taken by Equitable against Russo by the local office, on instruction from the home office.

Russo said that he told Sheridan that he needed a rest as the news people have been bothering him day and night and that he would take a seven to ten day vacation in California. . . Russo said that Sheridan then told him that if he did side up with NBC and the defense and bust up the Garrison probe that he would have to run from Garrison and move from Louisiana. Sheridan said that they could set him up in California, protect his job, get him a lawyer and that he could guarantee that Garrison could never get him extradited back to Louisiana. Sheridan asked him if he would like to leave now and Russo told him no.

Sheridan then told him that NBC flew Novel to McLean, Virginia and gave him a lie detector test and that Garrison will never get Novel back in Louisiana. Russo said that Sheridan told him that what he wants Russo to do is to get on a NBC national television show and say, 'I am sorry for what I said because I lied, some of what I said was true, but I was doctored by the District Attorney's staff into testifying like I did.'

Perry then said that Sheridan said the prosecution's case was built on three keystones and that Russo was one of them and that if he would come over to the side of the defense, the other two keystones could not handle the weight and the State's case would fall and the case would never come to court.

Perry said James Phelan of the *Saturday Evening Post* told him that he was working hand in hand with Townley and Sheridan and they were in constant contact with each other and that they were going to destroy Garrison and the probe.

Three weeks later, Walter Sheridan was indicted for

bribery in relation to the Russo tampering. Two weeks later, Sheridan posted a \$5,000 bond, but began a series of legal maneuvers to protect himself from appearing before the Orleans Parish grand jury.

On Aug. 19, 1967, a hearing was held in Chicago Federal District Court by order of the U.S. Supreme Court to determine whether illegally obtained wiretap evidence had been used to convict Jimmy Hoffa and six associates. One of the defendants, Zachary "Red" Strate, testified that "Walter Sheridan offered me evidence of government bugging so I could get a new trial at my hearing in Chicago, in exchange for helping discredit Jim Garrison. . . I gather Sheridan was working for Robert Kennedy. He said he was interested in stopping the probe of Kennedy's death in New Orleans."

The Mitchell-Martin case

On Aug. 13, 1962, the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) released a report entitled, "Security Practices in the National Security Agency (Defection of Bernon F. Mitchell and William H. Martin)." The case concerned two NSA employees who had defected to the Soviet Union in 1960. HUAC had investigated the case for two years, held numerous closed-door sessions, and reported publicly on its investigation.

Sheridan and David I. Belisle, his friend and superior at NSA were both directly implicated in the scandal—they were the ones responsible for providing security clearances. But as is always the case with intelligence agency defections to the other side, the matter is quickly hushed up and the names of those responsible are not made public.

The HUAC report read, in part:

It was hard to believe. These two men, Bernon F. Mitchell and William H. Martin, had supposedly gone through the most rigorous of loyalty and security checks prior to and during their employment with the most sensitive and secretive of all agencies established by the U.S. Government to protect the Nation's security. . . Yet, they had gone over to the enemy.

The HUAC report describes what was known about the defectors, information which was originally denied by Defense Department and NSA officials:

On July 17, 1957, the Office of Security Services requested the Civil Service Commission to conduct a national agency check on Mitchell. On July 23, 1957, Mitchell was given a polygraph interview. At that time he refused to answer any questions about sexual perversions or blackmail.

To be continued.