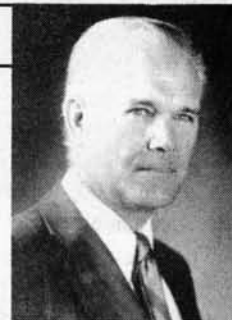


Interview: Col. Fletcher Prouty



'President Kennedy was killed by a Murder, Inc.'

On Jan. 6, EIR counterintelligence director Jeffrey Steinberg spoke with Col. Fletcher Prouty, a retired career military officer who served in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the time of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and who was an adviser to Oliver Stone on the movie "JFK." In 1971, Colonel Prouty wrote a prophetic book, The Secret Team, which warned about the emerging power of what today is known as the "secret parallel government." The following are excerpts from that interview.

EIR: What are some of the most striking pieces of evidence, in your judgment, supporting the view that President Kennedy was the victim of an assassination conspiracy?

Prouty: What interests me most are fundamentals: If a President is assassinated by a single individual, that's pretty easy to handle, because you can say he was a nut, he had no motive, he just killed the President. And that's what people have been forcing us to believe. But suppose you go further. Let's say that a group of people, with a major interest in something that Kennedy—or any President—was interfering with, planned to try to change the situation through lawful means, by an election or something like that. They're planning to get rid of the President within the Constitution. That's a plan. But add to the plan the word "evil," and at that point you have a conspiracy.

Now, Lyndon Johnson, in 1973, just before he died, called an old friend down in Texas, a man named Leo Janus, who was a writer, and he dictated to Leo Janus some of his thoughts about his presidency, and about the Kennedy assassination. Anyone who wants to read this can look in the July issue of *Atlantic Monthly* magazine for these words that Lyndon dictated to Janus.

First, Johnson told Janus that he believed Kennedy died as a result of a conspiracy. He believed that Lee Harvey Oswald never killed the President by himself. In other words, Oswald was part of a conspiracy. Third, and much more important, he said, *we* are operating a Murder, Incorporated. Now, how many people could tell us what the "we" means? Did Lyndon mean himself and Lady Byrd Johnson? Did he mean himself and his cabinet? Did he mean himself and the U.S. government? Who were "we"? See how interesting that word is in that connotation? This is Lyndon Johnson, the ex-

President, one of the wisest and most active politicians this country ever knew, saying "we" are operating a Murder, Incorporated.

What does Murder, Incorporated mean? He's not talking about the mafia. He's talking about an organization that can kill people and is incorporated—that means in perpetuity. As Oliver Stone's movie points out, although he's writing about the death of JFK, he also mentions the death of Martin Luther King and of Bobby Kennedy. This Murder, Incorporated goes on in perpetuity. I could give other names now, because it's my business; I know people were killed in foreign countries by this same Murder, Incorporated.

EIR: What were some of the motives behind the assassination of John Kennedy?

Prouty: Kennedy was a rare President. His father had been ambassador to the Court of St. James at the time that World War II broke out. He was very European-oriented, as far as his own American background was concerned.

I was three or four months older than Kennedy, so I relate to his age easily. Most Americans were rather parochial people before World War II. We didn't know much about Japan, or Africa, or Indonesia, or Germany, or France. But not Kennedy. He was brought up in London, went to the London School of Economics. His father was the ambassador. He knew things about world politics that many other people in Washington didn't have the slightest idea of. That is one key point relating to the question of motive.

Now, at the end of World War II, a carefully orchestrated change in government took effect in our country. Truman was President, but immediately the strong team behind Thomas Dewey challenged his presidency—a strong, business-oriented, Republican team. They lost the '48 election by a very slender margin. Dewey's speech-writer during that time was Allen Dulles. It's very important, because Allen Dulles was not in the CIA then, but he was trying to be a kingmaker.

Truman served through the period of the beginning of the Korean War, through the period of McCarthyism, through the period of the Red Scare. This is when the Cold War was beginning to take shape. The Defense Department was created in 1947, as it is established today, and the CIA was

created by the same law in 1947.

When Eisenhower became President, everything was in order for this strong, business-oriented, international-looking group to begin to organize the U.S. government for world power. After eight years in office, the plan was to bring Richard Nixon along to be the heir-apparent.

But in 1960, Kennedy ran against Vice President Nixon and won that election by the narrowest margin ever recorded in a presidential election.

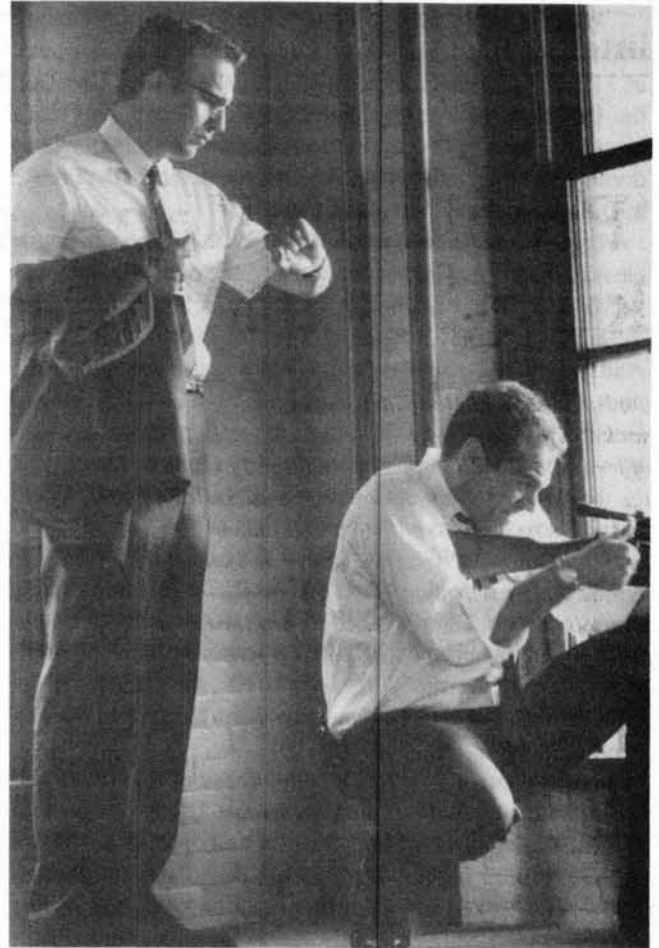
Almost from the beginning, Kennedy ran into obstacles that, at least by appearances, seemed to be laid at the steps of the CIA and its allies. Take the Bay of Pigs program, which should have been a relatively simple little operation. The actual reason for its failure was that there were certain changes made in President Kennedy's own directives. Kennedy ordered that the men would not invade the beach until all of the Cuban combat aircraft were destroyed. Well, Castro only had at that time 10 aircraft. Seven were destroyed. So Kennedy issued orders the next day to destroy the last three before the brigade would hit the beach. Those orders were countermanded, the remaining planes were not destroyed, and as the result, the Bay of Pigs operation failed.

Some people blame the failure on the fact that Kennedy didn't provide air cover. Well, there is a National Security Council Directive, No. 5412, that denies this government, and the President, the use of military forces for clandestine operations; and that's what Kennedy had to follow. At that time, certain people were looking for every excuse to attack Kennedy. Especially, these attacks seemed to come from the CIA interests, and the military interests also.

Another little-known factor that I consider significant has to do with the politics of the Pentagon budget. When Kennedy became President, the largest procurement ever contemplated by the Defense Department was already under way. It was under way because certain people thought Nixon would be President, and that he could use \$6.5 billion for the procurement of the TFX fighter plane to the advantage of the Republican Party. The money had been more or less saved up for Nixon to start off with, to give him a good base for his reelection in '64.

With Kennedy's election, he turned the tables on that TFX plan by awarding the contract in 1962 to another company, General Dynamics Co., instead of Boeing. He did this at the recommendation of a very intelligent man, Arthur Goldberg, who was then secretary of labor. Instead of benefiting the GOP, the TFX contracts were concentrated in districts where the Democrats needed help to build their electoral strength.

Now, that's politics from way back, and that's the kind of politics that just had the situation boiling. That's what got Nixon and the other Republicans absolutely worked up over Kennedy, because they could see that, with that kind of politics, they weren't going to win back the White House in 1964.



Jim Garrison (Costner) and his chief investigator Lou Iyon (Jay O. Sanders) clock the time it would have taken Lee Harvey Oswald to fire three shots from the window of the Texas Book Depository, proving the impossibility of the alleged feat.

At the same time, Kennedy moved to get more control over the Federal Reserve System. He was going to achieve this by having the federal government begin again to issue currency, which it does not do today. Today the Federal Reserve System issues currency, not the government. And, he was going to either end or reduce the oil depletion allowance.

Each of these programs that Kennedy attacked were, in a broad sense, the pets of the Republican regime that was trying to fight its way back into power on this Cold War theme of anti-communism, which we now see was a trumped-up theme from the beginning.

Then, there was the issue of Vietnam. Southeast Asia is a very resource-wealthy area. We know that some of the largest undeveloped oil fields in the world are in offshore lands off Vietnam.

When it came time to consider the future of Vietnam, which during the Eisenhower years was being administered as a colony of France under a head of state called Bao Dai, the CIA brought into Vietnam Ngo Dinh Diem, and made him the head of the South Vietnam section of Vietnam. They divided Vietnam into two halves after the defeat of the French at Dien Bien Phu. This was in 1954.

By the time Kennedy was President, it had become quite clear to many people that the country of South Vietnam was very shaky. What Kennedy was saying is: Our job is to get those people strong enough to fight for their own interests. And he realized that Ngo Dinh Diem was not going to be the man, but that there was a strong general, a Buddhist named General Minh, who could assume the leadership of the country—provided the people in the country replaced Diem.

Kennedy worked out a plan which, had it worked, would have removed Diem while he was on a trip to Yugoslavia to make a speech in Belgrade to the Parliamentary Union. He would bring his brother there. His brother's wife had already gone to Europe, Diem's other brother, who was an Archbishop, had already been called to the Vatican by the Pope at the intercession of Kennedy. In other words, the plan was to get the Diems out of town without any guns firing, and then let Minh take over.

Unfortunately, a couple of days ahead of that, there had been some very serious attacks by the Diem government against Buddhist churches. Monks were put in jail and a terrible uprising began. Some monks immolated themselves in the streets, and the country was in turmoil; and in that turmoil, which is not ordinarily connected with a coup d'état, Diem and his brother were killed.

So, people have said Kennedy had Diem killed. In fact, during Watergate, if you'll recall, Colson had this man Hunt working in the White House forging files that would show that it was Kennedy's plan to kill Diem. I mean, they were forging files to make it appear that way—which proves that they weren't that way before the forgeries. I know from my own contacts at that time exactly how the plans were going.

At that point, Kennedy had become anathema to powerful groups in this country. They realized that his reelection was almost a certainty. Kennedy used to speak freely about that. He'd say, "As soon as I'm reelected, I am going to stop this business of the CIA running covert operations. I will get my advice from the Joint Chiefs of Staff. And if we must run a covert operation, we'll run it with their advice and assistance, and not with the CIA." That was a written document from the White House.

He sent Robert McNamara and Maxwell Taylor to Vietnam to make a complete report on the situation in Vietnam. From August to the end of November 1963, there were over 50 meetings in the White House, the State Department, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the office of the secretary of defense, on the subject of the future of Vietnam. My own immediate boss, Maj. Gen. Victor Krulack, attended over 50 of those

meetings himself. And when he would come back from those meetings, he would generally have a talk with me because I was one of his principal writers. I'm very current on what he did, and all of this is in a document you can buy from the Government Printing Office. I'm not asking people to look for obscure papers. It's all been printed in a 1991 document which we can read.

Finally, on Oct. 11, 1963, the Kennedy White House published a most important document, called National Security Action Memorandum 263. The popular things that it said were that, first, he would take 1,000 men home from Vietnam. At that time, 1,000 men was an appreciable number. There were only about 15,000 men over there, and most of them were in an advisory capacity or doing maintenance work and other support things like that. They weren't combat troops.

The next thing was that he categorically stated that by the end of 1965, all U.S. personnel would be out of Vietnam—not just Army or the military, all U.S. personnel would be out of Vietnam by 1965.

When that document was published, headlines went around the world. I have a copy here in my own files of the *Stars and Stripes*, the military paper, issued the day after, published in Tokyo. The headline across the top is "All Troops Out of Vietnam in '65." This was important information, and it was public information.

From that moment on, Oct. 11, 1963, to those working close to the scene in the Pentagon, and to those people who had the prospect of building helicopters and fighter aircraft and guns and tanks and all the rest of it, this was terrible. This was anathema. They had had plenty of orders through World War II. There was a big buildup for the Korean War, and now, for 10 years, they had been building up on the prospect that there would be even a bigger war, a consumers' war, for them in Vietnam.

Amid all these pressures, it's not too unrealistic to see that some of them sat somewhere and said, "Look, we've got to do some planning. We've got to get this guy Kennedy out of office." And the more they thought about it, and the more they talked about it, they realized that legitimate honest-to-God planning, political planning, was not going to get him out. Kennedy was going to win.

At that point, somewhere, a small voice said, "We're going to get that bastard out right now," and there are ways to do it. As Lyndon Johnson said, "We have a Murder, Incorporated," a professional group—no Lee Harvey Oswald, or other goons like that—a professional group, trained, equipped, salaried, and everything, to do assassinations. They were given a job. They did their job; they killed the President. There was a coup d'état in this country and, following it, the biggest residual job people have had within that group has been to run this cover story.

Who on earth has the power to make the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, senior members of Congress,

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businessmen, and other leaders of this country, sit down, call themselves the Warren Commission, and sign their names to things that are patently incorrect and untrue? That takes power to do that to big business. And Lyndon Johnson had to do that. He was under the same duress.

Now, if people can't see that after 28 years, then they're not reading the same history you and I are. That's the story of Kennedy's death.

EIR: What do you anticipate will be the impact of the movie "JFK"?

Prouty: Education. The fact that the media will no longer pursue major events and activities that are important to the American people, leaves us with an uneducated population. People can't figure these things out themselves, especially when all the pressure is on the other side, on, we'll say, the Warren Commission side in this case.

What the movie has done is to *annihilate* the Warren Commission. You watch. By next year, the Warren Commission will be scrap paper blowing down the streets. And then the people will start asking, "If it wasn't this young fellow Oswald up there with one gun shooting three bullets, what was it, and why? Why did these people conspire to kill Kennedy?" And that's what the movie is going to do to the people that see it.

And since Stone is talking to people of the '60s decade, the movie is talking to the people of the '70s decade and to the older people, we are going to see quite a bit of action along this idea of why did it happen, and then we're going to ask questions: Why did a lot of other things happen? Why did we go into Vietnam with 550,000 troops? Why were *10 million Americans* flown from the United States to Saigon for the Vietnam War? We didn't ever do anything like that in World War II in terms of numbers.

Why did we drop more bombs on Indochina during this war, when our enemy was running around in pajamas and had no airplanes—you know, that kind of a war—why did we do that? People are going to start asking those serious questions that Oliver Stone has laid out in this movie. The movie is serving not only an interesting purpose, but an *absolutely essential purpose*.

EIR: Do you have any insight, from having been directly involved in the production, as to how it came about that the

movie was done?

Prouty: Your question is very important, because the movie did have a carefully planned, you might say, objective, to accomplish something. We certainly have to attribute the beginning of the idea to Stone, who has made the '60s decade his period, and he wants the people of the '60s generation to have a voice in things, and if he can help, he's trying to help.

Now, he told me that, beginning in the late 1960s, he had read about as many good books about the Kennedy assassination as he could find. And he found that most of them buried themselves in trivia. You know, how much did the bullet weigh, or how many men were at the autopsy, and all that sort of thing, which is important, but reasonably irrelevant when you're trying to put across a big story.

A number of years ago, Jim Garrison, who was the district attorney in New Orleans, had written a book called *On the Trail of the Assassins*, and was having a little trouble placing the book, so he sent me the manuscript. I read Garrison's manuscript and realized it was a very, very good book, but it was parochial. It was the story of the assassination seen by the district attorney of New Orleans with, certainly, an awareness of Dallas, an awareness of Miami and the Cuban exiles, and that group of people who were roughly under what we called the Mongoose program. But it was parochial.

Garrison felt a strong necessity to try people in New Orleans, to see whether or not they were involved in this conspiracy. He wasn't trying the murder, he was trying the conspiracy. This made his book better than the other ones Stone could find. But still, since the trial ended in an acquittal, that wouldn't make a movie. You can't come up to the acquittal and then say, "There's the story."

But what Stone realized was, that once you present that book in the film, you have presented all of the literature of the Warren Commission. All of the literature of the assassination buffs, you know, where was Oswald, how many shots, what did Ruby do, and it's very important, because a lot of the public doesn't know that.

And as you see in the movie, when Kevin Costner (Jim Garrison) comes to Washington and meets with Donald Sutherland ("Mr. X") and they start talking about this, Sutherland tells him all this background and he says, you see, now, we have to find out why the President was killed. So,

the scheme of both of those together made the basis of the movie.

After I had read Garrison's manuscript, which I thought was valuable, I wrote him a long letter, and I told him pretty much what I've said here. You've done a good job with that, but you don't know Washington. You're not experienced with Washington, with Frankfurt, Germany, with London, with the whole scope of what really happened and why Kennedy was anathema to certain groups of people in power. And that has to be taken care of.

Garrison took my letter and his manuscript to Stone, and Stone saw that the conjunction of the two was exactly what he needed. So he came here to Washington to see me. And I must confess, I didn't know who Oliver Stone was. I'm not a movie-goer. I was embarrassed by it. But he's a great guy.

And then, right after I had seen him, I had a heart operation, and I'm in the house here, on my back, and I'd just come out of the hospital, when Stone was kind enough to come by my home, and stay here an hour or two talking with me about his plan, because he had developed it by then, and he handed me a package. He said, "This is the first copy of the first draft of my movie. I want you to read it, and see what we have here."

Well, it was delightful reading for a man that couldn't

even get out of bed at that time, and I began to see the magnificence of the scope of this thing, that it was going to take all of this work that Garrison laid out through his trial, and then it was going to add the picture of the bigger power structure and really give the story that the movie portrays.

EIR: Why such a magnitude of attacks on this movie? Even President Bush made statements in one of his press conferences in Canberra, Australia attacking the movie.

Prouty: It confirms the power structure. There's no other answer. When you find that President Bush is telling the world press—he uses some place in Canberra, Australia to tell the world press, "I much prefer the Warren Commission report to this film by Oliver Stone"—it just affirms that judgment.

I was a professor at Yale when Bush was a student. I know what Bush was learning at Yale in those days, it was a darn good college in the '40s. You don't think he learned how to understand what's going on in this world?

Why does *he* back the Warren Commission report, with all its failures? And he's not the only one either. Many, many others have done it. That's the power structure trying, with one last gasp, to see if they can't hold the dam up that Oliver Stone is bringing down.



"JFK" portrays (left to right) the "patsy" in the Kennedy assassination, Lee Harvey Oswald (Gary Oldman), and his associates, David Ferrie (Joe Pesci), and Jack Ruby (Brian Doyle Murray).