

FAQ 8

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Q: I am a former LAPD police-officer with 28-years service. While I respect your investigation, and think you may well have solved the Black Dahlia murder, still, I cannot believe, nor do I see that you have presented any real evidence that LAPD Chiefs Bill Parker and Thad Brown, or anyone else was involved in a cover-up of the facts. Do you really believe LAPD organized and conspired to keep this information secret and allow your father to go free?

An important question and a fair one. My short answer is YES, I do believe there was an LAPD “cover-up” and the 2003 access to the D.A. “Hodel-Black Dahlia Documents”, granted me by D.A. Steve Cooley, has in my opinion--strongly reinforced that belief.

To fully answer your question we need to ask another.. Was there a logical reason why LAPD would do something so inconceivable?

Absolutely, but the answer cannot be found by looking at today’s LAPD. LAPD 2006 is a very different department from what it was in- 1950.

Let’s briefly go back to that time, to the spring of 1950. The previous year (1949) was pack full of dynamite sticks, any one of which could have blown the lid off —its police department --and its politicians. Here are just a few of the active fires that surrounded and were burning out of control near city hall:

- Crime was rampant, murders of lone women, and gangland mobsters went unsolved.
- Gangster Mickey Cohen had been recently shot on Sunset Blvd., and was threatening to testify about police corruption, extortions and payoffs.
- The Brenda Allen Vice scandal with payoffs to LAPD officers was in the headlines.
- Four LAPD officers were indicted for corruption, including LAPD Chief of Police Clemence HORRALL, and his Assistant Chief, Joe Reed. (Both resigned)
- The Grand Jury had ordered LAPD’s Black Dahlia investigation taken away from LAPD detectives and turned over to the D.A. detectives for reinvestigation.

- LAPD Sgt. Charles Stoker was secretly testifying before the grand jury regarding his knowledge of a protected abortion ring involving Los Angeles medical doctors and chiropractors, run by LAPD detectives in the Homicide/Gangster Squad Detail. (By the summer of 1950, ten abortionists would be indicted and arrested on related charges.)
- Dr. George Hodel's top criminal attorney, Jerry Giesler, had just beat a slam-dunk prosecution put together by LAPD charging Hodel with child molestation and sexual intercourse with his own 14-year-old daughter. With three adult witnesses present who participated in the sex acts, and the victim's testimony, along with pornography recovered from the residence, the case was considered airtight. But, the jury acquitted. (Documents found in the 2003 D.A. file allege a \$15,000 payoff may have gone to someone in the D.A.'s office to help obtain the acquittal.)
- Feb 15-Mar 27, 1950 D.A. investigator Lt. Frank Jemison had Dr. George Hodel's Franklin Avenue residence bugged and he is placed under both audio and physical surveillance and is the prime-suspect in the Black Dahlia murder. Dr. Hodel makes damning statements and admissions to the Dahlia murder as well as other crimes. "Supposin' I did kill the Black Dahlia, they can't prove it now because my secretary is dead." "This is the best payoff I've seen between law enforcement agencies." Etc. In addition, during this surveillance stakeout, conversations are overheard that strongly suggest an actual murder may have occurred, while police officers-listened in! (In the actual transcripts of Feb. 18, 1950 officers document the following: A woman is heard crying, then heard to dial the telephone operator, then screams are heard, then blows with a pipe, more screaming, then silence. Sounds of digging are heard in the basement and George Hodel say's to a second male something about, "not a trace." Incredibly, though detectives are listening in and are only five minutes away, they take no action! [If arrested, George Hodel's public admission to this crime alone, while law enforcement listened in and did nothing, would have ended the careers of both DA and LAPD top brass. At the time George Hodel fled the country, LAPD's William Parker was just three months away from being appointed the department's new chief.]
- On March 27, 1950 with Lt. Jemison's team of 18 detectives still maintaining 24-hour-audio surveillance on Dr. Hodel, he slips away. George Hodel leaves the country and is GONE. After this date, he is never again seen or talked to by any law enforcement agency. (In 2004, LAPD retracted earlier claims that "they cleared Dr. Hodel" admitting that they were not involved and had no direct knowledge of the circumstances.)
- LAPD Deputy Chiefs William Parker (Internal Affairs) and Thad Brown (Chief of Detectives) are involved in a power struggle, both wanting to become LAPD's next Chief of Police. Thad Brown has the majority of Police Commission votes (3 to 2) and has been given the nod to become Chief, in July, 1950. Just weeks before the formal vote, one of the police

commissioners, Mrs. Curtis Albro, unexpectedly-dies. This tips the scales back to even, the commission is now divided 2 votes for Parker, 2 votes for Brown.

Taking all of these historically documented facts into account (along with many we don't publicly know about) at that very moment in time, the spring/summer of 1950, surrounded by multiple scandals, all threatening to take down the current administration, a new fuse was lit on what potentially would have been--the biggest scandal of all.

Just when Chiefs Parker and Brown were about to take over and totally reform and professionalize a previously corrupt LAPD, the shit hits the fan—BIG TIME.

Here is what I believe happened:

A late night top-secret staff meeting of LAPD and D.A. brass took place in a backroom at Deputy Chief Parker's newly established Internal Affairs Division. I'm guessing the date was sometime in early April, 1950. Likely present were: 1) Interim LAPD Chief William Worton, 2) Deputy Chief William H. Parker, head of Internal Affairs Division, along with several of his investigators, 3) Chief of Detectives Thad Brown, 4) Lt. Frank B. Jemison, L.A. D.A.'s Bureau of Investigation, and probably his commanding officer, D.A. Bureau Chief, H. Leo Stanley.

The briefing began with Lt. Jemison informing all present of just exactly what they had on Dr. George Hill Hodel as the prime Dahlia suspect. His connections to Elizabeth Short, and his statements and admissions as to killing her, along with admissions to his killing his secretary, Ruth Spaulding in 1945. Lt. Jemison likely concluded his part of the briefing with the fact that just as his men were about to arrest Dr. Hodel, he fled the country. Jemison speculated, based on statements made on the tape that Hodel was either in Mexico, or possibly Asia/Tibet. He informed all present that in addition, a murder of a woman may have occurred during the surveillance at the Franklin House and details the Feb. 18 incident with the woman where Hodel questions her about what she knows about different things (connected to his criminality) writes down her answers, then later screaming, sounds and blows being struck, digging sounds in the basement, and then Hodel stating to a male, "not to leave a trace" and finally-- silence.

As Chiefs Worton/Parker/Brown/ sat in shocked disbelief, LAPD Internal Affairs detectives continued the briefing with their own separate investigative findings. They likely informed the high command that they discovered that Dr. Hodel was known and friendly with two LAPD detectives on the Gangster Squad Detail. That there may, or may not have existed a relationship between Hodel and the two detectives in regards to a protected Abortion Ring where the detectives were receiving payoffs from doctors in trade for not arresting them. These same two detectives two years earlier, in 1947, either knowingly or unwittingly misdirected the Dahlia investigation after discovering that Dr. Hodel and Elizabeth Short were boyfriend/girlfriend and had together checked into a hotel on East Washington Blvd., just three days before the murder. As a result of the detectives giving Hodel "a clean bill of health" with the downtown Homicide Squad, Hodel remained free and could well be responsible for killing five or more women in and around Hollywood and downtown from 1947 to 1950.

Further, the IAD investigation was ongoing, and the facts may simply reveal that the two Gangster Squad detectives were simply trying to protect Hodel from becoming involved as a suspect, as they initially assumed his only involvement was that he was intimate with the victim prior to her murder, and nothing more. In other words, there may have possibly been nothing more sinister than initial poor judgment on the part of the Gangster Squad detectives, which may well, have resulted in some terrible consequences.

In closing, Lt. Jemison advised that current intelligence information suggested that Dr. Hodel had left the country, and may never be located, and if located, may never be able to be extradited back to the U.S. Further, that if he was located and returned, Hodel could and very likely would disclose all that he knew regarding police payoffs, (statements recorded during the surveillance had Hodel saying, "This is the best payoff between law enforcement agencies I have ever seen. Only I know how all the pieces fit together") If and when arrested, Dr. Hodel would further inform and make public all that he knew of the protected Abortion Ring, his personal relationship to city and county officials in connection with his V.D. clinic, and could well "cop-out" and identify the female victim of the murder that probably occurred during the Feb. 1950, DA/LAPD stakeout on his Franklin residence.

So now we have the WHY. It satisfies both sense and reason. In one word- SURVIVAL. Chiefs Worton, Parker, and Brown had no other options. This was a MANAGEMENT DECISION. The powers that be reasoned that: 1) it was highly doubtful that George Hodel could ever be located and brought back. He was in the wind. 2) If he was, located and extradited, there were no guarantees he would be convicted. After all, he had just beat one major felony beef for incest and would have Attorney Jerry Giesler defending him again.

Thirdly, if he was prosecuted he would destroy everything and everybody. The city coffers would be emptied from the civilian law suits that would occur as a result of the detective's obstructions of justice, which resulted in more murders. Both Parker and Brown would be forced off the department, like their predecessors forced to retire and powerless to "move forward and clean up the department." It would take decades for LAPD's reputation to recover from the scandal. NO! Attempting to locate and arrest Dr. Hodel was simply not an option. Better to sanitize the files, and remove anything and everything that connected George Hodel to the crimes, and then seal them off. Lock them up forever.

And that is what was done. The corrupt Gangster Squad detectives were Thad Brown's men, and the buck stopped with him. The decision was made. Parker would be the next chief of police. Brown would remain Chief of Detectives. Those involved would quietly retire from the department, or be transferred out of harms way, and each officer present swore to take the horrible secret to their grave.

Parker and Brown were not criminals but rather Machiavellian Princes, who reasoned that desperate times demanded desperate actions. They fully justified their actions as being the only available choice. What was done, they did for the good of the Department, for the good of the City, and for the good of themselves.

(NB: I have additional information at hand that will, in time, give much stronger support to the fact that George Hodel had the city and especially its then D.A. and LAPD leaders by the short hairs. With the information I possess, which will be explained in detail in a future book, he literally was holding a gun to their heads, and the Administration HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO COMPLY.)

In addition to this information, a careful reexamination of the DA SECRET HODEL FILES and transcripts (2007) reveal a previously overlooked conversation at the Franklin House where George Hodel in talking with "a colored woman" admits on the bugged wire recording that he had "performed lots of curettages (D&C abortions) at his downtown clinic." These admissions confirm what we suspected but was previously unprovable.-- George Hodel was actively performing abortions, which greatly increases the probability that he was an active member "in good standing" of the police protected abortion ring, which according to Sgt. Charles Stoker, included "only M.D.'s"

Los Angeles City/County power structure-1950



Mayor Fletcher Bowron



District Attorney William Simpson



LAPD Chief of Detectives
Thad Brown



LAPD Chief
William H. Parker