

All of which adds up to a rare performance of intellectual dishonesty on your part, doubly shameful for one of your background, professional standing and resources. But it also gains you a unique distinction - that of having become the first Accessory-After-the-Fact in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King!

### Book Review

#### The Private Life of the Warren Commission

by Sylvia Hoagher

(continued from TRUTH LETTER, No. 6, p. 4 )

The volume <sup>+</sup> includes also the transcript of the first interrogation of Marina Oswald by the Secret Service (Nov. 24, 1963); and the complete text of the 'Liebeler Memorandum', dated Sept. 6, 1964 in which assistant counsel Wesley J. Liebeler assailed the chapter of the Warren Report which argues that Oswald was the lone assassin, charging that among various deficiencies parts of the chapter were 'simply dishonest.'

Critics of the Warren Commission had inferred from the Report itself and the Hearings and Exhibits that the investigation was a farce from beginning to end because the Commission assumed from the outset that Oswald was the assassin and doggedly manipulated and deformed any findings inimical to that conclusion. If corroboration is needed, the transcripts of the executive sessions provide it in rich profusion. Art cannot improve on life in this instance. The verbatim minutes of the Commission's closed meetings reveal the extent to which it was obsessed with public opinion and relations with the press, with an endless stream of procedural problems, and with its image and credibility - to the almost complete eclipse of the assassination.

Many startling plums are encased in the pudding of the transcripts. One is the Chairman's proposal to make silent partners of the AP and the UPI, to 'get a statement from them that would be of a confirmatory nature so far as our report is concerned... if they were satisfied, it would have a lot to do with... allaying rumors.' The AP's extraordinary labors on behalf of the Warren Report, after the critics' assault on it, and its widely syndicated article of June 1967, 'The Lingering Shadow,' now becomes more understandable.

Another significant revelation is the series of attempts by the then-Deputy Attorney-General, Nicholas deF. Katzenbach, to persuade the Commission to issue a public statement - as early as December 16, 1963, before a single witness had been heard - stating that there was no conspiracy. The Commission refused; and Gerald Ford was stirred into a monumental rage when, subsequently, there was a rash of press leaks to the effect that the Commission had concluded that a lone individual had committed the assassination.

Nor are the transcripts bereft of humor. Take, for example, Warren's capitulation to the other members: "If the rest of you want the subpoena power, that is perfectly all right with me, but I was thinking this, that if we have subpoena power, people are going to expect us to use it." (Perish Ford! - that way, the truth might lie in wait.) There are even moments of breathtaking candor, such as Senator Russell's remark about the CIA: "You've got more faith in them than I have. I think they'll do anything they hand us."

The transcripts throw a harsh light on the Commission, particularly on its Chairman, and do nothing to redeem its tarnished reputation.

<sup>+</sup> Document addendum to the Warren Report (for details, see No. 6)