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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Warren Commission Probe Ending

The special commission appointed by President Johnson to probe the assassination of President Kennedy has neared the end of its duties. Although its report has not been completed, all signs suggest that Lee Harvey Oswald will be officially identified as the assassin. And the conclusion is expected to be that Oswald acted alone, prompted by motives which originated in his twisted mind.

Oswald, in turn, was slain by night club operator Jack Ruby. Although various segments of the foreign press have explored the possibility that Ruby was part of some mysterious plot to silence Oswald, the commission — now, designated by the name of its chairman, Chief Justice Earl Warren — probably will find otherwise. Ruby, reportedly mentally ill, also is thought to have acted alone and without previous connection with Oswald.

In short, no one anticipates that the Warren Commission will offer any startling conclusions. There is little mystery clinging to the assassination story and most of what is there surrounds Oswald's life in Russia. Perhaps even these dark corners will be lighted by the commission's final report.

The tragedy, widely witnessed and well documented, now has become a matter of history. The Warren Commission cannot change this in any respect. But it should be able to answer that haunting question: Could the assassination have been prevented?

Yesterday, Secret Service Chief James James J. Rowley appeared before the commission to give his agency's side of the story. The Secret Service, charged with the protection of the President, has been the target of some especially sharp criticism. Rumor has it that several Secret Service agents were drinking late at a night club prior to the day President Kennedy was shot. And charges have been made that a

lack of communication between the Secret Service and the FBI opened a loophole in security measures for the President's Dallas visit.

It is in this area that the Warren Commission may perform its most valuable service. Information collected during its investigations may lead to better coordination between police agencies and higher standards of protection for the nation's future chief executives. The commission might also produce recommendations for handling known security risks and individuals clearly on record as out of sympathy with the American form of government. As far as the public is concerned, there is a wide gap of missing data on the State Department's handling of the Oswald case and paving the way for his return to the United States after he became "disenchanted" with life in the Soviet Union.

A further by-product of this study may provide assistance to students of mental health problems. We are confronted with an increasing incidence of individuals who regard themselves as uniquely endowed and above the laws of society. These people cannot be simply shrugged off as "goofballs" and "crackpots." Some eventually become dangerous to themselves and to others.

One report, attributed to FBI psychiatrists, noted that Oswald hated his father for abandoning him. Thus, he hated anyone who represented authority. According to his wife, Marina, Oswald had previously taken a shot at former General Edwin A. Walker and had threatened to kill Richard M. Nixon.

With no one to check his erratic behavior, Oswald finally succeeded in finding an outlet for his antagonism. And we are left wondering how many other Lee Harvey Oswalds are waiting for a similar opportunity to gain what some commentators have branded "sudden immortality."

Perhaps the Warren Commission has an answer.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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