

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

SIX MAJOR POINTS IN 800-PAGE CONCLUSION

Oswald Lone Kennedy Assassin, Probers Decide

By BOB HOLLINGSWORTH, White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON—Lee Harvey Oswald stands alone as the unaided assassin who killed President Kennedy and seriously wounded Gov. John Connally in Dallas last Nov. 22.

The special seven-man Warren Commission named by President Johnson last Nov. 29 to investigate the slaying that shocked the world unveiled its report Sunday night, displaying a staggering array of evidence to show:

—Oswald was the assassin who acted alone with no plot or conspiracy involved.

—Oswald also killed Dallas patrolman J. D. Tippit.

—Night club owner Jack Ruby acted alone in slaying Oswald.

—Dallas' conservative sentiment, sometimes manifested in anti-Kennedy hostility, played no part in the assassination.

—Protective measures for the President were "inadequate" and should be thoroughly overhauled.

—Severe criticism of the Dallas Police Department for its handling of Oswald after his arrest.

A product of 10 months of what may be the most in-

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extensive and painstaking investigation in U.S. history, the voluminous document produced no major surprises in its basic conclusions but amassed a mountain of solid evidence to erase doubts that Kennedy was slain by anyone other than Oswald or that the assassination was part of a plot or conspiracy.

"These conclusions represent the reasoned judgment of all members of the commission and are presented after an investigation which has satisfied the commission that it has ascertained the truth concerning the assassination of President Kennedy to the extent that a prolonged and thorough search makes this possible," the commission said.

Summaries and copies of the 816-page, 296,000-word report compiled by the select group headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren were transmitted to U.S. embassies around the world Sunday night and beamed from U.S. Information Agency outlets in 104 nations.

It is probably the most extensive distribution ever given a government document.

Fingerprints, ballistics tests, medical findings, documents and records and testimony from more than 500 witnesses—

including one previously undisclosed eyewitness who actually saw Oswald fire the fatal shots—combined to blame the crime on Oswald to the exclusion of all others.

A major portion of the report, however, was devoted to evidence rebutting rumors and speculations that Oswald was part of a plot or conspiracy, that Ruby was aided in his slaying of Oswald, or that there was any relationship between Oswald, Ruby and Tippit.

Much of the blame for the rumors was placed on Dallas officials who were criticized in the report for making "numerous statements, sometimes erroneous," during a period of confusion and disorder.

"To the extent that the information was erroneous or misleading, it helped to create doubts, speculations and fears in the mind of the public which might otherwise not have arisen," the commission said.

Basic conclusions of the commission were contained in a 10,000-word summary that traced the tragic events of last Nov. 22-24.

Follow-up chapters traced the evidence substantiating the basic conclusions, detailing a painstaking reconstruction of events and the lives of individuals involved.

In amassing its data, the commission used the far-flung resources of U.S. intelligence and investigative agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency's spy network abroad.

One of the most startling revelations was the existence of an eyewitness, Dallas steamfitter Howard L. Brennan, who actually saw Oswald firing the shots. It was Brennan's almost immediate disclosure to a Dallas police officer that allowed broadcast of Oswald's description within minutes after the assassination.

Brennan's sworn testimony, however, was only one facet of a massive array of complex evidence the commission detailed over most of its two-inch-thick report.

Among other things, the evidence disclosed that:

—The bullets which struck Kennedy and Gov. Connally were fired from Oswald's Italian-made rifle.

—The shots were fired from above and behind, specifically the sixth-floor window of the Texas School Book Depository at Houston and Elm.

—Oswald was at the window with the rifle in his hands

at the time of the shooting.

A concerted investigation into Oswald, his background, his associates, his friends, his family and all facets of his life failed to turn up any evidence of a plot. Much of the data was gleaned by the CIA from sources within the Soviet Union, where Oswald lived for almost three years.

Specifically refuted were reports that Kennedy was shot from a bridge at the Triple Underpass in front of the motorcade, an act that would have exonerated Oswald.

The commission found "persuasive evidence" that three shots were fired but that one apparently missed its mark. Weight of the evidence indicates that the first shot struck the President in the back of his neck, exited at his throat, then struck Gov. Connally in the back, passing through his chest, shattering his wrist and embedding itself in his leg.

A second shot on target shattered Kennedy's skull and was the fatal wound.

The commission's report traced Oswald's movements both before and after the assassination—including his brief encounter with a Dallas policeman before he fled the Texas School Book Depository, his bus and taxi journey to his Oak Cliff apartment, his later shooting of officer Tippit (two eyewitnesses saw the slaying and nine others saw Oswald flee the scene with a pistol in his hand), his capture in the Texas Theater, his interrogation by police and his eventual murder at the hands of Ruby.

An intensive investigation into Ruby's life was also conducted and reported with the conclusion:

"The commission has found no evidence that either Lee Harvey Oswald or Jack Ruby was part of any conspiracy, domestic or foreign, to assassinate President Kennedy."

Commission members also found they could not make a definitive determination of Oswald's motives.

"Clues to Oswald's motives can be found in his family history, his education or lack of it, his acts, his writings, and the recollections of those who had close contacts with him throughout his life," the report said.

"The commission has presented with this report all of the background information bearing on motivation which it could discover. Thus, others may study Lee Oswald's life and arrive at their own conclusions to his possible motives."

Few law enforcement agencies escaped criticism in the report. Heavy fire was aimed at both the Secret Service, which had primary responsibility for the President's safety, and at the FBI.

PROTECTION INADEQUATE

The Secret Service was blasted for "inadequate" protection procedures — including failure to check any buildings along the motorcade route. The FBI came under fire for failing to tell the Secret Service about Oswald, whom it had under active surveillance as late as 17 days prior to the assassination and whom the FBI knew worked in a building along the parade route.

Dallas' Police Department, the sheriff's office, and the Texas Department of Public Safety were virtually exonerated of blame in the assassination itself since all were working under "vague" and "indefinite" instructions of the Secret Service.

Both the Dallas Police Department and Dist. Atty. Henry Wade, however, were severely criticized for taking actions and making statements that would have hampered chances of Oswald ever receiving a fair trial—and specifically for the "unsound" arrangements to transfer Oswald from the city jail to the county jail.

It was during the transfer that Oswald was slain by Ruby.

CRITICAL OF NEWS MEDIA

News media also came in for severe criticism from the commission which recommended that representatives of the bar, law

enforcement agencies and the press "work together to establish standards" so that there will be "no interference with pending criminal investigations, court proceedings or the right of individuals to a fair trial."

The commission report also repeatedly referred to rightwing sentiment in Dallas that was decidedly anti-Kennedy but concluded there was no evidence that the sentiment played any role in the events that transpired.

Evidence turned up by the commission's investigators established the murder weapon, Oswald's ownership of the weapon, his proficiency with it, his presence at the window from which the shots were fired, his possession of the weapon at the time—plus the testimony of the witness who saw him pulling the trigger.

A series of complex tests, much of it conducted during the re-enactment of the crime in Dallas, substantiated all the known evidence.

DETAIL OFFERED

The commission's report went into great detail on all tests as well as its investigation into Oswald's background, clearing away the confusion arising out of the assassin's use of various aliases and numerous cases of mistaken identity.

A penetrating study was made of his professed adherence to Marxism, his life in the Soviet Union, his affinity for pro-Communist causes in the United States, and his unsuccessful efforts to get into Cuba by way of Mexico.

The commission's investigation also traced Ruby's life from birth to the present.

More than 500 witnesses were questioned in the process of the investigation. Despite its bulk, the commission's report includes only fragmentary pieces of actual testimony necessary to substantiate conclusions.

A complete transcript of all testimony—expected to require between 20 and 30 volumes—will be released as soon as printing can be completed.